Excerpt from : $Our\ City - Dallas:\ A\ Community\ Civics$

by Justin F. Kimball

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page 66:

".... Mr. Kessler was born of cultured and educated parents.

During his boyhood he and his widowed mother had lived for a while in Dallas. She had been a private teacher of art and of French. He worked as a cash-boy at Sanger Brothers, where so many other notable Dallas business men have started their careers. He was a frail and delicate boy; so his mother planned some type of outdoor life career for him, in order that, like Theodore Roosevelt, he might build up a sturdy, vigorous body. This cultured mother with her strong artistic sense trained her son so that he dreamed dreams of making the world more beautiful. He trained himself in America and in Europe to be a landscape gardener and architect ..."