

Ann Smith: Stores in Elkton

AS: When we first got married, I remember the old Farm and Home Store, that everybody slipped off from school and went down to buy candy and cokes.

ECS: And who ran that Farm and Home Store?

AS: Richard Bondurant and Andy Anderson.

ECS: And their wives probably both worked there didn't they?

AS: They both worked in the store. And then Buddy Birdsong had a store on the corner. Croney, JB Croney had a store right behind at the far end of Buddy Birdsong's store.

In fact, the buildings joined. But he had a little grocery store and sold gas. Buddy never did have gas. The Farm and Home Store never did have gas. I remember the Rainey's being in the little Pure Oil building that was torn down over on old 31, by the MacFarlands'. They had gas there. And I remember when they built Rainey's down on the new highway.

ECS: Now Rainey's was.

AS: They were always a tavern.

ECS: A tavern, OK. So Elkton did have taverns back then.

AS: Elkton had taverns.

ECS: Can you name some of them, because?

AS: They had that one and the Hideaway.

ECS: The Hideaway.

AS: And then they had the one that Mr. Massey had up here in Massey Town, which was the Oasis. They had the one that was in Joe McNeese's old grocery store. They turned it into a tavern. But I remember Joe McNeese having gas pumps and having a little grocery store.

Ann Smith: Farm and Home Store

AS: The Farm and Home Store had, they had an upstairs. They had a big wide set of stairs that went up right in the middle of that store. And they had clothing, and hats and boots and stuff upstairs and they had groceries downstairs. Seems like they had farm stuff and just kind of an all around store.

Ann Smith: Old Skating Rink

AS: Back to the old farm and home store. In early years, when I was still in school and a teenager, my aunt and Mrs. Rainey Thora Rainey had a skating rink in that store We skated around and around the steps [laughter] just an old wooden floor but they had a skating rink there for a long time before I guess the Farm and Home Store bought it from them and turned it into a store.

Ann Smith: Woodmen of the World

AS: I know they had a big bunch of Woodmen in Elkton at one time. In fact, Merrell's Daddy and Mr. Walter Bates was big members And Merrell was a member and he bought insurance on me after we got married and he put insurance on the kids after they were born. We participated in the Woodmen's quite a bit.

ECS: So Woodmen's was like an Insurance group.

AS: They met in the top part of a building that's still in Elkton. It was a concrete block building and Mr. Bates had used it for Feed and Seed store. And they had, he and Mr.

Sherman were good friends, and the wood that was used to build that top part of that building for a Woodmen Hall was cut off of the Smith farm, which was originally the Merrell Farm, because it came down through Merrell's mother through her family.

ECS: And she was a Merrell.

AS: She was like the third generation that lived there and she was a Merrell. And then we call it the Smith Farm now, simply because she married a Smith. But the wood was cut off of there and sawed up and built the top part of that building for the Woodmen and the Masonic Lodge. They both used it. And we've had dinners up there and parties up there that the Woodmen would have, Christmas parties and big dinners. Then they would always have a big barbecue every year and they cooked in a barbecue pit over on the side of the road about where the new fire hall is going, is being built right now. And it would be an all day barbecue. There'd be lots of people in Elkton who would come and stay and visit and talk and eat and party all afternoon and all day.

ECS: The best part of our history I think is that we did visit a lot and we didn't go too far to visit. So if Elkton offered things like that, people in the surrounding area of the southern part of the county probably did come. That was their entertainment.

AS: They cooked the barbecue right there on a pit. The wives of the Woodmen would serve and cut it up and cook.

Ann Smith: Dancing on the Roof

AS: Another thing that's kind of funny about the store building that we owned. As I said before, the building was built in the early 1930's , and somebody ran a little, they called it like a paddy wagon. They sold pies and cakes. They baked pies and cakes in the store and he would go out and deliver them. Mrs. Virginia Harwell told me that. She knew who he was and she gave me the name but I don't remember the name. But he built the store and they sold like a little rolling wagon or something that they sold.

ECS: Sold food from.

AS: And then after that, my daddy's sister that was named Ida that married Marvin Rainey, that was Selvin Rainey's brother, they had a tavern in it and they used to dance on the top, on the flat roof [laughter] We always laughed and said that was why it leaked so much. Because they danced on it.