

## **Luther Alonzo Carter**

Luther Alonzo Carter (1889-1975) was born November 16, 1889 near Searcy, White County, Arkansas, first child of Zephaniah John Jackson Carter (1862-1962) and Mary Ellen Ethridge. In 1903 the Carter family moved to the farming community of Yellow Mound, 5.5 miles northwest of Eastland, Texas.

Luther attended Yellow Mound Grade School until 1909, then Hankins Normal College for teacher certification. At Hankins, Luther was as fun-loving and mischievous as any of the other young men of his time, participating in a number of schoolboy pranks. One prank in particular probably would have gotten them expelled had they been caught! The College Dean had a house near the campus. One night Luther and several other boys took a number of fireworks, mostly Roman Candles, to the Dean's house and tied them to the front gateposts and the surrounding trees, all of them aimed at the house. After lighting all the fuses simultaneously, the boys ducked into the darkness to watch the ensuing bombardment of the house, then slipped back into their dormitory rooms before they could be discovered as missing during the spectacular display.

Upon completing his work at Hankins, Luther taught school only one year at Trent, Taylor County, 1912. In 1913 he returned to farming in Eastland County, his lifelong occupation until retirement in 1971.

On July 12, 1914, Luther married Althea Theora Castleberry (1894-1974). Their son, Gene Franklin, was born at the Castleberry homeplace north of Yellow Mound, April 19, 1921. In 1922 Fritz (Fred) Mueller (1886-1942) asked the Carters to live on and care for the 320-acre blackland farm, inherited from his parents, south of the Yellow Mound Road. They could work as much of the land as they wished for their living. Fred had a store in Abilene and did not want to farm any longer. The Carters lived on the Mueller place six years. Their daughter, Dorothy Loraine, was born there, December 26, 1925.

When the Mueller farm changed ownership in 1928, the Carters bought a small 80-acre farm, the "Bob White place", located farther south. Since the distance to Yellow Mound School was too great for the children to walk and transportation was unavailable, Althea, a certified teacher also, taught them at home. For five years, the family struggled to produce a living from the heavily worn red soil, finally losing the place in 1933 during the Great Depression.

After more hard times, Luther and Althea separated in 1935. Althea later married William A. Elliott (1889-1961) and had another daughter, Keron Alyne, born December 31, 1936, at Olden, Texas.

Luther continued to love farm life and intellectual pursuits, such as math and poetry. He died March 31, 1975, age 85. Burial was in Eastland Cemetery.

Submitted by Billie Frances Vandiver Dingus and Alyne Castleberry Elliott  
**Services Held Wednesday for Luther A. Carter**

Luther A. Carter, 85, of Eastland, retired farmer, died at 12:24 p.m. Monday in Eastland Memorial Hospital after a brief illness. Services were at 2 p.m. Wednesday in Bakker Funeral Home Chapel.

The Rev. Haston Brewer, pastor of First Baptist Church, and the Rev. Rudy Fambrough, pastor of Harmony Baptist Church, officiated. Burial was in Eastland Cemetery.

Born Nov. 16, 1889, in Searcy, Ark., Mr. Carter moved to Eastland County in 1903, settling in the Yellow Mound Community north of here.

He taught school in 1912 in Trent. Mr. Carter farmed from 1913 until his retirement in 1971. He was a member of Harmony Baptist Church.

Survivors include a brother, Vernon of Eastland; two sisters, Mrs. Eula M. Hart of Ranger and Mrs. Virginia Vandiver Dallas; and several nieces and nephews.