

Museum Musings Article- Krum News

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KRUM-“THE COMMUNITY ON A HILL”

The Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe built a line through western Denton County in 1884. In the fall of 1886, L.L. and Gabriella Finley sold 200 acres off the south end of their farm to the railroad for a town site. With this, began the building of a business community in Krum.

Mr. Finley opened a general merchandise store in the new town on the lots now owned by Harpool Seed Company. The Santa Fe moved in a boxcar to serve as a depot. By 1887, the depot and section house were completed and the railway had built the first house in Krum for the home of their agent. It was built east of the railroad on the site later known as Knight's Bee and Chicken Farm.

The Post Office came in 1886 and was first housed in the Finley Store with Mr. Finley handling the mail. By 1888, R.R. Turner had started a blacksmith shop on the south side of the main street and Amos Rowley had a saloon on the north side. R.C. Scripture sold hardware; harness, clothing, and other merchandise from a large store located where the bank now stands.

In 1891, Dr. W.G. Kimbrough opened a drug store and began the practice of medicine. Arthur Jackson set up a lumberyard then later owned by Bill Ginnings. The office faced the main street on the south. John Boyd opened a barbershop next door on the east.

The one-room schoolhouse was moved from Hickory Creek in 1891 and placed on the ground where the old high school once stood. The Methodist congregation continued to use it as their meeting house. The Literary and Debating Society was organized and met in the school. All of the young people of the area joined. In that year also, the second house was built in Krum for a young bachelor, W.H. Henshel.

In 1894, Reuben “Pony” McGee opened hardware and feed store on the south side of the business street, next door to the lumberyard office, on the west. He built the third house in Krum for his family. Mr. McGee performed a public service by providing a watering trough for farmers' teams at a well behind his store.

Dr. W.H. Kimbrough's sons, Walter and Wallace, completed their medical education at Vanderbilt University, in Nashville, Tennessee and joined their fathering Krum.

By 1899, the telephone and telegraph had arrived. The Baptist congregation had moved their church building from North Hickory Creek into town; and the members of the Church of Christ built their meetinghouse that year. In addition to other businesses already established, June Benton had a livery stable that covered all the lots from the present Krum Flower Shop to Vercilli's restaurant and was busy renting buggies and teams. Frank Shifflett and Brent Jackson owned a wagon yard adjoining the livery stable on the north. There was a cotton gin, a restaurant short-order house, and a dry-line delivering freight. W.T. Ginn had built a hotel earlier in the 1890's. It was later owned by the Butterworth's for many years, then by the Chitwoods, and finally by Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Ericson.

In 1898, S.D. Chadwell built a fine hotel on the three lots, which is now a brick building occupied by Kountry Store, Krum Korral and Fowler Hardware. The hotel was a one-story wooden structure surrounded by a white picket fence. Facing the alley in back were stables, a cow shed, coalhouse, and other necessary out-door facilities. Inside, the floors were covered with an elegant turkey-red carpet, which was the talk of the countryside. There were rooms for “drummers” to display their merchandise and merchants came from miles around to buy. Unfortunately, this asset to the community was destroyed by fire and was not rebuilt. A brick building was constructed on the site and is now occupied by Ms. Carolyn's Attic and Krum Diner.

Please visit the Krum Heritage Museum online at www.krumheritagemuseum.com