

At Ease: Stories I Tell to Friends
by Dwight D. Eisenhower

pp. 65 and 67

“Civic pride, in many American towns of that period, was the most flourishing local industry. When my dad and mother arrived, Abilene was enthusiastic about its future. Some of the dreams of what might lie ahead—the transfer of the state capital to the town, for example—were never realized. But samples of that effervescent optimism may still be read in yellowing advertising literature and real estate prospectuses.

Whatever its endowments from heaven, and whatever its cultural wonders, Abilene did not get ten thousand more citizens. The boiling expansion of the eighties that transformed many small cities between Pittsburgh and Denver slowed to a simmer in the nineties. Through my boyhood, Abilene was reasonably prosperous but it grew little in population.”