

**From Krum, Texas The Story of a Small Town
By Della Davis-1976**

The first water system in town, except for a few surface wells, was rolling barrels. There was a windmill with an overhead tank on the west side of Scriptures' store. The customer rolled up his barrel and rolled it home gain. The chore was easier to accomplish than it appears as the barrels were equipped with handles and operated much as lawn rollers do today.

R. L. Stallings bought the service and installed a gasoline powered mill to pump the water. He also laid some lines down the middle of the street and though the water was not piped into the houses, hydrants were conveniently placed and the housewife could run to the edge of the street and draw a jug full as needed.

Eventually, a deeper well was dug on the location of the present (1976) city well and water was piped into nearly every house in town. Ownership passed to F.E. Baker, to K. Sprouse, to Sam McFall, to Sun Utility Company, and in 1950 to Paul Gose. Each owner added improvements. Gose sunk a well to the trinity sands-the first well around here to be sunk to that depth. The city bought the water works from Paul in 1959, and spent \$65,000 extending the lines, laying new and larger mains.

When K. Sprouse owned the water works, Krum got its first electric lights. That was about 1915. Mr. Sprouse installed a dynamo and illuminated the town. His plan was to generate power during the hours of darkness only. However, every housewife demanded an electric iron, and he kindly agreed to operate the plant every Tuesday morning for their convenience. The system more or less prevailed until 1925, when the Texas Power and Light Company bought the plant and provided full-time service.

The railroad brought the telegraph after their station was located here, and the Southwestern Bell Company followed, establishing offices in towns along the Santa Fe Railroad. A neat little frame building on the site of the fire hall housed the switchboard; later, it was moved where Krum Oil Company now has its gasoline pumps. After the move, the telephone office became the community club, providing a ringside seat at all the activities on the main streets. It was also a concert hall where some of the string musicians gathered for little practice sessions. Three young ladies succeeded each other as the day operators, including Miss Lela Ray (Harvey). Jake Chism or Walter McClister or some other young man slept in the office at night to answer the late bells.

The service deteriorated during the depression years. The company was selling its rural town properties and did not keep up the lines or equipment. David and Sydda Rudd bought the Krum system in 1940. At the time, there were only 21 customers and some of the few farmers who had a connection had strung their own lines on barbwire fence posts. The Rudds built new lines; some of those to farms were underground, and made other improvements. Central Telephone Company of Decatur bought the business from the Rudds in 1956, and is serving Krum and other neighboring towns with a well-equipped, direct-dialing system.

Allen Butane Company brought the first artificial gas to local customers about 1940, and "Slim" Oliver was in charge of this territory. Lone Star Gas Company came in with natural gas in 1963. J & L Propane Gas Company (owned by Donald Johnson) now serves the rural area and those not connected to a natural gas line.

First Power Flows Over Denton Rural Line

Dallas Morning News- Feb 17, 1938

Special To The News

Denton, Texas, Feb 16- Electric power flashed over fifty miles of line to 233 farm homes near Krum, Northwest Denton County, late Wednesday as the first section of Denton County's \$530,000 rural electrification administration project was electrified...Eventual complete electrification of the 552 mile project, largest granted in Texas, will serve 1,862 farm homes in this and sections of Cooke, Grayson, Tarrant and Wise Counties.

Underground Phone Line Set For Krum

DRC

September 19, 1954

Special To The Record Chronicle

KRUM, Sept. 18 — Work is now underway on Krum's first underground telephone line. David. Rudd, owner of the Krum Telephone Company, began work on laying the underground line Thursday.

The first line is being placed in the ground northwest of Krum, and more underground lines are being planned, Rudd said.

Rudd, who is laying the line himself, said he believes his new line is the second line of this type in Denton County. "Argyle is the only other Denton County town I know of that uses underground lines," he said.

"We won't have to worry about ice storms or high trucks of hay damaging these lines," Rudd added.

The Krum Telephone Company has been owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. Rudd since 1944. They bought the Krum exchange from a nation-wide telephone company after operating it for one year for that company.

When they purchased the exchange, there were 21 phones on the lines; they now have more than 100.

Rudd handles all the "trouble calls," and Mrs. Rudd operates the switchboard and does the bookkeeping.

Water Pressure To Be Increased

DRC

Jun 19, 1955

S. P. Gose, owner and operator of the Krum waterworks, has installed a pressure pump on Krum water mains and hopes to give residents 40 pounds of pressure on their water lines by next week.

Although all three of Krum's wells, one in Trinity sand and the other two in Paluxey sand, produce excellent water, the water pressure has been running low during the summer months, Mayor F. W. Fowler said Wednesday.

Water from the town's 14,000- gallon overhead storage tank has been forced into the mains by stand pipe pressure only.



Slim Oliver-Allen Butane

**Alvin Watson Jones I stands
in front of Krum's first
water tower in the early
thirties.**

