

Dr. Lambertus Warmolts, left, congratulates Dr. Antreas Mesrobian, the new doctor who will open services in the Warmolts Family Medical Center in Oregon. The facility was formerly operated by Dr. Warmolts for many years and is being made ready for a new equipment and development center. (Telegraph Photo by Irlene Hughes)

Cateys Moved To Oregon In 1946

Dr. Robert M. Catey, has been practicing in Oregon since May of 1946, when he and his wife Ruth and family moved here.

For nine years after moving to Oregon he maintained an office over Leach's Pharmacy.

In 1955 he joined Dr. Warmolts at the Clinic and has been associated with the operation ever since.

The Catey's have four children, Mrs. Robert (Sharon) Hanes, Mrs. Richard (Carol) Merwin, Jean and John at home.

(From Republican Reporter)

Dr. Lloyd L. Wood, O.D.

Oregon, Illinois became 'home' to Dr. Lloyd R. Wood, September 1941. Raised in a small northern community, Clear Lake, Wisconsin, Dr. Wood received his pre-medical education at Wisconsin State College, River Falls, Wisconsin. At the Chicago College of Osteopathy he received his professional training, graduating in 1939 with the D.O. degree. After internship and residency years in Chicago, Dr. Wood practiced in an office in the



Dr. Robert M. Catey

Koontz Building above the Ben Franklin store for 20 years and now has his own home-office combination at 200 North Sixth Street.

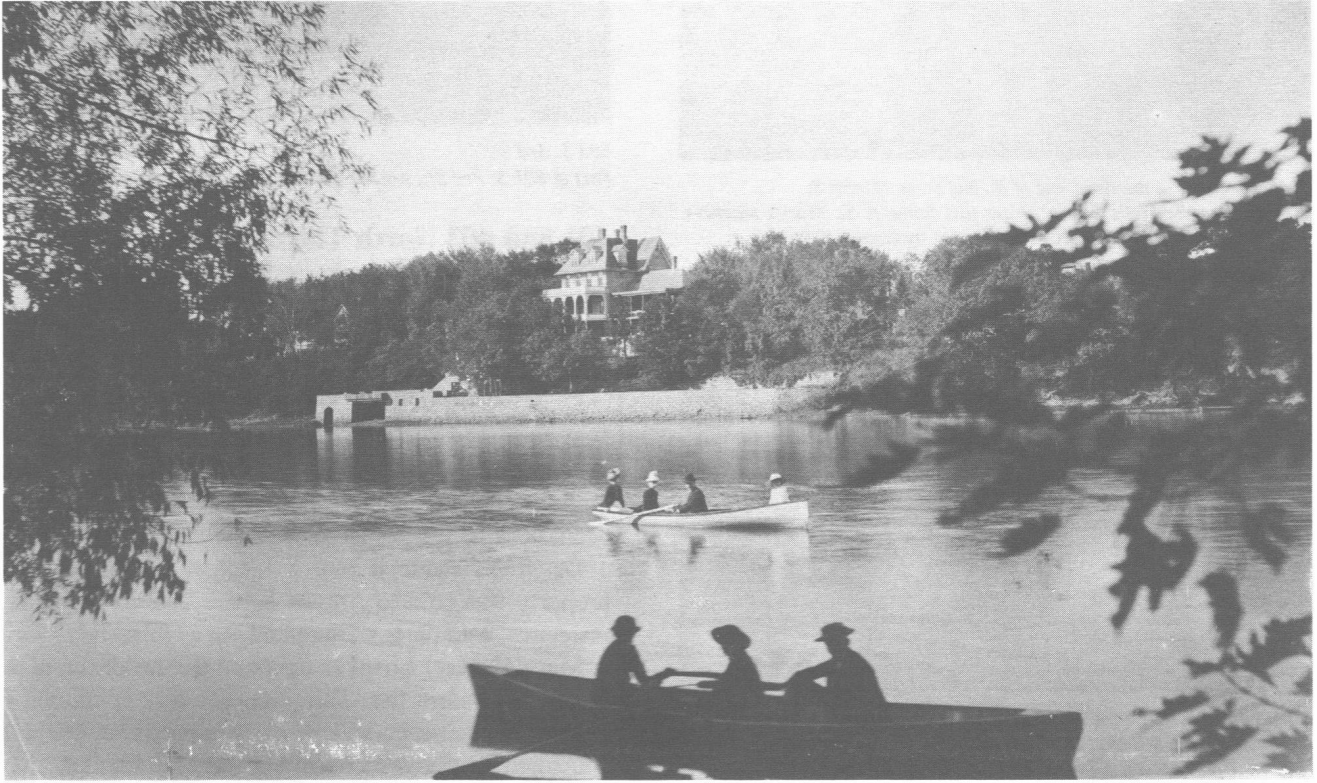
His license was that of Osteopathic "Physician and

Surgeon."

Dr. Wood was president of the Illinois Osteopathic Association in 1952-53, and is now Secretary.

(From Republican Reporter)

Homes



River from the East; Showing Dr. Mix's residence.

I have found it extremely difficult to be historically accurate on some of the homes. I have used the directory of homes, 1898-1899, also businesses before 1899 and a list of houses built during 1904-05, also deeds recorded and available abstracts. Other sources of information given to me (during many hours spent with Miss Ruby Nash (1874-1960), daughter of Chester Nash (1841-1921); Dr. Harry E. Wade (1866-1952); and others; also from my mother (Alice L. Wernick Mongan), born in this area in the year 1887; from my father, Richard Mongan, who came from Washington County, MD in 1902; and from my own memories from 1910 to the writing of this section.

One of the questions I had was whether the persons named in the directory were the owner or tenant, (I have to believe most at that time were owners); and were they

Jr. or Sr.—not often listed as such; or was she the daughter who had changed her name by marriage and become a later owner by inheritance. Another problem has been getting information from abstracts—did the first owner, soon after the recording, build a residence? Usually the house was built when a mortgage was recorded. If when reading this book you are sure you have found an error, don't call me, but write the correction and why it is so, that future owners or your children may know.

P.S. I was born at 806 South Fourth Street in Oregon, in 1906. I have lived here, except for five years in Rockford of which time I spent most every other weekend in Oregon.

Charles W. Mongan, Sr.



House located at the dead end of N. 3rd St. at Illinois St.
At one time the Wells School, later was home of St. Mary's teachers.
Present owner: Richard McCaslin. (Photo by Donna Kennedy)



803 S. 3rd St.
Part of 801 S. 3rd St., not the garage part. (Photo by Donna Kennedy)



Last house on corner of Third & Illinois, west side.
Built by Orvis Wilson. Owners: Rev. and Mrs. Brickenback (former pastor Presbyterian Church early 1900s), Henry Cottlow (former Oregon Postmaster in 1930s). Present owner: William Keene. Indian mound in yard north of house. (Photo by Donna Kennedy)

401 and 403 North Third Street

These pictures show the residence and home clinic of Dr. H. A. Mix, M.D. This home was located at 401 and 403 North Third Street, now the North Third Street Apartments are located on this property.

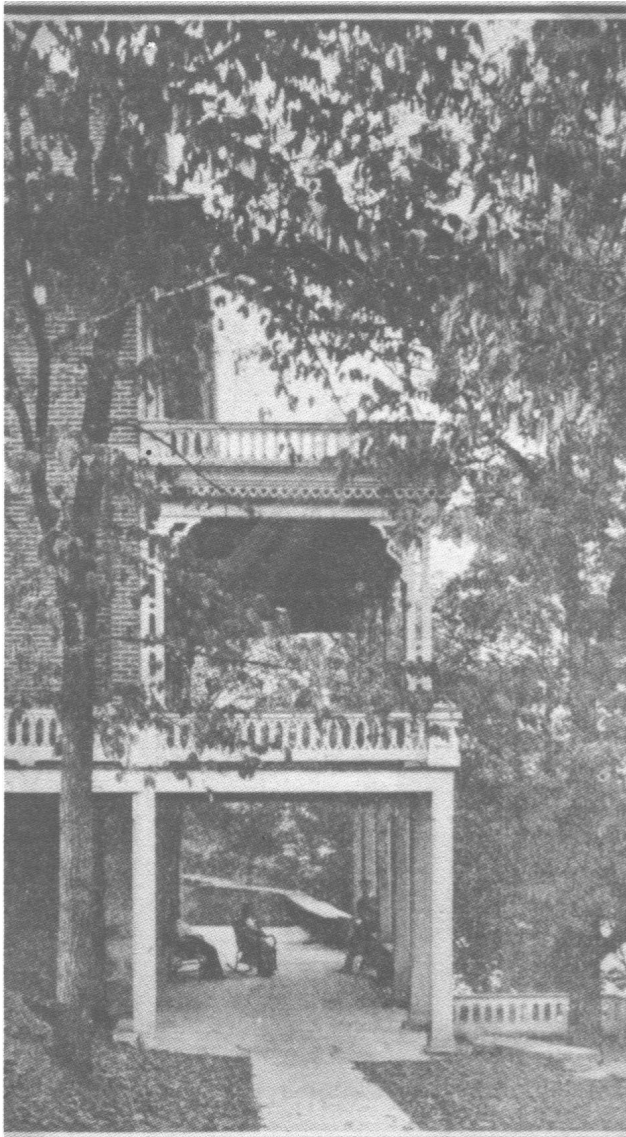
Dr. H. A. Mix, M.D., was the youngest son of William I Mix, M.D., and was born in Oregon July 12, 1838. When starting his practice, he built this pictured home on the west bank of Rock River in 1874, which after his death became the property of Dr. Johns.

Dr. Johns made it into a medical sanitarium. This property was sold to Antone Schier, and was used as a residence, also parts were rented out as furnished rooms.

Mary (Schier) Luepkes operated the residence as her father had before her. This property was purchased by Homer L. Seloover and razed so apartment could be constructed. (Photos courtesy of E. G. Landers, Mrs. Walter Anderson, and Warren Schmidts.)



Doc Mix art studio at his home.



East Balconies, The Dr. Mix Place, Oregon, Ill.

East balconies, The Dr. Mix Place, Oregon, IL (photo courtesy Warren Schmidt)



200 S. 3rd St.
 Dr. Bunker, DDS-original owner. Location of the First Methodist Church. Present house possibly built 1875 or 1876. Some of the brick from the first church was used in the construction of this dwelling. Other owners: George Siple. Present owner: George Noone. (Photo by Donna Kennedy).



202 South 3rd St.
 Builder not known. 1905 residence George H. Jones. Other owners: Harry Harnish, Levitt and Mary Jones. Present owner: Robert Nielson. (Photo by Donna Kennedy).



400 North Third St.
 T. O. Johnston-original owner. Johnston was one of Oregon's first newspaper publishers, Ogle County Reporter. Other owners: Judge Emerson, Joseph Reed Jr. and Richard Brown. Present owners: Norman Breseman, Jr. (Photo by Donna Kennedy).



300 South 3rd
 Owner in 1898 was Calvin J. Seyster, rented later as an apartment house. Present owner James Lauer. (Photo by Donna Kennedy).



301 S. 3rd St.
F. G. Jones-original owner. Jones was the owner of the Schiller Piano factory. Other owners: Cyrus Jones. Present owner: Dorothy Jones. (Photo by Donna Kennedy).



403 S. 3rd St.
Benjamin Shelley-original owner and son-in-law of F. G. Jones. Present owner: Stanley Bedker. (Photo by Donna Kennedy).



302 S. 3rd St.
Residence of builder and first owner Judge James H. Cartwright Sr. Present owner: Dorothy Jones. (Photo by Donna Kennedy).



801 South Third Street.
Present owner: Marjorie Deyo. (Photo by Donna Kennedy).



401 S. 3rd St.
Edgar Jones-original owner. Built in 1905 for a cost of \$5700. Present owner: Janet Pesut. (Photo by Donna Kennedy).

Notes from Mr. Charles Mongan's memory:

In approximately 1910 this house was owned by Mrs. Kinney and was a residential laundry. Part of the house was moved to the lot directly South (803 South Fourth). Mrs. Kinney had a covered area much like one of today's carports that covered two or three butcher kettles set in a fire trough which were heated to boiling. She boiled laundry in these big kettles. Even in minus 10° degrees she worked in that open area.

The draymen of Oregon (namely Mr. Tilton, Harry "Hick" Henry, and "Barney" Rock) brought clothes in large baskets to Mrs. Kinney. She washed them and in the evening she had ladies doing ironing in the house. The draymen picked up the laundry and delivered it to separate owners. I always wondered how did she ever keep all those clothes separated so she knew what belonged to who!

Her daughter was Mayme Kinney Roat, and her son was George Roat who was the same age as me and we played together as children. I happened to live just across the street and watched all this happen.



407 South Third Street

Colonel Franc Bacon (an outstanding lawyer in Oregon during and after the turn of the century) was the first owner. Some of the other owners have been Fay Henderson, Joe and Helen Stevens, and Eugene Moring. The current owner is Brian Marinelli. (Photo by Donna Kennedy).



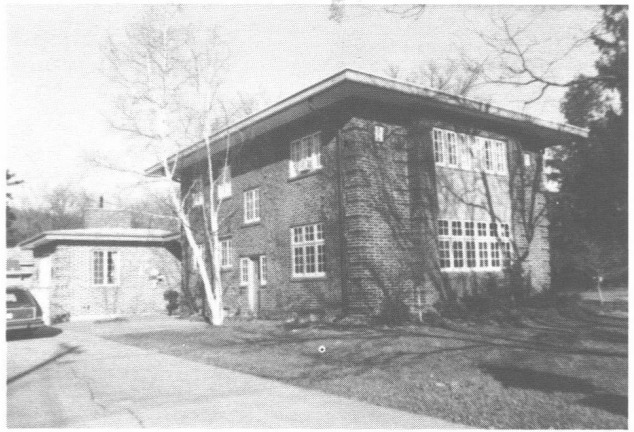
600 N. 4th St.

Peter Hastings-original owner. Built early 1900. Home was designed by Carpentier an architect from Rockford, believed to have been a student of Frank Lloyd Wright. Other owners: Judge Leon A. Zick. Present owners: Mr. and Mrs. Robert DeArvil. (Photo by Donna Kennedy).



405 S. 3rd St.

Original owner: George Reiman, early Oregon police officer and grandfather of Charles Robbins and Mrs. R. D. (Eloise) Etnyre. Present owner: Joseph Loomis. (Photo by Donna Kennedy).



518 N. 4th St.

A house owned by William P. Fearer was moved from this location to 511 N. 5th St. where the family lived while the present house was being built in 1912. The architect was Carpentier of Rockford. The architectural design is "Early Prairie." Son, Gerald Fearer, inherited the house from his father. Present owner: Mrs. Gerald (Rogene Franklin) Fearer. (Photo by Donna Kennedy).



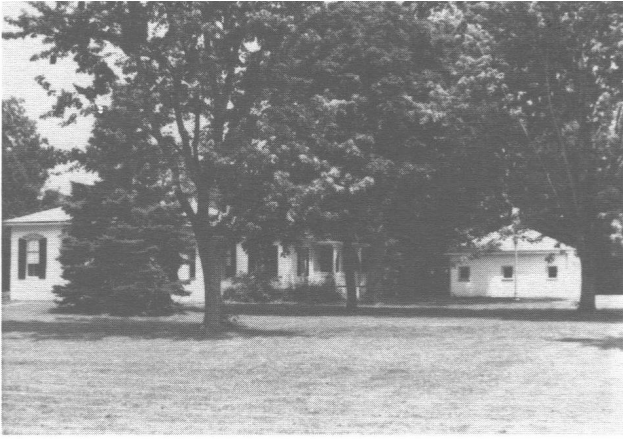
700 North Fourth Street

The 1898 owner and possible builder was Horace G. Kauffman, an Oregon attorney who had his office at 400 Washington Street on the second floor. A long-time owner, Solon W. Crowell, attorney, had his office at 400 Washington Street on the second floor. Over the past years there have been several other owners, one being James A. Rogers. The present owner is Frank W. Breseman. (Photo by Donna Kennedy).



515 N. 4th St.

First owner and builder: unknown. Later owner: Lawyer Henry A. Smith. Present owner: Dr. Joseph Simeone. (Photo by Donna Kennedy).



509 North Fourth

First owner was John Sears, second owner was Joseph Sears, his son, an Oregon attorney. Other owners have been Robert Bressler, Mrs. Ada Bressler and Bruce Wellman atty. The present owner is Norman Bresemann, Sr. (Photo by Donna Kennedy).



506 North Fourth Street

This house was built in 1900 for the residence of Mr. Ferd Rippbarger who had a confectionary store at 310 Washington Street. This house now owned by his daughter, Mrs. Helen (Rippbarger) Johnson. (Photo by Donna Kennedy).



410 North Fourth Street

The builder and first owner are unknown. This house was built before 1865. It has been said when Abraham Lincoln spoke in Oregon that people who were at the meeting got drinking water from the well which was in the yard of this property. Some of the known owners have been George Shindle, Burton Haas, and William and Marian Fisher. The present owners are the Howard Sassamans. (Photo by Donna Kennedy)



400 N. 4th St.

Built by Rehnus Stroh, son of N. J. Stroh first Lutheran minister in Oregon. Rehnus was a druggist who had a drug store on the corner of 4th and Washington St. where the Rock River Bank now is. His son, Grover Stroh, was an Oregon School music teacher during the 1920s. Donald Crowell purchased this property in the late 1930s and made it into apartments. Present owner: Robert Hill. (Photo by Donna Kennedy)



505 North Fourth Street

This residence was built after the turn of the Twentieth Century, built for George H. Jones, son of F. G. Jones of the Shiller Piano Co.

This property was sold to Malmbergs, who ran a restaurant, a funeral home, residence for sisters of St. Mary's Church, and was purchased by Lester Sanderson, razed and a new residence built. (Photograph Courtesy of Charles Cox)



211 N. 4th St.
 First owner: Charles Gale. Second owner: Mrs. John Putman. Third owner: John G. Putman, son of Mrs. John Putman. Present owner: George Bouska. (Photo by Donna Kennedy)



803 South Fourth Street.
 Owners in 1910 were Mr. and Mrs. Hiram Cox. Present owner: Dan Drozd. (Photo by Donna Kennedy)



402 S. 4th St.
 Fredrick G. Petrie-original owner. Purchased three lots in 1863. Petrie was one of the owners of the east side Grist Mill. This home was built in the 1860's. The unusual style of roof is called a Mansared (French type of roof, popular in the U.S. from 1860 to 1880). Since 1965 owners: Charles F. Anderson purchased in 1925, and started the Oregon Dairy. Carl Anderson, his son, continued the dairy. Frank Fischer in 1939. Present owner: Mrs. Fredric G. Deuth. (Photo by Donna Kennedy).

Notes from Mr. Charles Mongan's memory:

Many happy hours were spent in that kitchen sitting beside Uncle Hiram (not my real uncle—you see when I was a boy of 5-6 years of age, all senior citizens were addressed as Aunt or Uncle). While Uncle Hiram sat in his rocking chair feeding corn cobs in the kitchen range, he would tell me of his experiences in the Civil War. Meanwhile Aunt Mandy would be baking bread and cinnamon rolls. I was always given one roll and my vivid memory tells me they were delicious—far beyond any bought or made today. Years ago they used shortening made of hog lard and I'm sure that's the reason they surpass those made today of "Crisco" regardless of what Loretta Lynn promises on TV.

Uncle Hiram and Aunt Mandy were the great-grandparents of the seven Cline boys, also the Pettengers.

Another interesting thing I remember Uncle Hiram telling was when he was a soldier during the Civil War he would get so hungry that he chased the horses and mules away from the corn and ate it himself. I have never forgotten that story!



Corner of Adams and 4th St. (northwest corner)
 Moved from Mix Park in 1920 for John Rudy and was part of the Henry A. Mix estate. Present owner: Ken Scott. (Photo by Donna Kennedy)



905 & 907 S. 4th St.
 Harry Height-original owner. Built in the early 1900. These buildings served as a store and home. Height also sold gasoline and kerosene at the curb. This was one of Oregon's first filling stations. Other owners: Bert Thomas. Present owner: Eleanor Thomas Holman, daughter of Bert Thomas. (Photo by Donna Kennedy)



*1104 S. 4th & Collins
Built in 1800's. Housed Graves Restaurant and Store. Then owned by James Kerevin. Present owner: David Ginger. (Photo by Donna Kennedy).*



*404 N. 5th St.
This home was built in the mid 1800s. Original owner unknown. Owned by Mayme Proctor for many years. Present owner: Vivian Holmes. (Photo by Donna Kennedy).*



*S. 4th & Collins
Railroad Hotel and Restaurant. Run for many years by a Mrs. Lester. Later by the Orvil Hiscox, Sr. It was built when the railroad came across the river. Present owner: Francis Saunders. (Photo by Donna Kennedy).*



*206 S. 5th St.
Original owner unknown. This is one of the oldest homes in Oregon. Other owners: Josephine Lamb, Alice Petersen. Present owner: William Messenger. (Photo by Donna Kennedy).*



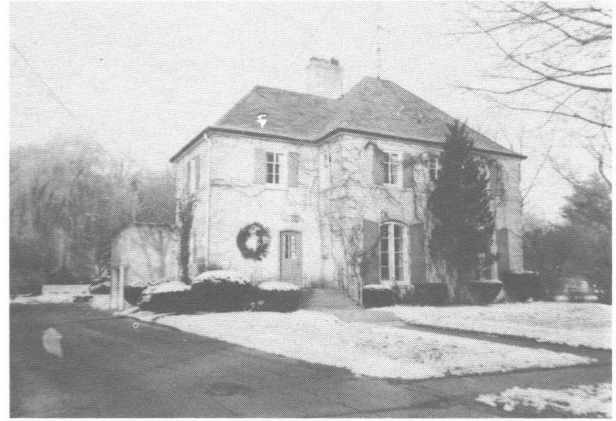
*500 North Fifth Street
Owner in 1898 was Frank E. Reed, Attorney, who in the early 1900's was an Ogle County Judge. During the middle 1900's this property was made into apartments and was a rental property. Present owner is Robert Adamson. (Photo by Donna Kennedy)*



*209 S. 5th St.
Wm. J. Mix was first owner and builder. Next owner was John Gantz. Other owners were: Isaac Gantz, Dr. Mann. Present owner: Fearer and Nye. (Photo by Donna Kennedy)*



309 S. 5th St.
 Belonged to John Harris Sr. Was formerly a hardware store that was south of Bob's TV at 129 S. 4th St. It was used as a school for 5th and 6th grades while the four room school was being built in 1913 and 1914. Present owners: John and William Andrew. (Photo by Donna Kennedy).



510 N. 6th St.
 Edward Etnyre Sr.-original owner. Picture taken after remodeling and brick veneering. Other owners: Robert D. Etnyre. Present owner: Eloise Etnyre. (Photo by Donna Kennedy)



701 N. 6th & Ford St.
 Built in 1839 according to the deed. Some of the past owners were: "Grandma" Burrigh, Clare Allen, Kim Krahenbuhl, Marian Fisher. Present owner: Scott Newcomer. (Photo by Donna Kennedy)



508 N. 6th St.
 Joseph Reed Sr.-original owner. Other owners: Harry Franklin and Dean Dye. Present owner: James Shulty. (Photo by Donna Kennedy).



512 N. 6th St.
 Horace Etnyre-original owner. This home was built in 1936. The architect was Jerome Cerney. Present owner: Kim D. Kruhenbuhl. (Photo by Donna Kennedy).



410 N. 6th St.
 Captain Lewis Hormell-original owner. This home was built before 1863. Captain Hormell trained recruits for the Civil War on the front lawn. Other owners: William Etnyre and Iva Herring. Present owner: Robert E. Etnyre. (Photo by Donna Kennedy).



410 N. 6th St.
 Thomas Jewett-original owner. (a druggist) Other owners: Claude Jewett. Present owner: Donald Brook. (Photo by Donna Kennedy).



206 N. 6th St.
 Original owner not known. Hugh Speed House. Present owner: Kandel Wagner. (Photo by Donna Kennedy).



307 North Sixth Street
 Possible first owner was T. J. Morris. Other owners have been William Morris, Decker, (Decker Drug Store), McQuinn. (T. J. Morris owned a wagon and car manufacturing business at 201 North 4th Street). The present owners are the James Patricks. (Photo by Donna Kennedy).



N. 6th St. and Franklin.
 Chester Nash-original owner. Other owners: Ruby Nash. Present owner Ogle County Historical Society. (Photo by Donna Kennedy).



211 North Sixth Street (present location)
 Formerly the F. M. Gilbert home. Originally stood where Dick's Pub now stands at 306 Franklin. Moved in the 1940's. Present owner Jeffrey A. Whitsell. (Photo by Donna Kennedy).



110 South Sixth Street
 The 1898 owner, Asa Dimon sold this residence to Zibe Landers, Editor of the Ogle County Republican. Present owner: Melba Landers, widow of Chester Landers. (Photo by Donna Kennedy).



200 S. 6th St.
L. V. Rumery-original owner. Other owners: John Waldie. Present owner: Joel Baylor. (Photo by Donna Kennedy).



100 S. 7th St.
Col. Sheets, father of Frank and Dr. Sheets. Present owner: Marlow Werkheiser (Freeport). (Photo by Donna Kennedy).



210 S. 6th St.
Original owner: Prentice R. T.—Purchased by Frank Zeigler in early 1930s. Part was moved to 108 S. 6th St. Both houses were remodeled at that time. Present owner of 110: Joyce Thompson. Present owners of 108: John C. and Judy Zeigler. (Photo by Donna Kennedy).



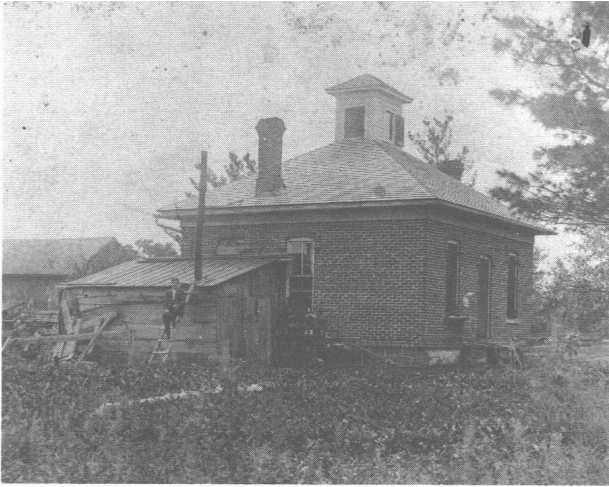
200 S. 7th St.
Built in 1880 by Dr. Chappelle. Next owner: Dr. Perrine, then his son Walter Perrine. Present owners: Mr. and Mrs. Fredric G. Deuth. (Photo by Donna Kennedy).



500 S. 6th St. Corner 6th & Adams
First owner and builder: Dr. Horace Sheets. Present owner: Daniel Taylor. (Photo by Donna Kennedy).



500 S. 7th St.
Nicholas Sauer-original owner and builder. This home was built in 1915. Present owner: Margaret Sauer. (Photo by Donna Kennedy).



M. J. White home—611 South Seventh—stucco now. Edith Fridley photo—no date.



*201 Depot Street (Moved from 210 N. 5th Street)
This house was built by F. M. Gilbert, the first owner, who then moved from a small house on Franklin Street. This house was moved from 210 N. 5th Street. Some of the owners have been Mr. Charles Gilbert, Gertrude Gilbert, William Starbuck; then sold to Continental Phone Company for a new office location. The house was purchased and moved by David and Nellie Martin. The present owner is David Martin. (Photo by Donna Kennedy).*



*Corner of 7th & Webster
Mathias J. (Cy) White House. Owners: Marino, Claude Holmes. Present owner: Ruth Moeller. (Photo by Donna Kennedy).*



*607 Washington Street
Possible first owner was George A. Mix. Other owners have been Harry Lebwick, Gene Lebwick, Sr., Gene Lebwick, Jr. The present owners are Williams and McCarthy. (Author's note) While remodeling I found evidence of part of log structure inside this house. (Photo by Donna Kennedy).*



*102 S. 10th St.
First owner and builder: Robert C. Burchell. Lawyer Francis Burchell born here. Owners included: William Hardesty, Viola and Eugene Myers, Edward Gecan, Amber Koontz. Present owner: Viola Myers. (Photo by Donna Kennedy).*



*700 Washington St.
Built in late 1870 by Captain Henry C. Peek, Civil War Veteran. Owners: Paragon Foundry, George Schneider, Hiram Groenhagen. Present owner: Donald Schier. (Photo by Donna Kennedy).*



Northwest corner of Jefferson & Second St.
Thought to be the site of first store in Oregon. Present owner: Alan Nelson. (Photo by Donna Kennedy).



The uncomplicated lines of Greek Revival architecture popularized from 1820-1860, have been preserved here in the solid horizontality typical of the Greek column and lintel system of construction. Under a mortar exterior are thick limestone walls with heavy stone lintels above each window and simple classic Greek entablature under each corner of the roof. This influence is also seen at the oldest entrance typically next to a corner on the west wall which contains the original thin vertical sidelights on either side of the door. These provide natural lighting to the foyer and its handsome wooden staircase. To the south is a complimentary portico with Greek Doric pilasters on the side and repeated entablature of architrave, frieze, and cornice. The trim around the windows is simple, broad, and flat in keeping with the classic lines.



507 Jefferson St.
Builder was Mortimer Smith. One of the later owners: Lillie Shelley.
Present owner: Mrs. Arthur Driver. (Photo by Donna Kennedy).

The structure rests securely on a piece of land dating to the 1833 land survey by Colonel W. S. Hamilton, son of Alexander Hamilton who was killed in a duel with Aaron Burr. Hamilton was a friend of John Phelps, first settler and founder of Oregon. Subsequent to survey the site was acquired by the Commissioners of Ogle County as part of the Town of Florence in 1840 which later became "Oregon" on February 21, 1843 by an Act of the Illinois Legislature.



Rarely today does one receive an original abstract when purchasing a home and instead is issued a statement of title insurance which tells nothing of its history. However, the Hartsells have the good fortune of possessing this document that is handwritten by Mortimer Smith, followed by Charles D. Etnyre early owner of the Ogle County Abstract Office. This instrument is an example of the first abstracts generated after the land survey and reflects one hundred forty years of changing ownership and multiple use by persons who played significant roles in the development of the town.

"I have come back again to where I belong; not an enchanted place, but the walls are strong." (Dorothy Rath.)

The first deed recorded on September 4, 1849 was to Christian Lehman. He is listed in the first census of 1847

as having a household of six and during the first town election March 21, 1870, was elected one of four aldermen with James V. Gale as mayor. In 1852, Lehman sold this site to J. H. Green who died that same year leaving his widow Elizabeth Ann and at least two children, Emmet C. and Miss Frank. Under the influence of English Law at that time, Mrs. Green as a woman could not solely own property, so that ownership passed to son Emmet and later son-in-law Finley J. Roat who married Miss Frank Green on June 29, 1870.

The next historical name to enter this scenario was James H. Cartwright who purchased Lots 5 and 6 in 1874 as a result of a tax sale and paid \$27.07. The sale did not become final however, as a judgment was recorded in the Ogle County Circuit Court in 1875 by Jacob J. Buser against Finley J. Roat and Jonas Seyster (reason unknown). After twenty-four years the property passed onward to R. C. Burchell in 1876. Burchell (*a lawyer—see p. 500 of 1878 History of Ogle County*) is reported as having owned and operated an early drugstore in which he also maintained the first library. Subsequent owners were Peter Hastings, Frederick March, and Cloe J. Benedict Cartwright about 1889.

Chloe was a symbol of the pioneer woman in Ogle County having ridden horseback from Ohio to LaFayette Grove in the fall of 1835. The next spring she began teaching at Prairie Star School until her marriage in 1839 to Barton H. Cartwright. Barton was already riding the Northern Illinois Territory as a Methodist circuit rider and had preached as early as 1835 in Oregon.

The Cartwrights then went West to Iowa and elsewhere continuing the spread of Methodism by way of horseback. Perhaps this is a clue to the intense interest in this animal displayed by their son James H. who was born during this religious circuit. Indeed his name became almost synonymous with the racing circuit in later years and horse racing in Ogle County has been a religion unto itself as many local persons will still agree.

As the years passed for the sturdy house on Third Street, it was again sold by Fannie L. Weaver, widow of Phineas, to Judge William J. Emerson, who served as

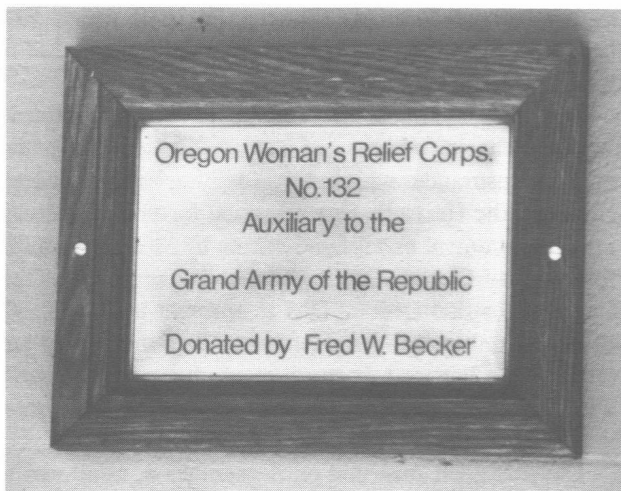
States Attorney, 1908-1920 and on the judicial bench from 1921-1936.

This was followed by a sale to the Auxillary to the Grand Army of the Republic known in later years as Womens Relief Corp. The house opened its doors as a meeting place, precinct polling place for the deeply ingrained Republicans of Oregon, a community house for receptions and a place to learn the news.

Captain Charles T. Marsh, avid participant and defender of the Grand Army of the Republic, was posthumously honored by his second wife Lucy who had a flag pole and flag established to commemorate his patriotism. This flag was later placed in the care of Ruby Nash, educator of scores of Oregon citizens for nearly half a century as well as preservationist of much of the town's history. In this instance, the Hartsell's are in possession of a letter from Miss Nash to the Womens Relief Corp conveying care and ownership of the Marsh Flag that was subsequently used in many ceremonies of honor. She also related her personal approval on the act of purchase by the Relief Corp Women:

“You have done an outstanding thing to buy a ‘Home’ as a center for patriotic observances. There is no authority remaining to direct the disposal of the Marsh Flag but it is the flag of all of us and I know you will be true to the trust.”

Thus the flag was used for many years and like the Oregon Relief Corp No. 132 has passed into memory. Instead persistent spirits are reported to live on as evidenced by their gentle reappearances. Recollecting that widows and judges have called this their home, it is not surprising that footsteps have been heard steadily pacing the narrow hardwood floors from the east dining room westward to the study where bookshelves still line a wall. At times the steps have sounded somewhat agitated as though perhaps a difficult legal decision were being formulated. Also reported in the low ceilinged upstairs hallway has been the appearance of an elderly female figure dressed in long, old fashioned black dress who looks curiously in bedroom doorways, then disappears into the darkness. It is significant that none of these



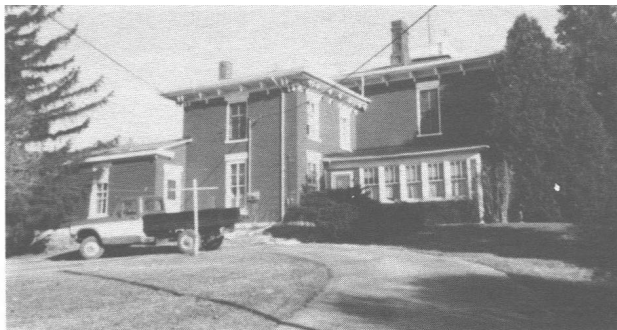
Oregon's Second School
It was the Charles Gilbert Residence before becoming the Golden Rule Home, a home for older Church of God of Abrahamic Faith members who needed care. It was then used as a girls' dormitory for Oregon Bible College girls. It is now the offices and class rooms for the Oregon Bible College. (Photo by Donna Kennedy).

occurrences have been unfriendly in nature and perhaps they too “have come back again, where the walls are strong.” Let us then assume their approval of the restoration efforts and survival of this house as it takes its place in the ongoing history of Oregon.

Compiled and written by Mrs. Joseph (Beth Baker) Simeone



This home on the East bluff of Rock River South of the Oregon Country Club was built by Lambertus Warmolts Sr., father of Dr. Lambertus Warmolts. It was his residence for many years. When Mr. Warmolts retired and moved to Jacksonville, Florida it became the property of his son Dr. Lambertus Warmolts who converted it into a hospital. (This was Oregon's first hospital), present owner is Dr. Lambertus Warmolts. (Gretchen Warmolts Photo)



Present day—south side.

100 S. 10th St.

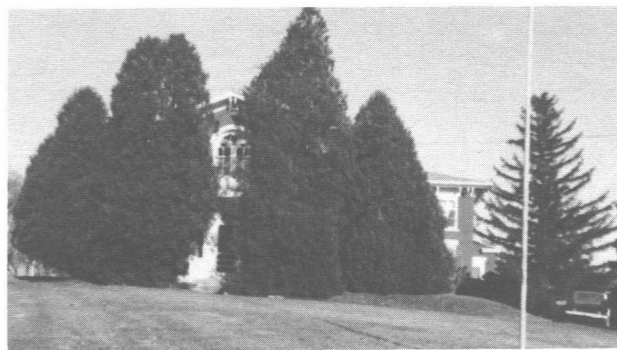
Lawyer H. A. Mix built it in the 1850's.

Left it to his daughter who married one of the Barbers from Polo. She sold it to Clyde G. Koontz in 1924. It is still owned by his wife Amber.

Mix's daughter's wedding ceremony was in front of the marble fireplace in the northeast living room.

According to the *H. A. Mix Life* story, Abraham Lincoln was to have dined here; during his visit in 1856. One picture shows the wrap-around porches which were removed and a sun parlor was built by the Koontzs. Landscaping was done by Thomas Seyster, son of J. C. Seyster the lawyer.

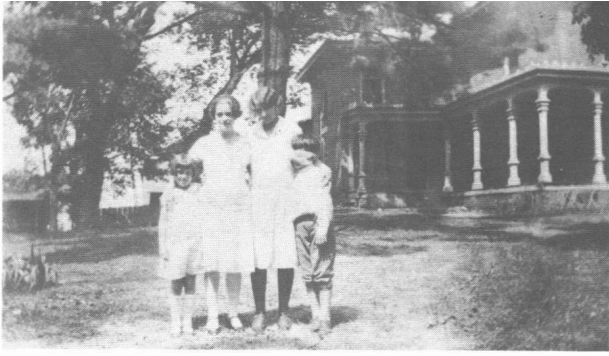
For this house to be on The National Registry the trees would need to be removed and also the sun parlor so that the porches could be rebuilt with the lattice under the porch floor and the back porches would need to be opened up. (Photos by Donna Kennedy). (Older pictures courtesy of Viola Koontz Myers).



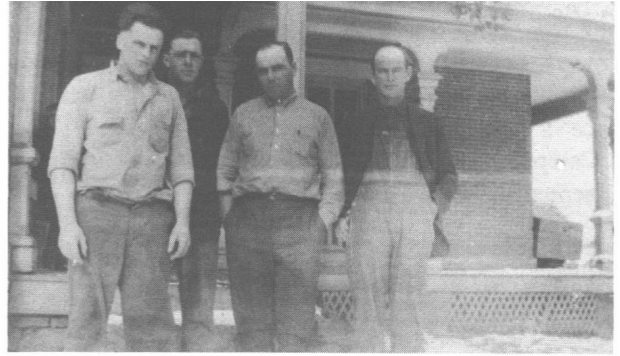
Present day—front.



This shows the front of the Koontz house right after the porches were torn off and it had been landscaped by Thomas Seyster. In the foreground on the right is Richard Mongan and on the left Richard Bloom from Hagerstown, Maryland. (Picture courtesy of Charles Mongan)



This shows the original wrap-around porches which were covered with tin and had lattice work below the porch floor. This Mix-Barber-Koontz home is located at the west end of Washington Street. Pictured are left to right—Shirley Weber, Vivian Weber, Amber Koontz and Charles Koontz. This was around 1928. (Picture courtesy of Viola Koontz Myers)



This picture shows members of a road crew that was building highway Route 2 in 1924. They were boarders at the Koontz home. According to James (Jim) Patrick, his father, Grayden Patrick, came to town to work on Route 2 and stayed. The grading on Route 2 was done by McCarthy Construction of Clinton, Iowa. (Picture courtesy of Viola Koontz Myers)



Elmyr A. Laughlin Home

Mr. Laughlin came to Oregon at the turn of the century, purchased 300 acres in Rockvale Township and built this large home on the bank of Rock River across from where the Black Hawk statue now stands. Mr. Laughlin also built a creamery and a silo, which is now part of the Silo Restaurant, and a tenant house for his herdsman. After Mr. Laughlin's death it became Mrs. Laughlin's property, who then married Harry Spoor. Mrs. Spoor sold the home and the land on the east side of Highway #2 to The Oregon Bible College. The College sold the property to John Maxson, Sr. who started Maxson Manor Restaurant. After Mr. Maxson's passing the Manor was sold to Mr. Robert Ritzenthaler who sold it to Peter and John Tsiolles who sold a portion of the land to The Stillman Valley Bank, retaining the Steak Pit for themselves, and then sold the Manor and a large part of the land to Rose Jones, who operates the restaurant as Maxson Manor at the present time. (Picture by John Remour)



South view of Pine Hill. Built for William Judd Mix in 1874. Mr. Mix had a business in Oregon, also a commodity firm in Chicago. Owners of the house have been Mix, Kaler, Seyster, Lytle, Louzon, and the sixth and present owners are George and Lois Fischer. Mr. Kaler's only daughter became the wife of Judd Andrews only son, Glenn. (Comments by C. W. Mongan, Sr.) (Photo by Donna Kennedy)



Pine Hill—400 Mix Street (View from the east)

Builder and Architect was William Judd Mix, Jr. Land purchased in 1872. Construction began in the fall of 1873. He moved into the home in 1874 when he was 51 years of age. Other owners of this property have been Mr. Joseph Kailer, a hardware salesman, Calvin Seyster, an attorney, Thomas B. Seyster, Stewart Lytle and Fred Louzon, both Culligan dealers. Present owners are George and Lois Fischer. This home is registered in the National Register of Historic Places. (Photos by Donna Kennedy)

Rose Window in foyer. Wallpaper is called applique process (French) done in three layers—base, horizon and trees. Done by Mr. Seyster in 1919. Paper came from Paris. Covers foyer, hallway on second floor.

Etched glass in front door. Machined brass hinges in front door are all original.

All plastered cornices. Plastered detail above light fixtures.

Seven fireplaces in the home. In music room is white marble, living room is white marble. Fireplace also in Music Room, and Living Room.

Dining Room ceiling detail is beautiful.

Upstairs hall shows wallpaper and detailed wooden arch.

Guest Room. Old closets became bathroom so clothes cupboards were built. Twin beds in room. Fireplace now plugged but workable.

Master Bedroom. Closets each side of door and hopefully pix shows wallpaper in hall.

Front Bedroom. Old lavatory in bathroom. Big cannonball four-poster bed. White marble fireplace.

Mix worked twenty years as a merchant making between \$5,000 and \$10,000 per year. After 20 years he had almost a quarter million dollars. Construction people

only made \$1 per day. Mr. Mix was also in the commodity market. When Mr. Mix decided to build a home he went to Chicago and went to a specialty shop that had prints of homes. He bought the print and went to local contractors and asked to have one built.

The Fischers regularly entertain 150 people for parties in their home today.

Seventy-three-foot porch oriented on south side of home. This type of architecture normally is “L” shaped or square. This home however, is a “T” shape design. This is the major architectural significance of the home.

Woodwork is all cherry wood. Walls are three bricks thick. Solid all the way through.

In 1972 a team of architects came through Ogle County doing an Illinois Historical Structure Survey. It was prepared for the Department of Conservation who handle registry of historical properties. They report to the U.S. Department of the Interior. Nineteen residences and or properties in Illinois are eligible. Our Ogle County courthouse is one of them.

The present value of the home is in the heart of its owners and to those of us who appreciate the workmanship.

Excerpts from article written by Mari Jan Vested in January, 1979.

The post Civil War red brick mansion on Pine Hill has looked down on the river town of Oregon, Ill., since 1874, while its new owners have succeeded in having it listed on the National Register of Historic Homes and are continually working to restore it to its original beauty.

When you enter through the tall carved doors with the intricately designed hinges, there's a feeling of welcome and warm hospitality . . . also a tenderness and impression of love between the middle-aged couple who now call it home.

There are 18 rooms, 75 windows (with most of them more than 90 inches tall) a cellar with many rooms to explore and seven fireplaces, all workable.

There's 4,000 square feet of living space and strategically placed buttons under the gold carpeting to summon servants from the commodious kitchen.

“There's no one to summon these days,” Lois Fischer laughs. “Every now and then we step on a button and jump in alarm when the buzzer sounds.”

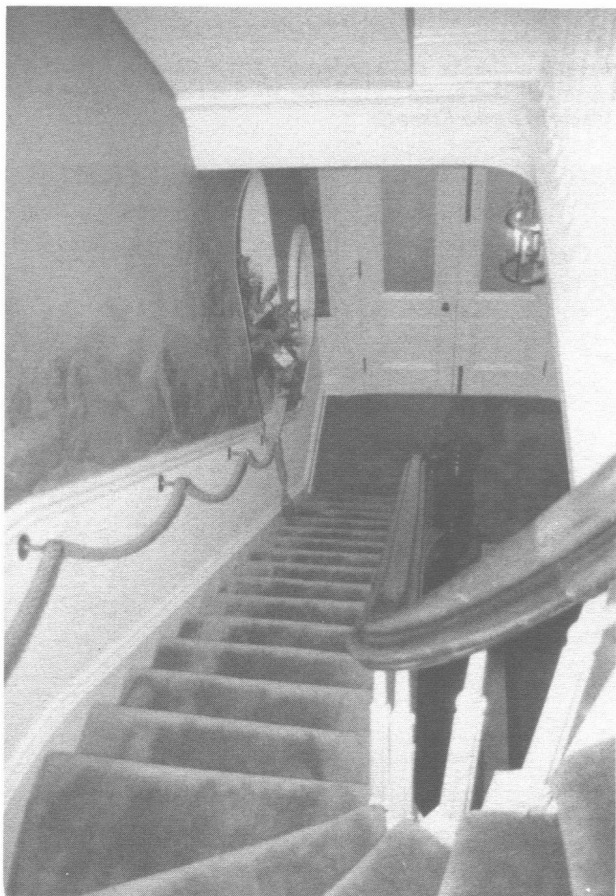
The Fischers bought the house just four days after Lois first saw it in August, 1976.

George was practical enough to know there was work to be done on the house, even a new sewer had to be put in. Still, it was a dream house and it could be theirs.

Fischer has done extensive research on the economic lifestyle of the period.

He said that Midwesterners in the 1874 period, when the house was built, were usually second generation, well-to-do merchants.

A few decades earlier, 1840-50, the monied people



Looking down the stairway, notice the entrance and the round window on the left from which can be seen part of the north lawn and some of the beautiful White Pines. Thus the name Pine Hill. (Comments by C. W. Mongan, Sr.) (Photo by Donna Kennedy)