

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

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“Visually, Abilene was in those days just another rural town, undistinguishable from scores of others, dotting the plains. It looked peaceful, pastoral, and was, at least in my childhood, happy. After all, the splendiferous C. W. Parker Circus, full of the glittering performers and the dusty glamour of far-off places, made Abilene its home base. Merry-go-rounds were *built* there. Three decades earlier, when founded by a man named McCoy, the town had been rather different.

It was then called the Cow Capital of the World. For a time it maintained its reputation as the toughest, meanest, most murderous town of the territory.”