

# The 1940s

## The June 8, 1940 flood

"Out at Paul Heit's, they said they got 17" of rain (from Ardell, that's about a mile south). All that country was underwater. When I came home, I went on to bed. Buss Martin was walking down the street (my nickname was "Bus"), and he hollered, "Bus, Bus! We're in a flood!" Well, when I got up, all I could see was my shoes floating in the water. I went over to where my mother's bed was and turned the light on. If it hadn't been for putting the electricity ... from the roof down, and not going (*all the way*) down, so the electricity wires were above, otherwise, I'd a got killed when I turned that electricity on!

The water was already a foot deep in the house.... So me and Lewis Winchester went out to the barn about a block away. I'll never forget it. There were 4 hogs hanging onto the manger with their feet! So me and old Lewis grabbed the hogs by the ear and the tail and we floated them to one of our bedrooms. We stuck them in there and went back and got three more. Them old hogs didn't have nothing to eat all that day. It wasn't much of a house; we had tile on the sides of the house, that old wood stuff, and them old hogs ate it all up!"

*Taken from an interview with Kenny Dupree on January 28, 2010*



June 8, 1940 Photographs from the Edwards County Historical Society collection



1941 Mobil Oil Gas Station, 101 E. Tenth St., Kinsley From the collection of John Craft

## Bobby Fahlsing Drowns While Wading in Flood

Kinsley Mercury  
April 30, 1942

Two Young Children Are  
Caught in Strong Current; One is Saved.

Bobby Fahlsing, seven year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Fahlsing, was drowned Wednesday afternoon while wading in the flood water just north of the highway in the block south of the Southside school. Mary Fahlsing, 5 years old was wading with him but was rescued.

The two children were seen to disappear by a number of people. Roy Eachus and Don Morrow who were nearby had yelled to them a few minutes before and told them to get away from the deep water. When they saw them disappear they started to rescue them. Don was able to get Mary as she did not sink but her body was thrown about by the swift current. Roy tried to find Bobby but he did not come to the surface of the water and Roy could not locate him. Others immediately came to the rescue and a frantic search was made for his body until he was found about 40 minutes later.

Junior McNamee who was taking part in the search struck something with his toe as he swam near the spot where Bobby disappeared. He called for help and Bobby's limp body was soon brought to the surface. Joe Elmore had just gone over the same spot but his foot did not strike the body.

Doctors were called and all that was possible was done to bring life back to Bobby's body. At times a slight pulse was observed but all efforts were to no avail. The new oxygen tank purchased from infantile paralysis funds, was used in attempting to bring life back.

Much heroic work was done in trying to bring Bobby back to life. Work was carried on for two hours. According to County Health Nurse Zeller there were several flutterers of his pulse but none for the last hour during which they worked on him. Miss Zeller called for hot water bottles filled with hot water and it was no time at all until bottles were coming in from every direction.

Funeral arrangements had not been made at press time.

Mary Fahlsing, daughter of Senator and Mrs. John Fahlsing, is reported this morning as getting along just fine.



c. 1943 Highway 50 & Brigg Avenue, Kinsley Kathy Rehmert collection



"There was a flood in Kinsley (*in the early 1940's*). When we went to bed it was dry with no sign of rain or anything. About 1:00 or 2:00 in the morning, my mother was awakened by this cat falling off the screen. It was climbing on the screen, trying to stay out of the water! She listened for a while and couldn't figure out what was going on, and finally got up and looked. Water was everywhere, and it was just before it started coming up through the floor. She awakened everybody, and we all got up and started putting stuff up trying to get stuff up on things so it wouldn't get wet. It wasn't too long before they were coming with a boat and hollering for everybody to get out. I remember my grandmother was staying with us then. They came down with the boat and got her out. I remember wading out with Dad. The water was up to my waist, I guess. The water was all the way from Winchester Avenue to Capital. We waded out and went to the Martins just across Capital. I remember staying there that night. Later, I remember going back out to the house to get different things. We left the silverware out there that we used to have in the bowl, then the little vase that used to sit on the table. I went out there for that silverware, and I heard something hiss. There were some curtains on the floor, and there was a snake in them! And I left out of there and didn't go back anymore!"

*Taken from an interview with Norma Winchester Kennedy*

