

News Release for September 13th, 2010

Edson seniors hopeful for a Centennial success

John and Hazel Switzer beam with hometown pride at the thought of a 100th anniversary for Edson.

"It's important that we celebrate the 100th," says Mr. Switzer. "I think it's a super idea."

The Switzers are longtime residents of Edson. John was born here, and Hazel arrived in 1939. John's great grandfather Gilbert Lawrence served as Edson's first mayor.

Mrs. Switzer sees the 100th anniversary as an opportunity for former residents and people who went to school to return and celebrate Edson's centennial.

"We hope lots of them will come back," she says.

"It is marking a part of our history that is important. When you think of what went on from 1911 to today, it's quite a history, no question about it," says Mr. Switzer.

Recalling names, places and stories with an ease that belies their years, the Switzers are at home mining the treasures of Edson's past.

"We've always had our characters," says Mr. Switzer with a boyish grin. "Some you quote, and some you don't."

The Switzers say that the strength of Edson lies with its people and their ability to overcome the ups and downs of changing economic fortunes.

"Edson was one of the few towns of its size that didn't default on their town debentures during the Depression, which was surprising," says Mr. Switzer.

"Edson has always depended on its own people to make something of the town," says Mrs. Switzer.

"We started off as a railroad town," says Mr. Switzer, noting that coal mining and lumber have always played an important part of the economic life of the town. "When the mines closed in the early 50s, that was quite a blow, and it took a few years to overcome that, but it was overcome by the oil and gas."



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Edson's 100th Anniversary Committee

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“The town has always moved through the ups and downs of economic changes; it’s been a vibrant community forever,” says Mr. Switzer.

Submitted by Edson 100th Anniversary Committee

Sincerely,

Dale Schnirer

Media Liaison

Edson’s 100th Anniversary Committee
