

A Tour of Main Street/Walworth-Palmyra Road

By Dorothy French

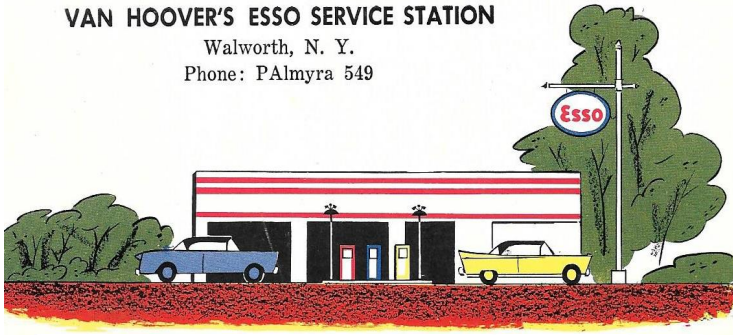
Editor's Note: This is the first in a series of stories spotlighting the businesses and homes on Main Street and Walworth-Palmyra Road. We begin at the four corners with the buildings on the west side and travel south.

3719 Main Street

The property at the southwest corner of Penfield-Walworth and Walworth-Palmyra Roads has seen several uses. In the 1940's it was a vacant lot used as a park where band concerts were held.

VAN HOOVER'S ESSO SERVICE STATION

Walworth, N. Y.
Phone: PALmyra 549



In 1948 Stanley VanHoover purchased the property and built a gas station which contained an office and car repair bay and had one Esso gas pump. A second car repair bay was added sometime later. Warren Bell worked part-time evenings and weekends for Stanley. When Stanley left in 1958 he leased the building to Radley Oil Company of Marion. Warren rented the building from Radley for two years as a City Service gas station.



The station's name was changed to Sinclair when Warren and Betty Bell purchased it in 1960. Warren commented they had to buy two inches of land from Walworth Grange for the lot to be 0.11 acres. The Bells added a storeroom to the north, raised the roof to the south, and added the large window. Later they sold Exxon gasoline.

(left photo circa 1960's. Note public telephone booth at left side of photo.)



Now in their 90's Warren and Betty **(right)** reminisce about the many long hours working at the service station **(far left)**. Betty said when fire calls were received on the station's phone she would then hurry around the corner and activate the siren at the fire hall on Penfield-Walworth Road. The Bells sold the property in 1984 to Albert Schreiber who operated it as a repair shop and gas station. The property was sold to David Villa in August 1991; he rented it to someone who operated a Volkswagen/foreign car repair shop. In May 2009 Michael DeMareo purchased it but later bought the property at the northeast corner for his business. August 2011 Lo Re Raimondo sold it to Salvatore Fantauzzo of 1720 Culver Road LLC, Rochester. Salvatore's Pizzeria has remodeled the building **(middle)**, retaining much of the gas station ambience.

Next building to be featured: The Pacific Hotel/Grange Hall/American Pool Supply.

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.