



2007 Sesquicentennial Oral Interview

David Coe Montgomery

CH: It's March 24, 2007. This is Cindy Higgins interviewing Dave Montgomery. So, Dave, why did you move to Eudora?

DM: I changed occupations and got a job in Lawrence. So, that was the main reason I moved to this area. I grew up in northeast Kansas in Leavenworth, and I was a commercial beekeeper in Vermillion, Kansas and moved from Vermillion.

CH: Why did you choose Eudora?

DM: Looked at all the houses in Lawrence and could get a better house for the money. I liked the small community.



CH: Since that time, 1983 to now what kind of basic changes have you noticed in Eudora?

DM: It's grown. The downtown has changed significantly, commercially. With the hardware store not being down there. The lumberyard burning down. Grocery not being down there. The new construction has been a basic change. The school not being in midtown where it was a magnet for all the kids coming down there and parents. The library has been the same. That's good. We've enjoyed it from day one.

CH: You were a member of the library board. Can you tell us some changes that happened in that 10-year period?

DM: In that 10-year period we embraced technology. We put computers in. We changed our whole code system, so that you can scan your checkouts and communicate and share books with the rest of Northeast Kansas libraries. There was a lot more services that were offered. We got a lot more entertainment articles to lend, like the movies and that kind of thing.

CH: You left the library board to be a member of the Planning Commission. Can you tell me a little of what you see since that start of that now, some changes going in Eudora?

DM: Eudora has grown so much that the basic thing that restricting it from further growth in this point of time is the sewer system and the infrastructure to support more. There have been developers buy land up around the edges of Eudora who are looking to develop it in the future. But it has to put the infrastructure in order to support it.

CH: Do you think that Eudora meets the needs of all age groups? Or kind of the way construction is going, it's targeted to the certain age group.

DM: Well, it seems like a majority of the tax dollars go to support the school. There has been a tremendous amount of school construction and school support related things that has gone in place.

CH: What are some things you have liked to do in Eudora? What are some things you've enjoyed doing in Eudora?

DM: Using the park, using Kerr Field and also shopping locally. Having things close by where you could go to the hardware store or grocery store if you wanted to. Like to use the playground facilities with my kids that were available on the schools. Enjoyed a lot of different, friendly people. When we first moved to Eudora there was a lot of long time families that had kids in school and had been here a long time and controlled most of the businesses. They were very open and friendly. Now there has been a lot of more people move in. So, they're not as dominant as they were earlier.

CH: What are some businesses that you patronized over the years?

DM: Hardware store, grocery store. Have used the laundromat before, have used the haircutting places, post office. That's the everyday type stuff.

CH: How would you define your neighborhood from when you first moved in to now? Have you seen any changes just within your immediate block or two?

DM: The average age in our neighborhood was older, mostly retired when we first moved in. Those people aren't with us any longer. There's been some turnover of their houses. It seems like it has gradually turning over that way. Some younger people are moving in to the homes that were occupied.

CH: If there was one thing, you could change about Eudora, you could do it today. What would one change you would like to see happen in Eudora?

DM: One change. I would like to see Eudora take where the old school was in the middle of town and make it into a total large community use site, something with things to support all segments of the community.

CH: Thanks, Dave. It's been great talking to you. This concludes our interview.