

GHM-Oral History Project- Interview Answers

Ina Joan Jones (nee Sawyer)

ID:11/30/21

DOB: 12/14/1931

Bell Memorial Hospital Wyandotte County, Kansas

1. Are you a **Gardner native** (born here or in the metro area)? Yes

2. What brought you and/or your family to Gardner?

“My parents Otto and Ina Sawyer, purchased property at the north edge of Gardner to build and start the Gardner Hatchery.”

3. When did you move here? 1939

4. What was your family’s trade/business? *Chicken hatchery and poultry farm*

5. Tell us about this experience...

Day to day operation of the hatchery was very demanding. Farm people in the area maintained large flocks of chickens to provide sufficient fertile eggs. During the hatching season we slept in the hatchery in order to turn the large churns of eggs periodically. If the electric service went off, KCP&L was called immediately, and they responded to our calls quickly. This is a very small description of the workings of the Gardner Hatchery.”

6. If you are not a native, when did you first move to Gardner? N/A

7. What is your earliest memory of Gardner?

My earliest memories date back to my pre-school days in the 1930’s. on Saturday evening we would bring our cream and eggs into the creamery to be sold. Then the groceries were purchased. In warm weather we sat in the car or out on the fenders and watched the people walk by and visited with them. This was a nice social time for busy farmers who came into town just once a week. Sometimes we might have an ice cream

cone from the drug store which was a real treat. Does anyone remember that cones had two bowls in the cone? Then you could get twice the amount of ice cream or two different flavors.”

8. What is your favorite memory of Gardner?

“School and church were where most of my memories were made. The school building was the two-story brick structure with the elementary grades on the main floor and high school classes on the second floor and basement. The City Auditorium served as a gym for basketball games, school dances-high school dances, and graduation. The auditorium also served as a theater for Saturday night movies. During World War II the church bells were always rung at 6:00 PM. Then there was the merging of the Methodist and Presbyterian churches. Then the old Church burned in 1993 and was soon replaced with a new structure.”

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?

“Of course, the population growth of Gardner has been amazing. I left Gardner in 1948 and returned in 1976 when my husband (Charles Jones) and I established our home southeast of Gardner. The city population had grown a great deal during those years and seems to continue to grow.”

10. Anything else you would like to share?

“With winter coming on, I recently thought about sledding on what we called “the old viaduct.” Of course, we had to go down on the northside because the sun would thaw the south side quickly.”