

**A Tour of Main Street: #3700 – Walworth Hardware - Part 5** By Gordon Youngman

*Editor's Note: Our tour of the east side of Main Street continues from our last issue. The building at #3700 was the site of many businesses, eventually Walworth Hardware. Part 5 features ownership by Gordon and Katie Youngman. Thank you to Gordon Youngman and his grandson, Aaron Fernaays, for sharing their memories and for the time they spent researching and documenting the information about the stores located at 3698 and 3700 Main Street.*

**The following are excerpts from information documented by Gordon in March 2000:**

In July 1972 Katie and I purchased the hardware store on the south side of the variety store from the estate of Jack Wick and continued operating the two businesses separately under Youngman's Variety and Walworth Hardware. We opened a passage way between the two stores making it more convenient for customers and ourselves.



**1977: Gordon Youngman**



**1978: Marlene comparing soda prices from 1965 to 1978**

By 1978 we ran out of space in the hardware store and decided to close out most of the variety store including the soda fountain and moved the hardware to the larger building. We moved the cash register from the original hardware side to the north building and the majority of the two stores was now hardware related. However, we kept a few things, such as film, cigarettes, candy, bread, and milk. Unfinished furniture was located in the store to the right.



**1978: Katie Youngman (left) and Marty Davis (right)**



**1981: Don Huntley and Katie Youngman**

Katie and I moved into the apartment above the hardware side of the store from our house north of the store. This was more convenient because the apartment had a direct passage into the hardware store. Our daughter Marlene and her husband, Steve Hall, purchased our house north of the store.



**1984: Fluffy the Cat: one of several feline residents**



**1989: Katie and Gordon celebrating 40 years of business in Walworth**

In 1989 Katie and I were honored by the Walworth Town Board for our 40 years of service in Walworth. To recognize this anniversary, we sold popcorn and hot dogs at the store. We continued the business until 1990 when Katie and I decided to retire. Our daughter Marlene and her husband Steve Hall purchased the business and operated it under Walworth Hardware.

*To Be Continued: Part 6 – Walworth Hardware and New York State Sitepower*