Herman Pelton (1915-1997) and Rita Lambert Pelton (1914-2000) purchased 109+ acres of land from B.N. Lynette Gayler in 1955. The farm contained an old farmhouse, barn, tank, and fields from three separate tracts of land. This farm was representative of the historical progression of the Murphy farming community prior to the explosive division of farm lands into housing subdivisions in the 1980s.

By the 1950s numerous small farms had been carved from the original land surveys granted by the Republic of Texas and the Peter’s Colony. The Pelton Farm and other surrounding farms bordering McMillen and McCreary Roads were examples of farm life for this era.

Herman Pelton is shown with Tim Pelton’s Hampshire Pig named “Oliver.” The pig won a Blue Ribbon at the Collin County FFA Fair and Livestock Show. Smaller farms in the community were usually owned by farmers who were employed in the larger city but ran a farm to supplement their income. The Peltons grew corn and wheat and raised livestock.
Rita Pelton stands in her front yard with her dog. Cattle are lounging in the background. The farm wife usually did not work outside the home, but raised a vegetable garden and fruit trees to supplement the family’s food.

(Photographs Courtesy of Carolyn Pelton Hensley.)