

## ***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 a 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.

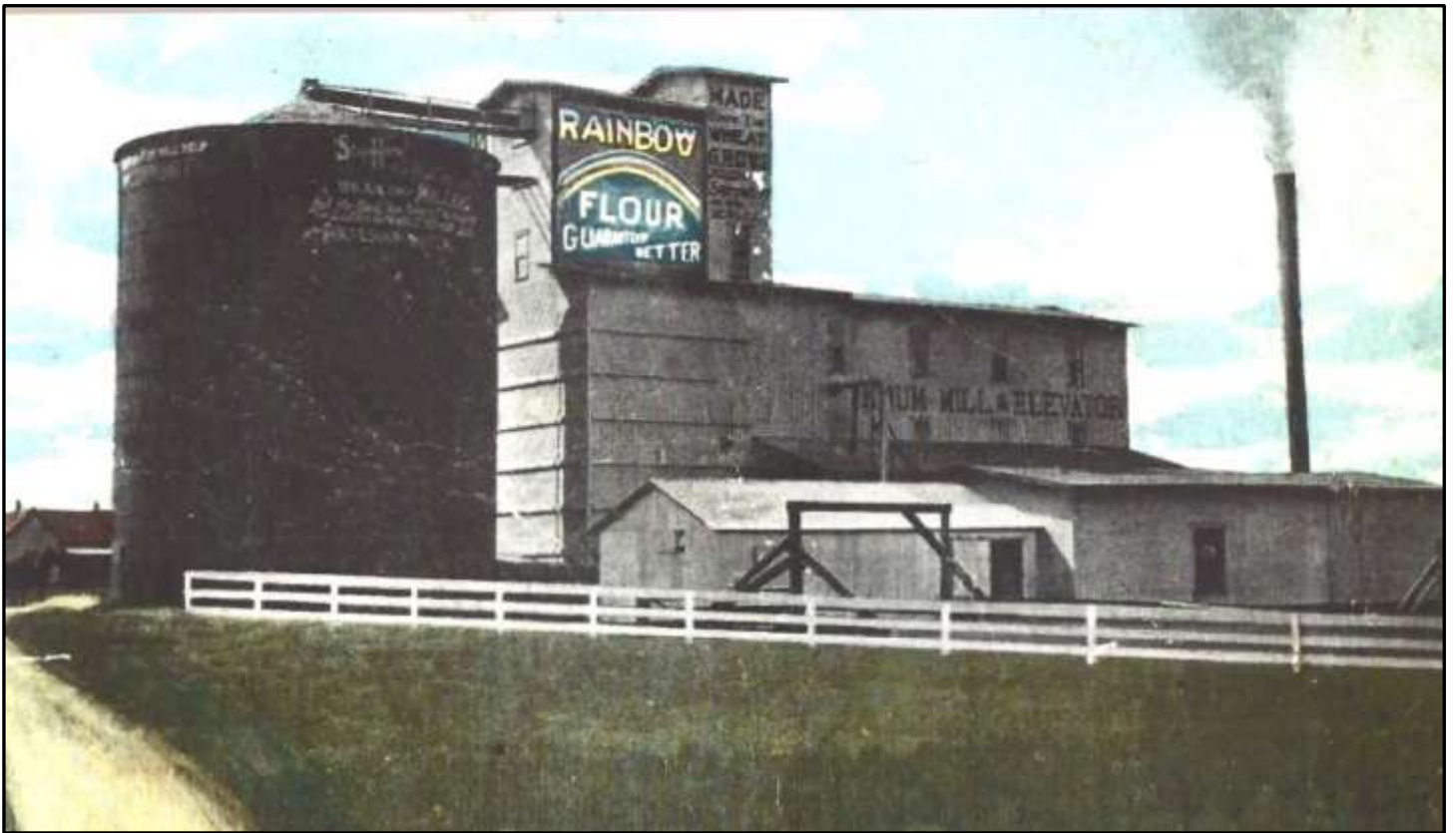


**Krum 1900**

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 1910**



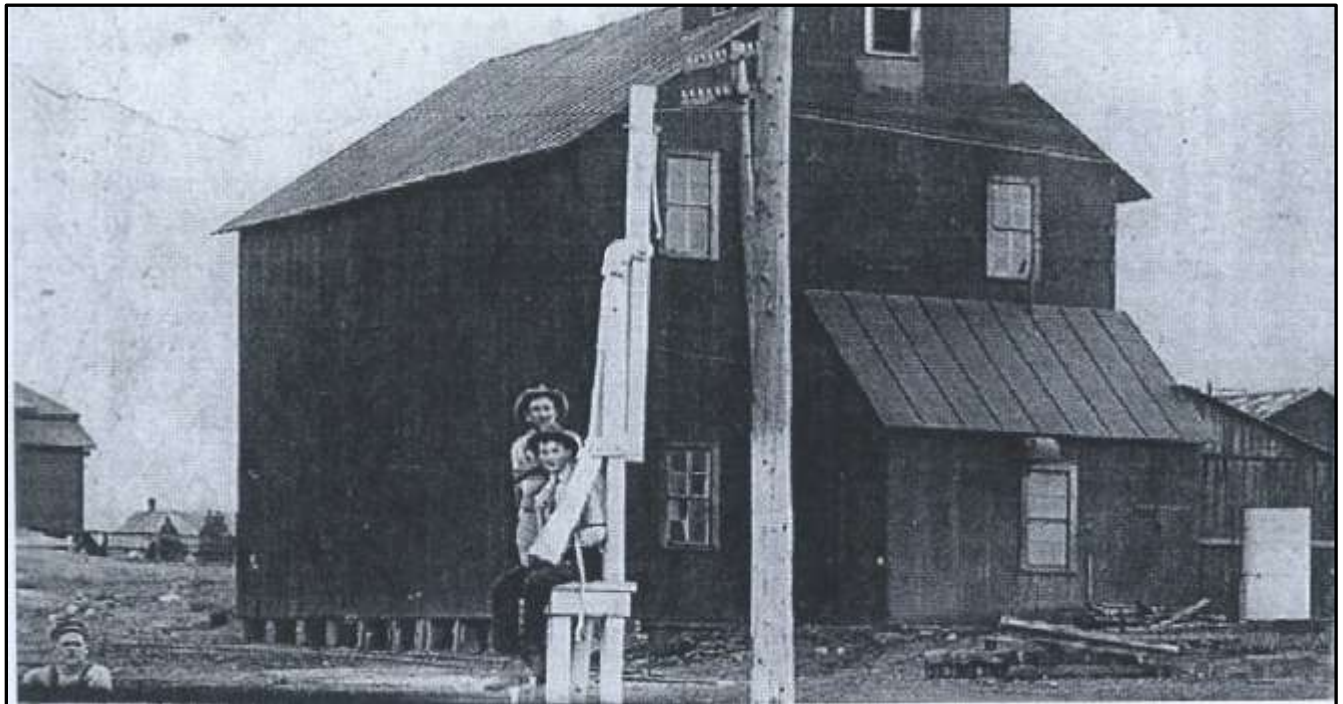
Krum Mill & Elevator Company-1901  
Produced Rainbow Flour





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



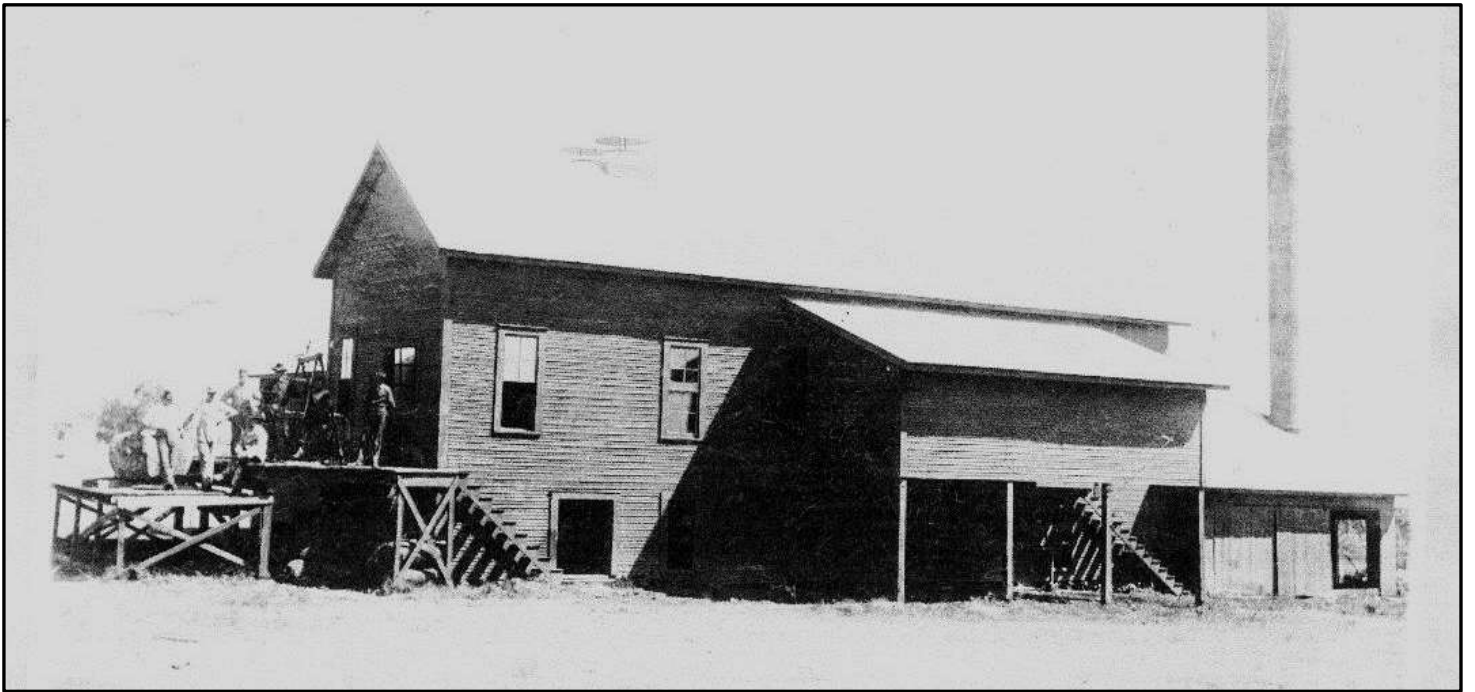
R.L. Cole & Co Grain & Elevator Company



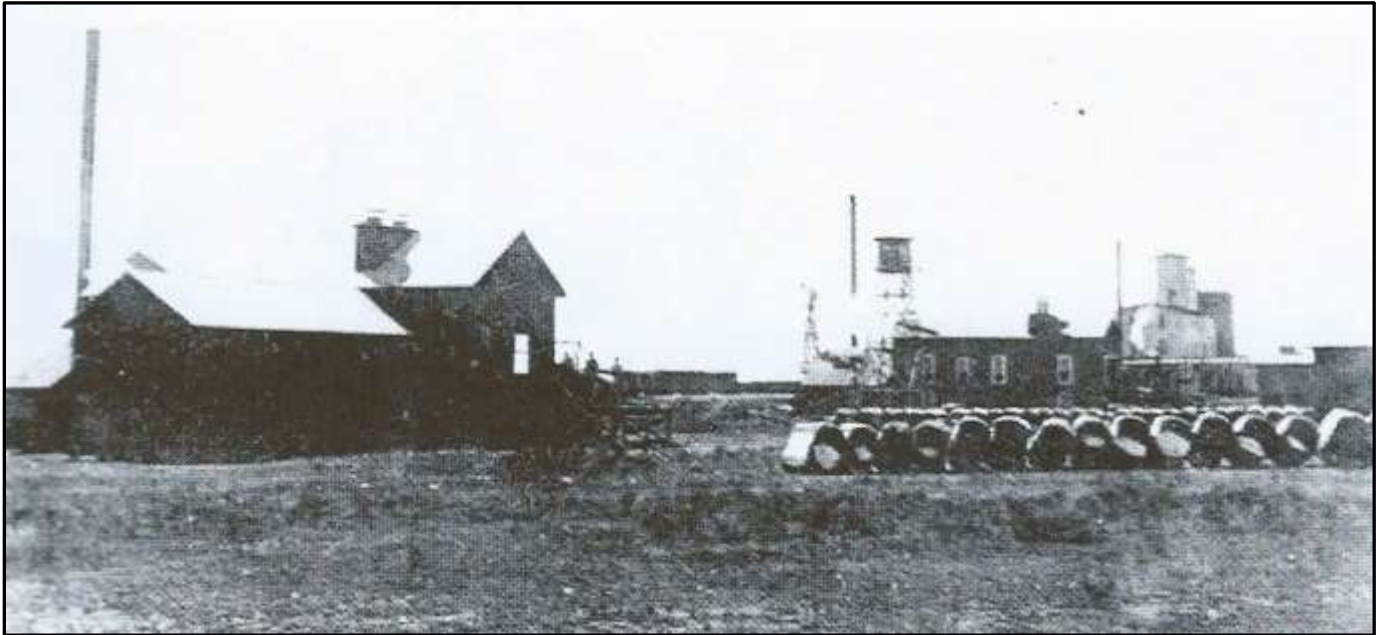
R.L. Cole Mill operated from 1905 to 1956.  
The concrete elevator still stands today



Fleming Huffhines Gin-1909



Koiner Gin Company (first one) 1924



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.



*Knox Gin Cotton yard*

## LARGEST MARKET

# Wheat Brought Fame To Krum

KRUM — This small community, named in honor of a Santa Fe railroad vice president, once was known as the largest inland wagon wheat market in the world.

Grain raised in the rich farming belt around Krum was brought into the city by wagons and bought by the local flour mill and numerous independent buyers for shipment all over the world.

The time was shortly after the turn of the century, almost 50 years after the townsite was founded.

### 50-BUSHEL LOADS

Most wagons would hold only 3,000 pounds, which was just about all any respectable span of mules or horses could be expected to pull across the blackland prairie and the sticky, cushiony roads.

The load represented about 50 bushels, and required two to three men to hold the mules and horses and to dump to the wheat, once the king of Denton County's farm economy. Trucks now do in a few minutes what previously required all day to accomplish.

A gigantic steam-operated flour mill was located here in the early 1900s and took numerous gold medals at various world fairs for its quality product.

The town actually got its start in 1858 when a 2,000-acre tract of land was granted to the heirs of Charles Despallier, a Texas hero who died defending the Alamo. In 1886 the Santa Fe Railroad was built through the tract and townsites were located along the line.

### BUILDING BOOM

Krum was named in honor of A. R. Krum, at that time a vice president of the railroad. In 1903 Krum boasted a general store, blacksmith shop, livery stable and a barber shop.

Shortly after the turn of the century, B. F. Wilson opened an addition to the south part of town and a building boom was experienced. The flour mill was among the new buildings that were constructed, but it was destroyed by fire in 1913.

In 1905, a branch of the Continental Bank and Trust Co. was established here with banking quarters in a part of the R. L. Cole warehouse. Later the bank built the community's first brick building. In 1909 Dr. A. H. Knox of Pilot Grove organized the First State Bank, which later was consolidated with the Centennial and named the Farmers and Merchants State Bank, which still exists to-

Another pioneer business house still in operation is that of the R. L. Cole Grain Co., established in 1905 and now under the management of Weldon Cole. The firm operates a modern highspeed concrete elevator, together with a feed manufacturing plant. As late as 1952, the firm operated the only coal yard in Denton County.

Krum today is a thriving town boasting a strong bank, dry good store, hardware store, drug store, automobile dealers, garages, filling stations, cafe, barber shop, honey extracting plant, washeteria, real estate and insurance firms, blacksmith and machine shop, grocery stores, appliance stores, elevators, churches and an excellent school system.

The town is surrounded by the best of black land farms on which is raised cotton, grain and row crops. Several large dairies are operated in the community and more are expected soon.

## Franklin Was Early College In Pilot Point

PILOT POINT — Dr. M. B. Franklin, a noted Southern educator, took over a small college founded here soon after the Civil War, and made it Franklin College.

In the April 4, 1884, issue of the Pilot Point Post, it was advertised as a non-sectarian seminary. "The fifth annual session of this institution under the present management will commence on the first Monday in September, 1883, and close the 15th day of June, 1884. The entire faculty of last year — specialists in their respective departments — are retained."

(Evidently, Dr. Franklin did not notice that he was advertising a term already well underway.)

He noted that the school's discipline was "unexceptionable," and the literary, music and art departments "not surpassed by any school in the state."

"Morals of the pupils carefully

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.



# 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 1900 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 its trade from an area of 45 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 (3600 acres) to all ex-servicemen. The land about five miles northwest of Denton, which is now Krum, was granted to Charles Despallin, who was killed in the Alamo in 1836. About 1852 his friends applied for this land as a reward to Despallin for distinguished service rendered the State of Texas in the War for Independence. The grant went through that year, 16 years after Despallin's death.

The townsite of Krum was bought in 1884 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 descendants

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 500 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. Gase owned the first car in Krum, bought in 1885. The town's first airplane did not come until much later, in 1916, and was flown by a Mr. Rodgers.

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

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burned when the post office building burned in 1922. Although larger than the original post office, the equipment still is small enough to be moved in a light truck.

## Krum

Continued from Page 3

town known as the Jackson Church and School. A Mr. Jackson gave the grant of land for the cemetery and school in 1875. The school was moved to Krum in 1882, with Miss Ora Evans of Denton as teacher. At the present time the

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 Medina, L. C. Longline, 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.

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