



## Ornamental Gardens, A Unique Memorial

Bits of mirror, colored glass and seashell embedded in concrete. These constitute a unique memorial to a Stephen-ville man's God and his wife.

Ray's Ornamental Gardens have been famous in this area for years. Started when he married his second wife, Ruth, in 1938 and continued until he died about ten years ago, they are a testament to his faith.

When Mr. George Ray was alive, he kept up and constantly improved the gardens. He had each bit of sculpture lit from behind with colored lights.

Music of a religious nature was usually playing, and signs beckoned one into his curio shop.

He has the letters of his wife's name, Ruth, in letters four feet tall. When he was alive there were flowers always blooming, but now vandals have taken over and little planting is done.

Mr. Ray was very proud of his garden, and had many postcards made of it. He also was a prolific writer, and much of his writing remains today. It is a curious mixture of the sacred and the commercial. A pamphlet full of religious

epigrams is interspersed with exhortations to see Ray's Ornamental Gardens.

His wife, Ruth, died on December 6, 1967. She had been much younger than him. Surviving her are two sisters who live at 641 N. Holman. Mrs. Viola W. Robert and Miss Perlina Wren, and a brother, J. E. Wren, of Abilene.

The property has been bought by Mr. and Mrs. Barfield. It is such a prime target for vandalism that they have not attempted to restore it.

The property is located at 200 Dodge Street.