

GHM-Oral History Project- Interview Answers

Vernon Edwin Knabe

ID:8/8/2021

DOB: 11/8/1930

At home in Gardner, Kansas

1. Are you a **Gardner native** (born here or in the metro area)? *Native (Born here)*
2. What brought you and/or your family to Gardner? *Born and raised here.*
3. When did you move here? N/A
4. What was your family's trade/business? *Farming*
5. Tell us about this experience...

"As a young person, I milked cows and baled hay. Then as I found out I had asthma, I could no longer be in farming long, because of health issue. After I graduated, I went to work for Cramer Chemical co. from 1948 to 1952. In 1952 I decide to go into the Service Station business with Lowell Marley. He owned and operated that business until 1982. In the meantime, I joined the navy Reserve at N.A.S. Olathe, for nine years! I also was a volunteer fireman for 30 years."

6. If you are not a native, when did you first move to Gardner? N/A
7. What is your earliest memory of Gardner?

"Small country town (650 people). Went shopping on Saturday nite in town to buy groceries. Also, traded eggs (Mom raised) for groceries. Met up with school friends."

8. What is your favorite memory of Gardner?

"Friendly people, No Crime!" *"In 1952, I married my "best friend." As I write this, it is 69 years together!"*

"In 1983 I went to work as a maintenance specialist at Jo.Co. Industrial Airport. From there my duties were maintenance of runway lights-T-hangers and railroad switch engine. I did that for 10 years."

9. What have you noticed that has changed the most about Gardner during your residency?

Do you perceive this as a good/bad? And why?

“More Business, population-Whole town in general.”

“This is good because it

opened up Gardner to business opportunities!!”

10. Anything else you would like to share?

N/A