

Walworth Historical Society Newsletter

Volume 41 Number 5 May 2017

[Walworth Museum: 2257 Academy Street, P.O. Box 142, Walworth, NY 14568](#)
[WHS Website: www.walworthhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.walworthhistoricalsociety.org)

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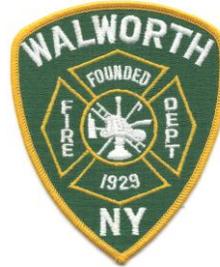
Jim Drew to Receive Community Service Award

By Dorothy French



Jim Drew has been a member of the Walworth Fire Department and the Walworth Lions Club for 45 years with each organization. He has served in many capacities, unselfishly giving his time and talents to our community. Jim is always ready to help wherever needed – as a fire district commissioner, ambulance EMT and driver, Lions Club photographer, or treasurer for the Walworth Seniors.

Because of his numerous contributions, the Walworth Historical Society will present Jim with the Community Service Award at our annual meeting on Monday, May 15. The event begins at 6:15 PM at the Lodge at Ginegaw Park with a pot-luck supper. WHS will provide the ham, rolls, and beverages; attendees should bring their place settings and a dish to pass. The meeting will begin at 7:00 PM and will include nomination and election of officers and presentation of the award. The Class of 1947 from Walworth High School will be recognized in story and picture. If you have anything from 1947 to show, please bring it to the meeting.



We Serve

Our Collection Continues to Grow

By Jessie Keymel

Thanks to Jean Susser our collection of memorabilia from Walworth High School continues to grow. She has donated a high school cap, a yearbook from 1943, typed memories from her junior and senior years and a class-night program. Walworth High School was a busy place during the 1940's.

Often gifts to our museum stimulate more questions to be researched, as in the case of a gift of two medals from Leon Seen. The medals were presented to his maternal grandfather, Leon D. Slade. The Slade family lived in the Huddle for generations and are buried in the Sherburne Road Cemetery. We also received a baby spoon and two other items. Do you remember when babies received a spoon when they were born?

Dues Are Due – Look for a Red Dot on Your Address Label

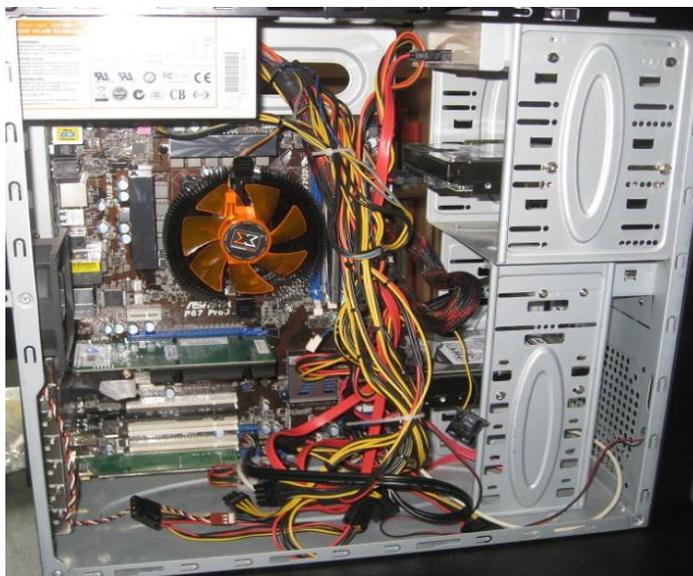
By Mary Jane Devlin

The Walworth Historical Society operates on a May 1 to April 30 fiscal year. Your membership dues are due May 1 unless you are a Life Member or have paid in advance. There is a red dot on your address label if you owe dues as of May 1. Members who receive their newsletter by e-mail will receive an electronic notice. If you have questions about when your membership expires, please contact the treasurer at 315-986-1512 or check your membership card.

There are several categories of membership in WHS: Student \$5, Individual \$10, Joint or Family \$15, Supporter \$25, Sponsor \$50, Patron \$100, Life \$150, and Corporate/Business \$75. By choosing to join at a higher level of membership, you will enable us to continue to expand our program presentations and add to our collection of historical items, as well as restore and preserve the items that are already in our collection.

Please pay dues at the annual meeting in May or send your check to the Walworth Historical Society at the address listed on the front of this newsletter. We look forward to seeing you at a meeting or at the museum in the near future. Thank you for your continued support.

Our Museum Computer....."It's Alive!!!" By Bob Mogray



In case you have never seen the inside of a computer, the above photo shows the wires and items that must be disassembled in order to replace components.

Well, once again our museum computer is alive and well after some major surgery by Michael Mogray. It was down for the count for a few weeks but now it is operating the way it should. For no apparent reason, it had stopped working. It would not even boot up. Upon investigation it was found that at least the power supply was bad and had to be replaced. This was taken care of but there were still problems. Michael tore the computer apart and replaced the mother board and all associated hardware. This was exactly what was needed to get things running again. New software for this motherboard was also installed.

A surge protector and its software were also installed. This new item will run automatically. In the case of a power surge, this will intercept it and protect the computer. Also, in the unlikely event that someone is using the computer and the power goes down, it will keep the computer running until that person can save their information and properly shut off the computer. If the computer is running and nobody is there, it will automatically properly shut down the computer and then turn it off.

Our computer is a valuable tool for the operation of the museum. Most of our files, documents and photos are stored here for our members to use. Thousands of photos are located in folders and more are being added every month. Many of the shows at our meetings use pictures and documents from our computer. It's hard to imagine a better way to store information.

The Barmaster Family By Richard "Terry" Busch and Mary Jane Devlin

In our November 2016 newsletter we featured the Barmaster homestead on Jacobs Road in Lincoln. At that time we said we would tell more about the family in a later newsletter.



The two adults in the photo are William Frederick Barmaster and his wife, Mary Johanna Fredericka Oldenburg Barmaster. William Frederick was born in the United States in 1879 and died of leukemia in December 1936. His father, Frederich Burmeister, (1822-1887) and mother, Hannah Schuknecht, (1849-1910) emigrated to the United States from one of the German states at some undetermined date. Frederich Burmeister kept this spelling of his surname because that's the way he is identified on his gravestone in Smith Cemetery on Gloria Drive in the Town of Penfield, New York. Somewhere along the line, however, the surname was Anglicized to Barmaster because Frederich Burmeister's wife, Hannah, is identified on her gravestone, in the same cemetery, as Hannah Barmaster. Their children took the Barmaster surname.

Mary Johanna Oldenburg was 17 months old when she emigrated to the United States with her parents, Henry August Oldenburg (1860-1917) and Fredericka Wackrow Oldenburg (1861-1932), from the German Duchy of Mecklenburg-Schwerin. They arrived in New York City on November 1, 1884, along with 360 other passengers from the German states. William Frederick Barmaster and Mary Johanna Oldenburg were married in the Bethlehem Lutheran Church in the hamlet of Roseland on September 21, 1904.

(continued on next page.....)



This photo of William Frederick and Mary Barmaster and their children was likely taken at the Barmaster farm on Jacobs Road, which at the time had a mailing address of Lincoln, New York. The property, in the Town of Walworth, now carries the address 434 Jacobs Road, Macedon, New York. William Frederick's parents had purchased the 22-acre property in January 1875 from William and Alzina Holdridge for \$1,025, and the Frederick Burmeister/Barmaster family lived there in a log cabin, according to family lore. The same lore suggests that the cabin was located on the approximate Jacobs Road site of the present home of Ronald "Ron" and Wendy Forman, a grandson of William Frederick and Mary Barmaster.

As a youth, William Frederick Barmaster left school after the fourth grade because he had to help support his mother after his father's death. He learned to be a carpenter, and he used that skill to build the present day house at the 434 Jacobs Road address. The family believes that a smaller version of the present structure was ready for his bride in September 1904. Together, the Barmasters and their children worked this rich muck land raising annual crops of carrots, potatoes, celery, sweet corn, squash, pickles and other crops, including hay, wheat, and corn for their horse and cow. There were also fruit trees on the property. William Frederick built the substantial barn that still stands opposite the farmhouse today. There was an outside well, and of course, an outhouse, but not near the well!

The Barmaster children in this photograph attended the Clemens School on the southwest corner of County Line Road and the original route of Atlantic Avenue. That one-room building was renovated into a single family home many years ago. After William Frederick died in 1936, Mary Barmaster, with all but one of her children grown, remained on the farm and rented the land to nearby farmers. During the mid-1940's, Mary sold the farm to her daughter, Helen Barmaster Forman, and her husband, Clint. Mary lived with them until her death at 99 in 1982.

Many of their descendants settled in the area. The original home is owned by Ron Forman and his family. Ron works for the Walworth Highway Department. William married Helen Copeland and bought a house on Bills Road. That property is now owned by William's and Helen's grandson Wally Wyse. Hazel married William Busch and settled on Sweet's Corners Road. Two of their three children still live in the area. Howard settled in the Macedon area.



Jacobs Road Barmaster home 1920



The former home of William Barmaster on Bills Road

Need Info About WWI

By Gene Bavis

The Walworth Historical Society seems to be lacking information about World War I. This year is the centennial of our entrance into the war, so we would like to learn more about those people from Walworth who participated in the war in any way, but especially those who served in the military. Pictures, diaries, letters, or other information would be greatly appreciated. If you have information about anything related to World War I and Walworth, please contact me at [315-573-2768](tel:315-573-2768) or gbavis@rochester.rr.com.



Gerry Keymel Whitmire was born on March 11, 1931. She just celebrated her 86th birthday. Her parents were John and Edith Keymel. Gerry, along with her siblings, was born in the house they lived in located on Walworth-Ontario Road in Walworth. A midwife named Jessie Billings was the baby catcher for Gerry and all of her siblings. Gerry has five siblings: Eleanor, Martha, Jeannette, John and Roger. Eleanor, being the oldest, acted like the mom at times.

Her dad worked as a crop farmer harvesting many vegetables and fruits. Potatoes, onions, carrots and lettuce were planted in the muck land; the tomatoes were planted in the upland. He also harvested fruit such as apples, sour cherries and berries. Gerry's parents owned property on both the west and east sides of Walworth-Ontario Road. On the west side was the family house and farm and on the east side was their tenant house and farm. Her mom was a great helper to her dad; whenever he needed a part for the farm equipment she would go and get it. Gerry's mom also helped on the farm and canned the products of their harvest each year. Along with raising their six children, she would also babysit other children.

Gerry remembers going to school at the Walworth Academy and doing chores each day after school. The first mower she used was the roller type which was hard to push. She loved it when they got a powered push mower. When helping in the tomato garden, she used to carry a salt shaker in her pocket, so when she would spy a ripe tomato out came the shaker and Gerry would eat the tomato. She says they were so good tasting that way.

Gerry remembers a play house they had that she and her sisters used to play in with their dolls and also make mud pies. Gerry loves dolls to this day. There were many animals on the farm such as horses, cows, pigs, goats and chickens. Gerry's dad would go into town and purchase little baby chicks, bringing them home in a big box. After the chickens were big enough, they would become a Sunday dinner. Gerry's mom was the one who would chop off the chicken's head and hang it upside down on the clothesline to get ready for the feast.

She remembers her mom being very kind hearted and hospitable. On Sundays the family would go to church and then have their dinner; there always was room for another person at their table. Christmas was different when growing up than it is today, Gerry recalls. She remembers always receiving a box of hard candy from church and an orange on Christmas Day. In the wintertime she would sled downhill at Bernie Porray's farm. She remembers there being lots and lots of snow when she was younger. The roads could be shut down for days until they would hear the Linn coming down the road to open it again.

Gerry attended Walworth High School, graduating in 1948. While in school, she played the flute in the marching band and performed in plays. Her good friends while growing up were Ruth VanHaneghem, Phyllis Dayton and Thelma Hoffman. They would attend dances in Walworth. After graduation, Gerry worked at Kodak operating the printers. Later she went on to work at the Country Patch and Ames Department Store.



In 1950 a new family moved into Gerry's parents' tenant house. Their son, Grant Whitmire, had just finished four years of service and one year of college. He and Gerry became friends and eventually married in 1953 at the Walworth Methodist Church. Gerry and Grant lived in the tenant house while Grant was building their family home a little farther up on Walworth-Ontario Road. They moved into the newly-built house in 1961. They have five children: Andrea, Marsha, Terri, Mark and Patty. They have 13 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren with 3 on the way. Grant worked at Xerox for many years and retired at the age of 62. Sadly Grant passed away in 2006. They were members of the Walworth Methodist Church for many years and parented several foster children.

She believes that the gift of being motherly came from her mom. Gerry moved to Ontario after Grant's passing. She attends North Ontario United Methodist Church. Gerry knits and crochets prayer shawls. She says it's her ministry and loves giving to others in need. Her best memory of living in Walworth is the neighborhood feeling, knowing others and feeling like a sense of family.

Walworth United Methodist Church Listed on National Register of Historic Places By Gene Bavis



This is the FIRST structure in the Town of Walworth to apply for and be accepted (on 3/27/17) to the National Register of Historic Places. Because we previously had NONE, we invited Cynthia Howk from the Landmark Society of Western New York to speak about the program on October 20, 2014, at the Walworth United Methodist Church. Pastor Jacque Ruth, Jessie Keymel, and others saw the benefits of being listed and they prepared the required and very detailed application.

SO, what is this? The National Register of Historic Places was established by the Preservation Act of 1966 as a reaction to all of the Urban Renewal programs of that era. Thousands of historic structures had been demolished and historians were horrified. The National Register is a listing by the National Park Service of historic properties (50 or more years old) that have been recognized as “significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, or culture.” I could give you a LOT more description, but I’ll give a reference instead: <https://www.nps.gov/nr/> For those who don’t have access to the internet and want more, please contact me and we can mail you information.

What are the benefits? First, It’s an HONOR to be listed, and it raises community awareness that THIS PROPERTY is significant to our local history and culture. Secondly, there are some economic benefits. The church is now eligible to apply for Sacred Site grants. There may be other grants available as well. Sadly (or not), there is not much protection from being listed. Some people think that you can’t tear down or alter a structure if it’s listed, but that’s not true. Again, it’s complicated and I won’t bore you with details, but they are available.

Congratulations to the team who put this application together and to the members of the Walworth United Methodist Church. I hope we can get more of our historic structures listed.

2017 Events Calendar

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Subject</u>	<u>Location</u>
Mon., May 15	6:15 PM	Annual meeting, pot luck supper, election of officers, Community Service Award, program	Lodge at Ginegaw Park
Tues., July 18	6:30 PM	Decorate float for Festival in the Park parade	Keymel’s
Fri., July 21	7:00 PM	Festival in the Park parade and booth	Main St./Park
Sat., July 22	3-9 PM	Festival in the Park booth	Ginegaw Park
Mon., Sept. 18	7:30 PM	General meeting: Program - “World War I” by Mike Harland	Museum
Sun., Oct. 8	2-4 PM	Open House. Path Through History Weekend	Museum
Mon., Nov. 20	1:00 PM	General meeting: Program - “Celebrating the Grange”	Museum

Shopping Via a Catalog (and It’s Other Use) By Dorothy French

It wasn’t that long ago when shopping via a Montgomery Ward, Sears, or other catalog was the norm for people who couldn’t easily get to a store. At our April 2 Walworth Memories program, we were reminded that the outdated catalogs served a second purpose when they were relocated to the outhouse. This story was one of many shared by attendees who reminisced about their shopping experiences and the stores which have disappeared from our local landscape. They shared first-hand experience of bringing a list to the grocery store, where the grocer would get the items on the list and add the total amount due on the side of a paper bag. Oh, the “Good Old Days!”

Museum Summer Hours – Volunteers Needed By Jessie Keymel

Just a little reminder - bring your appointment calendar to the May 15 annual meeting (see story page 1 of this newsletter). Judy McMillan (315-524-4219) and Becky Appleman (315-524-3289) will have a sign-up sheet with the summer schedule for sitting at the museum. Thanks to your commitment we are able to have 72 hours open to the public on Sunday and Wednesday afternoons 2 - 4 PM from June through September. Appointments for visits can also be scheduled by calling Jessie Keymel at 315-524-9205.

What a Show It Was! By Bob Mogray

Thanks to the WHS members and guests for making the "Fashion Tour Through History" a huge success. There was an excellent turnout for this event which was held after the March 20 meeting at our museum. President Jessie Keymel "stole" the show as she demonstrated much of the clothing in our storage area that has accumulated from donations over many years. Vintage formal wear, wedding attire, casual clothing and children's items were not only shown but the stories behind many of these things were shared with the attendees. Some of the people at this meeting also shared stories and several brought items with them for all to see. In the left photo below is Lucy, the 5-year-old granddaughter of WHS secretary Judy McMillan. She is shown with two dolls who are wearing baby clothing from the past. The picture on the right shows Jessie ending the fashion show by modeling a stylish cape and being assisted by WHS treasurer Mary Jane Devlin. We wish to thank everyone for their support for this successful event.



Left photo: Judy and Larry McMillan's granddaughter Lucy

Right photo: Jessie and Mary Jane at show's end

President's Message By Jessie Keymel

On March 7, Bob Mogray and I attended the Walworth Lions Club monthly meeting to bring a history program to them. Armed with the museum's projector and a selection of Bob's many slides, we presented pictures of scenes from Walworth's past and present. Then, just for fun, we ended up with some trivia slides. We were there during their business meeting; it was evident that Walworth's best interests are a priority. They are busily planning the July 21st and 22nd Festival in the Park and are working on another project for Ginegaw Park. Thank you, Lions Club members, for all you do in our community. On May 13 we will be sharing a program of slides and stories with the Lincoln Grange - another fun evening. Look for this story in our July newsletter.

Please Visit Our Website By Gene Bavis

The Walworth Historical Society has had a website for several years, but until just recently, we had to rely on someone else to update it for us. About a year ago, with the help of a grant from the Hoffman Foundation and the expertise of Seth Burgess, we were able to convert the old website to a new format that could be upgraded by WHS volunteers, Gene Bavis and Bob Mogray.

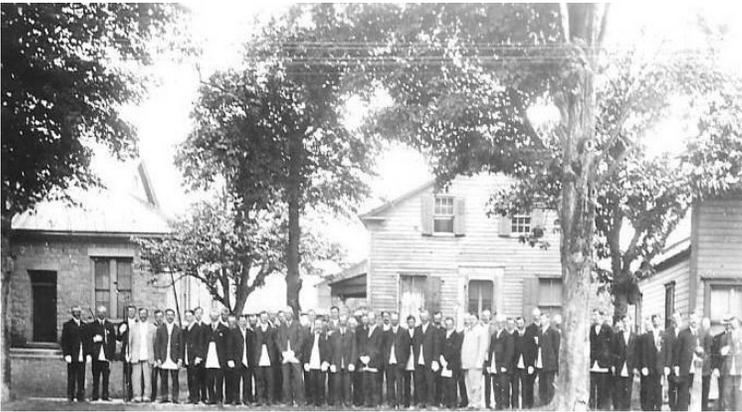
Along the top of the Home page are pull down menus. Beneath each category, you will find information related to the menu topic. Highlights of our website include WHS newsletters from 2006 to 2016 and lots of photos from the past and present. We have basic information about our organization as well and links to other websites.

Along the left side is the "Blog" section divided into 3 sections: Programs, Information and Past Programs. The blogs are current information that we'd like to share with our members and friends. **Programs** = upcoming events that we'd like to invite you to enjoy. **Information** = "Stuff" we'd like you to know. **Past Programs** = as the name implies. The website address (url) is www.walworthhistoricalsociety.org

The website should be useful to YOU, our members and the general public who want to learn more about the WHS and/or our history. Your comments and suggestions are always welcome. If you use a computer, PLEASE visit the website as often as you can.

Editor's Note: This is the 7th in a series of stories spotlighting the businesses and homes on Main Street. The tour begins on the west side of the four corners and travels south.

Our March 2017 issue featured Masonic Lodge #254 and other businesses previously located at 3697 Main Street. A small store and house were located south of the Lodge and were demolished in 1968 to make room for a parking lot and a new Lodge. According to a "History of Walworth Masonic Lodge #254 F&AM 1852-2001" compiled by Howard Bassage, the store and house had been donated to the Lodge by Mrs. Clifford (Emily) Huntley. The house and store had previously been owned by DeWitt Tuttle, Emily's father.



The earliest photographic history we have of the site is a 1908 picture taken to celebrate a gathering of the Masons, a fraternal organization. Shown at the left is the north wing of the Second Baptist Church of Walworth. A house is pictured in the center of the photo and a portion of a store is shown above.

1923 post card from our museum files shows the little store and the Masonic Temple.



The "Little Store": That is how Gordon Youngman remembers the building where he and his wife Katie operated their ice cream and candy business from 1949 - 1950. A meat market was one of the earliest businesses to occupy that site. In the 1930's Ray Pembroke and later Joe Finley operated grocery stores. In the early 1950's there was a gift shop (Alice Schultz) and later a shoe store (Betty Schenk). Other businesses and their owners include an antique shop (Elton May), a jewelry and gift shop (Wilbur Reybrouck), and a shoe store (Bill Youngman). According to information shared at our April 2006 Walworth Memories program, the building also had been a pool hall in the early 1920's.

Richard Roland identified the meat cutters as his grandfather, Winfield Bavis, (left) and Carmen Reynolds (right) working next to the hanging carcasses. Richard said Gordon Youngman told him a meat locker was located in the back of the store. Ice from the mill pond was used to keep the meat cold; sawdust covered the ice to retain the cold.

(continued on next page.....)



Truck ready to collect debris from the house.



Small House: Some of the people who lived there were Charles and Kay Coomber, Gordon and Katie Youngman (1949), Harold and Helen Schultz (1951-1952), Ernest and Marge Grace, and Bill and Elsie Weaver (last persons to live there).

A huge demolition project took place in 1968, resulting in the destruction of the Masonic Lodge, the little store, and the small house. These photos are from Gordon Youngman's immense picture collection.

Above photo left to right - Norm Kirkpatrick, Wally Joslin, and Don Huntley (behind Wally). Note the demolition dust from the house.

**Next building to be featured:
#3689 Main Street: The Second Baptist Church of
Walworth**

If you have information about this building, contact Dorothy French at 315-986-1098. We are always looking to update our museum files about people and places in the Walworth area.

<u>Officers, Trustees, and Committee Chairs</u>		
<u>Officers and Trustees</u>		<u>Committees and Chairpersons</u>
President	Jessie Keymel (315) 524 - 9205	Bldg. Maint. Stan Weller (585) 545 - 9434
Vice-President	Robert Mogray (585) 576 - 4156	Collections Jessie Keymel (315) 524 - 9205
Secretary	Judy McMillan (315) 524 - 4219	Genealogy Ellen Dietterick (585) 200 - 4685
Treasurer	Mary Jane Devlin (315) 986 - 1512	Grounds Judy McMillan (315) 524 - 4219
WHS Trustee	Becky Appleman (315) 524 - 3289	Grounds Becky Appleman (315) 524 - 3289
WHS Trustee	Gene Bavis (315) 573 - 2768	Hospitality Liz Bavis (585) 802 - 0380
WHS Trustee	Dorothy French (315) 986 - 1098	Hospitality Marlene Slocum (585) 289 - 7080
WHS Trustee	Linda Pembroke (585) 455 - 7595	Newsletter Bob Mogray (585) 576 - 4156
WHS Trustee	Larry Ruth (315) 524 - 7936	Publicity Dawn Russell (315) 576 - 0857
WHS Trustee	Marlene Slocum (585) 289 - 7080	Town Historian Gene Bavis (315) 573 - 2768

Mission Statement: The Walworth Historical Society is a volunteer organization established in 1975. Our chartered purpose is to collect, preserve, and display items and artifacts of historical interest and importance to the Town of Walworth and its environs. We are a not-for-profit organization with 501(C)(3) status; donations are tax deductible.

<u>Level of Membership</u>	
___ Student	\$ 5.00
___ Individual	\$ 10.00
___ Family	\$ 15.00
___ Supporter	\$ 25.00
___ Sponsor	\$ 50.00
___ Patron	\$ 100.00
___ Life Member	\$ 150.00
___ Corp./Business	\$ 75.00

I am interested in making a tax deductible donation of \$ _____,
 I am interested in making a tax deductible donation of \$ _____ in
 memory of _____.
 I am interested in joining and have checked the membership level.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City/Town/Zip: _____ Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Make your check payable to: Walworth Historical Society, and mail it to P.O. Box 142, Walworth, NY 14568. *Thank you!*

May 2017 WHS e-mail Newsletter Bonus Photos

All photos on this page are from the WHS fashion show. See article on page 6 of this newsletter.



All photos on this page are of defunct stores in our shopping area. They were discussed in the "Memories" meeting. See page 5 of this newsletter for the article.

