

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

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“Paving was unknown to me for a long time. Crossings of scattered stone were provided at each corner but after a heavy summer rain the streets became almost impassable because of mud. Rubber boots were standard equipment for almost everyone. In winter, snow could practically immobilize the community. I cannot recall when hard pavement was started in town, but it was not earlier than 1904 or ‘05, I think. Even after the streets were paved, sidewalks were still made of lumber, for the most part, and the summer storms would wash the sidewalks out until they were dragged back in place.

The police force was one man, Henry Engle. He could not patrol the streets adequately, of course, so he spent the night watching trains go by or come in, inspecting the arriving passengers for dubious characters. He did walk around to make sure that all the stores were locked up. There was also a town marshal, a daytime man. I never saw him do anything except chase truant boys.”