

A Tour of Main Street: #3713

By Dorothy French

Editor's Note: This is the 2nd in a series of stories spotlighting the businesses and homes on Main Street. The tour began at the four corners with the buildings on the west side and travels south.

Pacific Hotel

- Source: Military History of Wayne County. "April 6, 1830: First town meeting was held at George Smith house. This was the old tavern that stood on the site of the present Temperance House erected by the liberality and largely sustained by the public spirit of the Honorable T. G. Yeomans and known as the Pacific."
- Named Pacific Hotel (two photos below) because there was a hotel in Marion to the east called the Atlantic.
- Business center for many salesmen stopping to show their merchandise. Twice a year salesmen arrived with yard goods and patterns; displays were set up in the hotel parlor.
- Stage from the hotel met each train that stopped at Walworth Station, three miles south of Walworth.
- Dinner cost 25 cents, breakfast and lunch 15 cents, and night's lodging 75 cents.
- Some of the managers: Glen Petty, Frank Sanford, Louie Furman, Madison and Sophia Reynolds (1888-1891), John Franke and John Rosencrans.



Grange Hall



1929: Walworth Grange #289 members purchased the hotel when their (the original Walworth Academy) was torn down. Grange meetings were upstairs. First floor areas were rented to businesses (left photo).

1931: Grange Hall dedicated. Newspaper story: "One glance at the picture reveals a Grange Hall of unusual worth and no wonder the Walworth members are delighted over their precious possession."

1985: Grangers sold building due to declining membership and donated significant amount of proceeds towards construction of Walworth Society's museum. Grangers completely disbanded in 1992.

American Pool



1985: Grangers sold to David Kords, owner of American Pool Supply and American Hobby Shop (left photo). South side and middle section used for his businesses.

2009: David moved businesses to former fire department building on Walworth-Penfield Road across from Orchard Street.

Vacant

2015: Vacant building (5,504 square feet) sits on .30 acres and is for sale. Memorial, erected on front lawn many years ago, recognizes our military: "In memory of those who gave their lives in service. Crane-Engert Post American Legion."

***** **Businesses Through the Years** *****

Basement:

Meat Market: Entrance on building's north side. Meat cooler was downstairs. Meat market operated by David Gilbert (Source: Wayne County Historian/Wayne County Business Listings for 1863-1864).

North Side:



Telephone Office: Blanche May (Elton May's sister) was a operator.

Barber Shop: Operated by Paul Lansing. Ray Bavis operated shop beginning early-mid 1940's. After Ray's death in 1968, business sold to Ron Fillmore (Wayne County Sheriff and part-time barber); later sold to Frank Pignato of Penfield.

Potpourri of Gifts: Operated by Edie Pasquini.

Beauty Shop: Operated by Melissa McCombs.

Middle Section:

Grocery Store: Operated by Irv Carpenter.

Beauty Shop: Operated by sisters Irene and Marge DeGroot 1944 – 1947.

Post Office: No phone in the 1940's. If you wanted to know if package arrived, call George Duell, whose business (garden and feed store) was located on building's south side. Post Office moved in 1968 from Grange Hall to building at 3720 Main Street, northeast corner now occupied by Cleary Insurance.

Town Assessor's Office 1969 - 1977: Assessor John Aman said Grievance Day was held on second floor. In 1977 John's office was moved to Walworth-Marion Road (now site of Wee People) and town offices were consolidated in one building.

South Side:



Barber Shop: 1893: Barber was C. E. Stevens. 1930's: barber was Jake Koole. Harold Ginegaw said Jake wore a spot on the floor by his walking around the barber chair so much.

Feed Store: 1938-1956: Operated by Abe Almekinder. In wintertime "when farmers weren't farmers," they would congregate at the shop. Musicians included Casey Cuvelier, Jake Koole, Pat Curran, Forrest Hill, and Bill Mastin. Abe had a peanut machine in the shop.

Garden and Feed Store: George Duell (left photo) bought business in 1956 from Abe and Stanley Almekinder. George sold it in 1978 to Bill Frizelle, who operated it for 6 years.

The Pizza Cutter: Operated by Dan Utz (currently manages Pizza Cutter at the Station in Gananda).

Upstairs:

Meeting Room: Used by Grange members.

School: Used as school while new high school was built in 1930.

Rear of building:

Apartment; several renters were Al and Hattie Croucher, Cliff and Mary Jane Beadle, Russ and Pat Scott and family, Mr. and Mrs. James Murray and family, and Dave and Andrea Kord.

North Corner of Property: A large sign listing the names of local men and women who served in the military was located here. This sign was removed at an unknown date.

Next building to be featured: Harold Ginegaw Home at 3707 Main Street.

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.