

East Newport School at Pecan and McLain Streets, the present site of Harris Hospital.

Among the families living in the area were Altoms, Armstrongs, Weavers, Skaggses, McKees, Waldens, Youngers, Coltharps, Runyans, Lemons, Balls, Smiths, Bradleys, Batemans, Joneses, Timses, Colemans, Finleys, Turneys Robinettes, Jacksons, Lawrences, Carters, Heads, Nances, Steenburgens, Birminghames, Sweatts, Pearces, Reeves, Reids, Hineses, Mays, Jacksons, Minks, Pridmores, Brightwells, Raneys, Craftons and Scarboroughs.

My earliest memory of Shipp's Store was in 1932 when my Grandfather, Cord Ball, led me across the street and let me pick out penny candies: licorice and banana cream. From that time until 1944 I observed and participated in the activities in the gathering place at the corner of Pecan Street and Malcolm Avenue. Any variation from reality in events described here is due to clouding of memory over seventy-plus years.

Life around the store was simple and old-styled, much like at Walton's Mountain. No one seemed to be in a hurry. In those depressed years, there weren't many people in a hurry, nor many places to go. The store was a gathering place. Customers picked up their mail from a KC Baking Powder box, where it had been left at the end of the mail carrier's route, by Mr. Henry Hurd on his twice-daily walking tour.

During the depression era, many people were unemployed. Men and boys gathered at the store, sitting outside or inside, as the weather dictated, on benches and nail kegs set around a pot-bellied coal stove; growing crops, waging wars and electing presidents. The young men usually congregated outside, hoping to be picked up for a day's work, telling jokes and lies, or just horsing around.

In late afternoons, when their housework was done, women brought their young children to the store for ice cream cones, or NEHI Cream Sodas. Those afternoon visits may have been their main socialization of the day.