Krum Grain Elevators

The rich prairie soil of the Krum region produced bountiful wheat harvests for which the town became famous. In the early 1900’s, Krum was known as the largest wagon grain market in the United States. Over a million pounds of grain were shipped out in 1900, and it is said that the Chicago Board of trade called every morning to ask about prices and volumes. The wheat grown in the area was of superior quality, and it won prizes in many fairs, including grand prize for its “Rainbow Flour” in the 1904 St. Louis World’s Fair and an honorable mention at the Paris Exposition in 1910.

From 1905 to 1915 four grain elevator companies were operating in the town of Krum with capacity to handle over 150,000 bushels:

The Krum Mill & Elevator Company (est. about 1901), M.P. Bewley Milling Company (est. 1902), Burroughs Mill (est. about 1902), and the R.L. Cole Grain & Elevator Company (est. 1905).

In the spring of 1901, Ed F. Lamm, came to Krum and persuaded the farmers in the area to organize a stock company for the purpose of establishing a flour mill “where your wheat is grown.” The Krum Mill & Elevator Company was formed. A gigantic steam mill was bought in from Wynnewood, Indian Territory, then dismantled and brought to Krum. Its capacity was 150 barrels of flour per day, which later increased to 200 barrels. The capacity of the elevators was 30,000 bushels and later increased to 65,000. The mill went into production in August 1901, and soon 10 carloads of Rainbow, Red Ribbon, and Lily brands of flour were being shipped every week to as far away as San Angelo. The Krum Mill burned in 1915 & the other three companies continued business until the mill burned at R.L. Cole’s in 1956.

A flour mill was added to the Cole Feed & Elevator Company in 1916. During World War I the government took every sack of flour milled to feed the armed forces. A custom corn mill was started in 1918, whereby farmers could bring a few sacks of shelled corn and have it ground into fine meal for their own use-a wartime convenience since white flour was rationed and very hard to obtain. The “Gold Dollar” mill was sold in 1929 in order to devote full capacity to the manufacturing of poultry and stock feed.

Krum Cotton Gins

Amos Rowley installed the first cotton gin in Krum in the early 1900’s. Two cotton gins were built in Krum in 1909: one by partners George Fleming and W.E. Huffhines; and the other by Dr. A.H. Knox. In the twenties, two more gins were opened. Around 1920, J.B. Henderson put in gin number 3. In 1924, three partners built the Koiner Gin Company.
Every week, farmers could be seen lined up with wagons of wheat waiting for their turn at the public scale. A typical wagonload of wheat would measure about 50 bushels and weigh about 3,000 pounds.
Krum Mill & Elevator Company-1901
Produced Rainbow Flour
The Burrough’s Elevator is the light colored building in the background, and the Bewley Elevator is the dark colored building in the foreground.

1902

M.P. Bewley Mill 1902
The Knox cotton gin was one of two gins built in 1909. Constructed by Dr. A. H. Knox and later managed by his son Cecil.
Krum’s role as a large scale producer of excellent wheat attracted National & international fame as evidenced by this article in the Dallas Morning News on February 3, 1957.

New Information: Krum was named for Charles K. Krum an official of the Gulf, Colorado & Santa Fe Railroad.
LEADING WHEAT CENTER

Dallas Fair Once Banned Superior Grain From Krum

One of the world's leading wheat centers at the turn of the century, Krum once raised wheat so superior to that of other towns in this part of the state that it was excluded from grain contests at the Dallas Fair.

Recalling that one million bushels were shipped in 1600 on the Galveston, Colorado and Santa Fe Railroad, Krum residents today say that at one time the town shipped more grain than any other town in the world. A market for grain, Krum drew trade from an area of 40 miles around.

Favorably situated in a fertile grain belt, Krum in the last several years has become the site of several dairy farms and is one of the important factors that has made Denton one of the most rapidly growing dairy counties in Texas. Also a livestock and poultry raising center, Krum is more diversified in its farming than ever before.

Earliest records of Krum date back to the Texas Revolution, when Congress made land grants of a league of land ($140 acres) to all ex-servicemen. The land about five miles northwest of Denton, which is now Krum, was granted to Charles Despaw, who was killed in the Alamo in 1836. About 1852 his friends applied for this land as a reward to Despaw for distinguished service rendered the State of Texas in the War for Independence. The grant went through that year, 16 years after Despaw's death.

The townsite of Krum was bought in 1881 by L. L. Finley for $10 per acre. Of the 600 acres purchased, he sold 200 acres to the Santa Fe Railroad the following year at $20 an acre. Finley then built the first general merchandising store, in which he opened the town's first post office. The store later was sold to R. L. Cole, who has operated a grain mill in the building since 1905.

Krum got its name from an official of the Santa Fe Railroad at the time the railroad bought territory in the town. The only present day clue to the descendents of this man is that a Mrs. Krum, who lives in Illinois, sends Christmas cards to be distributed in Krum every year.

Krum today is a progressive small town of 600 inhabitants with most of its revenue coming from grain and dairy farms. Although not incorporated, the town has a water and light system, modern brick buildings, good roads schools, churches and lodges.

The chief business concerns of the community are three grain elevators, a mill, wholesale oil company, three grocery stores, four filling stations, hardware store, bank, dry goods store, drug store, washateria, radio shop, barber shop, chicken hatchery, cafe, ice house, three garages, and insurance and other offices.

Dr. J. C. Gage owned the first home in Krum, bought in 1886. The town's first airplane did not come until much later, in 1910, and was flown by a Mr. Rodgers.

The first public school in Krum was held in a church south of Krum. See KRUM, Page 4

Krum school system has a fully accredited high school, employing eight teachers with W. W. Davis as superintendent. School board members are J. A. Stone, Ray Smith, Bill Medlin, L. C. Longpine, Joe Bishop, W. E. Riley and D. P. Pearson.

There are 234 scholastics in the district, including transfers from Plainview, Hawkeye, Stony, Blue Mound and Bernard. Recently an active PTA was organized.

Golfer trouble is caused by malfunctioning of the thyroid gland in the neck.

Denton Record Chronicle
September 22, 1946