

Changing Communities

KINSLEY

"Kinsley had everything. We had two clothing stores. We had Al's Clothing Store, M&M's and Ehler's. Then we had a shoe store, and they sold shoes in Ehler's. Then four grocery stores: a little one and then we had Mammel's and Weidenheimer's and I can't remember what the other one was. We had two drug stores, Rexall's and Copp's. It seemed like we had everything. We had a lumberyard, a paint store. Then all the business men had their offices upstairs over the things downstairs. My Grandpa's office was upstairs, all the lawyers and the doctors. I honestly don't know how people got up those stairs to get to the doctor especially! Those stairs were just straight up."

SALLY FRAME 1950's



"Saturday night was busy because all the farmers came to town and everybody else did too. They would park on both sides (it was a two-way street then) on both sides on main street. Got my first ticket in my life coming back from college going down the wrong side of main street. I didn't know that it was changed. So it was '57, the summer or fall of '57 when the main street was being one way, not two way because I got a ticket doing that. I didn't know it! I thought it was as it always was while I was growing up. The cop, McBride, he didn't care. He was mad at me, said that I should have known. There was no excuse. When you go to college and I should have known better."

DENNIS KINDSVATER 1957



OFFERLE *"Offerle had the lumberyard, the post office and a little mortuary, called Sam's. We had two grocery stores and a farm implement store, a pharmacy, café, a beer joint (I didn't go in there), a barber shop, a creamery, and a filling station. The co-op was not very active, but it was there. There were two grain elevators in town, the bank, and the beauty shop."*

LEONA BUTLER 1950's



LEWIS *"In the 1950's. The two blocks in Lewis! Ford dealership: Baird's and Schnoebelen had a Ford dealership and Carney had a garage there. Little café where ultimately Nick Castaneda had a pub, but at that time it was the B & H. Brumfield's Grocery Store, Lewis Press, drugstore, post office was on the corner for a long time. It has since been torn down. On the north side of what's the pub now was a round building that used to be the post office. The bank was across the street over here, where the senior center is now. Mabel Mettling did laundry in the little grey building. Hiram Butler was a lawyer. We had Dr. Meckfessel on the east side of the street. Dr. Crawford was a dentist. Carney's had a Jewelry Store there. Pop Barnes had a big drug store across the street. Oh, and I think we had a hardware store there. In two blocks, there were a lot of businesses."*

DONNA NEWSOM 1950's



"Earl Ehler sold clothing for both men and women and Al Akers had a store. Workman's sold work clothes. I remember Ed Taylor, Gamble's store, True Value, Buford's Dry Cleaning, maybe two little restaurants on main street. On Saturday night Kinsley would just be thriving. I don't think there was a parking space left where you could park your car in. The theater at that time...everybody went to the movies. . . . I moved to Dodge, in the first years of our marriage (1950's). I remember coming back and finding out that some of the businesses had closed. What used to be Earl Ehler's became Fox's. I said, "What happened to Mr. Ehler?" And he said, "He no longer has a store." It is Mary Fox that has it now. . . . But after that, it seemed like one store or building would close up, and then we just kind of wondered what happened to everybody? It was kind of disappointing to see a real thriving community like Kinsley where several of the buildings were closing because nobody was adding a new business or anything there."

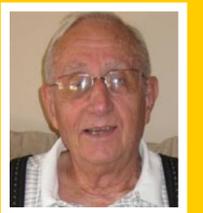
CARMEN RODRIGUEZ 1956 & 1965



"Any kind of implement you wanted to buy there was a dealer here, and cars and trucks. You could get anything you wanted here. There were three grocery stores that I can remember anyway. There was some more meat counters too. There were clothing stores. We bought, even after we moved up here, if we needed something, she'd just tell Al Noll (Al's Clothing), and us boys would go in and get our clothes in there."

SPARKE 1940's

L E R O Y



CENTERVIEW *"In the 1930's there were the two elevators, a bank, and the lumberyard. There was a big building that was going to be a hardware store. It was two storey, but it never did materialize to that. But they had a Woodmen's Lodge up above which I can just barely remember. They had a grocery store and the garage and the school. The railroad was there and the Methodist (Quaker) Church. By the time, when I graduated, all there was was a garage, a store (and the post office was in the store), the church and the school. It had gone way down. The railroad was gone."*

KEITH KING 1946



FELLSBURG *"Fellsburg had a grocery store and a post office. The little bank had closed when I can't remember. The bank (building) is still down there, where the bank was. And of course the garage was always there. The lumberyard was gone."*

LEROY SPARKE, c. 1940



STS. PETER AND PAUL *"Sts. Peter and Paul community was the church and the little store, the priest's house, and the sisters' house, and the school."*

ROBERT KALLAUS c. 1950

