



## 2007 Sesquicentennial Oral Interview

### Randy Foos

CH: Today is June 12th. This Cindy Higgins with Randy Foos, and this is for the Eudora oral history project. Randy, we are right here at a baseball game and you are watching your son, Kelby. What is the reason the Foos family moved to Eudora?

RF: I went to Eudora to obtain a teaching position.

CH: And what year was that?

RF: Back in '87.

CH: Since '87 until actually now 2007, what are some changes that strike you in what has been going on in Eudora schools?

RF: Just the growth. The new buildings. The personnel. When I first started here, I knew just about everybody on staff in every building. Now, I have to look twice to see who they are or pick a roster to see who is what number.

CH: Now, have you taught sixth grade the entire time?

RF: Sixth grade. Yes.

CH: What change was that when sixth grade moved to the junior high school level?

RF: I think for everybody involved not knowing what was going to happen. Being labeled an elementary class for so many years and then moving over the middle school. I think that was a big part of it. People didn't know whether to act like an elementary class or a middle school class. After a year or two molding everything, the transition was a good one for the most part. The kids seemed to really enjoy being able to go from class to class.

CH: As a parent and stepparent, what have you notice from the Eudora schools from that perspective as compared to other schools in the area?

RF: As a parent, I am very pleased with what they are doing. They put the right personnel in the right places. They go for top quality teachers in all capacities □



elementary all the way up to high school. Really impressed with what administration does. Really impressed with my cohorts, from a teaching point of view, looking at all teachers in parts of the building how much they really care for the kids and strive to do the best that they can do.

CH: As a football coach, what differences have you noticed in the football program over the years since you've been here?

RF: I have seen the same thing. Growth in that as with the school system. Not that the staff in the past was a bad staff. It's just everybody saw the improvement in the program when Mr. Kobza took over and it is just continually grown. People want to be a part of it. You start winning a few games, the kids want to be a part of it. Just like in the classroom, you win some awards, the kids see that and want to be a stakeholder in that and participate and do the best they can.

CH: As a junior high school football coach, what is the one lesson you can get across to those guys? What is the one lesson you really wanted them to learn?

RF: Probably to enjoy themselves while they were playing. I wanted them, they need to understand that, winning is nice, but you have to learn to lose because in society you are not going to win in everything you do. Strive to do your best, if you give it your best effort then you should be happy in performance.

CH: What would you say is the difference between Eudora high school and say Perry Lecompton? Or Eudora versus Perry Lecompton, how is Eudora different?

RF: Just from the personnel. That's where it's growing from. A lot of people say it is bottom up. I look at my situation, I look at being top down with superintendent what he wants to bring into the district and then the staff that is hired and the message they relay to the kids and the kids they become part of that and they want to go out and do the very best they can. I see so much pride in the school. When I was first involved with athletics, the stands were bare pretty much. You didn't see a lot of crowd on the sideline. Now the stands are full and the crowd is north and south of the football field. So, just a big growth. I see the school bringing the community together in a positive way in the school system.

CH: As a resident in Eudora, how many places have you lived in Eudora?

RF: Four.

CH: And how come you chose your present location?

RF: Because of the neighborhood that the house is in. Also, it suits our family set up with two step-children, my own son. The way it was put together, logistically helped us out a lot. Plus there is a downstairs for the kids to go down there and give me peace and quiet upstairs.

CH: If this is for Eudora's 150th birthday, and you could give Eudora a present, maybe the present is something you are giving to it, a change, something you are taking away. What would be a really great thing that Eudora would benefit from your perspective?

RF: If I could give them a present?

CH: Anything you want.

RF: Probably a thank you to them. The community put me where I am now. If I was not happy with the situation 20 years ago, I wouldn't be here 20 years later. I would just for a birthday gift, it would be more of a sentimental thank you for them for letting me be a part of the small growth and the 150th year of Eudora.

CH: One last question, Eudora's population is around 6,000. What do you think is the ideal population for Eudora from now until the next 50 years?

CH: I am guessing probably, I don't know, between 18 [000] and 20,000 would be a good round number to stop at. Growth is nice. I would like to see some industrial things come into play. We can't stop growth with all the building that is going on. I think there is a happy medium somewhere. I'm thinking around 18 [000] to 20,000.

CH: Thank you, Randy. This concludes our interview.