

A Tour of Main Street: #3698 – Walworth Hardware - Part 4

By Gordon Youngman

Editor's Note: The east-side tour of Main Street continues from our May 2018 issue which featured the building at #3698 originally owned by the K.O.T.M. (Knights of the Maccabees). Part 4 spotlights the Walworth Hardware (the building to the south of Joe Finley's Variety Store in the photo below). 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.



Finley's Store circa 1944.
Photo by Gordon Youngman



1987: Walworth Hardware on the right, Youngman's Variety Store on the left. Photo by Gordon Youngman

Jack and Blanche Wick operated a hardware store at #3698 from 1948 to 1972. When Jack became sick in December 1971 the family kept the store open until after Christmas, and then closed it in 1972 in hopes of finding a buyer. They didn't have to look far to find someone – me (Gordon Youngman), their business neighbor to the north.

The variety store to the north was owned by Joe Finley from 1944 to 1948 when Joe sold his business to Norman Hulbert. Norm sold the store back to Joe in August of 1950. Joe never reopened his store and it sat empty until I decided to move my ice cream business across the street into the variety store and go back into the dry goods plus soda fountain and drug business. We named it Youngman's Variety. I had recently married Katie Luke and we moved into the apartment above the store, so for \$65.00 a month we had a store and living quarters.

Through the years Jack and I had continued to conduct our side-by-side businesses until July 1972, when the Wick family sold the business to Katie and me. Now owning both buildings, I kept the north store as a variety store and the south store as a hardware store. That same year we built a walk way between the two stores to make it easy for customers to visit each side of the store. Now the two stores were one, yet they were still run as separate buildings.

By 1978 we had increased the business to the point we needed more space, so we closed out most of the variety store and moved the hardware to the larger building on the north. That same year Katie and I moved into the apartment above the hardware side of the store. We had previously lived in the house north of the variety store, which we sold to our daughter and her husband, Marlene (Youngman) and Steven Hall. In July 1990 we sold the business to them. Look for more information in a future issue about the "new" Walworth Hardware and the building's current occupant, New York State Sitepower, owned by Dan Hall. **(To Be Continued: The history of the north store at 3700 Main Street)**