

GHM-Oral History Project- Interview Answers

Lerne Maxine Knabe (nee **England**)

ID:8/1/2021

DOB: 8/29/1930

Providence Hospital Kansas City, Kansas

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

Metro area

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

“My parents Bertha and Charles England bought a farm here.”

3. When did you move here?

1946

4. What was your family’s trade/business?

Owned and Operated Overland Park Dairy

5. Tell us about this experience...

“My father and his brother were all in the dairy business. They all ran milk routes in Kansas City, Kansas. My Father always had hired men to milk 100 or more cows twice a day and helped process the milk to be delivered to homes, grocery stores and etc. each day-(24-7) no time off. At that period of time, in Overland Park the dairy business was the main source of income for many families. Also, vegetable farmers. Living in the country in Overland Park gave me insight as to what life in Gardner would be like on the farm. Dad continued to milk cows in Gardner, as well as farm some land. I had a wonderful life in Overland Park, and it continued in Gardner.”

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

1946

7. What is your earliest memory of Gardner?

“My first memory of Gardner was as a young girl moving from a large school (Shawnee Mission Rural High School) to a very small Gardner High School as a Junior and small classes! Quite different.” *“However I found classmates who were very friendly and*

caring. Making new friends was quite easy. That made the transition comfortable! The community was small, and we lived a short distance from town which was good. I found the grocery stores, drug stores, Post office, cleaners and business people very pleasant.”

8. What is your favorite memory of Gardner?

“This is hard to answer, but the “people” are the memories that remain close to each of us! 1) After high school and starting to work at Cramer Chemical Co. from 1948-1954 a “highlight” memory! Wonderful people. 2) Meeting my husband-working with him there and marrying him in 1952. 3) being Sec. Treas. Of Jo.Co. fair. 4). Church work at Gardner Presby. 5) Volunteering at Sr. Center, being a youth friend at the 231, Volunteer at Historical Society. 6) We were chosen as 1st 2nd honors to “Citizen of the Year 2010 (both of our mothers had this honor).”

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 main change is the population from 1946 to 2021! It has and will continue at a rapid rise as the industry here is much different. They cannot stop progress!”

10. Anything else you would like to share?

“I just feel very blessed and thankful to live here in the Gardner Community.” “I Appreciate the many people who work and volunteer to keep the community what a safe and caring place that it is!” “We must continue to be aware of the work those who have gone before us put forth to make it what it is”