



## 2007 Sesquicentennial Oral Interview

### Diane Beedle

CH: Today is May 31<sup>st</sup>. This is Cindy Higgins. I am talking with Diane Beedle. Diane, I know you've had some jobs here in Eudora. Can you tell us some places where you've worked?

DB: When I first got into Eudora and when I started nursing school, I worked with Tom Pyle doing some of his books for the beef industry. After nursing, I got my registered nurse [certification], worked at Eudora Nursing Center.

CH: What was it like to work at the Eudora Nursing Center? I hear it's up for sale. What are your feelings about that?

DB: I didn't realize it was for sale.

CH: They said they were having a hard time with the regulations and things.

DB: That doesn't surprise me. The turnover in nursing homes is high with staffing. I think it is sad because I think the community needs a community-owned nursing center. They're better ran than a national.

CH: When you worked at the Eudora Nursing Center, who were some people you worked with there?

DB: Sylvia Neis was our director of nursing. Barb Stifler. There's many people who have worked there. Most of them have worked there twenty plus years when I got there. Been there since the doors opened.

CH: What places have you lived in Eudora and what did you like about those places?

DB: When I first moved to Eudora. I lived at Tenth and Pine. Can't say I liked anything about it because it was a trailer. Then, from there moved out to rural Eudora and lived on five acres for about ten years and enjoyed that. Had a bigger family and bought a bigger home and now live in Rose Acres.

CH: What makes houses in Rose Acres different than houses here in the system? What is your water system?

DB: I have a well versus the city water. I think the difference is the lot size.



CH: How big is your lot?

DB: We have almost two acres.

CH: That's pretty standard for most houses there.

DB: Anywhere from two acres to 20. So, it's varying sizes.

CH: Are there any disadvantages to living there? Isn't that still on a gravel road?

DB: Still on a gravel road. We do not get county maintenance. So, we have to maintain the roads ourselves. So, it makes it more difficult.

CH: Since now, you work not in Eudora and other places, what are some things you have done in Eudora as a community resident?

DM: Hmmm

CH: For example, your three kids have gone to school here?

DB: I have three kids who have gone to school here. I still have one in high school. Besides working in the nursing home?

CH: Did you go to church here in Eudora?

DB: Attended Holy Family for several years and have now moved to a different church. Participated in the Maria Montessori system. My kids initially were in that school before going into public school. A lot of activity through that school

CH: How about organized sports or youth activities?

DB: Baseball. Both my boys played baseball for numerous years. My daughter played volleyball in competition and also played softball.

CH: What businesses have you patronized in town?

DB: Probably easier to say what haven't I. Basically, all the shops I have either been in or patronized  can't say as I have been to the new Harley shop, but I probably could try to get there.

CH: Any stores stand out, that you have really enjoyed that are no longer here.

DB: The hardware store downtown. Actually, I miss the original Pyle's Meats. You can't go in and get butcher cut anymore. So, that I think is hard. And the original grocery store that was downtown.

CH: When you worked at Pyle's, was it still a slaughterhouse?

DB: No, it was not.

CH: If this is Eudora's birthday, and you could make some changes to make it a better place, does anything come to mind?

DB: I think we need to just maintain and make sure it is going to be safe for kids. The fact that we don't see kids running around the neighborhoods anymore. We see them at ballparks or we don't necessarily see them. To me, to make sure that we are going to have sidewalks on the streets we are going to put in... The kids can ride their bikes to school. Those kinds of things would be important to me.

CH: Even though you live outside the city a bit, the schools moving out to the south or highway to the east, how do you feel about schools in the main part here of Eudora, the core of Eudora?

DB: I think we've got plenty of space in the core of Eudora to maintain our schools in town. More sensible to be able have kids ride their bikes to school instead of telling our kids that they can't ride a bike and have to access a bus or parent's car to get to school. Moving the schools farther out doesn't make sense.

CH: I might throw you for a loop here, but have you ever hear Eudora called any nicknames? Do you have nicknames for Eudora?

CH: Not good ones [Laughter].

DB: I know your family isn't from Eudora. What is your family's reaction to you living here in Eudora?

CH: I think they think it is fine. Originally from Omaha, Nebraska. All of us have commuted out of Omaha, Nebraska. It's a small town. My sister has moved to a small town from Omaha. We are all out to smaller towns. It is perfectly fine.

DB: What cities have you worked in while you have lived in Eudora?

CH: Wow. Kansas City, Missouri. Raymore, Missouri. Olathe. Ottawa, Kansas. Basically, within a 50-miles radius.

CH: Would you say your experiences are similar to other people you have known in Eudora? Are they commuting as far as you?

DB: I don't think as many people commute as far as I do.

CH: To wrap this up, do you have anything you would like to say about Eudora's birthday?

DB: I think it its neat. I think we need to maintain the history. We will learn more by looking at our past when we get into our future.

CH: Thank you very much. This concludes our interview.