



304-306 Washington Street

F. G. Jones Mercantile; then Fannie Jones Variety Store; then Stan Jones Shoes; then Woods Bakery; then Kroger Store; then OPS—Offset Preparation Service. (Photo by Donna Kennedy)

Upstairs is Doc Harry E. Wade's office; hear tell he plans to move over to South Fourth Street soon; means some of his patients may have to walk further for their prescriptions since the Burchell Pharmacy is so close downstairs.

Later this building was the location of Johnson's Variety Store, Illinois Northern Utilities and Leo Piper Plumbing and Heating until in 1950 Kroger used this part of the building for their meat department. At one time movies were shown in the upstairs of this part also.

On the Northwest corner of Washington and Third was the J. D. Artz store. They carried just about everything



300-302-304-306 Washington Street (Photo by Donna Kennedy)

you'd care to buy, from wooden shoes (for those who came here from Holland), to seed corn. They also kept a box of Corn Cake Tobacco on the counter for the farmers to fill their pipes, free of charge.

Seibert Brothers located their grocery here later, and they added a gas pump on Third Street to pump White Rose gasoline for their customers. The bulk storage tank was located on First Street, south of the bridge.

Mr. Ettinger had a tailor shop upstairs of the grocery store; under the sidewalk and in the basement was the barber shop of John Gavin. The old iron railing stood on Third Street until the late 1960's.



300 Washington Street

Located upstairs was Hettiger and Ettinger Tailors; then served as apartments. Main floor housed Seibert Bros. Grocery; the Seibert's (Ben & Ruth Seibert); then Pete Lowery—Oregon Paint & Wallpaper; then Bonnie Dvorak—Bonnie's Paint & Wallpaper; then Offset Preparation Service. In the basement was John Gavin Barber. (Photo by Donna Kennedy)



300 Washington Street



300 block of Washington Street (north side)

This picture was taken before the three wooden buildings burned in the 1920s, 308-314.

The first drug store in Ogle County was located on the corner of Third and Washington Streets (301). Seems like there has always been a drug store there.

Harvey Jewett came to Oregon in 1849 and opened the drug store and his family operated it continuously after his death in 1890.

In 1911, on Christmas Eve, the buildings west were destroyed by fire. The drug store building was moved out into Third Street during the clean-up and construction of the replacement buildings, and business was conducted "as usual" until construction was completed and the business was moved back to its original location.

Dr. Schneider had an office upstairs and later Dr. Beveridge. After his retirement, Dr. Warmolts moved his clinic here from his residence east of town. Later occupants of this space were Dr. Arvid Knutson, Dr. Swan and Mercury Loan office.

The drugstore had a marble counter and soda fountain serving the community for many years. Many a young businessman got his start in the retail business by working behind the fountain serving sandwiches, coffee and cherry Coke!

Up until the remodeling in 1960, many of the side counters and display cases were from the original store.

Back in Those Good Old Days!
(From Oregon Republican Reporter)

For many years, in the days of the old Jewett Drug store, certain of the older business and professional men considered it their gathering place. Among the regulars who could be found there most every evening in the early hours were Attorney J. Sears, John Hoffman, Victor Olson, Chester A. Nash, Frank C. Potter, D. A. Bellis, photographer Charles L. Curtis, and many others. Some of them enjoyed playing cards. During the evening meetings some very warm arguments developed at times, along political and civic lines, and as several of the regulars were quite given over to strongly expressing their opinions, it is needless to state that many topics of great importance were both discussed and settled. During the Spanish-American war, photographer Curtis couldn't think of anything too low down to say of the Spanish General Weyler, who according to newspaper reports, had

been unusually cruel in dealing with the subjected people of Cuba. One night Mr. Curtis cut loose on General Weyler and lambasted him right and left, and when he paused for breath, some bystander remarked: "Oh, you wouldn't last very long if he took a swing at you," to which the aroused C. L. replied: "Well I didn't mean fight him with my fists, I'd fight him with my mouth." So far as we know none of the old regulars who gathered at Jewett's Drug store are living, but in their time they could provide a most interesting hour's stay in listening to the various arguments and "ribbing" they gave one another.



300 block Washington Street

We are looking west from Third Street after the street lights were installed and brick streets in the business area.



Looking west on the 300 block Washington Street after 1913.

Residents of these new buildings have been . . . Jewett Drug, The A&P Grocery (remember how good the fresh-ground coffee smelled when you came in the door?) and Bradbury's Department Store.

Truehaft Dry Goods was then sold to McAllister, who in turn sold to Harry Bradbury, whose son Guy Bradbury operated the store for many years. Guy sold to D. Dean Dye and he sold to J. L. Allum. But the site has always been a ready-to-wear store. The store next was a confectionery owned by Farrell, selling to Reber who in turn sold to Cledon, all who had confectionery stores. Fred Jones and Ben Eyster were confectioners here; also Farradini, Wernick, and Ulferts opened a Red & White IGA grocery and later Jim Nicholson opened his Firestone Store here, relocated from Third Street.



301 Washington Street

This building housed Jewett Drugstore; then Heatherington Drugs; then Gliddon Drug Store; then Decker's Wallgreen Drug; then Laughlin's Drug Store. (Photo by Donna Kennedy)



301 Washington Street

In the building to the left was located "Ike" Boner's Grocery; then Bill's Shoe Store; then Fazzi Appliance; and later remodeled for Decker's Drugs. Occupying upstairs was Dr. Schneider; Dr. Beverage; then Dr. Warmolts' hospital until he moved in 1942; then Dr. Arvid Knutson; then Dr. F. D. Swan; the Mercury Loan Co.; the Frank Kerr, Attorney. (Photo by Donna Kennedy)

Now all the buildings are under one roof, combined in one operation of J. L. Allum Company.

Lee Allen and Peter Hastings operated the Allen Store here with a grocery store in back so you could buy most anything at the Allen Store. After Mr. Garard's death, Ralph Leigh purchased the variety store and moved it to 311 Washington Street; later took on the Ben Franklin franchise and moved the store to 310 Washington Street in 1940.

Lee Allen worked as a clerk in the F. G. Jones store before establishing his own business, which operated until his death in 1936. He carried a complete stock of dry goods including shoes, clothing, floor coverings and groceries. A delivery wagon was used not only to take orders but to deliver the goods after the order was filled.

In 1918, the grocery part was discontinued and the space above the store (which had been used for storage and prior to that used for the telephone office) was converted to apartments.

In these early days of retail, all the stores opened at 7:00 a.m. and remained open until 9:00 p.m. to allow the farming people a chance to bring their goods to town to TRADE as well as VISIT. On Saturday, closing hours were often as late as midnight, making for a very long day.



309 Washington Street. Photo by Donna Kennedy



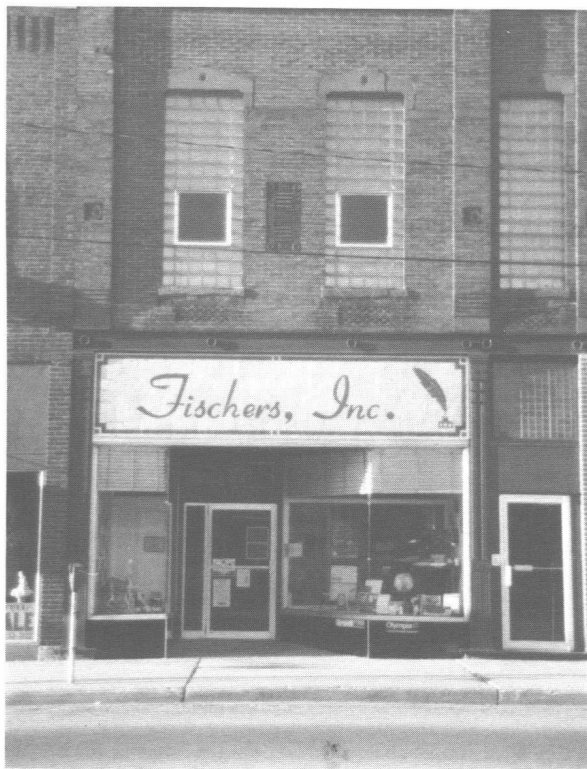
Part of the south side of Washington Street from 301-309. (Photo by Donna Kennedy)

Frank Fischer operated a stationers store here for many years, moving here from Fourth Street in the 1940's. Fischer's offered school supplies, books and office needs to the area. The store was purchased by Art Dietze and later sold to Herb Kober.

On the second floor of the east half of the next building was the office of Attorney Emerson. The west upper half of the next building was the home of the VFW Club and their meeting place for a few years. Today they are apartments.

Many of the buildings downtown were one-story wood structures, creating a great fire hazard as many were heated with wood or coal and lit with kerosene lamps since electricity was a scarce, erratic commodity then. As the town grew and prospered, the new buildings were built of brick and stone, adding the second floor for additional living quarters for the owner or for income purposes.

The bank occupied the lower half of this building until it closed its doors (paying every depositor in full), and then Knapp Jewelry and Optometrist were here. Later Mac Hulse and his wife operated a hardware and paint store until Mac's health failed and then Bob and Isabel Wright sold paint and floor covering here. Wendell Doeden then bought the building and expanded his card shop here.



311 Washington Street

Was the Allen Store; then Leigh Variety Store; now Fischers, Inc. (Photo by Donna Kennedy)



313-315 Washington Street

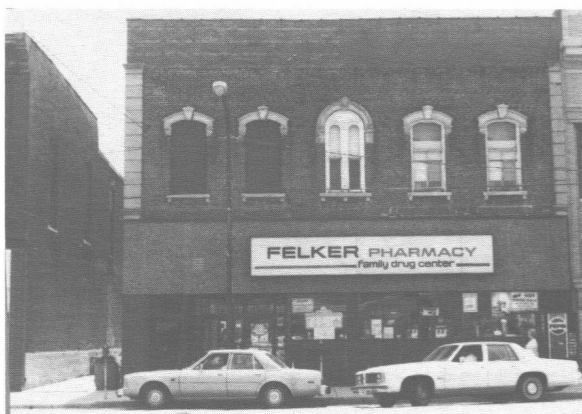
Bank at 313; and City Meat Market at 315; then Doedens Confectionery; then Shouer's. (Photo by Donna Kennedy)

The City Meat Market, operated by Mr. Salisbury, was in the lower half of the building in the early 1900's. In the early "twenties" the business was sold to Lewis and Speed, also in the meat business. The Ripplingers, Bob and Matt, operated the Meat Market there until Wendell Doeden purchased the building, operating a confectionery, newspaper and card shop until his death in 1977, when the business was sold to Tom Shouer, the present owner.



The City Meat Market about 1900 . . . the gentleman on the left could be Harry Salisbury, owner and meat cutter. Notice the meat saws on the wall. The hooks were used to hang the sides of beef, legs of lamb and hams. Not much in the line of refrigeration then. The cage-like structure on the right was the bookkeeper station, as many would charge their meat and pay on a weekly basis. The portrait on the wall could be Mrs. Salisbury and the other pictures could be calendars ("cheesecake"). The youth does not appear too happy about being sent to the butcher's to pick up the meat for supper. Notice the old scale on the left and the paper cutter on the right. The light fixtures were probably the latest in store equipment. Can you feel the slippery floor under the sawdust?

In 1914 the Ogle County National Bank was in the east half of 317 Washington Street. It was later moved to a new building on the corner. The premises then became the R. W. Thorpe Drugstore, and later named the City Drug Store purchased by Rex Crawford.



317 Washington Street

East half of building: Upstairs housed Dr. Kloster; then Dr. Canode, Dentist. The lower half housed Ogle County State Bank; then R.W. Thorpe Drug Store; then Home of the Ogle County National Bank.

Dr. Bowen had his offices here for many years and shared the upstairs offices with Dr. Kloster until he moved to the office on Fourth Street. Dr. Canode, a dentist, had an office upstairs before Dr. Kloster and Dr. Bowen.

PCA, Production Credit Association, a farm loan company, had their office here until Jim Graham operated his jewelry store here. It later was the location of Barb's Health Hut until the property was sold to Felker Pharmacy for expansion.

The west half of this building was the site of Wooding Clothing Store, where menswear was sold. The business later was sold to A. J. Rhoads and then to Ed Murdock and his son James, who operated the clothing store.

Bob Leach purchased the building and operated the Rexall Drug Store here for many years with the capable help of his wife, Lucy. Leach's also had a soda fountain, a U-shaped bar, formica-topped with red leather stools and air conditioning! It was advertised as the coolest place in town (70°). Later the business was sold to Felker Pharmacy.

Many of the buildings in Oregon had shops located under the sidewalks and were a part of the building's basement as well.

It seems there's always been a clothing store on the corner of Washington and Fourth Street. First, Barber's Best Clothes, then H. W. Snyder Clothing, and then the National Clothing House.

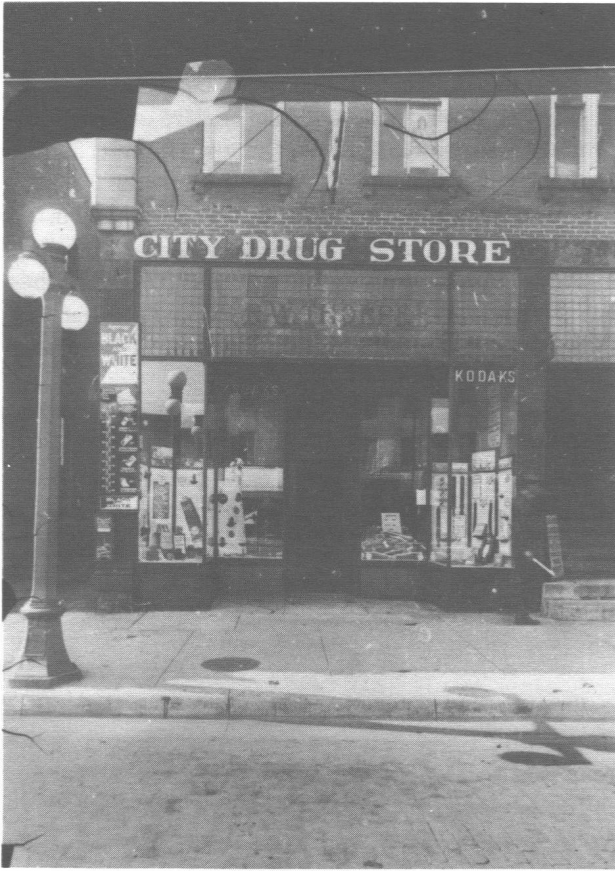
The variety of businesses on this block is most interesting. Let's just travel north here.

108 North Fourth Street was once Alec Reed Pool Hall; then Riley Brothers Pool Hall; then Tony Vetrone's Tradewinds (remember the "China Tea" Tony used to serve his favorite customers?); then Strawbridge's; and presently called the Mug Pub.

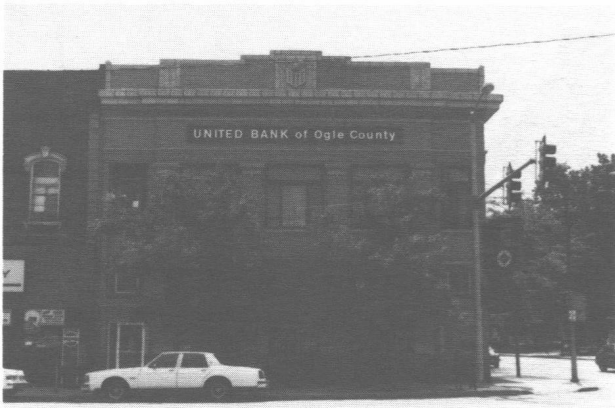


319 Washington Street

This picture was taken before 1914. Note that the male at the left is a mannequin, possibly advertising a special in men's clothing for Wooding's Clothing Store. Also the children in front of the store, one dressed in knickers and the lass with her long skirt. Could they be contemplating their purchase of penny candy at the confectionery or considering where to play marbles or roll the hoop?

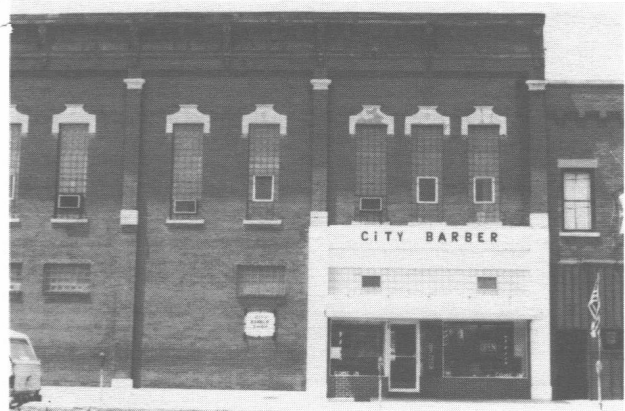


In 1914 bank moved west on corner. This building was purchased by R. W. Thorpe and named City Drug Store; later purchased by Rex Crawford Drug Store; then Dr. Bowen; then PCA Office; then Graham Jewelry; then Barb's Health Hut. West half of building: Upstairs housed Col. Bacon, Attorney; then Dr. Catey, M.D. The lower half housed Wooding Clothing Store; then A. J. Rhoads Clothing; then Ed Murdock Clothing Store; then Jim Murdock Clothing; then Leach's Pharmacy; then Felker's Pharmacy. Under the sidewalk of the west half of the building was Bob and Toki Hall Barber Shop. (Photo by Donna Kennedy)



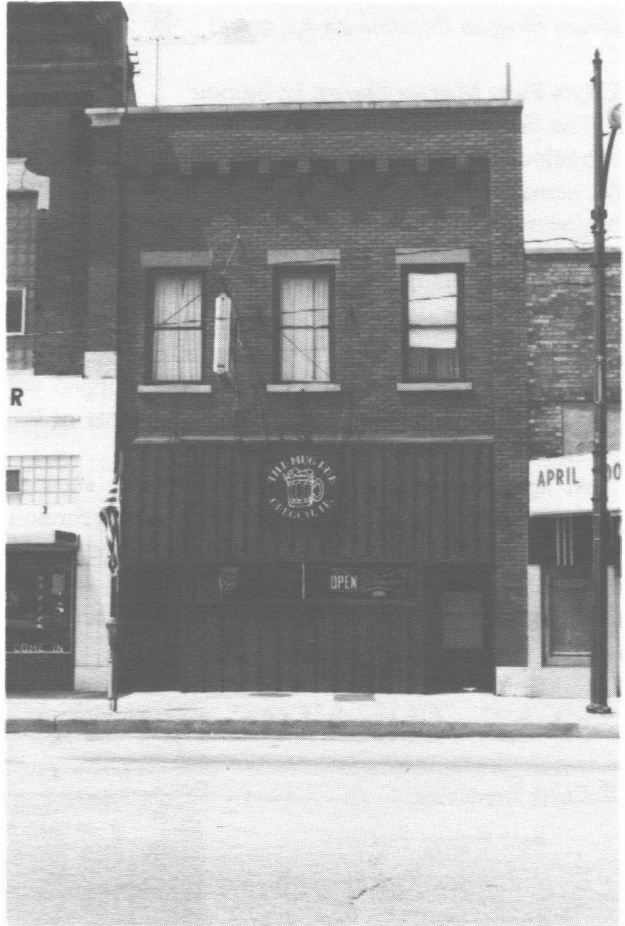
321 Washington Street

Ogle County National Bank; then United Bank of Ogle County; now Rock River Bank. (Photo by Donna Kennedy)



102 N. 4th St.

The East side of the building at 400 Washington St. This barber shop was once part of the National Clothing Store. This building was purchased by Attorney D. A. Manzullo for his law office and Collins Gallery and this barber shop. (Photo by Donna Kennedy)



108 N. 4th St.

The Vetrone's Trade Winds; "Alec" Reid's Pool Hall; Walt Bergner's Pool Hall; Elmer "Bant" and Leo Riley's Pool Hall; then The Mug. (Photo by Donna Kennedy)



110 N. 4th St.

The Oregon Theater. (Photo by Donna Kennedy)

Though this building, 110 North Fourth Street, looks like one building now, it was at one time two separate buildings. The Star Theatre was in the left half of this building until 1940 and Russ Lamb widened the building shortly after he purchased the theatre.

Seyster Grocery was in the other part and then Mr. Coppolongo ran a shoe repair store here.

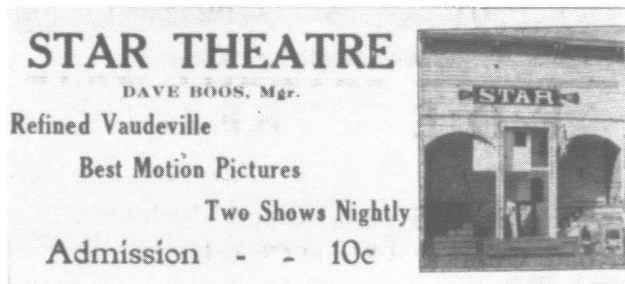
(From Oregon Republican Reporter)

City's First Movies Shown In Saloon

The first "movies" to be seen in Oregon were shown in a saloon building that was located where Moehle Smith & Nieman PC law offices now are. The proprietor of that business was a Mr. Enis, and the time was about 1905. The movie showings were later moved to a hall over the east end of the building at 302 Washington Street.

Later, Dave Boos opened a theatre on the past location of Putnam's Photography. According to recollections of old timers in this area, this theatre was equipped with folding chairs, and Mrs. Eupha Tremble (mother of Bill) presided very efficiently at the piano.

At approximately this same time, theatre showings were introduced in the Lyons Building, which formerly housed Whitney Buick, and is now the home of Ace Hardware. This operation was run by May and Bud Coddington and it also featured vaudeville acts. May



110 N. 4th St.

Star Theatre, one of the first to show movies. Photo from 1976 Ogle County Book

Coddington served as pianist here. This business did not exist very long because two theatres in Oregon proved to be more than the recreational traffic could bear.

Harry Emerson then built Star Theatre on the location of the present movie house in Oregon. His entertainment also featured vaudeville acts as well as movies.

After an interior fire in this movie house, the business was taken over again by Dave Boos, who later transferred his ownership to a Mr. J. Ely. In the 1920's Al Michaels ran this theatre and he sold it to Bud Allaban and Ben Berve, who in turn sold the business to Mr. Russell Lamb in the early 1930's.

Mr. Lamb successfully operated this theatre for many years and was also instrumental in the building of the Pines Drive-In Theatre, which has offered family theatre recreation for this area in the more modern vein.

In 1965 Mr. Lamb sold his theatre interests to Kerosotes Theatres.

Ed. note: South 22' of present theater.

Here at 114 North Fourth Street we had the Kelly Restaurant; Anna Reinders Restaurant; Stage's Restaurant; and presently R and S Vac.

The Coddingtons had a shoe store next door at 116 North Fourth Street, and then Chas. Wernick ran a grocery and meat market until it became the Koontz and Bachman Grocery. Then we had some restaurants here, namely, the Oregonaire Restaurant, which has been operated by various people, and now The Timber Jack.

At one time there was a barber shop in this building (116 North Fourth) run by the Tilton Brothers. After Shirley Tilton joined the Army and was killed in France during World War I, his brother Andy moved the shop to the display room in the Sinnissippi Hotel.

After the war was over, Shirley Tilton's body was returned to Oregon and a memorial service was held. When the branch of the American Legion was organized, it was named Shirley Tilton Post.



114-116 N. 4th St.

116 at one time was John and "Anna Reinders" Kelly's Restaurant, then Oregon Aire. (114) Rudolf Siebel's Sew and Vac. (Photo by Donna Kennedy)



300 block Washington Street, south side

In the early days of Oregon City this was called Bridge St.



300 block Washington Street (south side)



116 N. 4th St.

1921 or 1922. On the left, James White and on the right, Reinder Ulferts. Photo courtesy Edith Fridley



118 N. 4th St.

Housed McMahan furniture; then Zeigler and Voight Radio; the Ulferts Royal Blue Store; then Robson Photo Shop; then Putman Photo Shop; then Northwestern Title Co. (Photo by Donna Kennedy)

118 North Fourth Street housed McMahan Furniture Store. At a later date it was Zeigler and Voight Radio and Electric Shop (marvelous discovery, this electricity), then Ulferts Royal Blue Store, John Robson Photography, Putnam's Photography, Brad Taft Shoe Store, and now Northwestern Title Company.

Schibley's Pool Hall was here and then Henry "Heine" Loan ran a pool parlor here. Later Jim Loan and Paul Bergner took over with some help from "Brady" Tremble Senior, and later it became Loan's Tavern and Pool Hall.

With the need of a doctor in town the search for a doctor finally located a Dr. Srichai and his office was located here. After the doctor left, John Pelgen, an attorney, moved here and now the office of Jan Woodhouse is here.



120-122 N. 4th St.

(122) Town and Country Dress Shop—James and Eleanor Patrick, owners. (120) Jan Woodhouse and Assoc. (Photo by Donna Kennedy)

Her business is called "The Office".

On the corner of Franklin and Fourth Street is the Oregon Coliseum. There's sure a lot of history to that building (See City section for the story.)

Fresh flowers? Merlin's Flowers at 300 Mix Street can give you just about any flower you could want and any arrangement for any occasion.

Mr. Gilbert owned the greenhouses and sold them to the Church of God of the Abrahamic Faith and the General Conference, with Mr. Wallace operating the business for the Conference.

The Hooks family, L. R. and his son Bill and his wife, bought the business from the Conference and operated the greenhouse for years, building quite a reputation for having the freshest flowers in the area. Bill had the biggest smile and was one of the friendliest men around. They would have open houses to show off their flowers in the greenhouse. Ill health and hard times caused Bill to leave the business and the area. The Mt. Morris bank took over the business with Dick Foelske operating the business, until it was sold to Merlin Hagemann.

Merlin has a thriving business and has the reputation for unique and unusual arrangements.



300 Block Washington Street (north side of street)

Sinnissippi Hotel west corner. This is the Big Snow in 1881. Man with star is William Stout. (Photo courtesy Charles W. Mongan Sr.)

We'll stop here at the Iron Mike to let the horse drink before I take you back to the hotel. Sure hope you enjoyed your tour around town, and though I may have talked too much, I'm proud of my town and enjoy showing her off.

The mare stopped drinking, looked over her shoulder at Mr. Going's Livery, possibly thinking of her stall, the oats and perhaps a carrot or two that would be waiting for her; it had been a good afternoon.

The driver turned the buggy toward the Spoor Hotel, and upon arrival helped the passenger down from the wagon and up the steps to the porch. She thanked the driver and watched as the buggy turned down Washington Street . . . slowly fading into the mist. . . .



Merlins Flowers and Greenhouse on the corner at 300 Mix Street and Monroe Street. Merlin Hagemann, owner. Photo by Donna Kennedy



This picture on a postcard was taken in 1912 of Host Bros. Meat Delivery wagon. Frank Harlan (Poke) was the delivery boy. Picture courtesy of E. G. Landers

Mongan honored

OREGON—On Aug. 1, the Oregon Development Association held its 30th anniversary meeting at which Charles W. Mongan was to preside. Because of his untimely death a few days before, the shareholders and directors passed the following resolution:

“WHEREAS Charles W. Mongan was one of the original organizers of the Oregon Development Association, Inc. (since 1958); and

“WHEREAS, Charles W. Mongan devoted innumerable hours for the benefit of the Oregon community and this organization as its president; and

“WHEREAS, this community should remember the generous philanthropic and other projects donated by Charles W. Mongan;

“NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the president extend sincere appreciation to the family of Charles W. Mongan for all that he has done for Oregon Development.

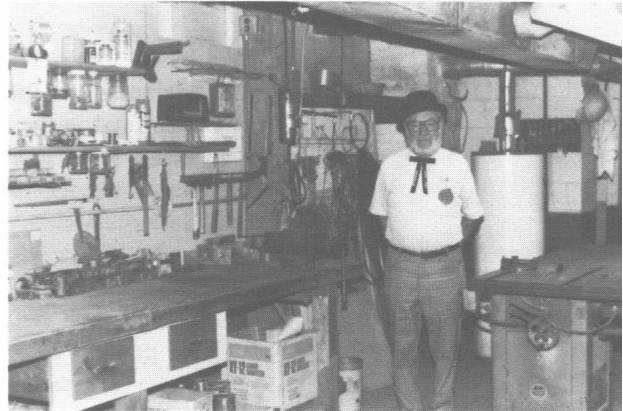
“Passed unanimously by Board of Directors and its 61 shareholders.”

The purpose of the Oregon Development Association, Inc. is to provide a suitable site for prospective employers intending to locate in Oregon. It presently owns 16 acres on Pines Road between the Oregon Bowl and the Production Credit Association building. The organization presently has assets and liabilities of \$67,713.13.

“Charlie Mongan was one of the founders and the steady moving force behind this organization for the past 30 years,” said Fred Deuth, secretary and treasurer.

The milestone achievements over 30 years, according to Deuth, started with the purchase of the Godfrey Farm in 1958 for \$40,000. Portions of this farm were sold off for many good purposes in the years that followed.

In 1958, Bergner bought a small parcel for a business on the Pines Road. In 1962, Joe Stupka obtained land for the Pineway. In 1963, School District 218 obtained a



parcel for the schools.

Then, in 1966, the organization sold the site for the Lions Club Park, in 1967, dedicated the land for 10th St. through to the Pines Road and in 1970 sold a site to Schwan Ice Cream and Caron Spinning. Further, the Oregon development group provided land for the lift station near 10th St. In 1973, they provided land for the Village of Progress and the expansion of Pineway.

In 1980, Oregon Development purchased the Christmas decorations for downtown. In 1983, they purchased the 16 acres now held for future development. In 1986, they donated \$2,500 to the Save Woods Committee.

“All of these accomplishments involved many people,” says Deuth. “But I think it is fair to say that Charlie Mongan played a major part if not the principal role in each one of them.”

When the organization was established, 100 people bought a share for \$100 each. As they passed on or moved away, these shares have been transferred to other people in the community interested in economic development.

The businesses on the following pages of this section were not covered in the Buggy Ride section. Some copy was received from individual businesses and we have printed it as it was received. Other business owners chose to have us write a simple caption under photos. We have tried to group pictures as much as possible so that text could remain unbroken.

Also included on the following pages are a couple of stories we thought you might find interesting. They tell of times we need to remember. With our many “time-saving” conveniences of today . . . we tend to forget the many difficulties of yesterday. I am reminded of visiting New Salem and looking at a display of kitchen utensils. One item really intrigued me and when I asked what it was, the attendant told me it was for making cookies on a hearth . . . one cookie at a time! You know that might not be such a bad idea—it would certainly give a person time to think. Perhaps all of our time-saving conveniences are causing us to lose our precious time-to-think.

This section of the book was especially important to Charlie Mongan. He dictated tapes, drove very slowly up and down our streets looking and remembering, and shared from his memory the many “what happened and where” items in this section. We have identified the sections by indicating street name and direction of travel so some beautiful Sunday afternoon you can follow the same route as Charlie and share his memories of his beloved City of Oregon.

Lynne Seger Kilker
(Notation made after death of Charles Mongan)

PINES ROAD INDUSTRIES

These businesses located on the southwest edge of Oregon and west on the Pines Road were operating in 1987. (All photos by Donna Kennedy)



Atwood Vacuum Machine Company. Pines Road. Steve Korth.

Atwood Automotive

Provided by Steven G. Korth, Plant Manager)

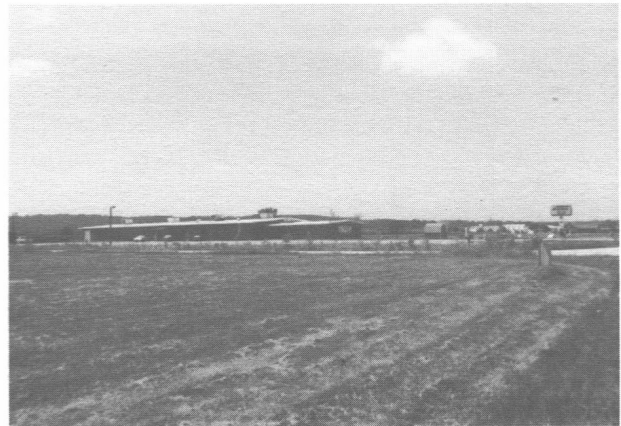
ATWOOD AUTOMOTIVE, a division of Atwood Vacuum Machine Company, established their Oregon, Illinois assembly operations in August, 1974.

A need was realized in Atwood's Rockford operations to find a facility near Rockford that could produce assembly operations of fabricated parts in Rockford. Atwood selected Oregon and the former Caron Companies building on the South edge of Oregon on White Pines Road for their assembly operation. Primarily, parking brakes and hood locks have been assembled in Oregon since the original plant selection.

Atwood has enjoyed a very sound relationship with the Oregon community, its citizens and is proud of its employees and the quality of work that is produced in Oregon.

In February, 1985, the Atwood family sold their manufacturing concern to John R. Anderson of Anderson Industries, Inc. Anderson Industries has retained the name Atwood Vacuum Machine Company, and all facilities, including the Oregon operation. Mr. Anderson, as the owner of Atwood, is also pleased with the Oregon operation and the family of people doing the assembly work at the facility.

ATWOOD AUTOMOTIVE has other facilities in Rockford, Illinois; Stockton, Illinois; Mt. Carroll, Illinois; West Union, Iowa and Oakland, California.



Oregon Bowl. Pines Road. RR 2.



PCA. Pines Road west of Oregon. Lee Wright.



M&M Advanced Satellite System. Pines Road. RR 2. Tom Multgan.



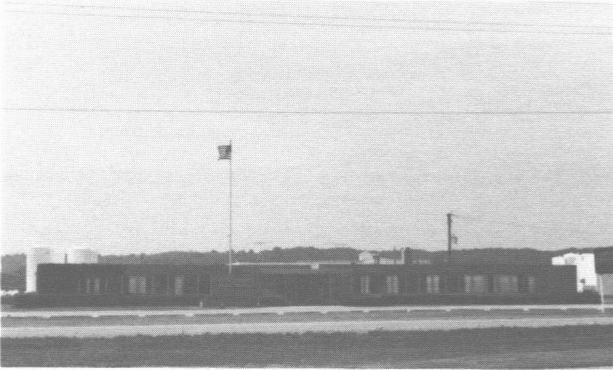
Ogle County Cooperative Extension Service. Pines Road. RR 2. Donna Mann, HEA Advisor; Stan Eden, Farm Advisor.



FS Ogle Service Company. Pines Road. RR 2. Ken Farber.



Hank's Repair Shop. Thirteenth Street. North off Pines Road. Henry "Hank" Coy. (former MCI Telecommunications)



Ogle County Farm Bureau. Pines Road. RR 2. Del Flessner.



Yarn and Craft Factory Outlet. VIP Mill Store. White Pines Road. Also Ogle County Sinnissippi Mental Health Center, 9 Pines Plaza.



Pines Meadow Veterinary Clinic. Pines Road and 13th Street. Howes, Manser, Champley, Holmes, veterinarians.



Village of Progress. RR2, Off Pines Road.

**Village of Progress
(Received Unsigned)**

Village of Progress is a non-profit rehabilitation facility that has provided services to the handicapped adults of Ogle County since 1969.

Housed in a 25,000 square foot complex located on six acres of land in Oregon, the agency is open five days a week offering vocational training to the mentally retarded, autistic, non-ambulatory, cerebral palsied, epileptic, blind, deaf, mentally ill, stroke victims, alcoholic, public offender, and others.

The agency continues to receive statewide recognition for the development of innovative vocational training approaches with the most notable being their efforts to involve the handicapped in business ventures. Since its

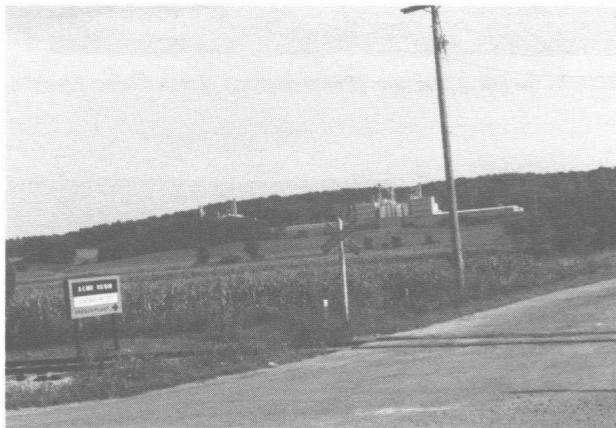


State Farm Insurance. 810 S. Thirteenth Street. North off Pines Road. Rod Daniels.

beginning in 1969, Village of Progress, Inc. has been successful in finding community employment for more than 100 handicapped individuals. Continued growth is anticipated with special emphasis now being directed to the establishment of a residential facility. Numerous industries, businesses, service and civic organizations as well as individuals continue to demonstrate their interest and support in program efforts for the handicapped of our County.



Insul-Mor Cellulose Mfg. Co. White Pines Road. J. DePauw, Gene Moring.



Acme Resin Corp. Pines and Devil's Backbone. Jim Sura.

Acme Resin Corporation
(Provided by J. A. Sura, Plant Manager)

Acme Resin Corporation in Oregon, Illinois produces Resin Coated Sands for use in the foundry, oil and gas well industries.

The Plant was designed to be the most efficient operation of its kind in this country. Since its original construction in 1974, it has tripled in productive capacity and employment and has grown from 15 people in 1974 to 62 people in 1986.

Corporate headquarters are located in Westchester, Illinois. In addition to the Oregon Plant, Acme Resin has five other manufacturing facilities located in Chicago,

Aurora, Forest Park, IL; Madison, Ohio; and Ione, California.

Acme Resin Corporation takes pride in being a leading supplier of the highest quality products for the industries it serves and is pleased to be associated with the fine people of Oregon, IL.



Unimin Oregon Plant. Pines Road and Devil's Backbone. Formerly Manly Sand. "Silica" started by Stevenson, then Putnam and Rogers.

National Silica Company
(Provided by Nell Rogers Franklin)

Frank Rogers came to Oregon in March 1909 and was superintendent of the National Silica Co., now known as the Manly Sand Co., division of Martin Marietta.

The plant was being constructed that year by part owner, Wm. Stevenson of Wellsville, Ohio and by the fall of the same year was operating at part capacity. The main line of CB&Q railroad ran parallel to the plant and a switch was laid to the plant.

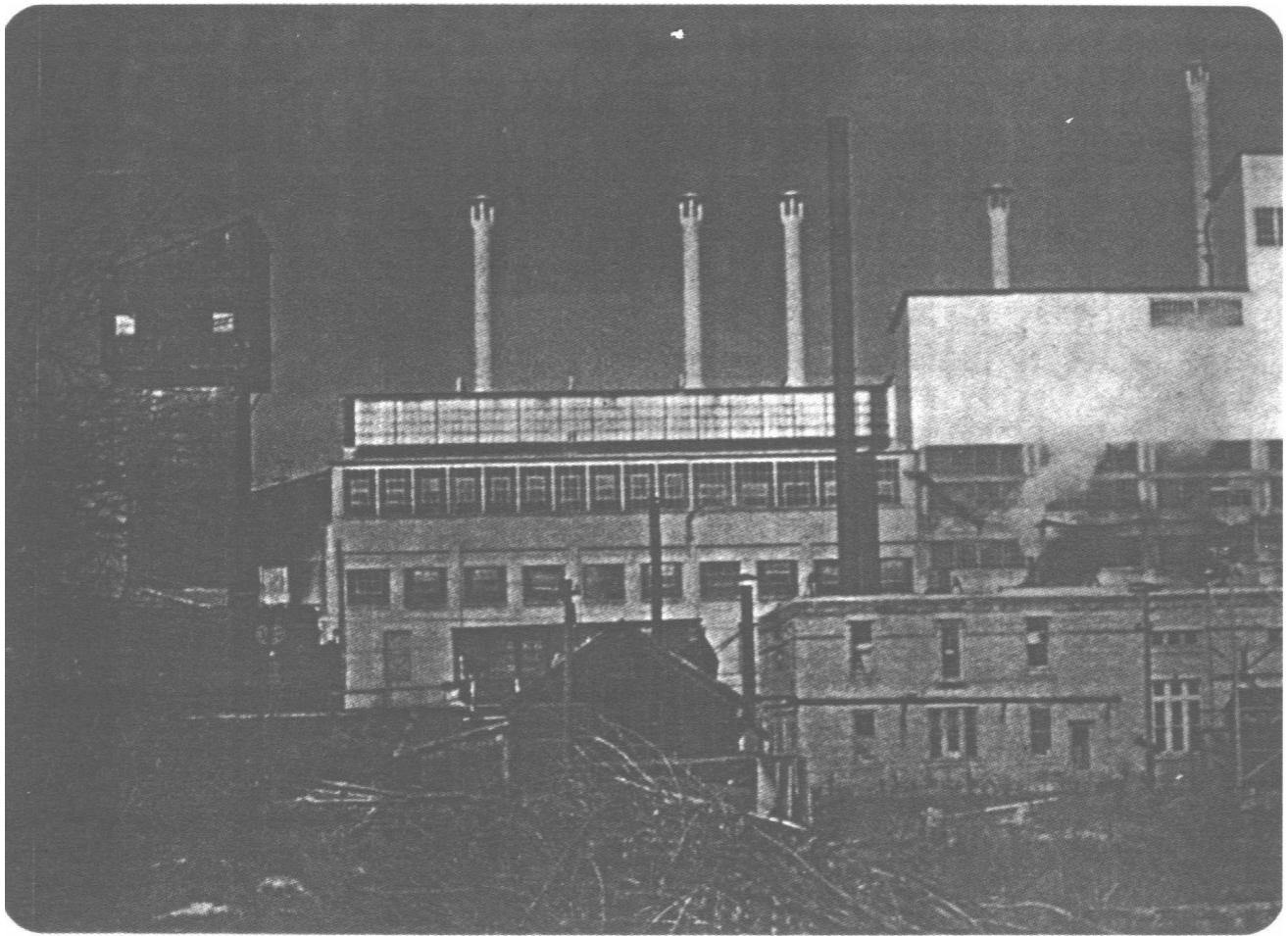
John Putnam came from Columbus, Ohio in 1911 and worked as a salesman for the Silica plant until 1913. He was Mr. Stevenson's nephew. Mr. Putnam returned to the Silica in 1918 as a salesman and assistant manager and when Mr. Stevenson's health failed in the 1920's, he arranged for Mr. Rogers and Mr. Putnam to take over his interest in the plant.

In the late 1920's, the two men became co-owners of the Stevenson interests and made an agreement to each own 50% of the stock, and began purchasing the balance of the stock from the other owners.

In 1957 the two men controlled almost all the stock when they sold to the Portage-Manly Sand Co. of Rockton, and later was sold to the Martin-Marietta Co.

During the first World War, the sand and flint business was very good. Flint is sand ground to a fine mesh and is used in potteries for use in making dishes, insulators, floor and wall tile and sanitary ware.

In order to protect the sale of flint, during the depression, Rogers and Putnam met with other sand companies who agreed to take over the National Silica contracts for the sale of sand and pay \$25 per ton during the life of these contracts, in return for staying out of grinding sand for flint.



National Silica, Pines Road, was constructed in 1909 and running at part capacity by the fall of that year. (Photo courtesy of Nell Rogers Franklin)



Sand and flint being transported from National Silica on the CB&Q railroad. (Photo courtesy of Nell Rogers Franklin)



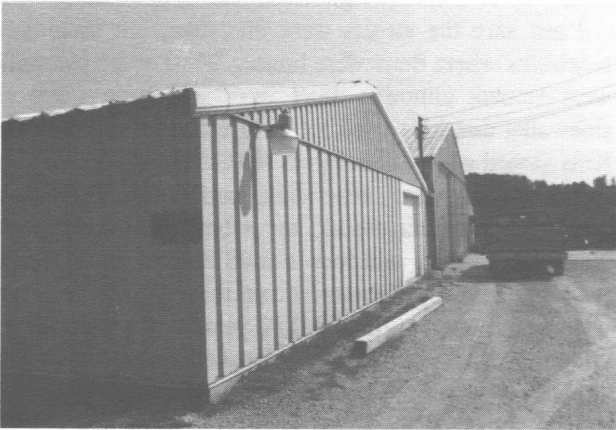
The main line of CB&Q railroad ran parallel to the plant and a switch was laid to the National Silica. (Photo courtesy Nell Rogers Franklin)



Hansen's Hideaway. Pines Road. Robert "Bob" and Loretta Hansen.



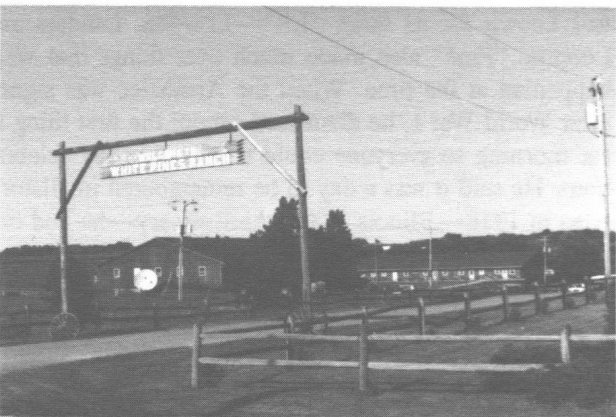
Jerry's Country Cabinet Shop. Pines Road. Jerry Yount.



Woodhaven Ind., Pines Road. L. Wood and Son.



Lake LaDonna. Pines Road. Lamont Gaston.



White Pines Ranch, Pines Road. Richard "Dick" Little.



White Pines Mini-Golf and Go-Cart, Pines Road.



The hazards of travel in the early 1900s. Story by Mrs. Fred Jones

REMINISCENCES

*Contributed by Mrs. Fred W. Jones (Helen Mead Jones)
a long-time resident of Oregon*

In 1916 or 1917, there were still two livery stables in downtown Oregon. One was where the Republican Reporter office was on Third Street and the other where the Bemis Ford Garage is now. The latter not being used too much.

Deciding to do something for the entertainment for the young people in town, Don Mead, who was Circuit Clerk and Recorder and William P. Fearer, Attorney, rented the livery stable.

It was nothing but a frame building and a dirt floor very much resembling a barn, and just as large. They had a good floor installed and bought roller skates and opened a roller skating rink.

It became one of the most popular places to go in town as it was during the war and there were not too many places of amusement around. They also held dances and at one time there was a big Red Cross carnival.

Mr. Mead and Mr. Fearer thought they had a chance to “get rich” in this venture, they both skated, helped all the ladies learn to skate and of course, all the kids knew how to skate.

They had just about paid for the skates and the floor and one morning Mr. Fearer stopped at the Meads and said, “Well, she made a beautiful fire!” The rink had burned during the night and though the Meads lived only four blocks away, the family had slept through all the excitement.

AND . . .

It doesn't seem possible that we used to have so much trouble just traveling a short distance.

We always had a flat tire or two on most any trip, and we always carried a kit along to vulcanize the inner tube and a pump to pump it up after we got it back in the tire.

I can remember my father telling about coming home from Freeport one time and they had so many flat tires they finally ended up stuffing the tires with straw they got from a farmer so they could get home.

Scenes like this were common.

AND . . .

Until someone asked me to write something for the Oregon Sesquicentennial, I had never stopped to realize how much has changed during my lifetime. I was born in 1902, so the very early 1900's were really different. I think it was 1910 before I remember riding in a car. When I was real small, I remember the kids I played with were all scared of run-away horses. I have seen horses run wild-eyed and sometimes the buggies would tip over.

Until 1909 I had never lived in a house with modern conveniences. I can remember studying by lamplight, and remember my father coming home with a “new kind of lamp” that burned with a mantle. It gave a much better light. We heated with a hard coal burner with a stove pipe that went through a register through an upstairs bedroom; but we always had running water in the house and a telephone, but many people did not.

After about 1909 I lived around the corner from Ione Murdock Brooke for some time, so Ione and I are long-time friends. I remember one time she and I went out with her father's horse and buggy. Ione was driving and we were going down Fifth Street just North of where the Post Office is now. I can still see her sitting up there slapping the reins over the horse. She was sure a cute little thing; she is younger than I am and couldn't have been more than seven at the time. We were going right down the middle of the street when “Scoots” Etnyre came along in a little open car, and yelled at us and told us to stay over on the right hand side of the street.

I am sure the streets were dirt then, but there were sidewalks where there were houses. Most of the sidewalks were cement although there were still quite a few tar sidewalks that kids tried to avoid when on roller skates. Kids skated a lot—sometimes to school, and all over and in the evening until after dark sometimes. There were good sidewalks all around the school house where the Nash school was, and kids skated around there, and in the winter time we coasted down the hill. All 12 grades were in the one building. All 12 years that I attended the Oregon Public School (as it was called at that time) “Prof Taylor” was the Superintendent for the whole school. He also taught Physics and Science and was great into Track, for which reason Oregon High School became famous for its many athletes. People said at that time that Oregon was known for its three “L's”—Lowden, Landers and Loomis. “Prof” also made much over things that were happening at the time. When the Armistice was signed after World War I, he dismissed school the first thing in the morning so everyone could take part in the celebrations. He said it was a day to be remembered in History. Also in 1918—Illinois' 100th Anniversary—he and one of the other teachers directed a play called the Masque of Illinois, and every pupil in school—all the grades and High School—were in it. It was a big undertaking as it was a long play and I think he knew everybody's lines.

When we were hearing about Halley's Comet this past year, I remember seeing it some 75 years ago. I was real small, but it made an impression on me at the time. Kids

then were really not as smart as they are now. Miss Ruby Nash, who taught first grade for fifty years, gave to each pupil graduating she had taught in first grade, some of their writing with their name and date on it. The penmanship was really good. When I read the letter in the Oregon paper recently written by Mrs. Ora K. Wolfe whose father used to plow the city sidewalks, it certainly brought that back to my mind. When it snowed he got out early and plowed all the city sidewalks with a horse-drawn plow. Kids walked to school, walked home at noon for dinner and walked back to school again.

In those early years people who had cars would jack them up for the winter and drain the water, and then get them out in the Spring. Some of those things seem almost unbelievable now. There was a rapid transition from horses and buggies to automobiles just from 1900 to 1912 or 1913. My husband's father had arranged to buy a car in Chicago in the very early 1900's. They went in on the train to get it and they hired a chauffeur to drive it home. It took them five days to come from Chicago to Oregon. They had car trouble, tire trouble—and they probably got lost. There were just dirt roads and not many signs. They said they ran out of money too. Later they used to laugh about getting their first car.

Things have changed drastically too in business. I worked in the Court House and Abstract Office for many years. Everything in the Court House had to be copied, word for word, and then compared. Great progress has really been made. Now they have typewriters that talk back to you!

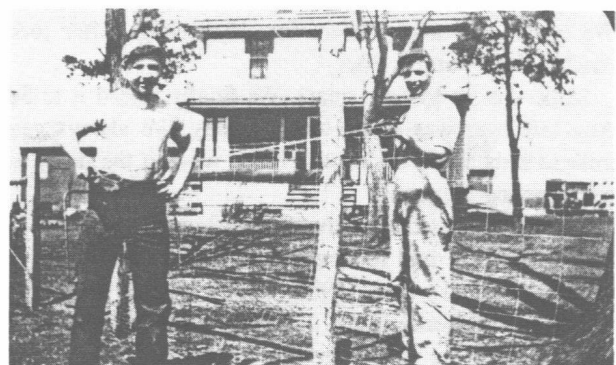
I cannot write any of these things about Oregon without mentioning my own father, Don Mead, who loved this town so much. He moved here with his family from Rochelle in 1904 and lived here most of his life. He was so young, and interested in the welfare and progress of Oregon. He organized and managed the town basketball team. He and Attorney Francis W. Burchell worked so hard to accomplish the building of the Coliseum. He went all over town selling Bonds to finance the building. At that time the only places for any entertainment or large gatherings were the assembly room at the high school, the Methodist Church, the third floor of the Masonic Hall, the Circuit Court room on the second floor of the Court House and the third floor of the brick building South of the United Bank. That was used for carnivals, basketball games, etc. and it was a real fire trap. The Coliseum was used as it is now, and also for many more things until the schools had gymnasiums. They also used it for all the High School basketball games, basketball tournaments, etc. and at one time there was a skating rink on the first floor.

At one time my husband's family owned the power plant in Oregon and furnished electricity to the citizens for \$1 a month. I can remember my mother-in-law saying it got so she hated to go to Club because someone was always complaining about the lights going out. There were power outages. However, I can remember within these last fifty years having a power outage for three days.

We cooked in the furnace. We should all respect our natural resources as well as be thankful for the conveniences we have today. I couldn't possibly go into all the things that make life easier now.



Fred Hardesty, Clarence Brown and Roy "Dusty" Feary out on the farm where the Hardesty Dairy was started. (Photo courtesy M. L. Hardesty)



Bob Hardesty (left) and Clarence Brown at Cumming's Farm, original site of Hardesty Dairy. (Photo courtesy M. L. Hardesty)

REMINISCENCES

Story told by Robert Hardesty, Oregon

Time was during the depression—before 1932.

My dad, Fred Hardesty, farmed in this area buying dairy breeding stock from McCormick farms as he could afford them.

In 1933 or '34 he started a dairy because there was no market for bulk milk. It was going for 50¢ per 100 wt. We actually fed it to the hogs. Then, being aggressive, he decided to bottle the milk and sell it in quarts.

The hired men got \$15 per month with room and board. I remember when my dad told Ken Daley that he could no longer afford to keep him working. Daley began to cry—he had nowhere to go. He told my dad he would stay on and work for food and bed. Dad paid him what he could so Ken had a little in his pocket. We had three hired men and two hired girls. All our food was raised on the farm. We all had plenty to eat—we just had no money!

We built a cement tank in the basement of the house on the Cummings farm. We used ice to cool the milk. The tank had wooden doors and the ice lasted about 24 hours.

The cream separator was hand-operated. We cranked it for about an hour. The cold-water separator held bottles underneath. We filled them and set them aside. Then capped the bottles by hand, set the bottles in the cold water and ice in the tank. We changed the water almost every day.

It was all raw milk—just strained. It was actually strained three times. We fastened clean cloths (flour sacks) over the strainer and held them in place with clothespins. As we progressed, we began buying disks and a fancy strainer. The cotton mesh disks went in the bottom and those really strained much better!

We also had our own generator. At 3:00 a.m. we started loading the truck to deliver milk. We wore rubber suits because we dipped the bottles out of the cold water storage tank. We carried the bottles up out of the basement and loaded them into the truck. Now was when we found the “leakers.”

You know the whipping cream you get nowadays would make my dad real unhappy—if the cream would run out of the bottle, Dad didn't want it. It was not of good enough quality. It had to be spooned out of the bottle. We often gave away cream for advertising. After folks tried it, they wanted more.

Milk was 3¢ to 4¢ a quart. We finally raised it to 5¢. Any left over was given to the needy. We always gave milk to kids along the route. When we quit the dairy we were getting 7¢ per qt.

We started making deliveries by our car. We had no truck. Soon we had too much business so had to buy a used Ford panel truck—1934 or '35. In 1936 we bought a new International truck. We were so proud. Business was good and we started buying from area farmers.

I picked up milk from farmers after the night milking. We paid a small premium so we could get the first choice

of milk. It took about one hour to pick up the milk in 10-gallon cans. Then hurry home and process it. We finished up and bottled it and had it in the cooler tank by 10:00 p.m. or so.

Our business grew . . . the cooler was too small. At this time delivery in Rockford was done by horse-drawn carts. We were very modern with gas-driven trucks. Kate, my mother, made cottage cheese which we sold in pint and quart containers. I remember flour sacks of cheese hanging on the clothesline.

The men that worked for us were Clarence Brown who worked with the milk; Dusty Feary and Dale Hodges. Glendora (Clarence Brown's sister) worked right along with us. The bottles had to be washed by hand. It was like an assembly line. The first tub was to get the worst mess out. Then a tub with cleaning solution, then a rinse tub with disinfectant. The bottles were turned upside down to drain. We took out one at a time to fill.

Flies were always a problem . . . we used fly paper to catch flies. Clarence was so clean and particular we had few flies to worry about in the bottling process.

When we got behind, everybody pitched in. My mother had a little green box where all the money was kept. Some people put the money in the empty bottles which we picked up each day. Otherwise Kate would go out to collect once a month. There was no income tax to pay so we had no fancy bookkeeping.

Business got so good we moved the business to town. Our dairy was located between the present Ace Hardware and City Hall. Hoppe Colson had a garage to the north of us which was later taken over by Frank Wilde.

We backed our trucks in the back to load. We had a big walk-in ice box. Above in the attic was the ice storage area. We cut ice out of Honey Creek with a saw into squares and stored it in a building on a farm now owned by Grace Carpenter. It now belongs to Bob Chamberlin. We used tongs to grab the ice. Loaded it on a wagon pulled by horses. And then packed it in sawdust. The ice would keep all summer. Everybody had sawdust! We even had a sawmill in our timber for our own use. The blocks of ice were about 100 lbs because we had to lift them. We manhandled the blocks into our trucks and then into town and up the ladder to the loft storage area.

This was a pain in the back and we started buying from the Ice House run by Lester Myers' father, I think. It was delivered by Chrissie Myers, Kermie Warner and several others. There was lots of turnover of help—it was a very hard job. The Ice House was where Culligan is now. I can't remember what they charged.

Ice handlers wore a leather apron tied about their waist and up over their shoulder. It kind of came over their cheek to protect them from the cold ice. Kids would follow the ice wagon in the summer begging for slivers of ice.

A typical day went like this—3:00 a.m. get milk loaded to deliver; 4:30 hit the route—2 men—one for each side of street; 7:00 a.m. head for home if you were done. Get ready for school; drive to school from 8th

grade on. If you could see over the wheel you could drive—no license then. Go to school all day and then after football practice start the evening route to pick up milk every night. Then separate the milk and bottle and cool it.

At the peak we were milking 30 Holsteins. All by hand! We had three men, my dad and me. It took 4-5 minutes to milk one cow if you were good. My dad milked two to three cows to my one. He was good!

In 1938 or so a law came out that milk had to be pasteurized. This made Dad mad, and we went out of the dairy business!

I can't remember who bought it, but then I knew we could all sleep until at least 4:00 a.m.

We always had lots of cats in the milking barn. We'd squirt a stream 15 feet or so and chase them out.

I had a pony I used to get the cows with at night. Naturally some of them didn't want to get caught. We had 100 acres of timbered pasture. Boy would dad get mad if I missed one. Of course at least six would cross the creek. There were new calves to bring in. I would throw the calf over the pony and let the cow follow belling all the way.

Besides the dairy we were farming 300 acres—200 acres tillable. Luckily we had a tractor. Dad had the first row crop tractor with iron wheels in the neighborhood. We raised corn and oats and hay. Corn was picked by horse-drawn one-row picker. We drove a team and wagon alongside the picker. Unloaded by hand, of course.

In the spring of 1938 I started dating Mary Louise Holmes and I know we didn't have the dairy then! We are always looking for Hardesty Farm Dairy bottles. We have a couple of them but we keep looking for more.

Lilly McAnly (Mrs. Harold McAnly) used to walk at least three miles from over near Huskingpeg School to help my mother at the farm.

Cleona Sauer lived at the farm and helped with lots of the work, too. My cousin, Rita McRoberts stayed with us some and helped, as well as my sister, Phyllis.

We would turn on the SuperHetrodyne and dance in the evening. Those gals taught me how to dance! Rita was a dance instructor in Chillicothe. She could tap dance and ballroom dance, too. She could dance up a storm!

In about 1944 my dad opened Hardesty Plumbing. It was Reed and Hardesty (Jake Reed and Fred Hardesty). Then he sold out to Walt Spangler in 1949 or '50, I think. The shop was located where Oregon Mercantile is now.

When I think about it, I guess my family has contributed quite a bit to the growth and development of Oregon. At the present time I own and operate Hardesty Excavating—also working with my sons. It seems to be a family tradition. And I like it that way.

Other dairies: Clyde Koontz; Oregon Dairy/Ander-sons; Glenn's Dairy/Homer Glenn.

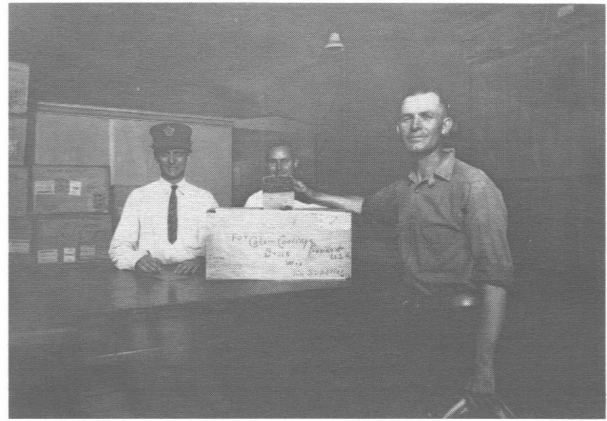


Photo taken circa 1927 at the Railway Express office, first building north of alley across the street from the theater, showing a shipment of cherries sent to Calvin Coolidge by Brayton Fruit Farm at Mt. Morris. J. Walker Robbins, Brayton Fruit Farm, is shown with arm on crate. Behind the counter is Merritt Reed (left), driver and right is Geo. Thalhamer, express agent. The Express office at this time was one of the last offices using the big horse-pulling high wagon.

121 N. 4th; South to 101; then East to 300; then across St. to 301 & West to SE Corner of Washington & 4th St.

By Charles W. Mongan

We now are working our way down the east side of North Fourth Street beginning at 121 & going to the south corner. At first all the buildings were frame construction except the Sinnissippi Hotel. 101 North Fourth Street (which also extended east 92' on Washington Street) was a solid brick building. After the frame buildings either burned or were removed, new brick buildings took their place. 121 North Fourth Street became the George Mix Livery Stable and Feed Shed, then a blacksmith shop, and then a garage when the automobile took over, then an auto agency, and later a boat shop which burned during one of the downtown larger fires. The walls were left after the fire, & it was purchased by Bemis Motor Company; part of the second floor was removed, and it was completely remodeled; it is now part of Bemis Motor Company.

119 and 113 were two solid brick buildings possibly built a number of years before. The entire 66' x 132' lot and improvements were purchased by Thomas Goings (a black man), who closed the space between the two buildings, added a livery stable to the property in 1891; and, in 1895 added a second floor. Sign above stairway entrance: "Goings 1895." Mr. Francis Burchell purchased the property from the estate and had his office on the second floor. The DeKalb Ogle Telephone Company had their offices and Oregon operation in this building for many years until they built a building at 210 North Fifth Street.

The Bemis Motor Company had its beginning in this building until 1919 when a new building was built at 123 North Fourth Street after the roller rink fire. Harry and Harold Carman, father and son, operated a garage and vulcanizing service in the area from which Bemis Motor had moved. Before prohibition, Phil O'Connell operated