

Doug Turner: Street Lights in Elkton

DT: That was, early 50's, '51-2-3 somewhere along in there. Of course, grew up in Elkton from that time on. And I can remember the first street lights in Elkton. Mr. Rainey, the mayor, had street lights put up. Some of the older people, of course, when I say older people, at my age, 30 was old, you know. They were griping and fussing you know because how were they going to sleep at night because the streets were just as bright as daytime, that kind of thing.

Doug Turner: Hauling Corn to the Gin

DT: I went to Elkmont one time and got a load of corn with a jeep and a two wheel trailer. Gin was right out here. Mr. Forrest, Forrest Bates' daddy run the gin. Come in and weighed the corn, went across this dip right down here, and when I did, the corn shifted, the trailer turned upside down, broke the tongue out of the trailer. And I had to shovel corn up out of the street. Just a small town and of course people went around me and let me pick it up.

Doug Turner: No Policeman

DT: It was in the early 50's. Just about everybody had cars. I don't think we really had a police officer in Elkton back then. I don't remember one. I guess the first policeman I remember was Slayton. And that was in the 60's. A pretty quiet community. Of course all the teenagers hung out right over here at the, I think they call it the Elkton Station now, but it was the Riverside Cafe and Service Station, where all the teenagers hung out.

Doug Turner: Going to School in Elkton

DT: Oh, I started first grade. I went 12 years to Elkton, all the way through high school. And the amazing thing of it is there were 17 in my graduating class, and 14 of us started school together and graduated together. . . Yes, it was more like we were more like brothers and sisters than school mates.

NT: What were the classes like?

DT: Well, just small, really, of course. No more than that. I know this day and time the classes are so big they'll have one grade will be in several different, you know. We were all in the same class together.

Doug Turner: Election Results

DT: Well, my dad always followed the elections, political. I can remember going to Pulaski I guess in the early 50's. They had a big board that they'd put up during an election, bring in all the, when the poll boxes would come in, write them up, climb up a ladder, I was a small kid. But they'd climb a ladder and put the numbers up and all that. We'd sit there, wee hours of the morning, getting all that in.

Doug Turner: Elkton Businesses and Woodmen of the World Barbecues

DT: But there's been a lot of businesses come and go over the years.

NT: UmHm.

DT: We even had a grocery store or supermarket at one time, well it went out of business. Supermarket, farm and home, everything, and eventually dwindled down to where it's just the Farm and Home, Casey's business over there.

NT: UmHm.

DT: Well, it burnt out, you know, and built back and all that.

NT: Now, has the Farm and Home store always been at its current location?

DT: No, no it was right here where the old, where the bank is, when it first started, the old building there.

NT: OK.

DT: It started out as a grocery store and farm supplies and all that. It burnt out and they built another building, it burned, so they moved over there and built that building.

NT: Now, do you remember those fires or was that before y'all came.

DT: Yes, yes, I can remember when the supermarket was opened. That was after we moved here. Every year the Woodmen would have a big barbecue in Elkton, set up a big pit, right here, about right where the fire hall is now. Barbecue all night long and have a big barbecue. The Farm and Home Store would give away hourly prizes. I think I won an ice cream freezer one time.

Doug Turner: Community

DT: Just walking around Elkton, growing up in Elkton, it was amazing. It wasn't like being in a city, I mean, it was more like being out in the country, really. Of course, kids couldn't get by with anything because everybody knew everybody, you know . . . Things have changed somewhat. Of course I know people have more age on them, and don't, it don't seem like people get involved in the community like they used to. Back when they had the big barbecues and all, you'd have big crowds. Now when you get a project going you don't get too big a turn out. People are busy and they've got other things going and it's really hard to get the community involved anymore.

Doug Turner: Elkton Community

DT: You feel more of a sense of community, people gathering at the post office, you get all the, well I say gossip, you know about everybody. . . Like I've told some of them, I guess Elkton is more a part of me than I am a part of Elkton.

Doug Turner: Churches and Taverns

DT: I can remember when there were more taverns than there was churches in Elkton, and now there's more churches than taverns.

Doug Turner: Well Water

DT: We had a well, we was off of a well, and it would go dry in the summer if we had a real dry summer like this past summer. I can remember hauling water. Of course we had a small town spring that the down town was on it. But houses on the outskirts wasn't. I can remember them digging a well at the school. We missed a lot of school days not having any water. I think the well they finally dug at the school was like 2000 ft deep or something to get the water. Well they had to put an oil well pump on it, looked like an oil well sitting out in front of the school, pumping water.

Doug Turner: Picking Cotton

DT: Picked cotton, chopped cotton, hauled hay. I always would rather haul hay than pick cotton. I never could pick cotton. Picked right along side of people and they'd pick

two to three hundred pounds per day and if I would get a hundred pounds I was doing good you know.

Doug Turner Old Shady Lawn

DT: It was a pretty good, it was a big business when it was over here on 31. Of course you know the interstate took that away, so, but, it was quite large when it was here at Elkton. But that building has been a little bit of everything since it has been a truck stop. From a night club, to it's a church now, that's hard to believe.