

Krum Grew From Railway Station Town Now Has Educational Opportunities Nearby

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Part 2.

On Dec 15, 1911, the Flemings-Huffines gin in Krum showed 1,557 bales of cotton and Knox Brothers showed 1,237 bales. In the same month a mass meeting of all farmers of Denton County was called to consider the question submitted by the governor's conference at New Orleans, of reducing cotton acreage so that better prices might prevail.

About 1912 typhoid fever broke out causing many deaths especially among children and young adults. Very few families escaped the dreaded disease.

By this time land was beginning to show the wear of continual planting of wheat and cotton. The wheat was become much poorer grade and the yield was much lighter.

Farmers were either planting less cotton or the yield was much less according to the three gins in Krum in the 1920's.

In 1924, The Commerce Club of Krum held its grand opening in the new Krum Community Hall. R.L. Cole and Clarence Fowler rented the entire second floor of the new brick building on Main Street, paying \$3,500 for five years.

A great day was held with 2,500 people attending. The building was to be used as a community auditorium. Everyone gathered for picnics, races and the highlight of the day was an airplane that flew over and dropped money over Krum and the vicinity.

For many years the auditorium was used for plays, meetings and Christmas parties. Then one night, as a play was being staged, a boy glanced out of the dressing room window saw a house on fire. He rushed out on stage yelling "Gray's house is on fire!"

The people thought he meant the auditorium was on fire and pandemonium broke out. Builders of the auditorium had the fallacy of having only one exit and there was a stampede for it.

Although no one was killed several people were wounded and to the present date, the auditorium has never been used again.

On Nov. 29, 1929 the Krum Parent-Teacher Association treasurer reported \$49.43 made from a dinner held. This made a total of D\$74.88 for the organization. Bills in the amount of \$26.65 were paid for playground equipment purchased.

County School Superintendent Robert Proffer and Krum School Superintendent C.L. Langston went to Austin in December 1935 to sell \$36,000 in bonds voted for the new high school building. Work on the new building started the next month, but the gymnasium was not built until the 1950's.

In June 1936, the old age pension law was passed. At the age of 65, regardless of color, a person was entitled to \$15 a month, if his property holdings were negligible.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Gose returned to Krum after an absence of 16 years when they lived in Wichita Falls. Gose bought the Krum water works and is responsible for the water well from which the city still gets its water.

During this period, all doctors had moved from Krum, hunting greener pastures, except for Dr. Gose. He was semi-retired in his later years and operated his office in his home. When he passed away in 1945 he was nearly 87. Since that time there has never been another doctor to practice in Krum.

A teacherage was constructed by the Krum Independent School Board in 1950 of slightly more than \$8,000. W.W. Davis superintendent of schools at the time was the first occupant. The present school superintendent, Mac Vincent and his family live there now.

J.O. McClister passed away in 1937 while he was president of the bank. Dr. A.H. Knox became the third president of the bank and Walter McClister became the fourth president.

McClister remained president until his death in 1952. Mrs. McClister traded the large building they had owned to Ned McKinney for his garage and repair shop.

Krum became an incorporated town in November 1954 by a vote of 75 to 13.

In December 1954, the Krum Fire Department received uniforms for its six volunteer firemen and a new fire truck arrived. "Cotton" Cole was the first fire chief.

At this time, farmers were growing fewer and fewer crops and using more machinery. This did away with much hired help and most of the share croppers. During the war many moved hunting work elsewhere.

Most everyone had cars and trucks and began doing their shopping in Denton and other towns. This forced many Krum stores to close.

In 1960 were 200 fewer people living in Krum than in 1901 and less than 200 pupils enrolled in school. It seemed the town had a dreary future.

But farmers started raising dairy herds and turning their farms into ranches. Many young people began to move to Krum and retiring people built beautiful homes.

In the past three years the population has increased greatly and more new homes go up daily.



Flemings Huffines Gin