

A Tour of Main Street: #3698 – Wick’s Hardware- Part 3

By Gordon Youngman and Aaron Fernaays

Editor’s Note: The east-side tour of Main Street continues from our March 2018 issue which featured Part 2 - the building at #3698 Main Street owned by the K.O.T.M. (Knights of the Maccabees). Part 3 includes the first-floor store operated by Jack Wick. We are grateful to Gordon and his grandson, Aaron, for sharing their memories of this building and for the time they spent researching and documenting this information.

Wick’s Hardware

Charles and Vivian Buckley operated a general store on the first floor of the Knights of the Maccabees building since the early 1940’s. Charles passed away in 1944 and Vivian purchased the building from the K.O.T.M. in June 1945. Vivian and their daughter Jean continued with the business until 1948, when they sold it to Jack and Blanche Wick. Jack operated the business as a hardware store only, because at this time there was no need to have two stores with the same merchandise next to each other.

The store to the north of Wick’s was owned by Joe Finley and in the fall of 1950 Joe rented it to Gordon and Katie Youngman. Youngman’s Variety sold clothing, magazines, footwear, and many other items; the big favorite at the store was the soda fountain. Additional information about the north store will be printed in a future issue.



1958: Youngman’s Variety on the left, Wick’s Hardware on the right. Photo courtesy of Gordon Youngman.



Mid 1940’s: Finley’s Variety Store on the left and Wick’s Hardware on the right. The post above the car at the right sign reads “Town Clerk.” Note the Esso sign and gas pump. Photo courtesy of Gordon Youngman.

In 1964 Blanche passed away and Jack continued on until December 1971 when he became sick. The family kept the store open until after Christmas, and then closed it in hopes of finding a buyer.

Information shared at Walworth Memories programs:

- Oct. 2010: When Kathy Yucker Aeckerle was interviewed on the radio, she was asked what she wanted for Christmas. Her reply was “The doll in Jack Wick’s hardware store window.” When Kathy returned home Jack gave her the doll as a thank you for the free advertising.



**1955: Note the Christmas tree on the roof.
Photo courtesy of Gordon Youngman.**



**1963: Jack Wick (left) and Elton May (right)
preparing for street dance festivities. Photo
courtesy of Gordon Youngman.**

To Be Continued: Part 4 – Walworth Hardware (south store)