



400 Washington Street National Clothing—Harry Lebwick, Mr. Hettiger, Harry's father-in-law.



Jacobs Block, possibly taken about 1884 or 1885 to 1900 from Union Hall building (Opera House) 111 S. Fourth Street.



400 Washington Street
 Inside of National Clothing Store between 1896 and 1900. (Photo courtesy of E. G. Landers)

We'll turn South at the funny-looking building on the corner of Washington and South Fourth Street; that funny-looking structure's our bandstand, Ma'am! Does double duty, though . . . the bottom serves as the Police Station in the winter months and the top serves as the bandstand in the summer. Yep, Saturday nights are busy nights

around here. The families come to town from the farm as well as the city to meet their friends, do their week's trading and are entertained all at the same time!

The bandstand was given to the Ogle County Fair and moved up to the fairgrounds where it was used as the Secretary's office until razed.

Probably the biggest crowd the band ever played to was on Armistice Day! Nov. 11, 1918. These streets were a real sight that day, people lining the streets for blocks, blowing horns and whistles, the band was playing, the children were out of school for the day and there was a parade and they burned the Kaiser!

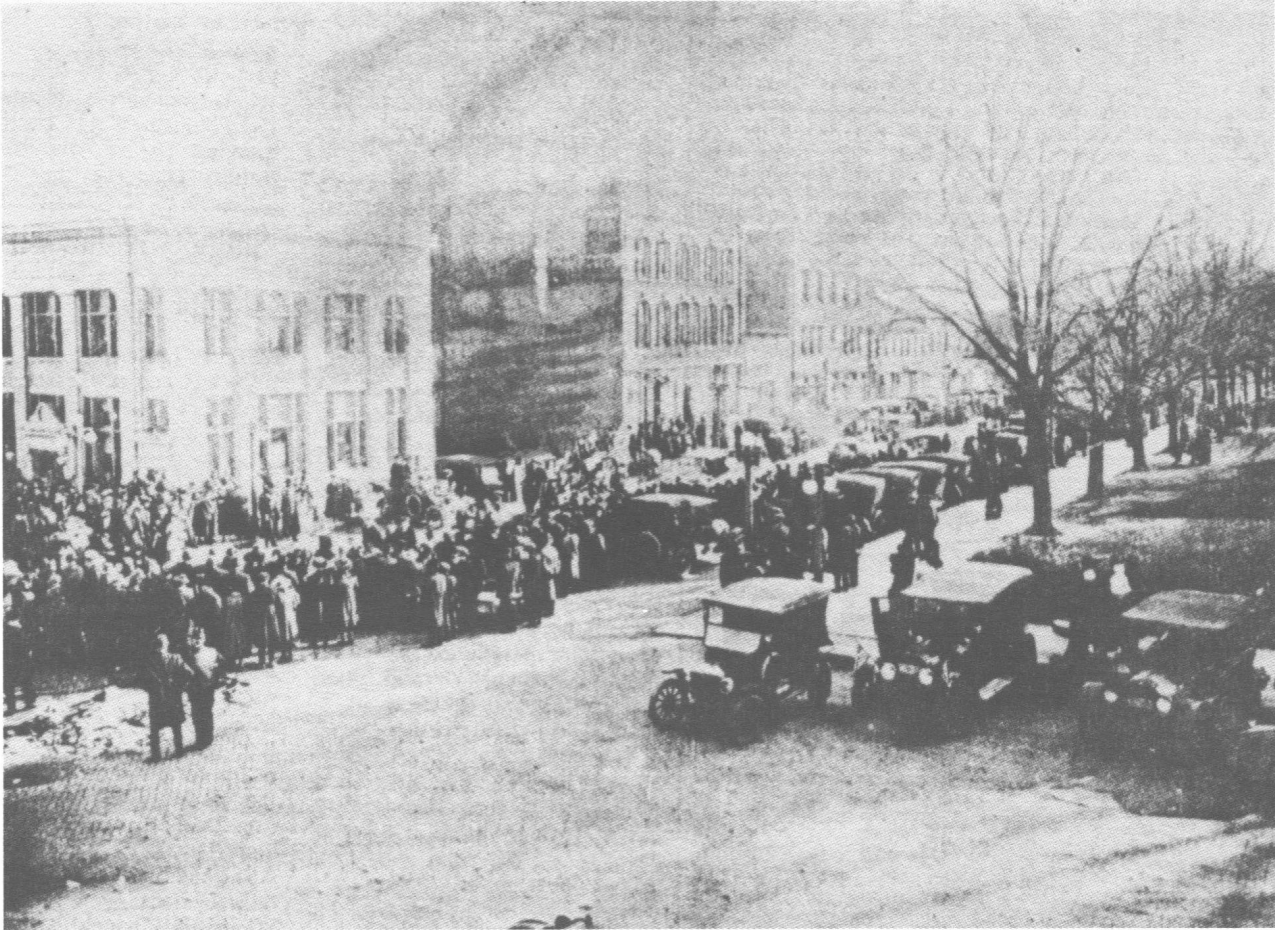
Lots of folks call this the Union Block. That's Stroh's Drug Store on the corner.

Mr. Stroh's quite a character, says what's on his mind . . . like the time a man came into his store to buy a pocketbook. Mr. Stroh showed him his selection in the three bins marked \$1, \$2 and \$3. The man chose one from the \$3 bin and told Mr. Stroh to "Charge it!" Mr. Stroh took the pocketbook from the man and said, "If a man can't pay for a pocketbook, he doesn't need one."

Later this was Charter's Drug Store and finally the location for the bank.



Corner of Washington and Fourth Street looking South.
 Note brick street. You can see "Dutch" Ellis and his shoe shine stand under the large maple tree. Date of picture after 1914 and before 1919. (Photo courtesy of E. G. Landers)



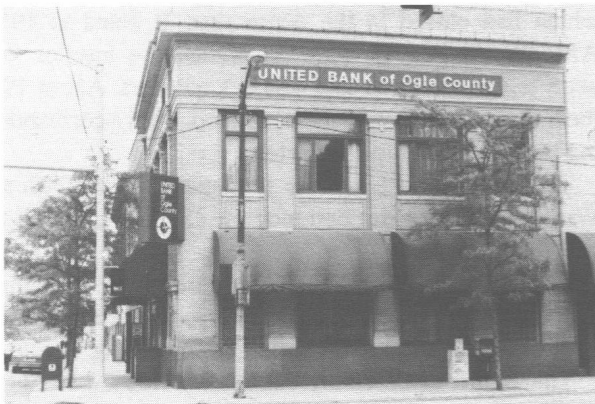
Armistice Day November 11, 1918.

The Ogle County National Bank of Oregon was established in November, 1935. Howard Engelbrecht became a cashier there in 1939 and was made president in February 12, 1957.

Dealing in commercial banking and savings, it extends loans for automobiles, commercial needs, real estate, farm needs and personal use. The bank also accepts passbook savings, time certificates of deposit, buys and

sells securities for customers, handles escrow accounts for customers and offers 578 safe-deposit boxes.

The Ogle Bank is a General service bank with deposits



*101-103 South Fourth Street
Purchased from Ogle County National Bank; became United Bank of Ogle County. (Photo by Donna Kennedy)*



*105-109 South Fourth Street
South side addition on Fourth Street to the Rock River Bank. Left side of building; Frank Black Confectionery; then Reber & Keplinger; then Mensen & Wooding Confectionery; Mensen Confectionery; Starbuck Tavern; then Ken Davis Tavern; then Chuck Nelson Tavern. Right side of building: Kapplin Cleaners; then Drummond Barber Shop; then Seas Barber Shop; then McGurk Barbershop; then Bing's Barbershop; then Mac's Barbershop. Remember the shoe shine stand when Bing and Red had the barbershop? (Photo by Donna Kennedy)*

Ogle County-National Bank Has Been Revamped



The exterior of the Ogle County National Bank of Oregon. (Photo by Ray Farrell)



The Ogle County National Bank of Oregon was reorganized in November, 1935. The bank is located at the southeast corner of Fourth and Washington Street with the entrance on Fourth Street, facing the courthouse square.

of \$9,570,388.29, as of April 20, 1971. Total assets are listed at \$10,552,565.68.

There have been two modernizations since 1939. The old building was formerly occupied by another bank which had closed in the depression. It dated to 1914. After World War II, they remodeled the interior with extra tellers windows and officer's quarters. About 1963 the building enlarged to the South end, with a corresponding increase in banking quarters.

The bank is located at the southeast corner of 4th and Washington, with the entrance on 4th street, facing the courthouse square.

It was the first bank in Ogle County to have night depository for merchants, central proof machines, begin Christmas Club program, and data-processing.

The Board of Directors consist of: Howard F. Engelbrecht, Robert D. Etnyre, Gene D. Lebwick, C. W. Mongan, George M. Etnyre, Jr., Gerald K. Garard, Stanley A. Lewison and Harry F. Wade.

The Opera House located on the Union block was one of the places the boys of early Oregon played basketball, though it must have sounded like the building itself was going to fall with basketball games being played over the heads of the store's customers and the plaster falling into the flour!

On the left side of building was located Schneider Grocery Store; B-M-Way Store (this was a co-op) operated by "Shorty Lock"; and there was a bakery also.

The Post Office then moved to the building next door south before being located in the permanent building where it is now.

Then Mensen Confectionery, Christensen Dairy Bar, Lauer's Confectionery, Gerry Wooding Real Estate, Bing's Barbershop, Bonnie's Paint, M & M Furnishings.

The right half of Opera House was occupied by Woods Bakery; Post Office; Johnson's Bakery; Nestrojil Bakery; Landis Realty.

The apartments above were occupied until the late 1970's when it was found they were unsafe.





115 South Fourth Street

First Park Shoe and Boot factory in the 1920s; then Earn Taylor Paint Store. Building burned and then vacant until 1931-32. New building for Kapplin Cleaners; then Nyman Cleaners; then Wardrobe Cleaners; then Jenkins Cleaners; then Yellow Bird Center; then Ogle County Title and Abstract Co. (Photo by Donna Kennedy)

Having undergone some remodeling, this building probably would not be recognized by its former tenants—Park Shoes; Ernie Taylor's Paint Store; Kappelin Cleaners (new building); Nyman Cleaners; Wardrobe Cleaners; Jenkins Cleaners; Yellow Bird Center; Ogle County Title and Abstract Co.

Grocery stores? We've got our share of them. We even have one where Pa can get a schooner while Ma picks up her supplies! Post Office is there, for how long, is anyone's guess as it depends on who wins the next election and who's appointed postmaster.

The three-story building? Well, now that's the Masonic Temple. There's a three-lane bowling alley in the basement. Friend of mine used to set pins there when he was a boy.

I know, ma'am, I do have a habit of just rattling on, at least that's what my wife says. So I'll keep quiet for a while and let you enjoy the ride.

On the third floor of the Masonic Lodge building was located the kitchen and dining room for the Masons. The Lodge meeting hall was on the second floor.

In the left half of the building was located Lyons Saloon; then Reichenbach Music; then Tony Marino's Tavern; and now Blackhawk Tavern.

In the right or south half was located Etnyre & Haas Real Estate and Insurance; then Haas & Death Insur-

ance, with Bill Hinkle, Attorney, sharing office space, then Moehle Title Co.; and now M & M Furnishing.

In the basement of this building is the three-lane bowling alley mentioned earlier. There also was a restroom but that could only be reached by climbing up and down a few steps and privacy was not always guaranteed.

This building has undergone some major remodeling over the years, and we wonder if the former tenants would recognize it now.

Until 1940 Fischer's Book Store was here in the north half of this building. Then the Toy Factory, owned by Clifford and Bryson until Piggly Wiggly arrived in Oregon with the first "supermarket," being one of the first grocery stores to be open midweek at night. Russ Lamb moved the Firestone store here and occupied the whole building space. Oregon Home Appliance was here until 1981 and the building was subdivided into office space for Death and Reising Insurance.

The south half of the building was occupied by the Sauer and Heckman Hardware Store and during various stages of tenants the entire building was used.



117-119 South Fourth Street

The Oregon Masonic Temple Lodge 420 AF&AM. Meeting rooms above, businesses on street level are Blackhawk Tavern (117 South Fourth) and M&M Decorating (119 South Fourth Street). (Photo by Donna Kennedy)

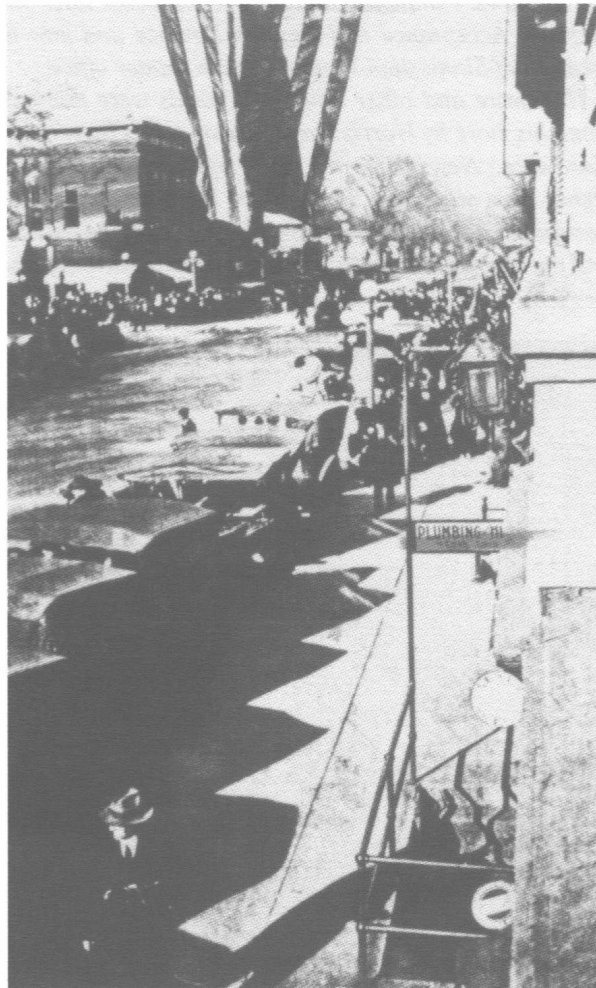


Exterior of the Ogle County Abstract company office (date not available). Two bandits brandishing revolvers entered, locked Charles D. Etnyre (president of the company) and three women in a back office room and fled with \$175.

From food to caskets have been in this building; Rumery Bakery with fresh bread daily, and then the Hayenga Restaurant. R. C. Burchell occupied it for a while and then the Chicago Store owned by Max Kaplan.



121-123 South Fourth Street
Fischers Book Store (N. half); then Clifford and Bryson (toy makers) (all of building); then Piggley Wiggley; then Charles Lamb Firestone Store; the Oregon Home Appliance 'til 1981; then Deuth and Reising Insurance as remodeled in 1947. (Photo by Donna Kennedy)



Armistice Day 1918. Note steps under the plumbing shop sign. These steps lead down to the Bowling Alley.

Emil Weyrauch dealt in furniture and caskets until moving his furniture store down the street. The Piggly Wiggly supermarket used this part of the building for the entrance to the store with the checkout lanes located up-front in



125-127 South Fourth Street
125 was built for R. C. Burchell. It was a 3-story building but one was removed. M. Caplins Chicago Store; then Emil Weyrauch (who later moved to 127 after The Republican paper moved). 127 was a hardware store several times. (Photo by Donna Kennedy)

the windows. Financial matters were handled later with Mercury Acceptance and Heights Finance and now the location of Sinnissippi Mental Health Center office.

Hardware and other household needs were marketed from this store by Harris Hardware and then Butterworth Hardware. Newsprint, ink and type became common sights here when the Republican Reporter printed the newspaper here. Remember the old papers in the windows and the interesting smells coming from this building when

the paper was being printed? Emil Weyrauch operated his furniture store here for many years until he retired. Then Christensen Furniture. Phyllis Haas Powers brought new life with her flower shop, Phyl's Flowers, and even had the experience of a customer driving through the window of her shop! Sharon Hummel followed with flowers as Hummel's Flowers and now the location of Bob's Appliance.

At one time the Chasms had a pet shop upstairs in this



The old Sauer & Andrew hardware store (in the late 1880s) which was located on S. 4th St. where the Illinois Northern Utilities Company office building now stands. In the front of the building are, left to right, C. C. Faubel, Nicholas Sauer, John G. Sauer and John Hutchinson.



129-131 South Fourth Street

Built for the Utility Co. office; then Law Office of Garard and Moore. 131 housed Haas and Deuth Insurance; then Moehle, Smith and Nieman in both 129 and 131. (Photo by Donna Kennedy)



135 South Fourth Street

This is a picture of the store where Ken Marth had his antique shop that was made a part of the Kopy Kat Restaurant. (Photo by Donna Kennedy)

building and in the summer months you could hear the canaries singing as you walked by.

Harris Hardware and Tin Shop took care of the needs for a time until it became the Sauer and Andrew Hardware. At one time there was a two-story building at 129 South Fourth Street, this building was moved to the 300 block of South Fifth Street to be used as a school.

A new building was built then to house the new Northern Illinois Utilities offices. Here you could pay your utility bills, view the newest in gas and electric appliances and get a drink at the coldest water fountain in Ogle County!

Gerry Garard moved his offices from Washington Street here and the building was remodeled extensively; the south half for the agency of Haas and Deuth Real Estate complete with moose head on the wall, to share the building; most recently the entire building is occupied by Moehle, Smith & Nieman P.C.



133-135 South Fourth Street

Left side of building (133 South Fourth) housed Gradert's Appliance; then Ashley Appliance; then Long and Brown Electric; then Vera's Coffee Cup; then Sam's Restaurant; then Tom's Restaurant. The right side of the building (135 South Fourth Street) housed Joe Sears Law Office; then Otto Reid Electric; then Alfred Anderson Electric; then it became Irma Wylie's Restaurant; then the Chasms; the Phil Alexander and "Foo Foo" Gerald Bolthouse "hamburger joint"; then Marth's Antiques. When the Kopy Kat was started in 1986, it was enlarged—taking in Tom's Restaurant (where the doorway is) and the antique store that was run by Kenneth Marth. Photo by Donna Kennedy

With the advent of cheap electricity, the sale and service of appliances, both gas and electric, Gradert Appliance became one of the new businesses to occupy this building at 133 South Fourth Street. Dave Ashley took over and kept the appliances in repair for many of the people in the area. Long and Brown Electric served the residents for many years from this little building; now the present location for the Kopy Kat restaurant.

Joe Sears and Otto Reid Electric occupied this little shop at 135 South Fourth Street with Alfred Anderson continuing the electric business until Irma Wylie started a restaurant here. The Chasms, George and Avis, served their finest food for a few years. Phil Alexander and "Foo-Foo" Bolthouse took over with their specialty, hamburgers! Then "Doc" Jones bought the business, offering the townspeople excellent pie and coffee.

Boyd and Vera Finkbeiner bought "Doc" out and added their special culinary talents to the neighborhood until they bought the tavern on the next block. Nelsons operated the restaurant as the Coffee Cup as did the Hurds and the Hardestys.

The Hardestys, Bud and Rachel, moved the Coffee Cup next door to 133 South Fourth Street then Ken Marth moved in with his antiques; and now the building is occupied by the Kopy Kat restaurant.

Located behind the buildings of the Kopy Kat was a small metal building owned by Ed Harris who had a small auto repair shop there in 1920's.

The Bunker Building at 137 South Fourth Street was built for Dr. Bunker, a dentist who practiced here many years.

After his death, Dr. Harry E. Wade took over the practice of dentistry here. He had a physician friend who joined him in the building, having his office in front, Dr. Kloster practiced in Oregon for many years, imparting his commonsense medicine to most of the residents, delivering most of the new population and accepting payment of chickens, eggs and produce in lieu of cash, as money was not plentiful when Doc started to practice.

Following his grandfather's footsteps, Dr. Harry F.



This photo, taken in February of 1938, shows George and Avis Chasm owners and proprietors of the Chasm Cafe 135 South Fourth Street. In the following year of 1939 the business was moved 5 or 6 doors north of the original location to more spacious quarters where the restaurant continued in business until the WWII years when they were forced to close the doors due to the wartime food shortages and rationing. (Photo courtesy of Jim Chasm)



*137 South Fourth Street
This building was built by Dr. Bunker, a dentist. Then Dr. Harry E. Wade, another dentist occupied it along with Dr. Kloster; then Dr. Harry F. Wade D.D.S. and Dr. McGraham an optometrist. Oregon's first Video Shop was here and was started by Ed Harazin. (Photo by Donna Kennedy)*

Wade practiced until he retired. Dr. Geo. McGraham was the optometrist filling the office vacated by Dr. Kloster.

Presently Ed Harazin has a video rental shop here.

A backward look at one of Oregon's busy streets as it is now; some of the buildings looking much the same as they did at the turn of the century, some have only the ghosts of their former facades to tell us they were there.

Down there on the corner of Fourth and Jefferson was where Dr. Chappel had his office. They were moved around the corner. This was later the Library Court apartments.

Dr. Chappel lost his life in his office when the building partly burned, sad story to end the life of one of our pioneer doctors. Later Dan Wely built the feed barn here and that, too, was later destroyed by fire, in 1944 having been used later for a garage.

Since then Ed Gecan had a Shell Service station and then Bob Story operated the station.

Now to test your memory a little . . . on the NW corner of Fourth and Adams at 412 South Fourth was a little(!) gas station owned by Mr. Mammenga. The station sold Phillips 66 gas and was just big enough for whoever was working the station and perhaps one or two customers.

ew Shell Service Station Grand Opening This Wee



Bob's Shell Service Station, Southeast corner of Fourth and Jefferson (201 and 203). Donna Kennedy photo
Former site of Dr. Chappel Office which later became the Library Court Apartments. This building was moved around the corner. Dan Welty



built a feed barn that was destroyed by fire. A garage was operated on this site; then Ed Gecan operated a Shell Service Station. Presently Bob Story owns Bob's Shell.

Mr. Mammenga was a favorite of the neighborhood kids and well patronized by the neighbors for gasoline and oil but with the advent of new and bigger Self Service gas stations, the small family owned business closed. We regret there is no picture of this small station and only the memory of its existence lingers.

The building that used to stand on 201 South Fourth Street was Dr. Chappel's office. He was one of the doctors who practiced in Oregon early on. There was a fire one night, some say it was a "mite mysterious," and the Doctor was in the building and he suffocated. The building or what was left of it was moved to the lot next door and



1986 picture of the east side of South Fourth Street from 101 to 121.

If you look closely you can see Parks Shoe and Boot Advertisement on the south side of the Opera House. However, the factory itself was where the Title and Abstract Company is. (Photo by Donna Kennedy)

Dan Welty built a feed barn there. The feed barn was also destroyed by fire.

The new building on the Northwest corner of Third & Jefferson Street is our new public library. The library finally has a place to call its own after being moved from building-to-building for so many years. Yes, ma'am, we are proud of it, it's a fine looking structure.

OREGON PUBLIC LIBRARY

J. C. T. Phelps, G. W. Hormell, Albert C. Woodcock, J. E. Hitt, W. W. Bennett, M. L. Ettinger and E. L. Wells were the first directors of the library which was organized in 1872. Woodcock and Bennett became the first book selection committee, with the books kept at the Henry C. Burchell drug store for a fee of \$10 per year. County treasurer, John T. Gantz, became librarian on March 7, 1874, and his county office became the library until his term expired the following year.

Two rooms were leased in December 1875 on the second floor of a building owned by J. B. Mix on Washington St., the First National Bank Bldg. Charles D. Etnyre, founder of the Ogle County Abstract Co., served as secretary of the board for 56 years.

Mrs. Addie Welty became the first salaried librarian in 1903 at the salary of one dollar per week. She was succeeded by Mrs. Ethel Herbert Haas in 1905 and Emily Cartwright in 1908 who served until 1947. Olive Stoffregen succeeded Miss Cartwright and served until 1962 and she was succeeded by Mrs. Thelma Carpenter.

A new library building was built at the corner of Third and Jefferson Sts. under the Andrew Carnegie endowment system.

The little red brick house (picture not available) was bought by Lorado Taft and given to the town to be used as a community playhouse. Sure gets a lot of use, families as well as organizations such as the American Legion use it for their meetings. Young lady is a hostess and caretaker and she keeps it open and cleans.



Northwest corner of Third and Jefferson Street
Oregon Public Library. (Photo by John Remour)

The farmers visit the Creamery next door north at least once a week to pick up their checks for the cream and milk they've sold to Grandma Bechtold. She and her son Nellis operated that business a good many years now. Best buttermilk in town and she sells a good ice cream, too! Busy place on Saturday!

Arbogast has his blacksmith shop next door and next to the blacksmith shop was a saloon which has been said to have been a stagecoach stop "way back when."

Giving way to progress was one of the older buildings in town. Said to have been originally a stage coach stop and then a slaughterhouse. Probably better known for the saloon or tavern history. Originally owned by Jim Johnson and then by Alec Reid. Owners since have been, Ray Cullen, Paul Martin, Harold "Doc" Jones, and Boyd Finkbeiner. When the building was torn down evidence was found to show there had been stables (probably from the stagecoach days), a place where there had been heat or a fire in one spot, such as a rendering kettle (possibly the slaughterhouse).



106 South Third Street

This was one of the earliest buildings in Oregon. It was torn down to make the city parking lot. It was Johnson's Saloon before prohibition. Later, soft drinks and a card parlor. (Photo courtesy of Ann Jones)

At various times in Oregon's history this block was the site of the Hormel building and the bowling alley that is now in the basement of the Blackhawk tavern was here. Sometime later appeared the Wernick Grocery and Meat Market and the Hartman Harness Shop.

Joe Copolongo had a shoe shop here where the parking lot is now before he moved his shop to where the C & I Tavern is now. Bill Taft later erected this block building at 109 South Third Street and moved his shoe repair business from across the street. Now the site of Bill's Shoes.



A look backward down South Third Street. Jewett Drug Store was on the corner. On the south end of the building was "Ikie" Bohner's Grocery. He was the brother of Mrs. Lee Allen. Then at one time it was a shoe store. The next building was the Johnson's Saloon. The last building you really can make out was "Ike" Bellas Plumbing Shop. After Mr. Bellas' death it was sold to Leo Piper who had a plumbing shop there until he moved over to 302 Washington Street. This building was torn down and new buildings were erected which were later removed for the city parking lot back of the drug store on third street namely 106-108-110 South Third Street.

BILL'S SHOE SERVICE

(By Mr. and Mrs. James Barnes)

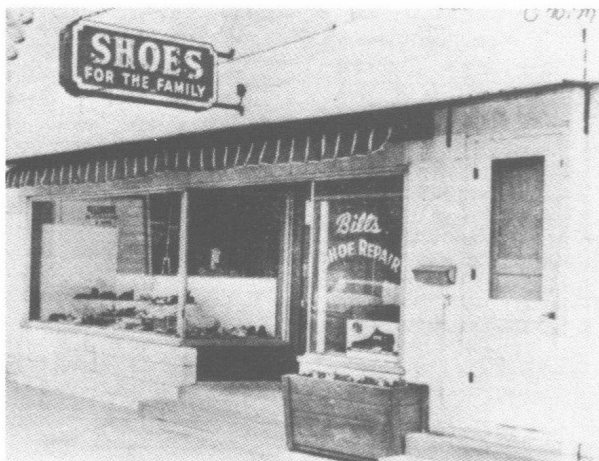
Bill's Shoe Service was established in 1938 by William Taft. James Barnes first worked for Bill in 1952, and returned in 1959. Jim and Barbara Barnes purchased the business from Mrs. Barnes' father, William Taft, and have been there as owners since 1963.

Bill's Shoe Service specializes in retail shoe sales, and shoe repair, with orthopedic work as a main concern. Both Mr. and Mrs. Barnes are licensed by the National Registry of Orthopedic Shoe Servicemen and the only repairmen in the immediate area with orthopedic training.

The store, located at 109 South Third Street, began in 1938 in the basement of Seibert's Grocery Store on the northeast corner of Washington and Third. In 1940 the store was moved from behind the drug store on 104 South Third Street, and in 1951 moved across the street to the present location. The store was remodeled in 1959. It is

a complete family shoe store carrying work shoes, dress shoes, play shoes for men, women and children. Employed are Mr. and Mrs. Barnes who own and operate the business, and part-time employees Mrs. Virginia Pearson and Mrs. Penny Heimstead, the Barnes' daughters.

The long-time motto has been "Quality Shoes at Bargain Prices." When fully stocked, Bill's Shoe Service has over 10,000 pairs of shoes and boots on hand. While repair is an important part of their work, shoe sales represent the majority of their business.



109 South Third Street
Bill's Shoe Service. (Photo courtesy Jim Barnes)



Southeast corner of Third and Washington Street
This building was the Phelps' and Johnson store (from the description in 1878 History book). It was known as the C & I Tavern for years. Now it is called "The Well." (Photo by Donna Kennedy)

Looking like three spinster sisters, these buildings are fine examples of early architecture in Oregon.

Starting with the one on the right the business of Stan Jones Shoes and Gambles Store and now the site of Washington Street Mercantile.

Our middle building housed Green Jewelry, Reed and Hardesty Plumbing, and John Lindhorst's Coffee House.



217-219-221 Washington Street

217 Washington Street housed Clint Gearhart Jewelry; then Greens Jewelry; then Fred Mongan Appliance; then "Life" newspaper office. 219 Washington is vacant and belongs to John Lindhorst. 221 Washington housed the Stan Jones Shoe Store; then The Washington St. Mercantile and Coffee House—John Lindhorst owner. (Photo by Donna Kennedy)

Our third "sister" had undergone more extensive remodeling than the others and has housed under her roof, Gearhart Jeweler, Green Jewelry, Fred Mongan's Maytag Appliance Sales & Service, Carol's Beauty Shop and the Ogle County Life News office.

Tucked in the far right side is Patrick's Garage; barely visible is the outline of the old roof line as you come up the hill into town.



215 Washington Street

Formerly Patrick's Garage; then Sanderson and Henderson's Blackhawk Engraving and the Yellow Bird Senior Citizen Center. (Photo by Donna Kennedy)

One of our newest structures is the brick front of the Yellow Bird Senior Citizen Center in the Sanderson-Henderson Community Building. This building was donated to the community by Les Sanderson and Fay Henderson after they moved Blackhawk Engraving to its new site across the street at 200 Washington Street and changed the name to Progressive Graphics.



201 West Washington Street

First owners were the Eyster's parents of Kit Pyse. Note—"Kitty" was a deaf lady who washed, starched, and stretched curtains as a business before there was "drip-dry." She was a lip reader. Now it is the site of Happy Harry's Lounge. (Photo by Donna Kennedy)

Another of the older structures in town. Once the residence of Kit Pyse and now the site of Happy Harry's Lounge.

Editor's note: "Kitty" was a deaf lady who washed, starched, and stretched curtains as a business, before there was a "drip-dry", she was a lip reader.

THE STORY OF OREGON'S FIRST "DRIVE-IN"

As told by Robert Hardesty

It sat where the Dairy Freeze Too is now. It was during the summer of 1940. I worked for Pepsi delivering soda. Bill Tremble worked at Doeden's, I think.

We bought The Mug building from Walt Williamson of the Wagon Wheel and moved it to Oregon from Rockton. We wore white coats and black ties. The girls wore uniforms. We sold popcorn, ice cream, and root beer.

We were the first drive-in in Oregon! We were only in



107 Washington Street

William Tremble standing in front of Oregon's first drive-in. (Photo courtesy of William Tremble)

business two or three weeks. Then I sold out my share to Bill Tremble. Bill had it until the Fall of '44 when a truck rolled down the hill and badly damaged the building.

I remember when I worked at the drive-in during the evening and delivered Pepsi during the day. I had a lot more energy then than I do now!

(additional note by Charles Mongan)

A double truck-box load of shelled corn was parked by the Ace Hardware corner. The driver left the truck. It started to roll. The high tension lines overhead were jumping up and down. The truck rolled backwards and hit the root beer stand or it would have hit Sauer's garage. It just missed a car parked with a little girl in it. There was sure some excitement in town when that happened!

The Piano factory was here but they were burned out and moved up the hill to 200 North Third Street. Waldie and Mattison started a lumber yard here. They sold out to Spahn and Rose, but they had the misfortune to be burned out, too.

The corner stayed vacant for awhile and then of all things, a root beer stand! Bill Tremble owned it and soon Dog and Suds bought it out and now it's the Dairy Freeze, Too.



107 Washington Street

Former site of piano factory; then Waldie and Mattison Lumberyard; then Spahn and Rose Lumberyard. Building was burned and lot was vacant for a while. Tremble's Root Beer Stand sprung up; then Dairy Freeze Too; now Jay's Drive-In. (Photo by Donna Kennedy)

Used to be a machine shop next door and then C. A. Sauer had a garage at 103 Washington Street. It had one of the neatest displays of stuffed animals around!

With the railroad tracks cutting across the highway, this was a busy corner. There was a bulk plant over there, operated by the Seibert's. They sold White Rose Gasoline. Then Ogle Service took over the bulk plant until they moved west of town; and Ogle Lumber used it as a warehouse. Patterson Lumber followed and now Spangler's Heating and Plumbing Shop is here.



100 Washington Street

Former location of Davis Lumber and Coal; then Midwest Lumber Co.; then Oregon Lumber and Coal; then United Builders; then the Oregon Fire Protection District built this new building. (Photo by Donna Kennedy)

This seems to have been the spot for lumber yards. F. W. Artz Lumber Co., E. F. Davis Lumber Co., Midwest Lumber Co., Oregon Lumber Co. have all been here. Also United Builders, Ogle Lumber, and Charles Mongan.



110 Washington Street

Housed Midwest Lumber Co.; then Oregon Lumber Co.; then United Builders; then S&S Computype Service—Lynne Kilker and Chris Snyder owners, and Charlie Mongan's Shop. (Photo by Donna Kennedy)

Fine looking place now for our Fire Department.

On the corner, 200 Washington Street, Twogood had a casket factory, and later Christensen had a shoe repair shop.

Louis Rush had his pawn shop and second hand store here and soon after Harold "Doc" Jones replaced that shop with a restaurant. The Public Aid office was located here for awhile before Les Sanderson moved his business to this corner.

The office of the Republican Reporter, 202 Washington Street, was next door west before they moved to North Third Street.

A lone residence, known as the Salisbury house, was later a two-apartment house and Amos Salisbury had an undertaking establishment there, too. Public Service Company also had an office at this location for 25 years until they moved across the bridge to Daysville Road.

HISTORY OF BUILDING ON CORNER OF NORTH SECOND AND WASHINGTON STREET.

Provided by Lester Sanderson

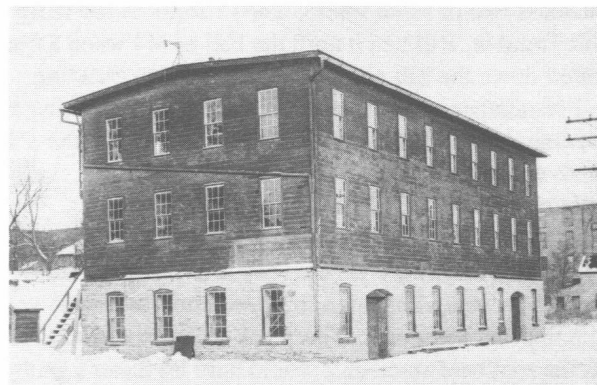
Just like people, buildings have a history—and a personality, too! They grow, they shrink, and they have their triumphs and their tragedies.

The building that now graces the corner of North Second and Washington streets is now called “CCS Oregon.” It is one of several divisions of the growing Combined Communication Services.

The first shovel of dirt for the excavation was lifted on Friday morning, September 8, 1882, by W. E. Ray, publisher of the Oregon Independent. Finished in 1884, it was originally a frame, three-story building set upon a native limestone foundation.

The first use of the structure was for the making of the Nash cultivator. It was one of the first on the market, and was patented by Chester A. Nash, father of Ruby Nash, the revered teacher and historian of Oregon, Illinois.

The Nash plow did an excellent job of keeping down



202-204 North Second Street

Nash factory—1884 before fire, now part of Combined Communication Services.

the weeds and allowing the corn to grow. When he invented the plow, Chester Nash farmed near Davis Junction. Later he came to Oregon to manufacture his tool, which, at that time, was made of wooden parts.

Power for the factory came from a “Little Giant” water wheel, which transmitted power to the plant via means of a long steel cable.

The company was called the Oregon Manufacturing Company, and, when it was built, the cost was placed at \$5,000.

Nash later discontinued the manufacture of plows, but he used the machinery already in place for a planing mill. Next Buttell & Sons Piano Company used the building to manufacture high quality pianos. Over the years it was used by a number of other concerns.

In the early forties, Miss Nash sold the property to Charles W. Mongan of Oregon, who rented it to the William V. Coggan & Company for the manufacture of toys in the mid-forties.

And, at that time, the building had her big tragedy—one Thursday night about ten o’clock, a disastrous fire burned the upper stories of the building.

The blaze was first discovered in an addition to the original factory, which was built on at the north. Built of prime pine lumber and well seasoned, coupled with the fact that some stored barrels of paint exploded in the heat of the early blaze, the factory was soon a mass of flames. Intense heat came from the factory, and burning embers were carried for long distances.

There was a fortunate happenstance in all this, in that it had rained nearly all that day, so the roofs and fallen leaves in the area were wet. Otherwise a much more serious fire might have been recorded.

Even so, fire departments from neighboring towns made fast runs to Oregon to prevent flames from igniting the adjoining Oregon Lumber Company plant, the Con-over-Cable Piano Company plant, Lewie’s Swappin’ Shop and nearby residences. All came through the fire with little or no damage.

Although the fire drew about a thousand watchers, no



200 Washington Street

CCS—Combined Communication Services (formerly Progressive Graphics) Photo by Donna Kennedy

one was injured in the process. The fire, which raged for two hours, left a mass of charred embers and twisted, warped machinery.

Damages were set at \$60,000 for which there was partial insurance coverage. In October, 1947, the Mongan factory building was rebuilt and ready for occupancy by the W. N. Olsen Manufacturing Company. The Olsen Company manufactured kiln dried hardwood flooring.

In 1976, Progressive Graphics and Blackhawk Engraving merged to form the Progressive Graphics Division of CCS. Progressive Graphics was founded in 1972 as a composition trade firm to serve the metropolitan Chicago market. Blackhawk Engraving, a letterpress engraving company, had been founded in 1946 as the joint venture of Fay Henderson, Lester Sanderson, Sr., and Lester Sanderson, Jr. Lester Sanderson, Jr. is still active as the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Combined Communication Services.

The home of the new division, in the Nash/Mongan factory building was enlarged.

The building now houses very sophisticated equipment needed for pre-press production and over 170 employees. Their work includes typesetting, form-stripping and offset plates. Their specialities are composition, camera work and film stripping. It is one of the most respected pre-press operations in the country.

Les Sanderson, known as "Sandy" to all, has his office in the CCS Oregon complex. Part of Sanderson's contribution to the company has been his interest in the building. As a result of this, from the beginning he had led an on-going program of upgrading and remodeling the CCS Oregon physical structure.

In November, 1982, after seven months and an investment of \$200,000, a major expansion and remodeling was completed at the corner of Second and Washington.

Each section supervisor was instrumental in arriving at a final layout plan. The result was the addition of 10,000 square feet, giving CCS Oregon a total of 40,000 square feet for available use.

These building changes helped to improve the work flow, and, additionally, they also gave the employees more favorable work space. CCS Oregon has always taken pride in their sensitivity to employee needs, and because of this they have been able to attract the skilled people needed to do very exacting work.

Because of the company concern for workable space, it is likely that the plant on the corner of Second and Washington—CCS Oregon—it likely to continue to make improvements as they are called for by changing needs.

Yes, Ma'am, it is a pretty sight, coming up the hill with the river at the background. Those lines you see on those big poles are our new electricity lines. Quite a story behind that and the dam.

Oregon residents first had electricity on a dusk-to-midnight basis on July 23, 1890 with 24-hour service offered in 1909. The name was changed to Oregon Electric Light and Power Co. in 1901 and in 1912 after



Oregon Power Plant razed some years back.

being purchased by Northern Illinois Utilities who began operation on May 1.

HISTORY OF ELECTRICITY 1880's

By Charles Mongan as told to him by Dr. Harry E. Wade, dentist and grandfather of Dr. Harry F. Wade, dentist.

Dr. Wade stated, a school friend of his who was a dentist in Brodhead, Wisconsin, wrote him a letter indicating he had purchased a dynamo from General Electric, and had it attached to the water wheel at the dam and was selling electricity. Dr. Wade went to Brodhead by train, saw the dynamo in operation, and on the insistence of his friend, wrote to General Electric requesting information since he wished to purchase a dynamo.

It so happened the day the salesman from General Electric came to Oregon, Dr. Wade was in Polo, Illinois.

The salesman went to the bank and there met Peter Hastings, President of the bank, and told him about the dynamo and the need for electricity. Mr. Hastings considered it a great idea.

Mr. F. G. Jones, owner of the Schiller Piano Factory also owned the rights to the needed water wheel and the Oregon dam. Mr. Hastings and the salesman then contacted Mr. Jones, who was interested and a partnership was formed, an order given for the dynamo and in due time the dynamo arrived in Oregon and was attached to the water wheel. Thus the beginning of the Oregon Power Co.

Lines were built to nearby factories and the business area of Oregon, eventually serving some several hundred customers.

In 1892, on June 26, a cloudburst in Wisconsin caused a flash flood in Rock River. As the water was rising, Mr. Jones and Mr. Hastings were watching the water come to within a foot of the dynamo. Mr. Jones said to Mr. Hastings, his partner, "Peter, I will either buy or sell." Peter replied, "You just bought."

It was said by people who were there that the water

never came up one inch after that, and Mr. F. G. Jones became sole owner of the utility operation.

Years went by, water wheels were added and a 500 horsepower steam engine was used when more generating power was needed. Dr. Wade stated, "In the early part of the 20th century, the Illinois Northern Utilities Company purchased the Oregon Power Company from Mr. Jones for a price thought to be in the \$300 thousand area." (A good price for that time, when factory men were working for 20 cents per hour, 10 hours a day and 6 days a week Mr. Mongan's comment and personal observation.)

After the purchase, Dr. Wade stated, "There was a record at the Ogle County Courthouse stating that the Piano Factory would receive 50 horsepower of electricity from the power plant 24 hours a day for 99 years and the steam plant would maintain steam pressure of 40-pounds, 24 hours a day and heat the Piano Factory for a figure of \$5400 per year, also for 99 years based on the ownership of the Oregon dam."

During 1919 and early 1920 the dam was rebuilt, water wheels and a turbine added, gas service added and in 1912 became Public Service of Illinois and the gas service became another company, namely Northern Illinois Gas Company.

In 1950 the electric part was purchased by Common-

wealth Edison Company. Since that time the water wheels and the turbine have been removed, the dam given to the State of Illinois and the power plant building razed.

Electricity now comes to Oregon over powerlines to substation at North Second Street and Franklin Street in Oregon.

Update: On May 2, 1912 the Oregon Power Company bought that part of the dam that belonged to the Schiller Piano Company. (This was the majority interest of the dam.)

In August, 1946, the Illinois Northern Utilities bought Oregon Power Company right after Oregon Power bought the dam from Schiller. Several years later Illinois Northern Utilities divided into Commonwealth Edison and Northern Illinois Gas.

So, in 1956 Commonwealth Edison gave their share of the dam to the Department of Conservation. There were two reasons . . . The school district and taxing bodies assessed the dam at approximately \$60,000. Commonwealth Edison asked to have the assessment lowered. They would not do it so Commonwealth Edison gave their share to the Department of Conservation; thus no taxes!

The city still owns one-tenth of the dam. It was given to the city by a private individual.



201-203-205 North Third Street

New home of Schiller Piano Factory, after the factory burned out in the 100 block on Washington St. This site was Conover Cable Co.; now Conover Square. (Photo Mrs. Richard Fridley)

The Schiller Piano Company was one of Oregon's principal industries at one time employing 200 men and women and building 4500 pianos per year. The factory occupies six full lots and was owned by F. G. Jones who also was one of the biggest stockholders in the Oregon Power and Light Co.

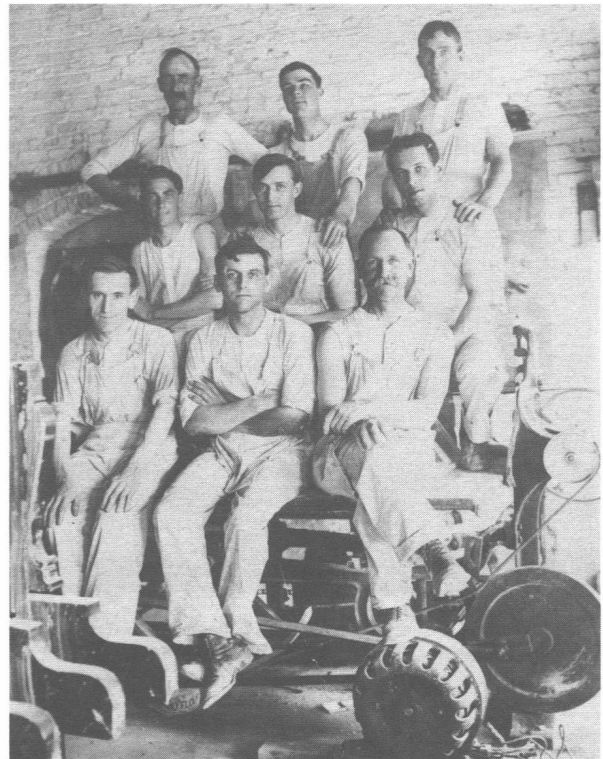
HOW IT ALL STARTED . . .

Prepared by the Conover Merchants Association

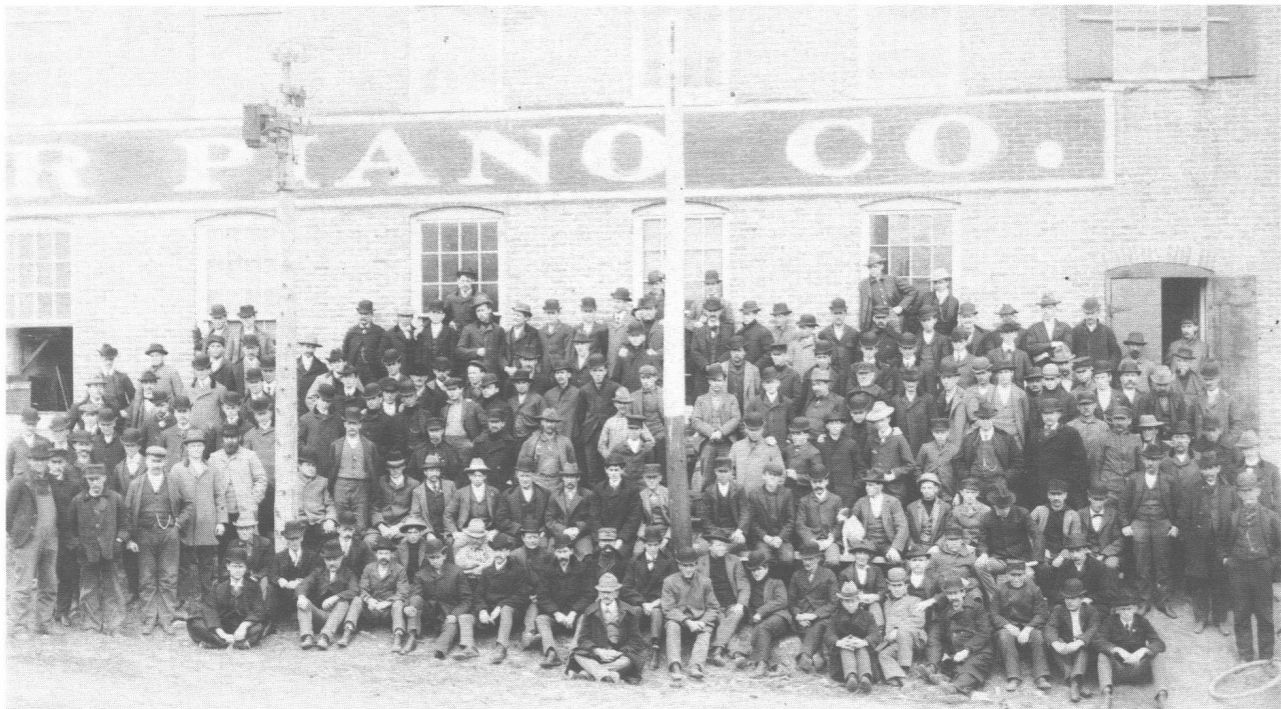
The facility for manufacturing Schiller, Cable, Conover, Kingsbury, & Wellington pianos was constructed on the banks of the Rock River in Oregon in 1893. The site was selected for its resources (a company-owned dam provided generated electricity) and convenient location. At its peak, the Schiller business, founded by F. G. Jones and Sons, employed 500 persons who assembled as many as 30 pianos a day. Later named the "Schiller-Cable Co.," and then "Cable Co.," it was one of the country's leading piano manufacturing and marketing institutions of its day.

In June of 1977, the Oregon plant was closed, and all equipment was transferred to the main factory in Tennessee.

This empty, time-worn, brick piano factory was transformed to a dream-come-true for business-planner D. Dean Dye, when "Conover Square" opened its doors to the public on May 18, 1978, with 12 stores. The historical



Front row: Fred King, Frank Himes, Wm. Sweet. Middle row: Harold Winters, George Sitler, Ray Bros. Back row: James Duch, George Chasm, John Kreen. (Photo courtesy Edith Fridley)



This photograph of the Schiller Piano Company force was taken in October, 1901, and was donated to us by Fred J. Knornschild of Chicago who refers to himself in a note written upon it, as "an old Kid from Oregon, Ill." In this group are quite a number who have passed on, while others who appear in the photograph are still employed in the plant. It is impossible to make out names and faces of all of these men, but we have been able to decipher part of them, namely, "Del" Sitler, Frank Himes, Claus Swenson, Mauritz Ahlstrand, Leo Little, Claude J. Waggoner, Geo. Colson, John Wolfkiel, Gus Kaiser, Ed. Conner, Kyran Daley, Clyde Myers, Fred McGarvie, Claude Jones, C. W. A. Reynolds, A. W. Pye, Harry Stroh, Howard Schechter, Frank C. Potter, Ernest Danielson, Frank Reed, Ted Johnson, Thos. J. Hill, A. Watts, Porter Eshbaugh, William A. Howard, Charles Rippberger, Edward W. Pankhurst, Carl Wahlbom, F. G., Cyrus and George H. Jones, John Nygren, Fred Sonntag, Alex. Reid, and Arthur Locke. Derby hats, whiskers and mustaches were all the go in those days. Prior to moving to the brick factory building in front of which this photo was taken, the Schiller occupied a three story frame building on the site where the Spahn & Rose Lumber Co. plant was destroyed by fire last December. This same fate also came to the Schiller factory, and it proved just as disastrous and as hard to fight.

(Courtesy Edith Fridley)