



## **BUSINESS HISTORY**

In 1885, before Wheaton was incorporated, Lee and Erickson operated a lumber yard and hardware, Wells and Schroeder, a general merchandise; and Stickles and Brynildsen, a drug store. Among other essential businesses for early settlers were a flour, seed and meat market owned by T. Roin; wood and coal yard, James Walsh; blacksmith, Thomas Prothers; and hotel, O. F. Hallberg, who also ran a saloon. Other businesses were saloons run by H. Frase and P. Johnson; a Fargo and Southern Elevator; Charles Pickle's Livery and Stable; the railroad; the newspaper; and a real estate, loans, insurance and legal services business run by J. I. Place.

By 1888 there were two more general merchandise stores, a harness shop, another livery stable, three hotels, an additional meat market, another real estate and loan office, a dray line, an additional lumber yard, one more hardware store, and another flour and feed business. The business community grew within a few more years, adding a jeweler, photographers, shoe store and repair, eating places, baker, clothing stores, barbers, musical instruments, furniture, and grain elevators. By 1891 the town had six saloons, and by 1898 the town boasted seven first class elevators.

Following is a listing and description of many of the businesses which have served the Wheaton community over the past 100 years. It is recognized that the list is not complete. For example, many of the little

restaurants and taverns changed ownership very frequently. Only the major businesses were advertised in the weekly newspaper.

## **APIARY:**

The first honey business known of was opened by W. O. Victor in 1938 with 600 hives of bees. He was succeeded by R. L. Hausmann, who reported shipping a carload of honey to Chicago in 1941. Jim Paysen bought the business from Hausmann and later sold it to Gene Sager, who continues in the business.

## **ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW**

As the fledgling town of Wheaton was taking root, the need for law and order and for those to interpret and enforce the same also arose. Some of those who chose this occupation were only mentioned in passing, such as Mr. Doran, who in 1887 was "new in town." H. Bombach took up residence in 1888 and added his name to attorneys practicing in Wheaton. F. J. Gibbons, a law school graduate in 1899, came directly here to practice, followed the same year by W. R. Kane. Others, such as C. H. Colyer, who originally came to Traverse County in 1880 but was not admitted to the bar until 1889, made their presence known in this area for many years.

T. F. O'Hair took up legal counsel on the second floor of a building on the same site as the Broadway Office Building and was joined in the practice in 1893 by F. W. Murphy. The partnership dissolved in 1899.

Victor E. Anderson joined Murphy's firm in 1906, and Alvin Johanson, admitted to the bar in 1924, also joined this firm, where he had already been a junior member. All three of these gentlemen were active politically and went on to state and national fame.

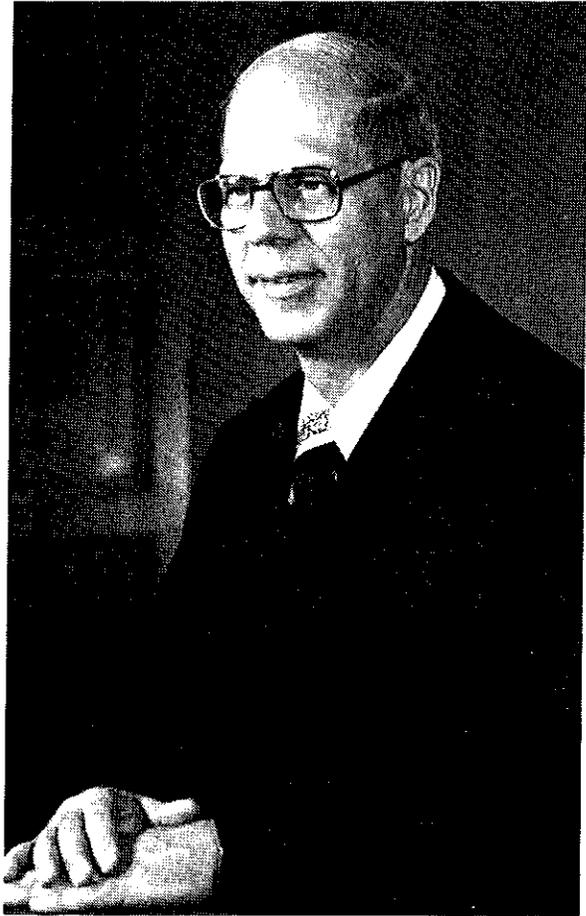
Another early law firm was that of Steidl and Rustad. F. J. Steidl became county attorney in 1894 and moved to Wheaton that spring. Edward Rustad came to Wheaton as deputy auditor and upon the death of his father, who was county auditor, was elected to succeed his father and served three terms before going to law school and returning to the community. They had a partnership which dissolved in 1903, with Steidl forming a new partnership with Charles Houston and Rustad going solo. Houston had come to Wheaton in 1902. Mr. Steidl went on to become a probate judge, retiring in 1940 at the age of 83. Mr. Houston was joined in the practice by Earl E. Huber in the early 1930's and by Keith C. Davison in 1949. Earl Huber served as county attorney from 1934 to 1954.

Another prominent figure in the legal profession whose roots were firmly entwined in the history of Wheaton was S. C. Odenborg, whose father and uncle owned the land upon which Wheaton was founded. Sidney Odenborg was in the same law class at the University of Minnesota as Al Johanson and A. H. Winter, also Traverse County natives. Odenborg came directly back to Wheaton in 1924 and established a solo practice. His former office now houses the Tara Mutual Insurance Co. Odenborg served as county attorney from 1926-1930, and in 1938 he was elected to the State Legislature and served with that body until his death in 1945.

In 1931 A. H. Winter came to Wheaton to practice with Murphy and Johanson. He had first practiced in Browns Valley before coming to Wheaton. He has served as a county attorney and continues the practice of law here in Wheaton, having offices in the Broadway Office Building where he has an independent practice.

Other attorneys whose talents led them to be associates and partners in the Murphy-Anderson-Johanson-Winter firm for varying lengths of time were Martin Ward,

Reuben Nelson, Marvin Lundquist, Gunder Gunhus, Charles Poches, Bruce Sherwood, Donald B. Pedersen, Bill Garrison, and Thomas C. Athens.



**The Honorable Keith C. Davison, a practicing attorney in Wheaton since 1957, now a District Court Judge.**

Keith C. Davison took over the practice of Houston and Huber in 1957. The grandson of one of the early Traverse County pioneers, Robert C. Davison, he also went on to become a judge, being appointed judge of county court upon the death of Lowell Bigelow in 1975. He is now a district judge. Donald Fraley was an associate in 1960. Robert Braseth joined Davison as an associate in 1964 and a few years later became a partner and eventually took over the practice, leaving Wheaton in 1983. For a brief time in 1975-76 Dennis Redwing was also on the Davison-Braseth staff but left to establish his own practice, locating in the Tara Mutual Building where he remained but a short time before leaving Wheaton.

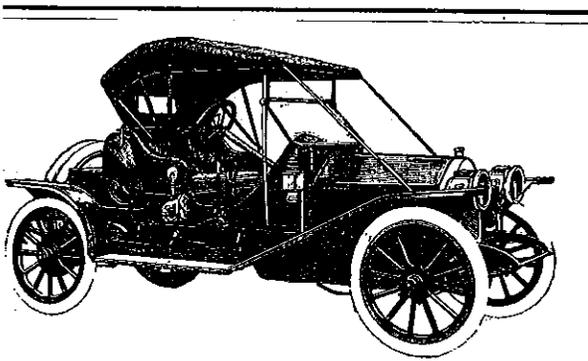
In April 1977 Carlton E. Moe joined A. H. Winter as an associate and later established his own practice, hiring as his law clerk Jeanne L. Bringgold, who soon became an attorney in her own right. She was city attorney for a short time before being elected county attorney, a position she still holds. Moe and Bringgold continue with their practices. Joseph Lenczewski left in 1985 after being Bringgold's associate for a short time.

On January 1, 1981, Richard Roberts opened his doors after leaving Osakis. He now occupies the first floor of the Broadway Office Building and has added two associates, Robert Von Nostrand and Mark Meyer. Also associated with him for a

short time was Elizabeth Hinds of Morris.

The law firm of Martin and Nelson of Morris has established a law practice in Wheaton on a part-time basis with offices in the Wheaton Professional Building at 1112 First Avenue North.

This is only a brief summary of those who have given of their time and talents to the practice of law in Wheaton, but without whose guidance and legal expertise the town's first hundred years would not have had the direction given by these dedicated men and women. Further information on several of these lawyers may be found in the "Historic Personalities" section of this book.



A Parry car like the above, cut last week won the Algonquin Hill Climb at Algonquin, Ill., and gets third place in the free-for-all, competing in this climb with cars costing \$3,000, or twice the price of the Parry.

This proves again that the Parry has power to carry you wherever you want to go.

When you think of an automobile think of the Parry, because you must have a car with good power and you know you'll get that with every Parry Car.

For Sale at the

**WHEATON AUTO CO.**

Wheaton, Minnesota

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#### **AUTOMOBILE DEALERS, GARAGES:**

The first ads for automobiles appeared in the "Gazette" in 1910 when Wheaton Auto advertised the Brush at \$485 and Reos from \$500 to \$1250. Isaac Lee was selling the four-passenger Studebaker for \$725, Lynch & Co. the Overland at \$850 in 1915, and 1925 Fords were priced at \$295 f.o.b. Detroit, with starter and demountable rims \$85 extra.

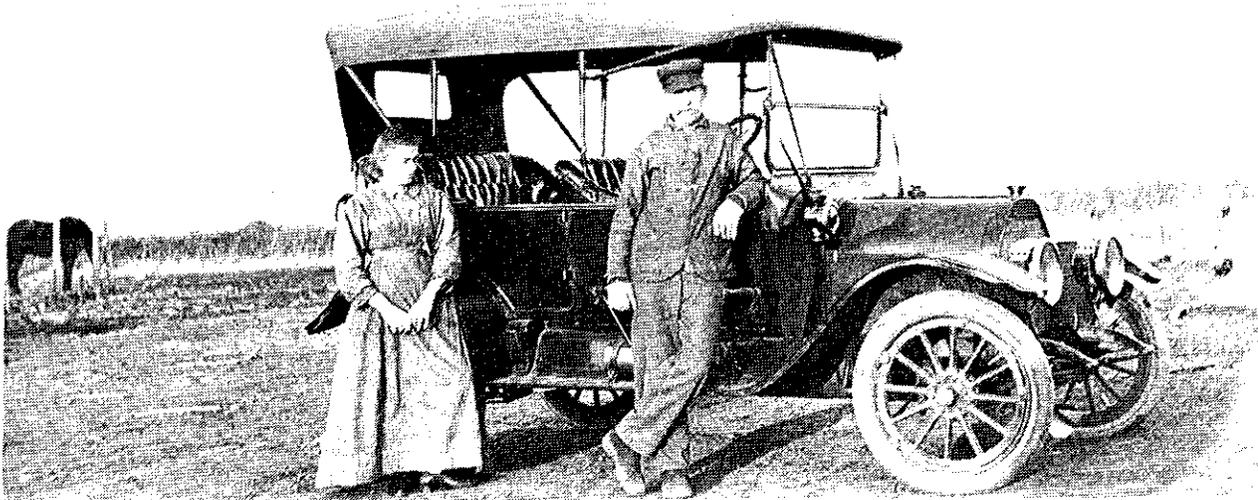
While the first Ford dealer was James Holm, an early Ford dealership in Wheaton was owned by Martin Lynch. In 1925 he was joined by his nephew Joe Flaherty. Lynch took over the Chevrolet franchise in 1927, and Flaherty ran the parts and service department on his own, with the Worners taking over the Chevrolet dealership in 1932.

In 1929 Lynch & Co. sold Chevrolets; Fleischer Motor Co., Pontiacs; C. K. Wurm, Essex; Wheaton Auto, Whippets; and J. J. Flaherty, Hupmobiles.

Wheaton Auto had erected a 120 by 50 foot cement block building in 1914 on the site of the original structure, and the business was taken over by Julius Raguse and Carl A. Riewe in 1915. They also sold gasoline at a sidewalk pump. Their garage did general delivery 24 hours a day and transported doctors when they were called out.

By 1919 Ed, Art, Reuben, and Arnold

**From the Gazette of November 21, 1910.**



**One of the first automobiles in this area was this 1914 Studebaker, and standing by it are the proud owners, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Cordes. The couple came to this country in the fall of 1905, farming in Clifton Township. Note the bare prairie as far as the eye could see, with no trees visible.**



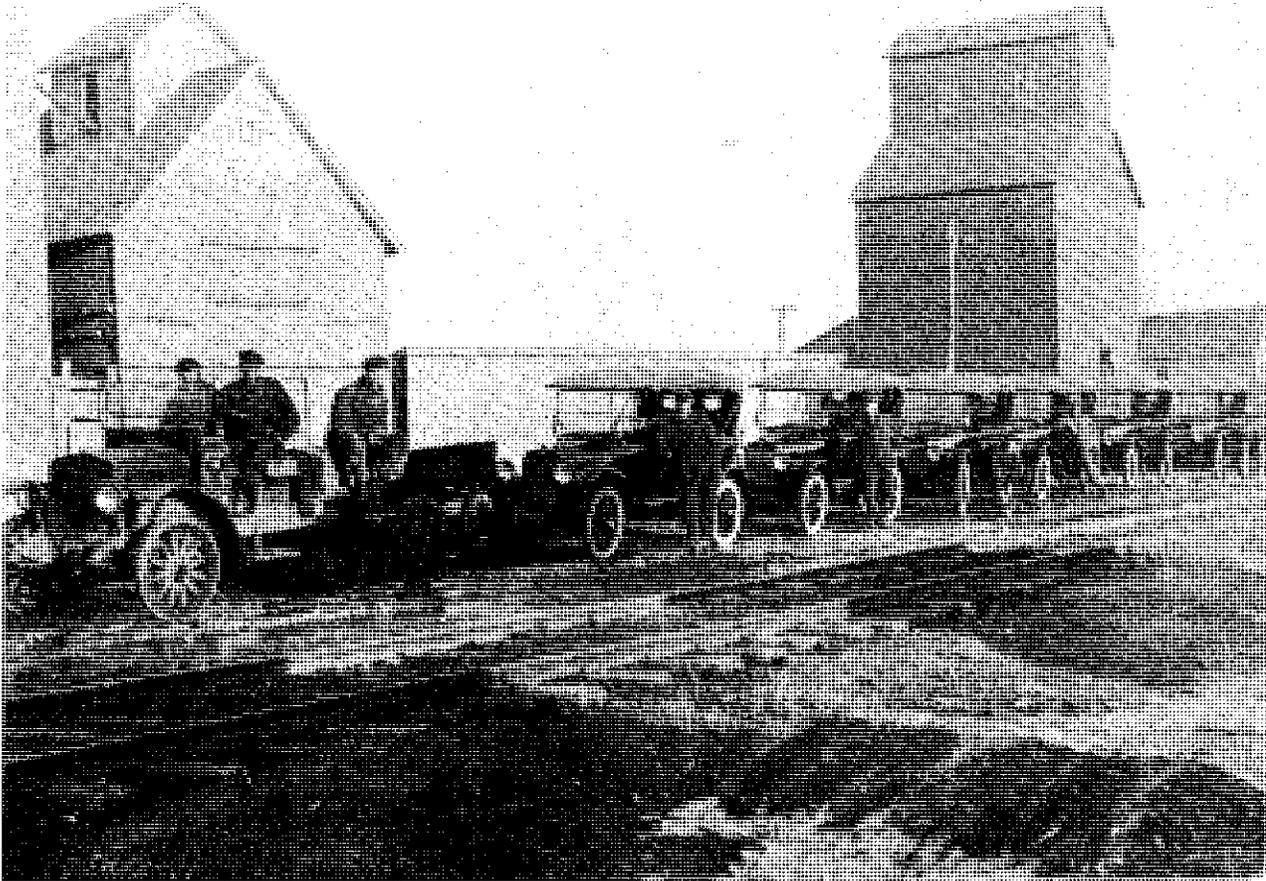
**The "Baby Grand" Chevrolet was the pride of this crew in Wheaton in about 1916. Carl A. Riewe proudly sits behind the wheel of the sparkling new car. Julius Raguse is on the far left of the photo and garage employee Bob Neuman is second from the right. Others not identified.**

Worner owned the garage with Ed becoming sole owner in 1942. They took on the Page agency almost at once and sold 32 within a short time. They also handled Maxwells priced at \$695 and advertised Overlands at \$495 f.o.b. Toledo. In 1929 the Whippet sedan sold for \$595 and 29x4.40 tires were \$5.98. In 1932 Worners took on the Chevrolet line and stayed with it. Elmer and Lester later bought their father's business interest in 1954. Lester sold to Elmer in 1965, and the dealership closed in 1972.

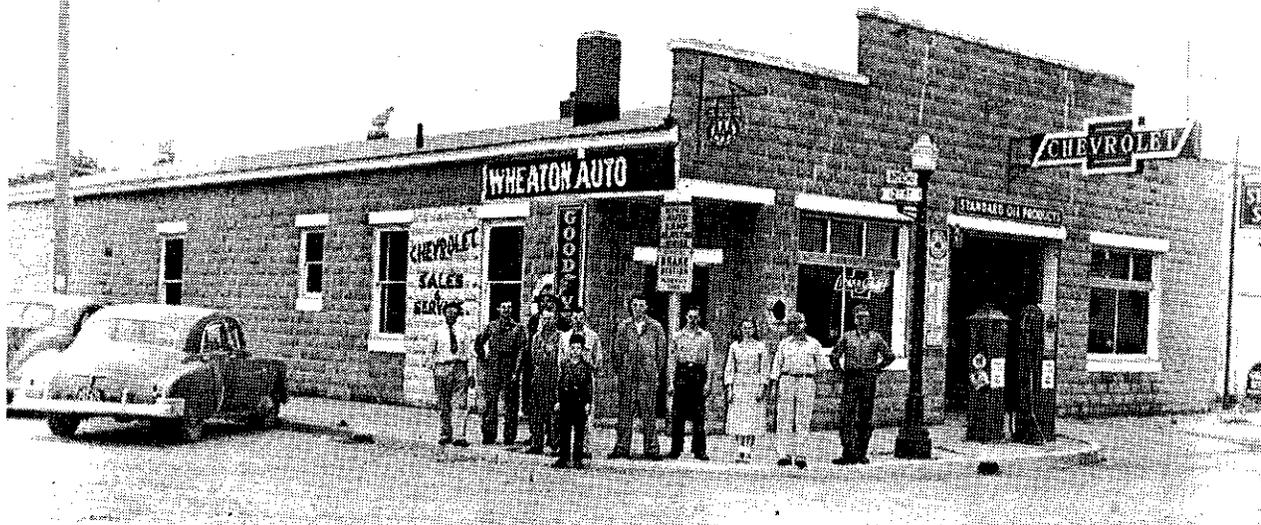
In the years of few autos and unimproved roads, the auto livery business was profitable for garages, especially during duck hunting season when hunters came by train and were transported to hunting

lodges on the lakes. One city hunter came here in a big Pierce Arrow, which was too big and heavy for the roads. It was stored in the garage and he was transported to a lodge.

Open hours for Wheaton Auto were 8:00 A.M. to midnight including Sundays. One employee slept at the garage to provide service during the night. Storage of cars was another source of income, especially for winter. Rates were five dollars a month and twenty-five cents for an evening. Located on the main highway south from Winnipeg, known as the King of Trails (now referred to as the "KT"), the garage regularly serviced the big cars of bootleggers transporting liquor from Canada during prohibition days — always during



**When new cars came to town back in the early days of the automobile, it was quite an occasion. This was one such occasion back in 1919. The lineup includes a new Maxwell truck and a string of new Dodge cars. Paul Holm, Bill Hunder and Joe Swanson are pictured in the truck. In those days cars arrived in Wheaton in railroad boxcars, unassembled. The arrival of a carload of automobiles meant that mechanics would have to go to the boxcar and assemble them. Then they would be lined up along the track and hooked together by chain, to be towed to the garage for further finishing work and preparation for operation.**



**The Wheaton Auto garage, Chevrolet agency in Wheaton, as it appeared in 1940. Identification not made on all of the crew standing in front of the building, but Carl Shuller is shown second from left, Elmer Worner fifth from left, Woody Friedrich in front of him, then Alton Gall, Eunice Schmitz is the only lady, and to the right of her is Art Worner.**



**Looking at literature of the new 1940 model Chevrolet were the garage crew at Wheaton Auto. From left: Lester Worner, Ed Cordes, Paul Holm, Cliff Bullock, Ed Worner, Fred Lohndorf and Bill Hunder. Two men at rear unidentified.**

nighttime hours. Much of the early service was for tires. Early mechanics were Bill Hunder, Paul Holm and Clark Anderson.

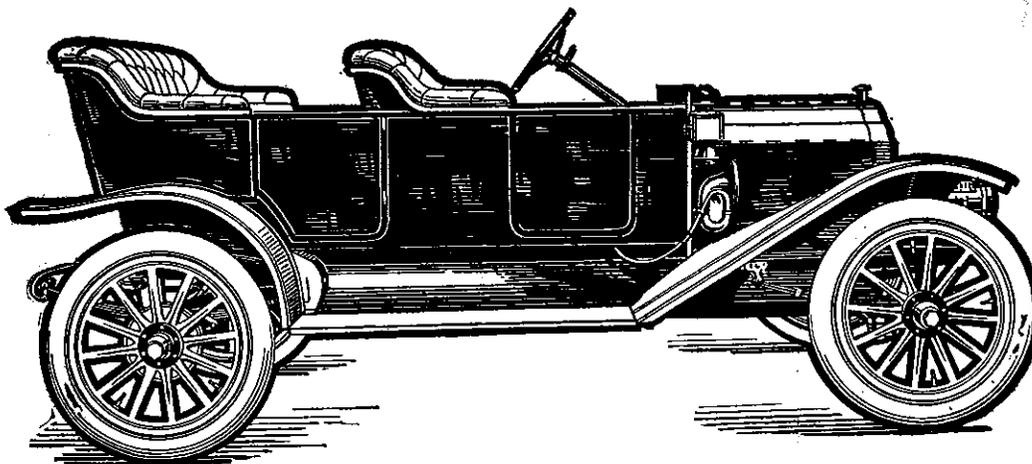
Buick auto dealers for 56 years was the record of the Fred Thill family. Fred A. Thill served in the U. S. Air Force during World War I and following his discharge he was employed by Lynch Motors which was located in the building now occupied by the Corner Drug. By 1921 he became an authorized Buick dealer and opened a garage on the site now owned by William Hunder on West Broadway. He was still active at the time of his death in December 1974 and had been awarded the silver 25-year and gold 50-year awards from General Motors.

Henry Block became a member of the firm in 1922 and the business was renamed Thill & Block. They continued to sell and service Buicks and service all makes of automobiles. August Block joined the firm as a mechanic in 1922. Thill disposed of his interest in the service part of the business, selling to Robert Johnston in 1940, but

retaining the Buick contract. Then Johnston sold his interest to August Block in 1945 when that part of the business became known as Block Motor Co. Noel Gunderson purchased Henry Block's share in 1953, and he and August continued until Block's death in 1957. Henry Block died in 1959.

In 1951 Thill & Block and Block Motor Co. moved to a new building on Eleventh Street South owned by Thill. Fred F. Thill joined the senior Thill in the sales part of the business after completing a tour of Air Force duty in 1954. He discontinued the dealership in 1977. Noel Gunderson continued to operate Block Motors until his retirement in 1979, and the building is now occupied by John Otto, who operates John's Repair.

Powell and Williams had a garage building erected in 1924 at the corner of Broadway and Front St. M. J. Fridgen and Roy H. Miller bought Williams' interest in the Ford dealership in 1929. In 1951 Art and Cliff Spainhower purchased an interest in the business. Fridgen retired in 1962, and



## STUDEBAKER FLANDERS AND E. M. F. CARS

Have the strongest guarantee ever placed on an automobile.  
 This guarantee is given with the purchase of every car.  
 E-M-F FIVE-PASSENGER TOURING CAR, - \$1,000.00  
 FLANDERS FOUR-PASSENGER - \$725.00

These cars are made up in a number of styles, such as Roadsters, Fore-Door, etc. to suit buyer

**For Sale by ISAAC LEE, Wheaton, Minnesota**

From the Wheaton Gazette of March 31, 1911.

Ervin Fridgen and Vern Radel took over the agency, naming it Traverse Motor Sales. C&P Sales operated by Carl Shuller and Melvin Nietzel was formed in 1966 and they bought the Ford agency in 1968. Harland Rasmussen and Fred Varner became owners of the business in 1972 (R&V Sales, Inc.) and they sold Ford and Chrysler lines. The dealership was sold to Lanes Auto Center in 1984 and continues at a site on Highway 75 North.

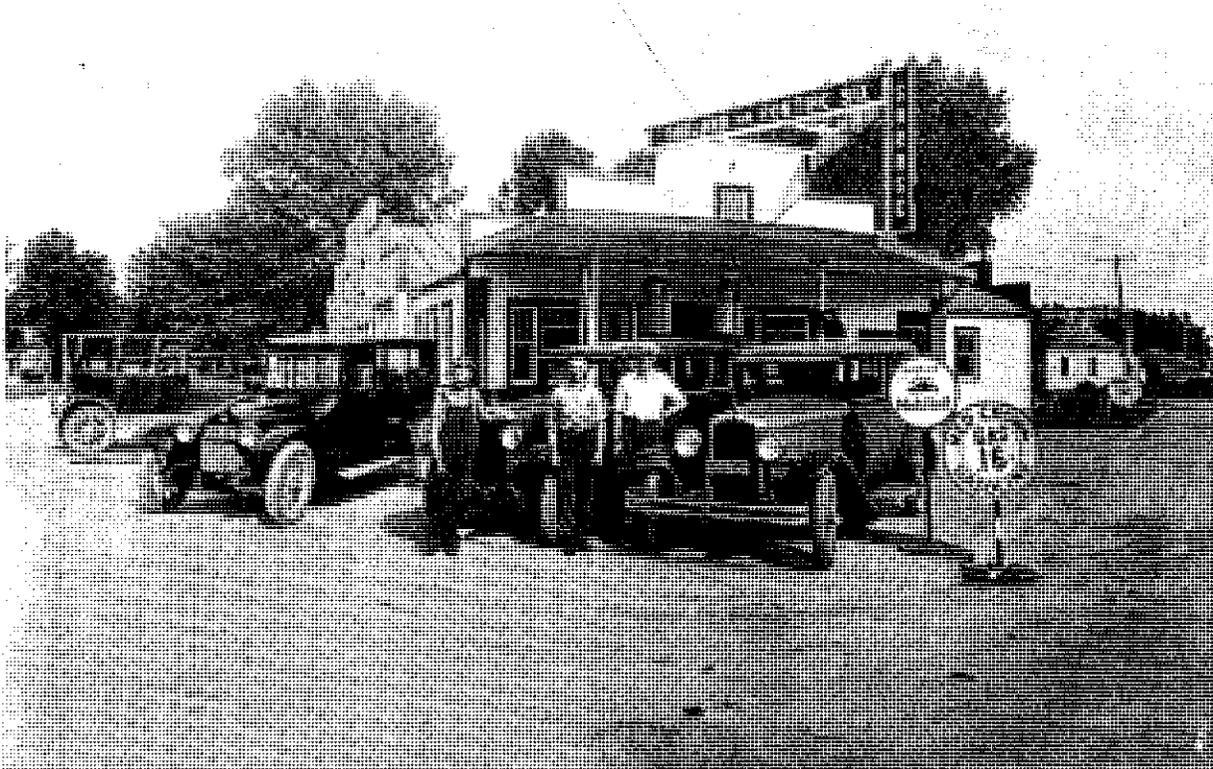
Vern Fleischer had the Plymouth dealership in Wheaton and was also in a farm implement business. He had bought out his brother Fred Jr. in 1939. He retired and closed his business in 1961 after a 33-year career. He had added to his building on Front St. in 1946 to increase repair and service facilities.

Other dealerships in Wheaton over the years were Lawrence Jacobson's Jacobson Motor which handled the Kaiser-Frazer line for a few years beginning in 1946. He later added other cars and also increased his

capacity for service and repair. Ike Haugland sold Willys Jeeps in 1946, Ed Cordes sold Studebakers, Traverse Implements was the Oldsmobile dealer, and Len Johnson sold Pontiacs and had a gas station just west of the present Senior Citizens Building. Among used car dealers were Clare McClellan and Art Spainhower.

Larson Motors was an outgrowth of a farm machinery business. Starting as Larson Implement, later named Larsons Inc., the motor division was originally a dealer for American Motors in 1955. Pontiac was added in 1967, Oldsmobile in 1968, Chevrolet in 1972, and Buick in 1978. The business also included the GMC line of trucks. The motor division of Larsons became the property of Ole Larson in 1978 and he erected a new building located on Highway 75 South in 1979. The business was sold to Lewis Motors in 1979 and they closed out the business after two years of operation.

Paul Holm, owner of Holm Auto and Repair, closed his shop in 1977 and retired



**Automobiles of the 20s were on display at the Fleischer Garage back in the year 1929. In the photo are Vern Fleischer, Fred Fleischer and John Falk. In addition to the shiny new cars, a couple of other notable points are made by the photo. The business once featured the popular Oakland automobile, and gasoline to run those cars sold for 16 cents a gallon.**

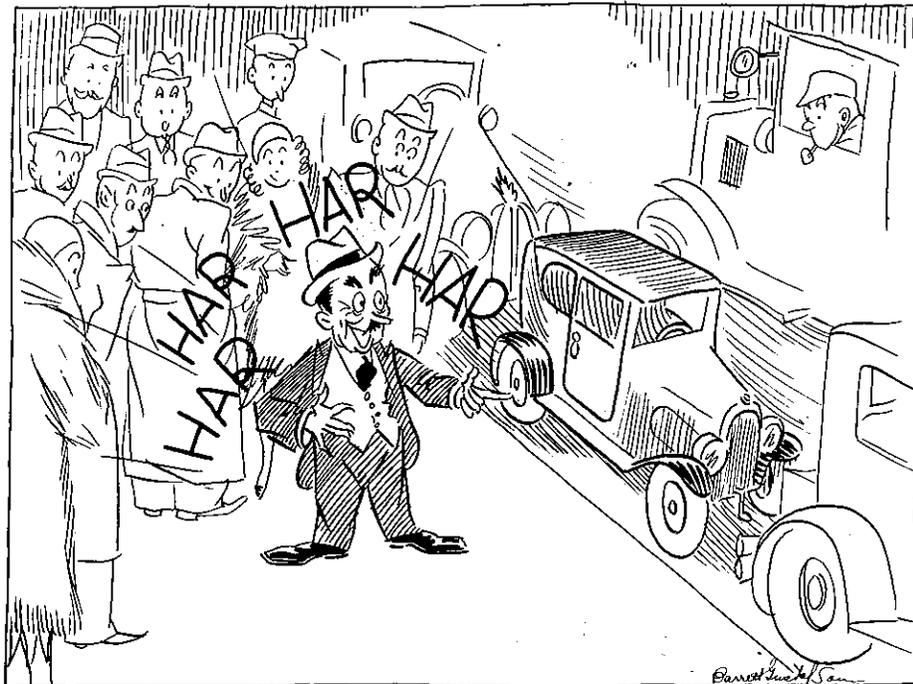


**The new Ole Larson Motors building opened for business in the summer of 1979 on Highway 75 South. The structure replaced a downtown building which had been used as a garage and display room for many years. Ole Larson Motors was the authorized General Motors dealer in Wheaton.**

after working with autos and other types of gasoline engine equipment for 60 years. Starting at age nine and following the trade of James Holm, his machinist and boiler repairman father, he spent about a year working in Northfield and later at Lynch Motors and Wheaton Auto here before buying his shop from Erick Oberg in 1941.

Other auto repair shops have been operated in Wheaton by Cliff Bullock, Traverse Oil, Jim Lillehaug and Ron Wirtjes, who specializes in diesel repair adjacent to Highway 75 North. Also Jim Eastwood's OK Rubber Welders business flourished for many years.

One of several cartoons by local cartoonist Barrett Gustafson on display at the Traverse County Historical Museum.



*The side show midget, who's been laughed at all these years  
now an Austin!*



**The crew at Lynch's Garage in downtown Wheaton pictured in the parts department of the store in 1927. From left to right are Joseph Flaherty, Nick Gaulrapp, Martin Lynch, Luella Ulrich, Gladys Hendricks, Walter Schneider, next man unidentified, and Dick Tiele.**



**Downtown scene in Wheaton in 1932. The Red & White Store was later to become Swift Electric, then the post office, then a catalog store, and finally was removed to make space for the present First Bank building.**



**Wheaton Bakery in the early 1900s.**

**BAKERIES:**

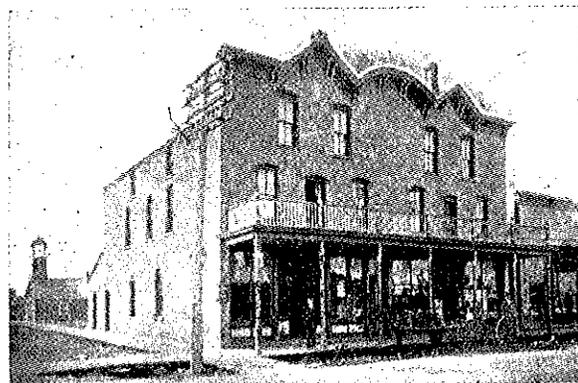
Robinson and Walsh were early bakers. Later Pete Makovec, a colorful emigrant from Austria, ran a popular bakery. Successors to "Pete the Baker" were Sylvester Aus, Hans Rindelaug, and the Bucklins.

**BANKS:**

Recognizing the need for a bank in the developing community, Andrew Peterson, David Burton and Andrew Lund organized the Bank of Wheaton in 1889 as a national bank. Burton withdrew in 1894 and in 1901 organized the First National Bank in Wheaton. By 1908 Peterson sold his interest to stockholders and it became known as the National Bank of Wheaton, chartered as a successor to the private bank known as the Bank of Wheaton. Edward Rustad was president, G. K. Kristensen, cashier. In 1919 Rustad sold control to his brother Alfred, who was cashier until 1929 when Gordon

Kristensen succeeded him.

The same year consolidation of the First National Bank and the National Bank was effected with Jacob Heidelberger as president, giving Wheaton a national bank



**This building was known as the "Burton Bank Block", named after the man who built it, David Burton. One of the two original bankers in Wheaton in 1889, Burton went it alone in 1901 to organize the First National Bank.**

# Erecting a New Fire Proof Building to House a Business which for 40 Years Has Stood the Test of Time

1889



1929

## Statement of Condition, October 4th, 1929:

ASSETS		LIABILITIES	
Loans & Discounts	\$351,883.95	Capital Stock	\$ 25,000.00
Overdrafts	618.15	Surplus	25,000.00
Banking House, Fur. and Fix.	9,468.64	Undivided Profits, Net	10,197.33
Other Real Estate	8,803.00	Circulation	24,500.00
<b>QUICK ASSETS</b>		Deposits	715,822.22
Prime Commercial Paper	\$ 21,940.00	Other Liabilities	90.49
U. S. and Other Bonds			
Warrants, etc.	328,059.01		
Cash, Due from Banks	79,837.29		
and U. S. Treasurer	79,837.29		
	\$429,836.30		
	429,836.30		
	\$800,610.04		
			\$800,610.04

Has Conspicuously Served This Community Since the Day of the Homesteader

# First National Bank

Bank statement of First National Bank published in the Gazette in October, 1929.

of over \$900,000 in resources. The consolidated First National Bank erected a new bank building at Broadway and Tenth Street. Affiliation with First Bank stock corporation came in 1931. In 1938 it was changed from a national bank to a state bank and named the First State Bank of Wheaton. The bank remained at that location until 1976 when a new bank was erected at 1024 Broadway including a drive-up window and parking lot. On May 1, 1985, it became known as 1st Bank Wheaton, National Associates.

The State Bank of Wheaton opened June 10, 1899, after receiving its charter the previous day. It was originally located in the corner building just west of its present site. Capital stock was \$10,000 divided into 100 shares. Original owners were William W. Smith, Clarence D. Griffith, Milton E. Tittes, Fred M. Barrett and Carl O. Saterbak. Griffith was president until 1918 when he and Smith sold their 87 shares to 52 local businessmen and farmers for \$105,000. Seven presidents have served since its opening: C. D. Griffith (1899-1918), E. C. Tubbs (1918-1923), H.A. Quast (1923-1930),

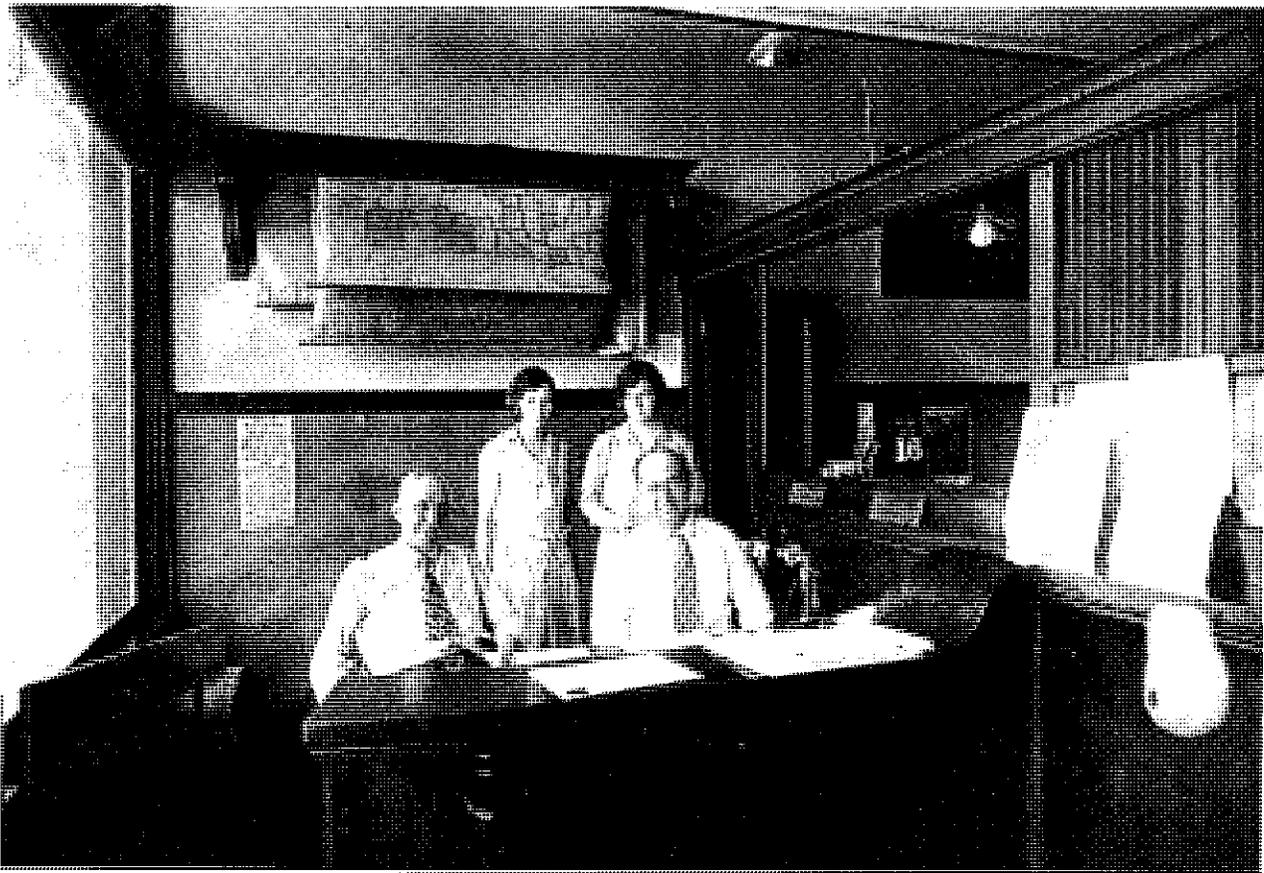
J.B. Bruns (1930-1931), T. Heggen (1931-1939), Fred Siewert (1939-1966), and G. C. Donnelly (1966-present).

The present State Bank Building was erected in 1904, one story, 65 by 25 feet. Rock, commonly called "hard heads", was used in the walls with the front of dressed granite. The cost was set at \$7,000. The first remodeling was in 1941 when the front was changed. The first addition to the south was in 1952, the vault moved in 1955. In 1978 the drive-up facility and park transformed the corner location at Broadway and Tenth Street with its gazebo and beautiful landscaping. The last addition came in 1979 when the building was extended south to the alley. The interior was renovated with antiques to restore it as much as possible to the time of its founding.

Western Minnesota Savings and Loan, a branch of the Fergus Falls S&L, opened in September 1976 in a new building at 1019 Broadway. The frame building razed to make room for the new one had housed a number of businesses, the most recent being Grosland Jewelry.



**In 1908 Andrew Peterson sold his interest in the Bank of Wheaton to stockholders and it became known as the National Bank of Wheaton.**



**Since 1899 the State Bank of Wheaton has been a staple in the financial community. This photo in the 1920s shows the complete bank staff of that time. H. A. Quast, seated left, was president, and C. G. Leaman was cashier. Standing are Mabel (Hess) Stoebe and Madge (Jenks) Block.**

#### **BARBERS:**

Tub baths were provided by barbers for years in addition to the usual shave and a haircut. From a 1908 issue of the "Footprints", the newspaper published by George Allanson, is the following quote: "Work has just been completed on the remodeling of R. Sigford's barber shop, and he now has one of the most modern and convenient shops west of the Twin Cities. An unlimited supply of hot and cold water is right at hand, while a water heating plant with a boiler in the basement keeps the place at an even temperature from floor to ceiling. One corner has been partitioned off for a bath room and a fine full length porcelain bath tub and fixtures installed. A great convenience for out of town visitors and those who have not had the convenience of a warm bathroom and plenty of hot and cold water under pressure at home."

Some of the first to work at the service were "Jeff the Barber", Michael Phelan (who sold to Sigford, previously mentioned), and C. J. Dockstader. Guy Kuhn and Julius Olson were barbers here for 46 years starting at the turn of the century. They sold their shop to Mr. Amborn, and he later sold to Mr. Daly. In more recent years barbers included Laurel "Huck" Olson, George Konop, Dewey Mundy and Wally Seifert. Ray Fiedler, who came here in 1959, continues at the hair cutting business with Seifert.

#### **BLACKSMITH, WELDERS:**

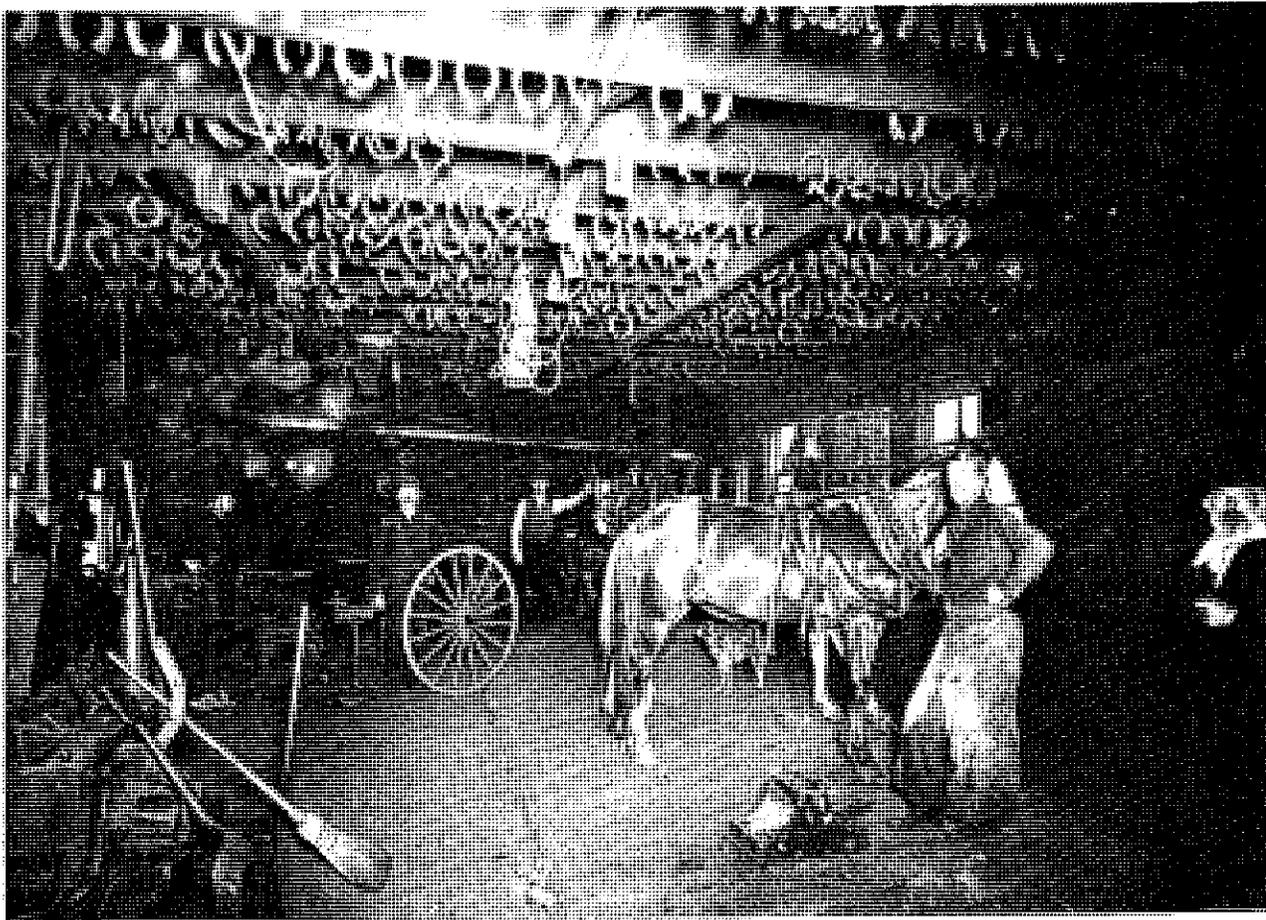
The blacksmith shop was a necessary service for both town and rural residents in the days when local transportation was by horse and buggy or wagon and horseback.

Thomas Prothero, one of the first, was soon succeeded by White and Poole. Others were L. Hogle and J. Bengston, who added a wagon shop, David Burton, and T. M. Kuhn. Theodore Anderson, who came to Wheaton in 1895, was a partner with Gust Jacobson in a shop Jacobson had purchased from Louis Bender. Anderson continued as a smith until 1935. He also had a custom wagon-making business.

In more recent times Frederick Fleischer and sons Fred and Vern were smiths. George Schild, who came to Wheaton in the mid-thirties to operate the oil drilling rig at the Arnold Marxen farm, bought the Nentl blacksmith shop in 1943 which had been

operated by H. J. Nentl from the mid-1920s until 1940. Schild also was a welder. Others who were smiths, some of whom were welders, were Ed and Laverne Schoenrock, O. W. Johnson, Norman Gilyard, and Cliff Bullock and Chuck Coffey. Kelly Schültz has a welding shop just east of Wheaton now.

The most recent welding business is that of Reese Welding, which opened for business on Highway 75 South in 1985. This business specializes in a variety of welding jobs and cleans tanks that haul bulk products such as gasoline, other petroleum products, chemicals, and many other bulk items.



**The blacksmith shop of Anderson and Jacobson was once a very popular and certainly essential part of the Wheaton business community. This photo, taken in 1912, shows a crew of four working in the busy shop, but the day of the horse was most certainly coming to an end with the advent of the automobile. Pictured from left to right in the photo were Charley Roberg, Gust Jacobson, Theodore Anderson and Walter Elfstrom. No identification for the man on the far right.**

## **BODY SHOPS:**

Harry Bihrlle operated a car body shop just east of Wheaton Oil Co. for years before moving to a location adjacent to Highway 27. Best Body Shop (started by

Roger Best and continued by his sons), Wilson Auto Body, Doug Hartwig, and Lanes Auto Center are presently in the business. Young's Main Street Motors opened in 1985.



**The staff at Jenks Cafe in downtown Wheaton was ready to handle the expected dinner crowd. Cafes around the turn of the century would provide patrons with linen on the table and a complete stick-to-the-ribs dinner for 25 to 35 cents.**

## **CAFES:**

Meals in cafes sold for 25 cents to 35 cents in the early years. Free lunch was served in saloons. Wheaton has had dozens of eating places, some as hotel dining rooms, some just lunch counters. Among cafes were Colby Ware, Jenks Cafe, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Lundstrom's Wheaton Restaurant, Benno's Cafe, Sharff Bros., Cloverleaf operated by the Grassinger family which opened in 1930, Rudy Lundquist's Home Cafe, which was later sold to Orin Rhyne, Dutch Inn, Walter Anderson's Gopher Cafe, Bill Berquist's Green Lantern, Rasmussen's, Schulte's Cafe, Clara's, and Myrtle's Cafe at the Standard Station, now run by

the Siegels. Other eat shops were run by "Slim" Davidson and "Slim" Chamberlain. A restaurant in the Traverse Cooperative Co. on Highway 75 was run by the "Three Swedes" (Louise Anderson, Edna Nelson and Annie Hoglund). In latter years it was run by Louise Schmitz until it closed. There was also a restaurant in the bowling alley at one time; it is now a snack bar.

Sorenson Eat Shop, famed for homemade pies and great hamburgers, was owned by Emil Sorenson. Emil's father Pete and his wife also had a cafe which they operated as Sorenson's Lunch Room from 1905 until the 1920's. Located on the north side of Broadway in a building which

has been an eating place most of its years, it was first known as The Beanery.

For many, many years a fine eating establishment was operated in connection with the hotel. When operated by the Hetheringtons, it had quite a formal atmosphere. Later owners of the hotel cafe business included the Clarence Farmers, Mr. and Mrs. H. Pratt, the W.L. Dunbars, and Bob Bohnenstingl.

Among other cafes were Sherry's Cafe, Modern Cafe, Esther's Cafe, Boom's Cafe, OK Cafe, Jake Miller's, Charles Sager's, P.O. Boline, Mary Lindahl's, Delmonico Restaurant, and LeRita's Steak House just west of Wheaton. In the summer fast food is available at the Dairy Way and the Dairy Dipper. The former was started by Bill and Mabel Lichtsinn in about 1954 and is now run by Don Schultz. Current eateries are the Standard Cafe, Crandall's, Wheaton Recreation, The Wheatery, East Side Market and Dale's Steak House.



Mrs. Elwin Jenks with daughter Blanche, clearing the sidewalk for customers visiting the Jenks restaurant. The photo is taken from what is now the Super Valu corner. The Jenks restaurant was located where the Gazette is today.

<i>Palmer House</i>			
<i>O. W. Dieckhoff, Prop.</i>			
<i>Wheaton, Minn.</i>			
<i>Christmas Dinner</i>			
<i>Cream of Tomato</i>			
<i>Sliced Tomatoes</i>	<i>Queen Olives</i>	<i>Celery</i>	
<i>Prime Roast Beef, au jus</i>			
<i>Baked Turkey with Oyster Dressing</i>			
<i>Baked Goose with Apple Dressing</i>			
<i>Fricaseed Rabbit</i>			
<i>Cranberry Sauce</i>		<i>Apple Sauce</i>	
<i>Banana Fritters</i>			
<i>Mashed Potatoes</i>	<i>Glazed Sweet Potatoes</i>		
<i>Stewed Cabbage</i>	<i>Sweet Corn</i>		
<i>White Bread</i>	<i>Graham Bread</i>	<i>Vienna Rolls</i>	
<i>English Plum Pudding with Brandy Sauce</i>			
<i>Apple Pie</i>	<i>Mince Pie</i>	<i>Pumpkin Pie</i>	
<i>Strawberry Ice Cream</i>		<i>Wafers</i>	
<i>Mixed Nuts and Fruit</i>			
<i>Tea</i>	<i>Coffee</i>	<i>Milk</i>	<i>Cocoa</i>
<p>Why get your Christmas dinner at home when you can get a fine dinner here for.....50 cents.</p>			

The Christmas dinner menu at the Palmer House in 1911. The entire dinner, including turkey, prime ribs, baked goose and fricaseed rabbit, complete with all the trimmings, for the grand sum of 50 cents.



A Red Cross sale in May, 1918, attracted a huge crowd of people to downtown Wheaton. The Red Cross was very active in the war effort of that day.



# The Whole "Gang" on HIGHWAY 75 Welcomes Christmas Shoppers to Wheaton!

It's a real pleasure for our group of business places to join with the whole town in the gala pre-Christmas activities. On Highway 75 you will find a variety of vital services to the Community, as shown on this page. Shop in Wheaton and learn that

## We're Live on Highway 75!

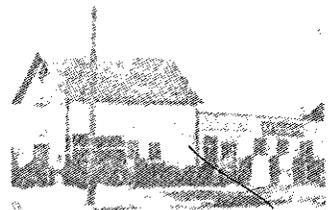


We're happy to join the Highway 75 business in welcoming Christmas shoppers to Wheaton. We feature Doughty's Feeds, Hy-Line Chicks. Ask about our successful poultry raising plan.

Wally Land

### Wheaton Hatchery

Phone LO 3-4777



The welcome rest at OK Rubber is out to Wheaton shoppers. We feature the B. F. Goodrich Tire Line along with the highest type of professional servicing and tire repair.

### OK Rubber Welders

Jim Eastwood

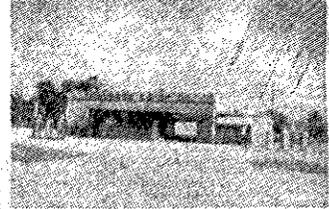
Phone LO 3-4291



Roy and Myrtle extend a hearty welcome to shoppers to Wheaton. At Roy's Standard you get top friendly service — at Myrtle's Cafe, wonderful food.

### Roy's Standard Service

Roy and Myrtle Blanton



That "We're Live on Highway 75" is attested by our growing list of friends and patrons. Top quality Diesel, fuel, oil, gas and tires, featuring Midland Products.

### Traverse Co-op Oil Assn.



### WHEATON MOTEL

Finest accommodations in this area. We're happy to join the Highway 75ers in welcoming shoppers to Wheaton.

EINER & AGNES OSCARSON

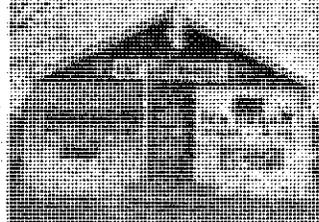
PHONE LO 3-4822



### CHRISTMAS TREES

- Spruce • Balsam • Scotch & Norway Pine
- Christmas Plants • Wreaths • Frosting
- Miniature • Potpourri

### Jake's Floral



A wonderful place to shop for Groceries, Talcies, Ice Cream, Candy, Pop and off-sale Beer, Newspapers.

### East Side Market

Clarence Webster

Phone LO 3-4444



Fine Automotive service featuring Sinclair Products. John welcomes you to her Cafe. We're open 'round the clock. Stop in for a friendly visit.

### John's Sinclair Service

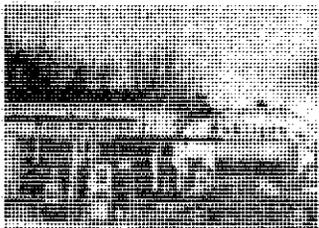


For Glorious Christmas Trees, Wreaths, Palmets and Flowers, Meta can serve you for all occasions.

### Meta's Flower Shop

Meta Robinson

Phone LO 3-4718



Best of the best with convenient travel services. Inter John Ford Travel, Christmas decorations, etc. — all in one place.

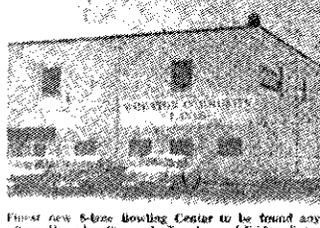
### Inter-State Co-op Service Station



CHRISTMAS TREES AND TRIMMINGS. Have a joyful Christmas with our beautiful trees, garlands, wreaths, bolly and pine cone centerpieces.

### Garden & Lawn Center

Frank Johnson



Finest new 5-lane Bowling Center to be found anywhere. Open bustling early Tuesday and Friday, Saturday, Sundays — afternoon and evening. Jefe the gang here. Free snack bar.

### Wheaton Community Lanes

Andy Anderson, Mgr.

Phone LO 3-4787

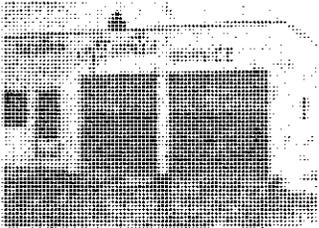


In addition to fast, efficient service in Mobil Products, we have now installed car and tractor painting facilities. See us now during the slack season.

### Doug's Mobil Service

Douglas Hartwig

at Jet, Highways 75 & 27

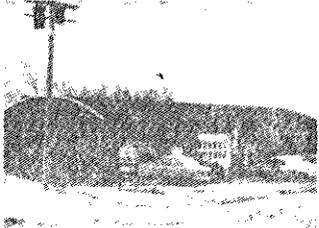


Save Her a Culligan Water Softener — the Gift that keeps on giving.

### Culligan Soft Water Service

Alvin Black

Phone LO 3-4524



Complete Automotive and Farm Machinery Repair. Winter Plans, Etc. — always.

### Cliff's Garage

Cliff Hilliard

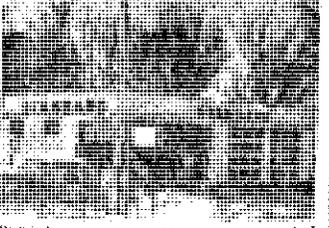
Phone LO 3-4777



Bill's Dairy Way was closed for the season, but will be open to you on Highway 75 holidays in welcoming Christmas shoppers to Wheaton. We appreciate your patronage.

### Bill's Dairy Way

Bill Johnson, Prop.



Walt is here to serve you with the renowned Standard Products as well as motor tune up and car wash. Welcome Christmas Shoppers!

### Walt's Standard Service

at Highway 75 & 27

Phone LO 3-4811

## CATALOG STORES:

Montgomery Ward and Sears have operated catalog stores in Wheaton for several years. Montgomery Ward closed its store in 1985. Sears has an agency located at Ranney Furniture.

## CONTRACTORS:

The earliest contractor of note was Alfred Setterlund, who built the courthouse in Wheaton, many of the early churches, and business buildings and residences in and around Wheaton.

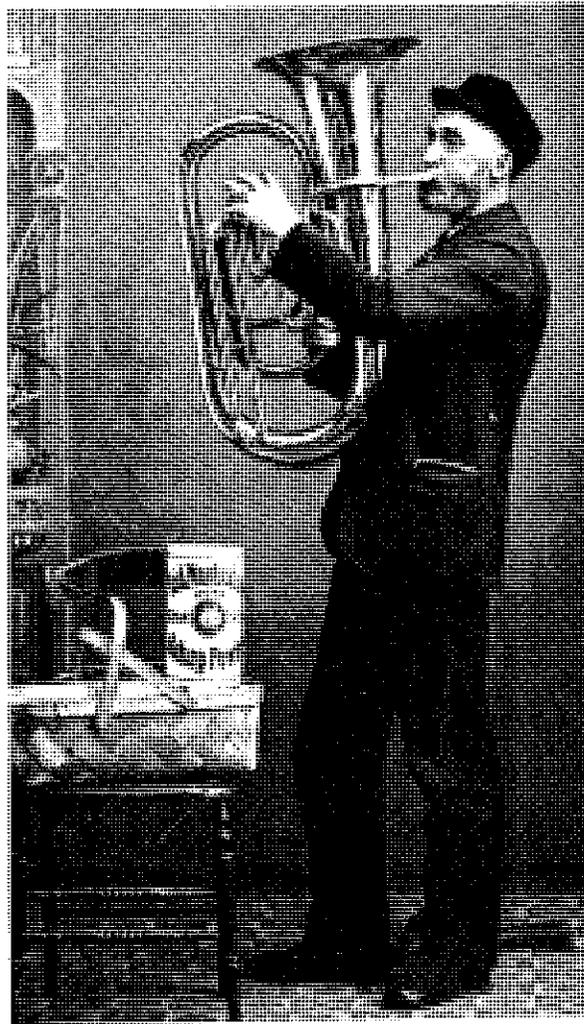
Carl Swedberg, Swedish immigrant, worked in carpentry and construction in the Duluth area before coming to Wheaton in 1913. He worked at his trade here for several years before starting contracting. His first major job was the First State Bank building (now the Broadway Office Building). Other Swedberg buildings were the present Wheaton Department Store, Senior Citizens Building, the Wheaton Drug, the Gopher Theatre, the Magnuson Clinic (now the Family Service building), the Larson Implement on West Broadway, and the Pearson school. Incorporated as West Central Construction in 1935, he changed to Swedberg Construction in 1938 and erected his office building the same year (former ASCS office on Broadway). Swedberg contracted the first 234 miles of REA lines in 1941 and had similar contracts in the Dakotas and Renville County in Minnesota. He also built schools in several Minnesota and North Dakota towns, as well as churches, theatres, a hospital, and a block factory.

Carl's brother Felix was foreman on the projects for several years until he decided to build dwellings on his own in the late 1930's and erected many homes in Wheaton.

Other local contractors have been Sievert Boe, Walter Cordes, Art Cordes, Ed Cordes, Olof Hanson and Carl Anderson, Al Schneider, Elmer Olson, Fridgen Construction, Roger Olson, Fabel Construction, Janke Construction and Berger Construction.

## DRAY LINES:

Dray lines met trains and hauled freight to business houses, delivered coal,



Albert E. Stewart had an interest in the A. Wells Co. general merchandise store in Wheaton. The store was established as one of Wheaton's first businesses in 1884. Stewart was the grandfather of Lyle Stewart, who later was in the variety store business in Wheaton.

did any hauling needed. Early drayline operators were Charles Pickle, who also ran a large livery barn, A. G. Hedin, Sam Setterberg, Martin Ringdahl, O. M. Ohland, Arthur Peterson, Carl Olhoft, M. E. Lundquist, E. J. Erickson, and James Dupree. Fred Feldick was the last to offer such service.

## DECORATORS, PAINTERS:

Peder Solheim came here from Norway at the age of seventeen and established himself as a painter. Other early painters were August Seaquist and John Falk. Following them in the trade have been Selmer Steen, Don Falk, Will Stafford, and Miles Flakker.

## **DRUG STORES:**

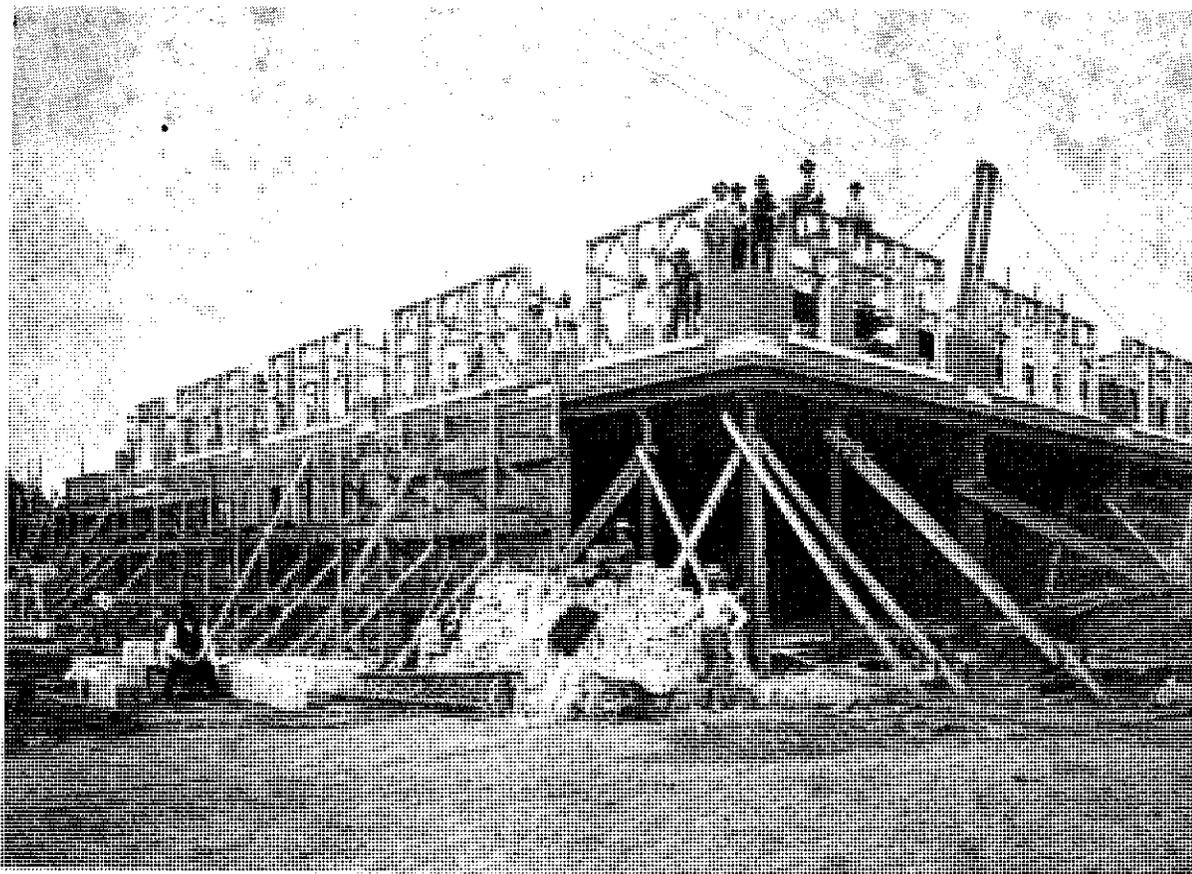
Stickles and Brynildsen had a drug store before Wheaton incorporated. They soon sold to T. K. Mork, who handled some fresh fruit, manufactured lemon extract, sold some drugs, and ran delivery routes to sell remedies such as liniments.

Wheaton Drug, incorporated about 1900 by Gustav Evander, G. P. Erickson and John T. Erickson, wholesaled drugs and medicines, dealt in books, stationery, fancy goods, wall paper, paints, and oils. They manufactured 22 preparations, some of which were corn cures, blood and liver pills, and cough remedies. Nine wagons were on the road to deliver to stores or homes.

Later Dr. Rydell, a veterinarian, was in partnership with Evander, who later became sole owner. Evander at one time owned the Corner Drug after buying it in 1924. For some years Evander Drug was

located in the present Dave's Bar building, but the business was later moved to the brick building now housing Grosland Jewelry. While Evander had the business, the balcony of the latter building was used for a hat shop owned by Edna Lundquist (Mrs. Roy Cole) and her sister, Ruth Anderson, which was later owned by Hilma and Ella Holt Belcher. Adabelle's Beauty Shop later occupied this space.

Dr. Ewing's medical office was located on the south end of the balcony area prior to moving to the ground floor location. The balcony was also a popular place for card parties. Evander's drug had a soda fountain and a lunch counter, which was supplied from the basement by a dumb waiter. After Doyle Potter became the pharmacist and owner of the store, the name was changed to Potter Drug. It was in the family for more than 40 years, with Doyle's son joining him as a pharmacist. The store later moved to 1105 Broadway and is now



**Construction of many major buildings in downtown Wheaton was well underway by the late 1800s. This big brick structure at the corner of 9th and Broadway is pictured midway through construction in 1892. The building was to eventually become the Corner Drug Store.**

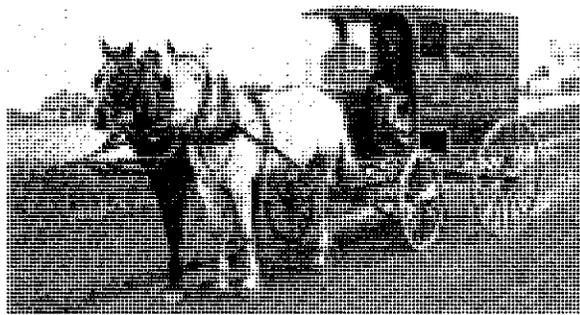
the Wheaton Drug with Larry Cartwright, Ortonville, Richard Oftedahl, Madison, and John Nerenz, Wheaton, the owners.



**Wheaton Drug incorporated in 1900 and established business in this stately downtown building. Note the delivery wagon standing in front of the store.**

The Hermanson Drug Company was in business in the early 1920's. Nothing more is known about this business.

Larry Hokanson owned the Corner Drug at 924 Broadway from about 1930 until 1969 when it was sold to Darold Bihrlle, present owner. Larry and his wife Eva felt they paid for the business through the sale of root beer and other soda fountain treats.



**Drug store operators at the turn of the century were not confined to the four walls of their store. The Wheaton Drug operated this delivery wagon. Wheaton Drug carried on both a wholesale and retail business, manufactured some drugs, and had nine wagons on the road making deliveries.**

Bihrlle was employed in the store in the summer of 1958 while attending NDSU and started full time work in 1959 after graduating from pharmacy school. He bought the store in 1969.

Drug stores had soda fountains with booths or tables for enjoying the treats until sometime during the 1940's. They were popular spots for the younger set.



**The scene in downtown Wheaton in 1932, looking west from the Corner Drug.**



**By the 1930s the age of electricity was firmly entrenched in western Minnesota, and all sorts of new gadgets were on the market to make living a little easier — electrically. The staff of Minnesota Utilities Company in Wheaton proudly displayed their wares. Pictured left to right are Russell Anderson, Doris (Krenz) Peschel, Vernon Buswell, Vivian (Hanson) Barlage, Ella (Holt) Belcher, and manager Oliver Haugland.**

#### **ELECTRIC POWER, ELECTRICIANS:**

The Wheaton Electric Light Company's generating plant, which was coal fired, was at the north end of Twelfth Street. Power was sold to businesses or homes that were wired, but it was intermittent and undependable. The flour mill which was moved from here to Fairmount had a boiler and steam engine. After the mill was gone, the steam plant was used for a time. In 1914 ads for electric stoves appeared in the newspaper. Also in 1914 the village and A. A. Johnson arranged modernization of the electric service with power to be supplied from Fergus Falls on a 24-hour basis with new equipment.

The Federal Public Service Corp. opened a store in Wheaton in 1930 with Oliver Haugland as manager. It was taken over by Minnesota Utilities, serving twenty-two towns with electricity and also selling

appliances. Located on the present First Bank site, it was succeeded at that location by Swift Electric Co. (Howard Houston and Ed Haight), which built many of the electric lines and wired farm homes after the organization of Traverse Electric Co-operative. By 1941 Otter Tail Power Co. purchased the electric properties of Minnesota Utilities Co. in the Wheaton district.

Swift Electric was later taken over by Donald Johnson and Phillip Petterson, with the latter continuing in the business. Other electricians who have served the community include E. A. Langbecker, Gundersen Electric, Wheaton Electric (Einer Oscarson and Howard Knapp), Gordon Oscarson Electric, Orville Johnson, and Ray Hiedeman. Supplying electric contracting service presently are Walt's Electric, Jerry's Electric, Swift Electric and Bach Electric.

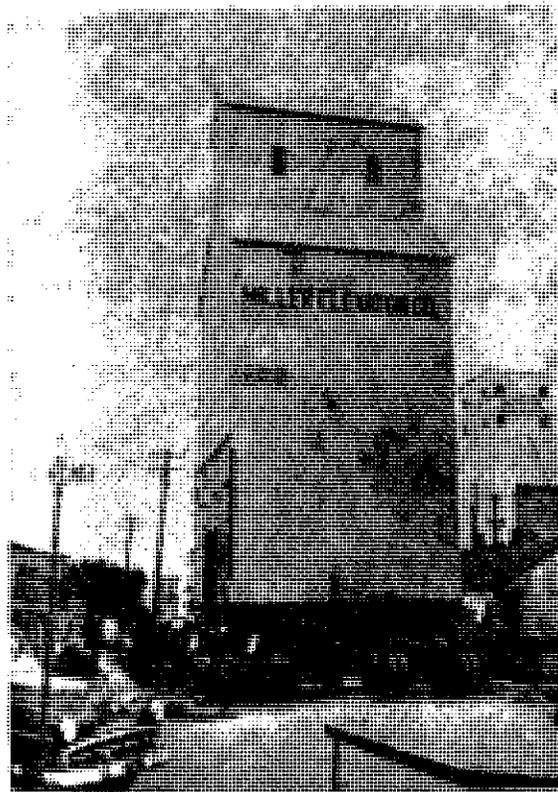
## ELEVATORS:

In a predominantly agricultural area grain elevators were needed and among those filling the need were Fargo and Southern, National, Monarch, Odenborg, Crown, Strong & Co., and Peavey. Peavey Co. operated one of the elevators now owned by the Wheaton-Dumont Cooperative Elevator, moving the former Miller Elevator from Collis here in 1952 when the Peavey Elevator burned. In 1916 Oscar Ax bought the Crown Elevator, renaming it the O. E. Elevator Co. The only remaining elevator business in Wheaton is that of the Wheaton-Dumont Cooperative Elevator with its large complex of buildings and services.

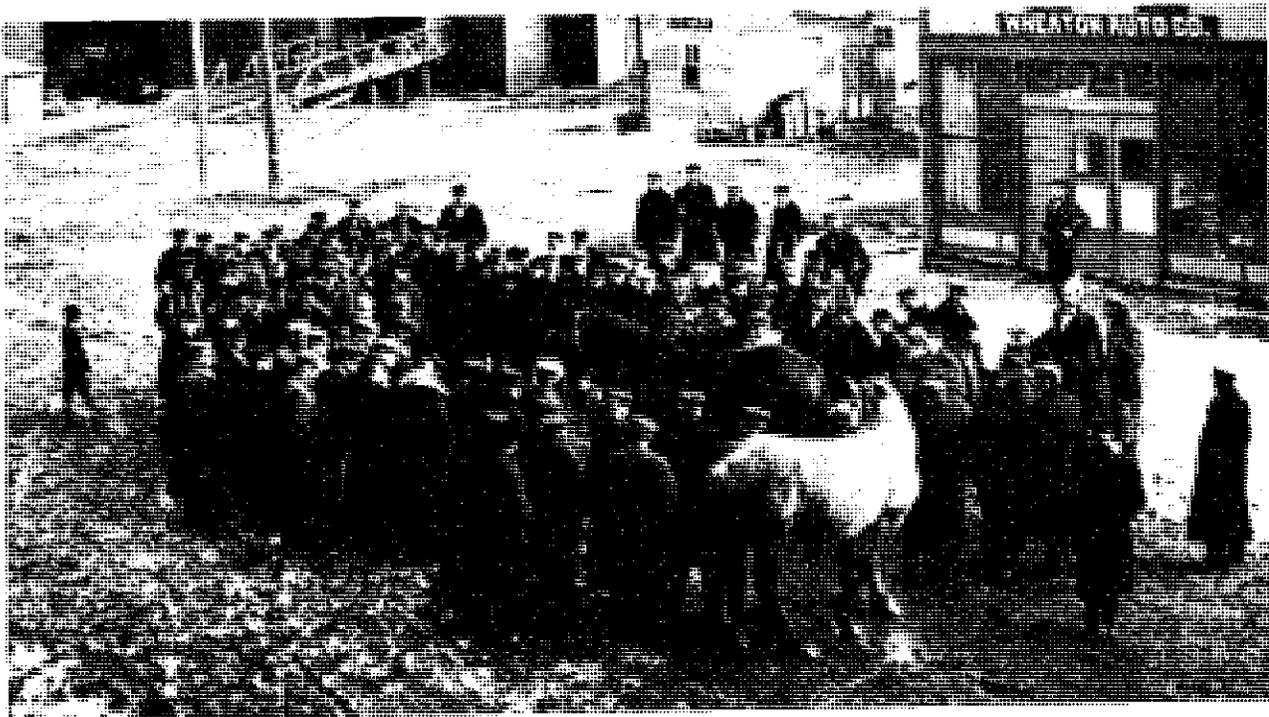
At one time Wheaton was widely known for having seven elevators, seven saloons and seven churches!

## FLOOR COVERING:

Ranneys have long had a floor covering store. Others in the business were Fabel and Olson, Kaercher Floor Covering, and Siegel Floor and Fabric. Laurel Siegel now operates his business from his home. Jeff Norton is an independent installer of floor coverings.



The Miller Elevator of Collis became the Peavey Elevator of Wheaton when the big structure was moved in 1952. The elevator replaced a Peavey unit which had burned earlier in the year.



Despite the arrival of automobiles, horse sales continued to be a popular event in Wheaton in the early part of the 1900s. This was the scene at a horse sale on the west end of Broadway in 1920.

U S E

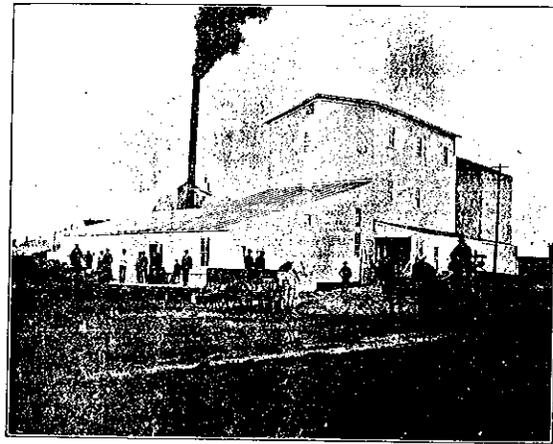
WHITE  LILY

FLOUR

Insist upon it and you will not be the loser

YOU no doubt have been reading of the crusade being made against "Bleached Flour." In North Dakota the Pure Food Commission-  
ers have put their stamp upon it and its sale is unlawful. Bleached Flour is still on the market in Minnesota and sooner or  
later its sale will be unlawful in this state. Right here we wish to impress upon your mind that our flour is **NOT BLEACHED**, but  
has the delicate creamy color that only Pure Flour has. From the high tests that our flour has been receiving from the Howard In-  
specting People, of Minneapolis, which have ranked with the top notchers in this state, reading, "No. 1, as to color—creamy white elastic,—and fully up to standard first patent." is enough in itself to convince you that our flour is the flour for you.

Head-  
quarters  
for the  
Best  
Flour.



Head-  
quarters  
for all  
Kinds of  
Feed.

Insist upon the Home Product

WHITE LILY

And your Family will Never Regret it.

FOR SALE BY

WHEATON MILLING COMPANY,  
WHEATON, MINNESOTA.

An advertisement by the Wheaton Milling Company in the December 21, 1906 issue of the Wheaton Gazette.

## FLOWER SHOPS:

The earliest florist in Wheaton was Mrs. Will Daman who operated from her home, taking orders for flowers or selling from her garden when in season, for about 50 years. Meta Robison opened a floral shop adjacent to Highway 75, which she sold to Mr. and Mrs. Art Larson who named it A&L Floral. Next owner was Larry Engels, who in turn sold to Jeff and Lori Kress. Marcy and Mitch Whaley opened a flower and gift shop in the new Whaley building at 205 Second Avenue South. A&L Floral closed shortly thereafter. Jake Schmitz also sold flowers and plants from his home for several years.

The Lawn and Garden Center has been another important asset to Wheaton. Originated and operated for many years by Harold Anderson, it is now owned by Marcie and Tom Conroy.

## FURNITURE AND FUNERAL HOMES:

The earliest undertaker of whom there is record was E. H. Boley, who was in partnership with Ed Nordin. They handled furniture and china also.

A. H. Peterson, forerunner of the Ranney Furniture Store and Funeral Home, had his business at the site of the present Wheaton Drug. Chester Anderson came here in 1927 as an employee. When fire destroyed the building in 1934, Peterson moved to a dwelling at the southwest corner of Second Avenue North and Tenth Street. Later he bought the dwelling at the present location of Ranney's and built an addition. At the time of Peterson's death in 1948, he had ordered the first combination funeral coach and ambulance, which was operated by Anderson and Elmer Nord for a year.

Thomas Ranney opened an undertaking parlor in 1928 in the building north of the Wells Co. store (now Hess Insurance) and operated it until his death in 1939. Then N. J. McElwee took over the business, later moving it to the former Murphy house on Broadway for a time before leaving the community.

By 1949 Chester Anderson and David Ranney were operating the Anderson-Ranney Funeral Home and Home Decorating business in a former dwelling at 903 First Avenue North, also running an am-

balance service. Early rates were \$15 to Fargo, \$25 to Minneapolis, \$35 to Rochester, and \$2 for local runs. That year Joseph Vertin and Sons of Wahpeton bought and operated the Peterson Furniture and Funeral Home, employing Elmer Nord and Bernard Monson as operators.

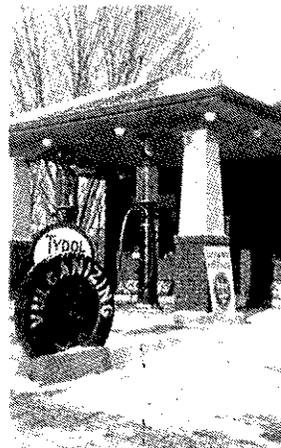
In 1953 Anderson purchased Ranney's interest in the mortuary-ambulance and continued it as the Anderson Funeral Home. The same year Ranney, Nord and Lloyd Johnson bought out Vertins and opened a business in Rosholt in 1956. After three years Johnson left the partnership, taking over the Rosholt business. In 1959 the south side was added to the Wheaton store to enlarge the furniture area. They also purchased the Anderson Funeral Home.

In 1966 David Ranney bought out Elmer Nord and was joined by his son Tom (1970) and David, Jr. (1977). The new funeral home north of the furniture store was built in 1970. Ranneys also serve the funeral needs of the Herman area, where they have a mortuary.

Other furniture stores have been operated in Wheaton by Loberg Furniture and Vilroy and Arllis Schmitz.

## GASOLINE STATIONS:

With the advent of the automobile a source of fuel to operate the motor became necessary and the gas station appeared. First gas pumps dispensed one gallon at a time. A type of crank pumped gas from an



Wheeler's Station in downtown Wheaton in 1930.

underground tank which had been filled by gasoline delivered in five-gallon pails from a horse-drawn delivery wagon. Curbside pumps were next, with the glass-enclosed container at the top holding ten gallons pumped by a hand-operated lever. One grade of gas was available. As more cars were sold and traffic increased, pumps were moved away from curbs and regular service stations were built.

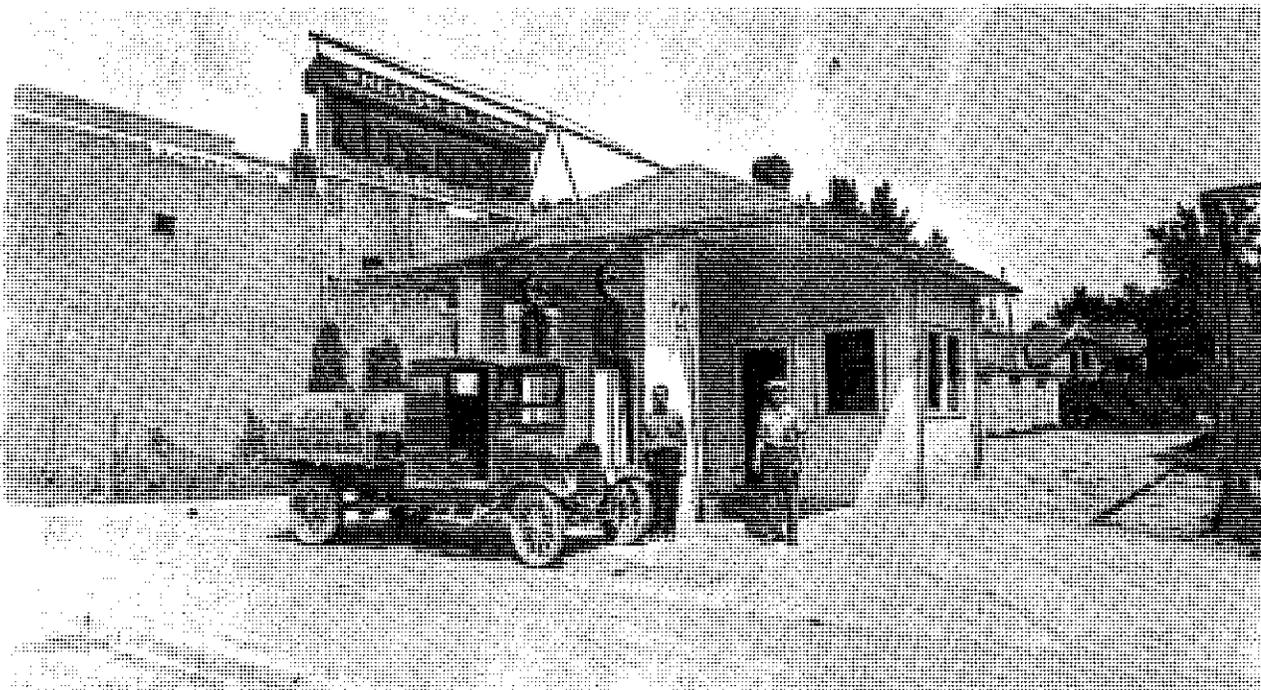
Wheaton Oil Co. began business in 1927 at the bulk plant site adjacent to the railroad line. Although there was no station, patrons came with 50-gallon barrels, and gas was bucketed to them in five-gallon lots. A station was erected at the present location and used until 1967 when a newly formed corporation bought the Walter Drinkwitz stock, took over operation of the company, and built a new station. Oscar Spafford became part owner and manager. Present manager is Ordell Hennen.

Robert Wheeler, Sr. had his first tire shop in a building south of Broadway, now the site of the UBC storage yard. He built the new filling station and tire shop, now Larson's Oil, in about 1929. He was succeeded in the business by his son Robert G.

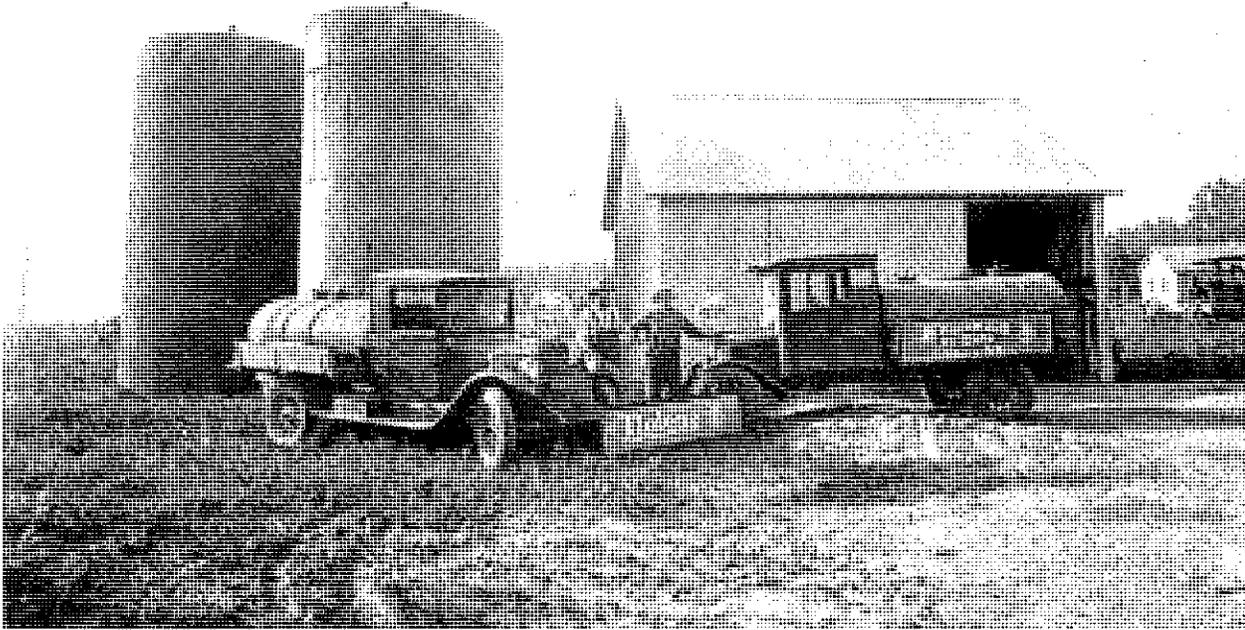
Wheeler, who ran the business until selling to Lynel Larson, present owner.

One of the early stations was Consumers Home Oil Co. in 1924, followed in 1928 by Clark Korsbek's Standard Oil with a new station at Broadway and 11th Street. Korsbek sold the business to S. J. Rudnicki, who was followed by G.I. Skrein and later Leonard Johnson. In 1929 the Master Service Station was opened by Arthur Thill, who sold in 1947 to Al Timm. It is now owned by Hugo Miller's family.

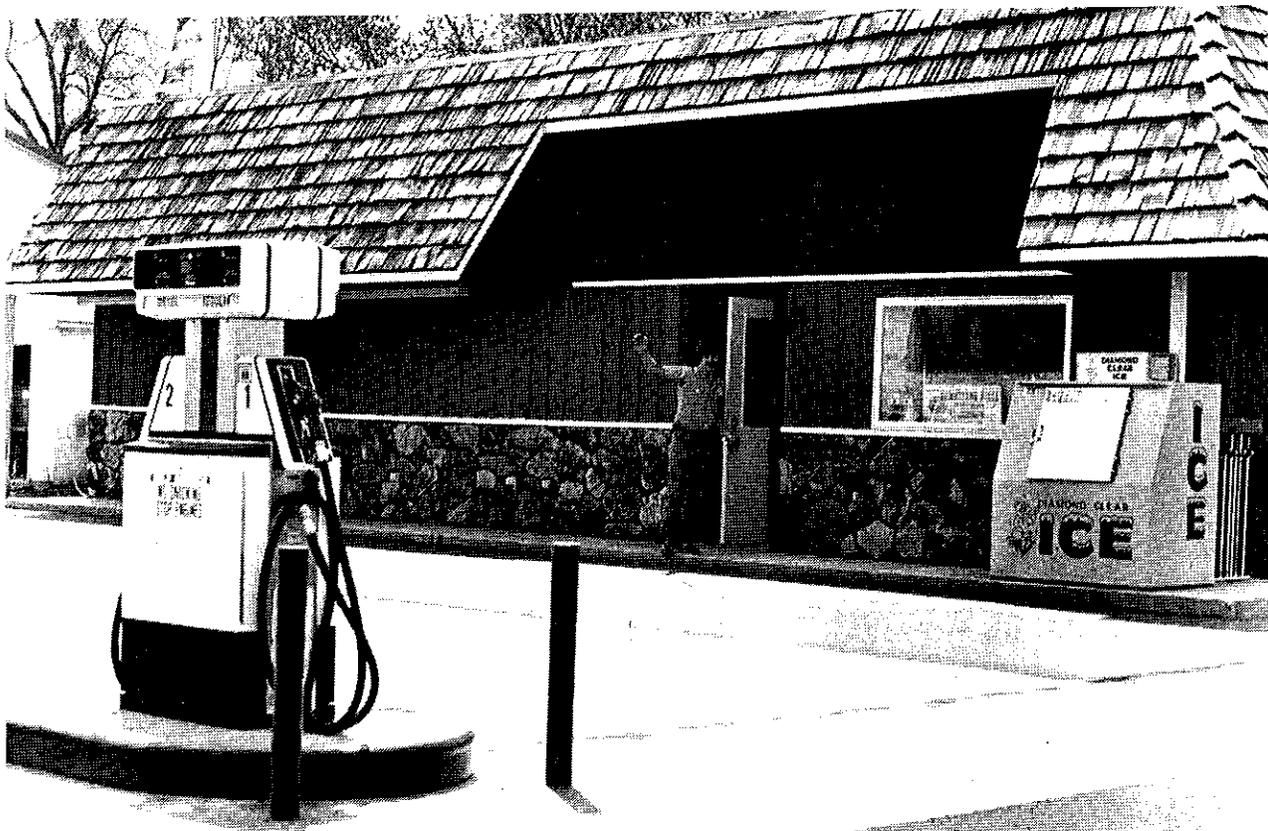
Other stations were Paul Krauth's station on Highway 75 in 1926, which was sold first to Deals, later was John's North Star, then Erickson Oil, and is now run by Brian Weick; Betts' Station, 1933; Gordon Oscarson and Ben Gilyard in a station near the depot in 1936; Vilroy Schmitz's Standard, built in 1954, and later owned by Gordon Oscarson and then by Roy Rittenour for several years and taken over by the present owner Wayne Siegel; Cook's Mobil, Hammarsten's Mobil; Ike Haugland's, now Jim Lillehaug's gas, oil and repair business; and Traverse Cooperative Oil Co. (see "Cooperatives"). Carlson's Mini-Mart on Highway 75 opened in 1983.



**The Wheaton Oil Company, one of the early stations and oil dealers in Wheaton, opened in the year 1928. Pictured with the company's first fuel truck are Bert Spafford and Al Germain. The company built a bulk plant along the railroad tracks, in addition to this station, and people came with wagons to haul away barrels of gas.**



**The arrival of the automobile brought a new business, the oil delivery and service station business. These were the first oil storage tanks in Wheaton and pictured with their delivery trucks, one a Model T, the other a Chevrolet, are Bob Neuman and Julius Raguse.**



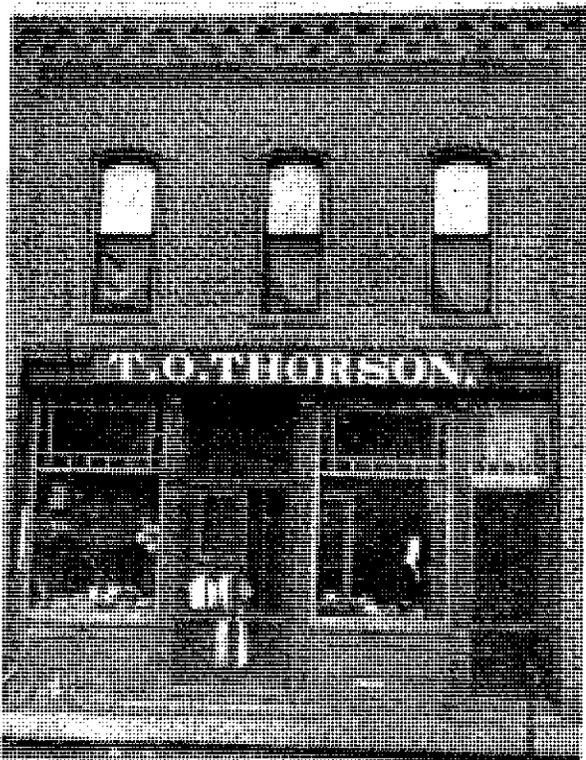
**Wheaton's newest service station, Carlson's Mini-Mart, opened on Highway 75 in 1983 at the site where the Mobil Oil Station had previously operated.**

## GENERAL MERCHANDISE:

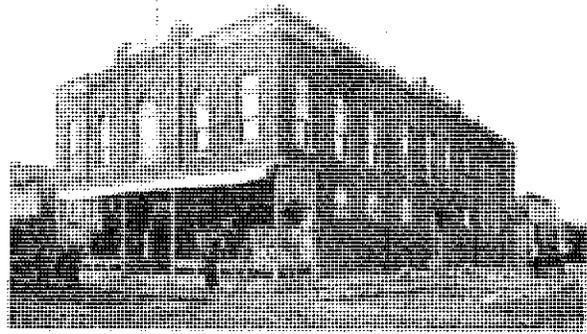
Survivor of the general merchandise stores here is the Wheaton Department Store, known as the Wheaton Farmer's Cooperative Mercantile Co. when it opened as a stock company in 1906. It later was known as the Farmers Store. Original incorporators were Henry Heidelberger, Peter Johanson, Peter Buhrman, L.H. Amidon, Nels Akerson, Swan Hokanson, Tom Heggen, and John T. Erickson.

The customer could buy anything from a spool of thread to a piece of farm machinery. It was originally located on the north side of Broadway where it remained for 14 years. The present building was erected in 1920 with an addition for the hardware department built to the east in 1940. Chester Johanson, employed there in 1920, became secretary-treasurer in 1927. A. E. Ulrich started his work with the store in the early 1920's. Groceries were discontinued in 1962 to expand the room for shoes and clothing.

Ulrich started picking up stock in the



One of the earliest general merchandise stores in Wheaton was that of T. O. Thorson. The business was started in 1885 and continued to operate until 1910.



The A. Wells Company was the first general merchandise store to locate in Wheaton, coming in 1884, three years before the village was incorporated. This modern brick building was constructed by the Wells Co. in the late 1880s.

store, and by 1929 he and Johanson owned equal shares and incorporated. In 1959 Ulrich took over the clothing portion, and Johanson stayed with hardware. In 1973 Johanson closed out his hardware. Meantime Ulrich set up a profit-sharing arrangement with Leonard Gutwasser, Darrel Johnson and Frances Norton. Following Gutwasser's sudden death, Johnson and Norton bought his interest. Ulrich sold out in 1974 to Johnson and Norton. Johnson continues with the business.

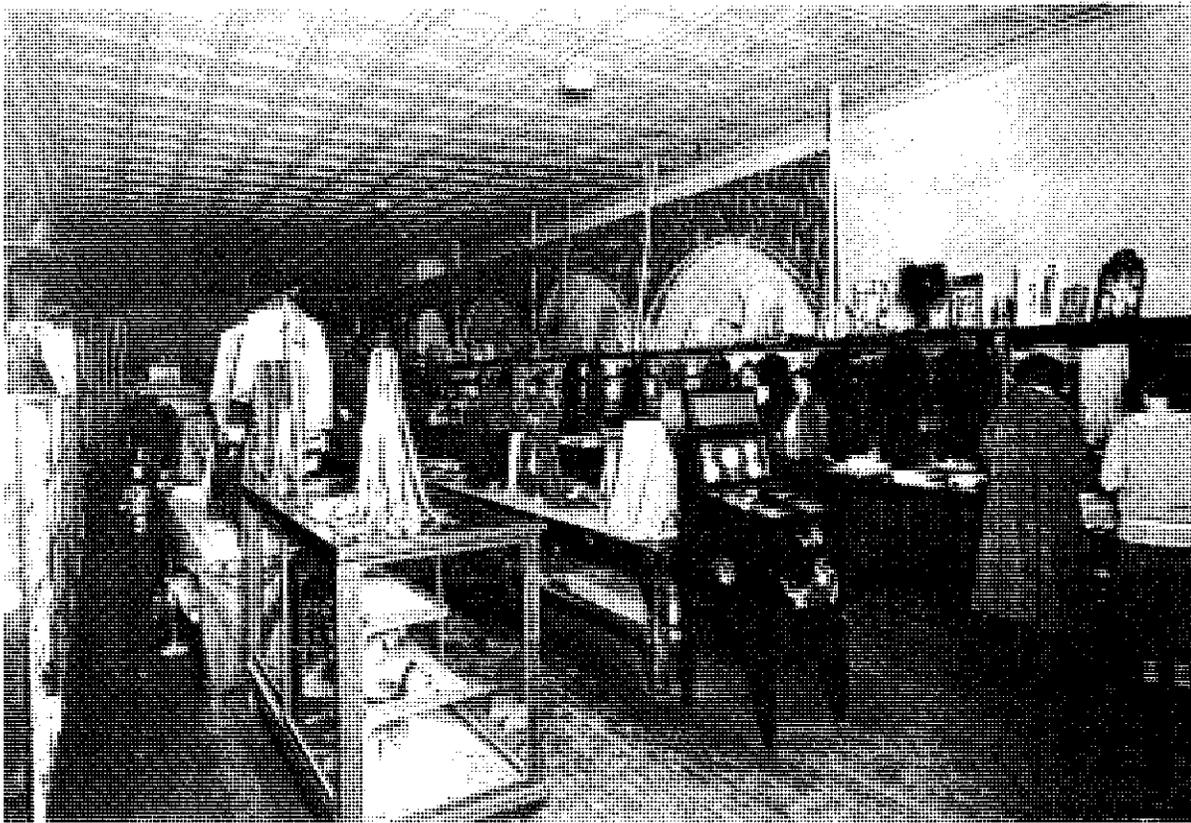
T. O. Thorson and Andrew Peterson had a store selling dry goods, shoes, crockery, groceries and other merchandise in 1885. Peterson left in 1888 to go into banking and H. Benno joined Thorson, leaving in 1890. Thorson disposed of the general merchandise in 1910.

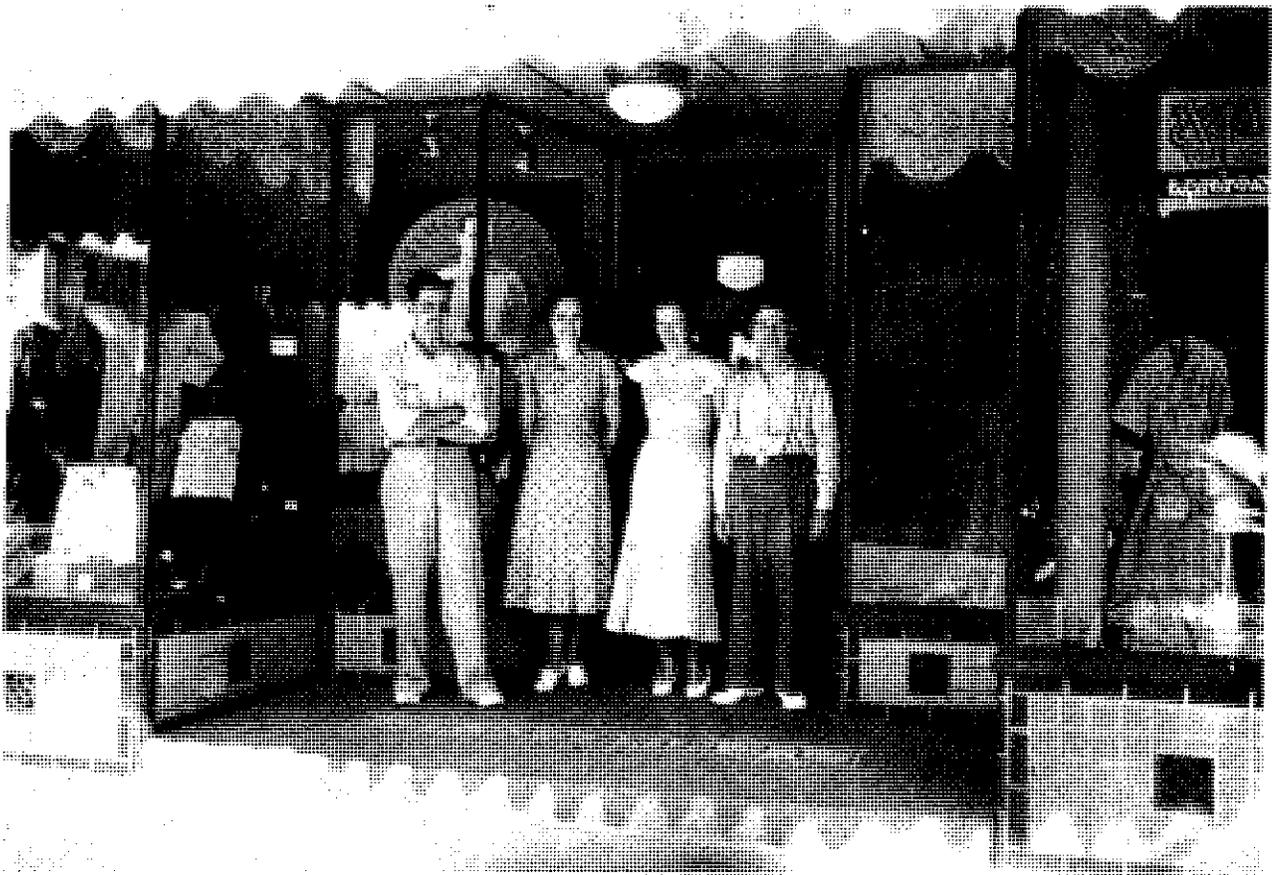
A. Wells Co. established a store in a one-story frame building in 1884 and later built the two-story brick building at the northwest corner of 11th Street and Broadway to house their stock. It was headed by A. Wells, who was the general manager of six such stores. Others in the business were Joseph Bruns and O. J. Davidson. Davidson came here in 1888 to work in the Wells Store and in 1892 became a partner. Bruns entered the partnership in 1894, a partnership which endured for 26 years. The Wells building was destroyed by fire in 1983.

Among other early general stores were Norgaard and Bach, Lund and Neuman, Spot Cash Store, Chicago Store, Sorenson and Bailey, and Nordrum and Anderson.



**Two views inside the Farmers Store in Wheaton in the year 1924. Above Chester Johanson, along with Foss, Hofstedt and Isackson are pictured in the store's hardware department. Below is the dry goods and ready-to-wear department.**





**The J. C. Penney Company opened a general merchandise store in Wheaton in 1929, occupying the building which had earlier housed the A. Wells Company. Penney's continued to operate a store here until 1961. Pictured from left to right are Horace Amidon, Hilma Holt, Freda Block and store manager Walter Keith.**

J. C. Penney Co. opened a store in the Wells building in 1929 with George Peavey as first manager. He was succeeded after his death in 1930 by Walter Keith who managed the business until three years after World War II when John Maanum came to the store. Leonard Gutwasser was manager from 1955 until 1959 and was succeeded by Don May, the last manager of the store. The company joined the trend toward larger urban and suburban shopping communities and closed the store in 1961.

Several other mercantile stores occupied the Wells building following the closing of Penneys. The Skogmo Store was opened in 1961 by Ben and Norma Carrigan, followed a few years later by the VCS Department Store operated by Karen Doll and later by Schoenrock's Department Store.

Duebers, a store dealing in clothing and variety store items, is presently located in the Erickson-Hellekson-Vye Building at the southwest corner of Broadway and 11th Street.

#### **GROCERIES:**

One of the first grocery stores was Schroeder and Salem, and the former also ran the post office. Among others were P. M. Olson, who also offered confectionaries and tobacco supplies in 1901; Oscar Hines; Red and White Store (the first chain store); Bergner's, bought in 1935 by Dale Strong, who sold his business in 1947 to Fredolph Anderson; Larson and Kerling; Co-op Store; W. C. Houghton; and Jester's Red Owl, which was a company store, later an

# SPECIAL SHOE SALE

FOR TWO WEEKS

Commencing Saturday, March 5, 1910

In order to reduce my shoe stock and make room for my new spring stock which is arriving daily, I have decided to conduct a special sale on shoes for the next two weeks. While this sale lasts you can have any shoe in my store at a greatly reduced price.

Read Over the Prices Quoted Below:



## Foot Schulze Shoes

\$5.00 Shoes, now	-	-	\$4.00
4.00 Shoes, now	-	-	3.50
3.50 Shoes, now	-	-	3.00

## Douglas Shoes

\$5.00 Shoes, now	-	-	\$4.00
4.00 Shoes, now	-	-	3.50
3.50 Shoes, now	-	-	3.00

The same discount will be given on ALL LADIES' SHOES.

## Oxford Shoes

\$4.00 Oxfords, now \$3.00      \$3.50 Oxfords, now \$2.50      \$2.00 Oxfords, now \$1.50

Children's Patent Leather Slippers in tan and red, worth \$1, to close out at 50 cts.

My entire line of Felt Shoes for Men and Women will be sold at cost during this sale.

Mittens, Spats and Leggons all go at Wholesale Price in order to close them out.

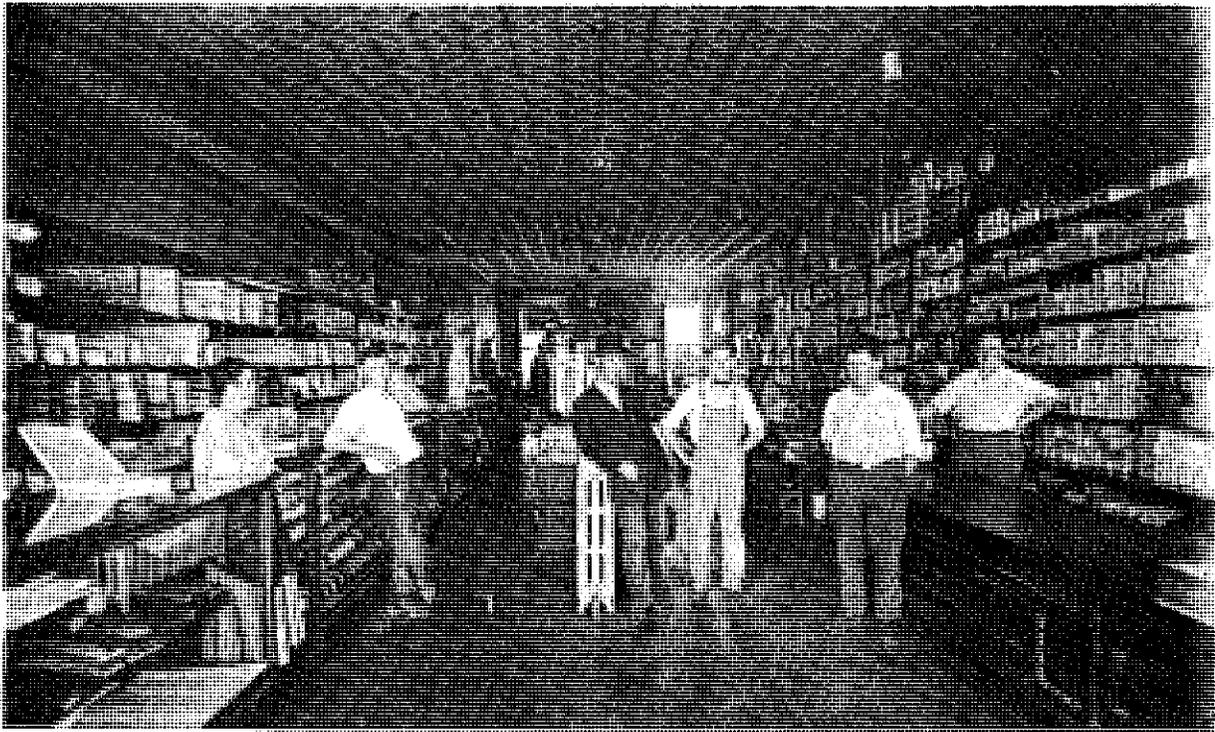
Nearly all the shoes offered in this sale was bought las fall and are of the very best make, and if you want to save some money on shoes, don't miss this sale.

# N. J. NELSON

THE SHOE MAN

WHEATON, MINN.

An ad appearing in the Gazette-Reporter March 11, 1910.



**A view inside the A. Wells Company store in 1924.**



**The natty look of the early part of the century is shown by the way fine fur coats were worn by ladies on everyday shopping trips to the Farmers Store in Wheaton. This photo was taken in 1916. Pictured from left, behind the counter are J. J. Kerling, manager of the store, Harry Anderson, Henry Hanson, Clarence Johanson and Sam Buhrman. The two ladies are Hazel Heggen and Inga Amundson.**

agency store, then privately owned. Super Valu opened in 1946. Neighborhood stores were Atom Grocery, Van's, Frank and Evelyn's Market, and Eastside Market, now Eastside Deli run by Mr. and Mrs. Leo Deal. The newest is Carlson's Mini-Mart.

Many others have opened and operated for several years, some absorbed into a larger store, some with several owners. Two major grocery stores remain, Kenneth and Arvid Anderson's Red Owl-Ben Franklin Store and Ketterling's Wheaton Super Valu.

### HAIRDRESSERS:

Among the earliest hairdressers here were Adabelle Simmer and Lillian Molstre. Adabelle, who became Mrs. Ashley Vye, had her shop on the balcony at Evander Drug. They did manicures and facials, but the bulk of their work was hair dressing. Mrs. Molstre established her shop in 1934 on the second floor of the Crandall Cafe building and remained there until 1962, when she had a new building erected north of Corner Drug. Some other shops through the years were Mary Ann's, Cozy Nook, Vivians, and Helen's Hair Benders. In 1985 Lillian still takes customers along with Elaine's Beauty Salon, Dee's Hair Shop, Carol's Beauty Salon, Margie's Beauty Salon, and Monica's Beauty and Barber Center.

Lillian reflected on the changes in the work from permanents where the customer sat under the electrically heated machine attached by wiring to the clamps that curled the hair. Next there was a remote control machine which was similar, and finally came the cold wave which has been in use for many years. Oldsters will remember the old marcells, a series of waves made with a heated curling iron. Lillian trained many operators, giving them the opportunity to work sufficient hours to qualify for their state board exams and finally a manager's license.

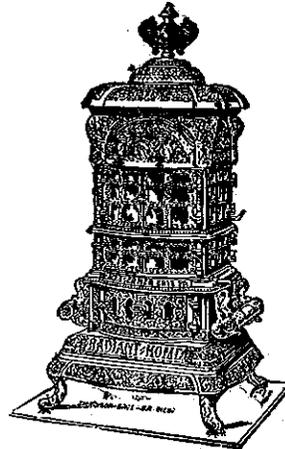
### HARDWARE STORES:

Hardwares in addition to the large Erickson-Hellekson-Vye Hardware (at Dueber's present location) were Earsley and

Eaton, Sorenson and Bailey, and H. O. Monson's which also sold furniture. Coast-to-Coast on the north side of Broadway was started by Frank Stieha, who was succeeded by E. G. Rooth. It was later owned for many years by Irving Toning. In 1964 the next owners, Mr. and Mrs. Loyld Mix, moved the business to the former Farmers Store

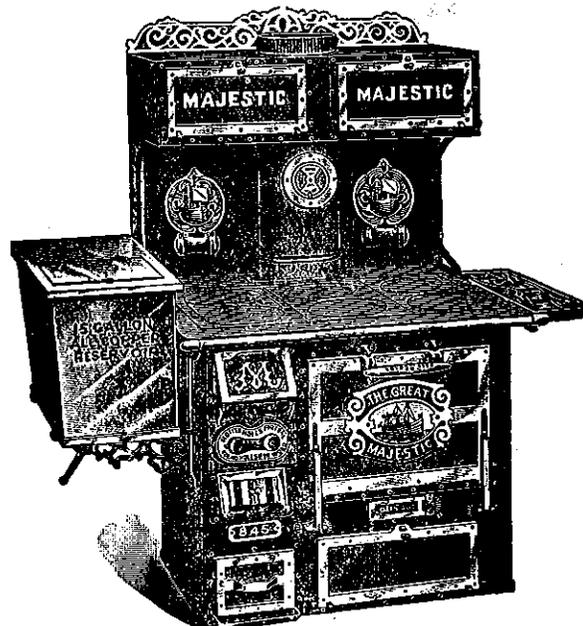
## YEAR IN and YEAR OUT

We sell  
these same  
kind of  
Stoves, be-  
cause  
they give  
universal  
satisfaction.



They  
have a  
number  
of good  
features  
which no  
other  
stoves have

Call and we will be pleased to show them up to you. We also have a number of cheaper grade stoves, both new and second-hand.



## ERICKSON & HELLEKSON,

Wheaton, Minnesota.

Add in the Wheaton Gazette Sept. 22, 1905.



**Construction of the Erickson-Hellekson hardware building began in 1888. Crafted workmen placed brick to provide an ornate appearance, with heavy moving work done by horse. An interesting sidelight to this photo is that it has been reproduced for the Wheaton Centennial Book from a book printed in both Swedish and English dealing with migration from Sweden to the United States in the 1850 to 1930 period of time.**

hardware department, selling to the Dick Thomsens in 1976 who operated the business until it closed in 1984. The store was reopened in April of 1986 as an Our Own Hardware by Jerry Nelson.

Another chain hardware, the Gamble Store, was started by Ray Molstre. He was followed in succession by Al Germain, Olof Sethre, Helen Sethre, and Ken Norris. Norris changed the business from the Gamble line to Hardware Hank in about 1966 and sold the business to Gene Ross in 1969. Ross now continues to operate a Hardware Hank store in a new building he constructed on the old high school site on East Broadway.

The E-H-Vye Store was succeeded by Scheel's Hardware and Vogel's Hardware and lastly by the United Building Center.

#### **HARNESS AND SHOE REPAIR:**

The harness shop was essential for the early settlers, who depended on horses for transportation and farm work. Allied with it often was a shoe repair and at times a shoe store. Earliest names in the business were J. Peterson, John Nelson, John Heldt, Ole Olson, and Gust Danielson. With the advent of power farm equipment, need for the harness maker vanished.

Shoe repair or stores that sold shoes since were Simen Peterson in the 1920s-1930s, Wally's Shoe Repair, Woody's, Nord's, and Seifert's Shoes, the last four in the same location on Broadway. Jim Kleespies and Rodney Johnson had a shoe repair business in their homes for a short time. Currently Ron Chaput operates a tarp business and does shoe repair.



**The E. O. Oscarson Hatchery building, constructed alongside Highway 75 in Wheaton in 1942. The building has been remodeled today and serves as a club for the American Legion Post.**

**HATCHERY:**

Prompted by the desire and need to hatch their own turkeys, Einer and Walter Oscarson started hatching eggs and raising turkeys in 1930 on their father's farm northwest of Wheaton. The first 5,000 capacity incubator was soon inadequate, and by 1934 they increased capacity to 18,000 to take care of their own and area customers.

The old Spiritualist Temple building at 202 Tenth Street South was purchased in 1937, and the capacity had grown to 50,000 chickens and 20,000 turkeys plus battery brooder. The first year in the building a snowstorm hit at the end of April when incubators were full of eggs and electric power was off for 33 hours. With help of many townspeople they sustained a mini-

mal loss. They built room temperature and humidity way up and fanned incubator doors continuously for 33 hours.

By 1941 the need for a still larger plant became apparent. With financial backing from Andrew Peterson and R. N. Ringdahl, Einer and Agnes Oscarson purchased land west of Highway 75 and had a large modern building erected to handle 100,000 chicken eggs and 20,000 turkey eggs. Incubators were electrically heated, humidity was controlled, and eggs were automatically turned. A diesel standby unit provided power several times during current disruptions. In addition, two separate buildings housed electrically heated battery brooder cages for starting baby chicks. A two-story hen house gave space for special breeding stock.

The Oscarsons raised two to three thousand turkeys on land now occupied by the Pearson School and the Wheaton Motel. The hatchery was regularly inspected by the Minnesota Poultry Improvement Board and the Livestock Sanitary Board. Japanese sexors, headquartered at Paynesville, came twice a week as a hatch came off and determined the sex of chicks as required by customers, until the war with Japan broke out and they were put in detention camps. Some of the hatchery personnel had special training in flock selection, disease control and blood testing.

The hatchery was sold in 1958 to Lund and Steichen, who operated it until it closed



**Housing for the breeding flock for Oscarson's Hatchery was provided by this two-story building, located where Whaley Plumbing is located today. This building blew down.**

within a few years. Later the building became the Merton-Dale American Legion headquarters, and the building to the south was converted to a car wash. Another building to the northwest was destroyed by

wind.

In the late 1920's and 1930's Martin Lundquist ran the Traverse County Hatcheries in Wheaton.



**Coffee John's Hotel was one of the first such facilities in Wheaton.**

#### **HOTELS - MOTELS:**

Among early hotels were one run by L. P. Deal, C. H. Colyer, The Wheaton House run by J. Boetzer, Frank Lindquist's Hotel Union, Hallberg's Occidental Hotel, the Merchants Hotel, the Traverse Hotel, Coffee John's Hotel, and the City Hotel run by Elwin Jenks from 1912 to 1916. His widow Minnie continued the business until her death in 1926. Most were small frame buildings with hotel rooms on the second floor.

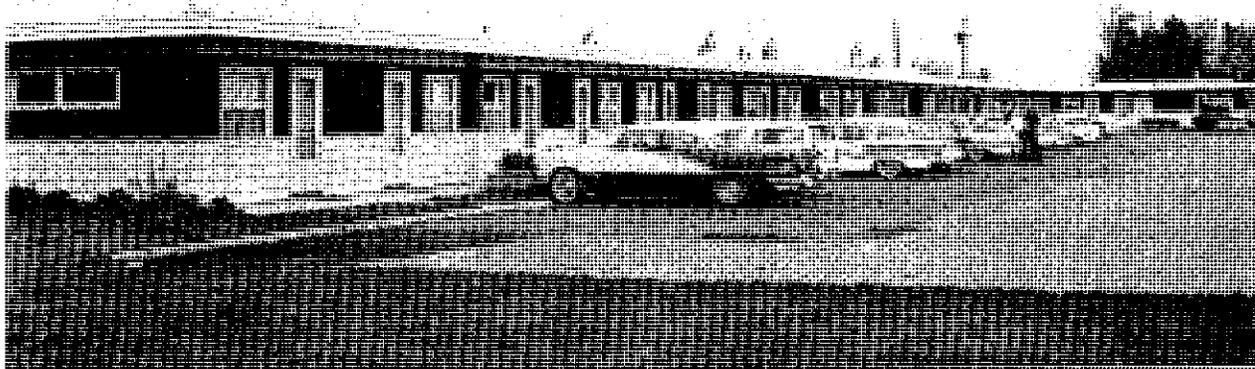
The Palmer House opened in 1896. It became a popular place for balls and parties and was headquarters for Twin City hunters who congregated there in the fall for the duck hunting. This was a three-story building which still stands on Broadway. At

different times a fine dining room was operated there. T. H. Hetherington, who had been employed as a chef in Minneapolis, bought an interest in it in 1924 and operated the Palmer House with his wife Lottie until 1955, when W. L. Dunbar purchased it. Upon Dunbar's death, his wife Mae ran the hotel until it closed in 1979.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Larson had tourist cabins erected on their residential property along Highway 27 during the 1940's. These were rented to tourists, road crews, and other travelers for several years. Eventually they were sold and moved from the property. Two earlier cabins adjacent to the Standard Oil station along Highway 75 were owned by Gordon Oscarson, but were sold and moved during the 1940's.

Tourist traffic along Highway 75 was increasing by 1955. Einer and Agnes Oscarson became aware of the need for a motel and had 18 units under construction that year, opening in the spring of 1956. Add-

itional units were added within a few years. After ten years Dale Lowry purchased the motel and operated it until Frisch Enterprises became owner-operators.

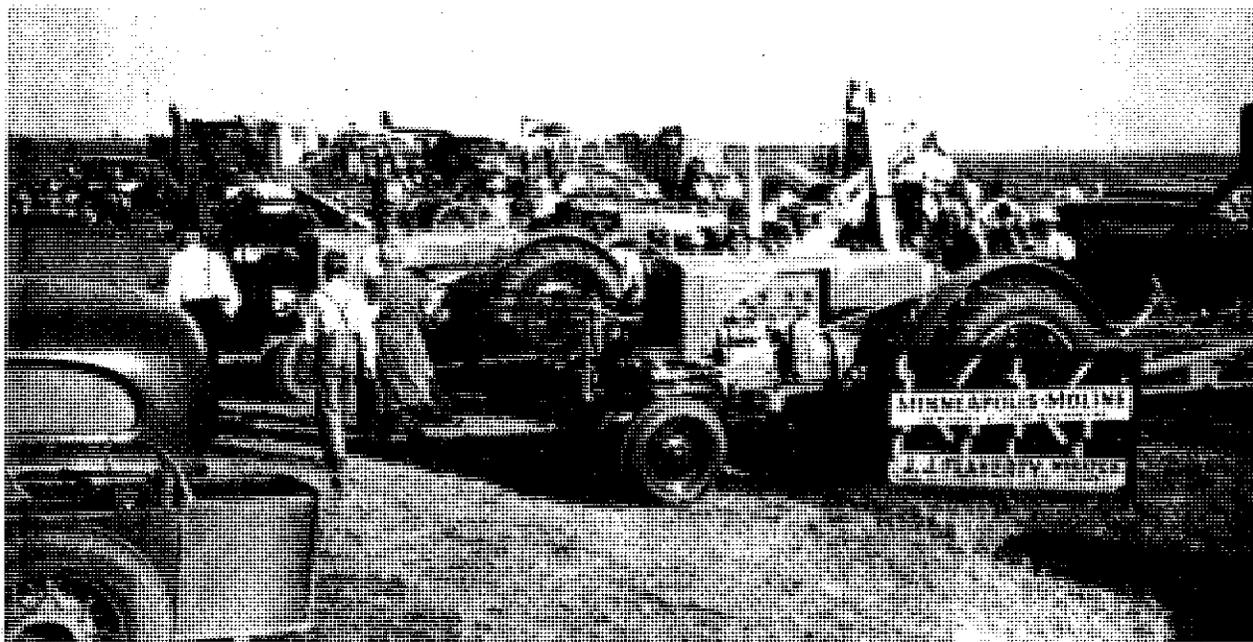


Meeting the lodging needs of travelers through Wheaton today is the Wheaton Motel, a modern facility which was constructed in 1956 and has been added to since the above photo was taken shortly after the facility opened for business.

#### IMPLEMENT DEALERS:

A community with agriculture as its principal industry was a good field for implement dealers. Alfred Setterlund was

one of those and was in business with various partners. Other dealers were James Walsh, Walders and Colyer, and Isaac Lee, who erected a building for his business in 1899.



The Minneapolis Moline line of equipment was lined up at the Flaherty Implement lot. Flaherty began the business here in 1932, selling to Paul Leininger in 1947.

Flaherty Implement was the Moline dealer from 1932 until selling the business to Paul Leininger in January 1947. The Flaherty dealership was first located on Broadway, where the present Red Owl stands, and was moved by Flaherty to North 12th Street, where Leininger continued the business until the early 1980's. Flaherty used his truck line to haul machinery and parts back from Minneapolis. Mr. Tessmer of Beardsley bought the first Moline tractor in the area, Fred Lichtsinn the second.

In 1956 the town had six dealers:

Fleischer Motors for J. I. Case, Traverse Implements for International Harvester, Larson Implement for John Deere, Lundquist Implement for Massey Harris, Leininger Implement for Minneapolis Moline, and Carlson Co. for Allis Chalmers. Of those, only Larsons Inc. survives. In this era additional dealerships were held by Paul Krauth (Oliver) and Clifford Bullock (Ford).

Elmer Larson (1888-1985), just out of the Army in 1919 after serving in France during World War I, took a position with White Rock Implement Co. He worked in

# WHEATON GAZETTE-REPORTER.

VOLUME 16.

WHEATON, TRAVERSE COUNTY, MINN., FRIDAY, JULY 20, 1900.

NUMBER 22

## DON'T FORGET

That the World's Best and most up-to-date Farm Machinery is sold by Isaac Lee.



THE.....  
CAPITAL MILL

is made of the best of steel, and equipped with interchangeable graphite metal boxings and our patent brake and roller plunger bearings. Every one warranted.

DEMPSTER MFG. CO.,  
DES MOINES, IA.

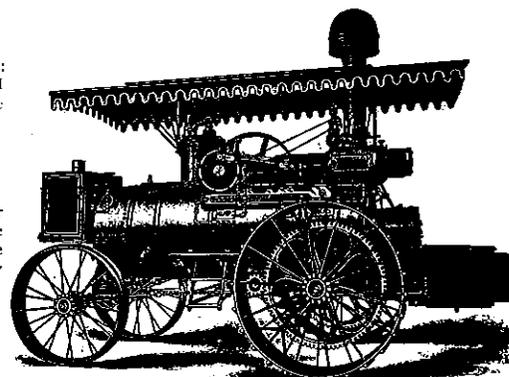
The Capital Mill is a first-class pumping mill. We are prepared to put up a pumping or geared wind mill on short notice.

### Binder Twine

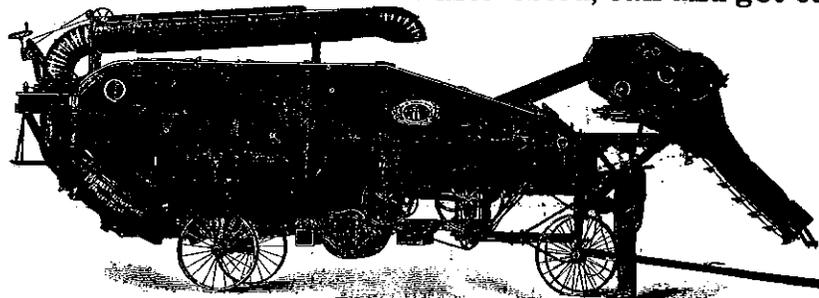
The Deering binder twine is good; every ball is strictly guaranteed. I have a small quantity of Deering Pure Manilla, which will be sold cheap.

### Deering Binders.

If you contemplate buying a binder you should get the Deering catalogue and read it and call and see the sample machine. I offer low prices and easy terms.

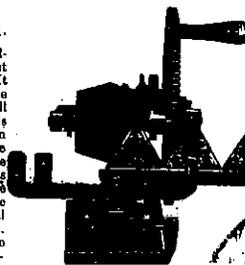


The Minneapolis Traction Engines and Separators are standard; built of first-class material and possess many good features not found on other steam outfits. The Minneapolis Traction Engines are acknowledged to be the safest and most durable and economical. If interested, call and get catalogue and prices.



### SICKLE GRINDER.

The Plano Sickle Grinder is the simplest and most reliable grinder in use. It can be operated by the most inexperienced. All the farmer has to do is to adjust the grinder, turn the crank and the machine does the rest. A unique feature of the grinder is the ease with which the grinding stone can be changed, only the removal of two cutters is necessary. It can be done in a minute and the machine is converted into a stationary grinder.



Office and Warehouse  
Opposite Postoffice.

FOR SALE BY **ISAAC LEE,** Wheaton, Minn.

Advertisement in the Gazette-Reporter July 20, 1900.



**One of the first threshing machines to arrive in the Wheaton community came to the Isaac Lee Implement, a firm which constructed a new business building in Wheaton in 1899.**



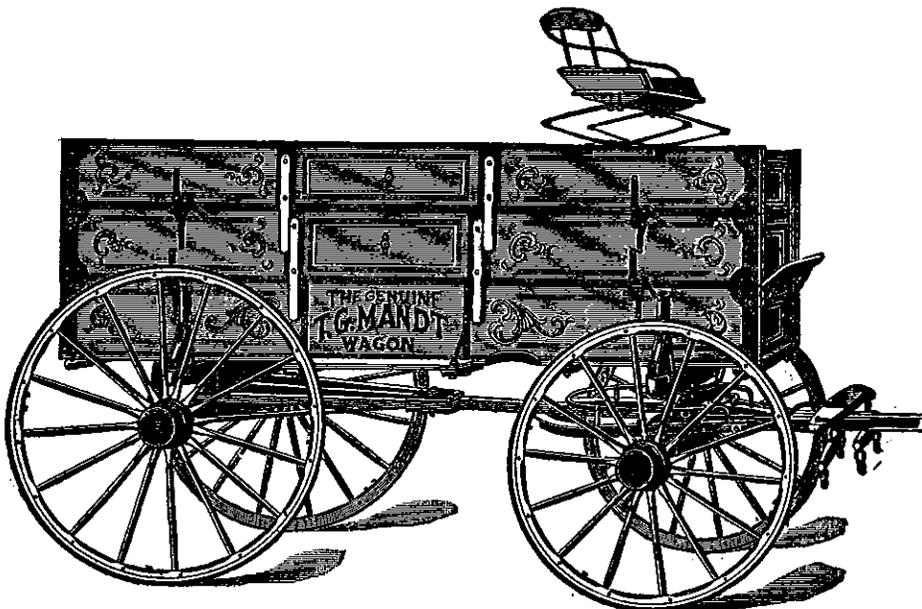
**Larson Implement, longtime John Deere dealers in the Wheaton community, constructed this new building along Highway 75 North in 1969. Larsons remain as the only active farm implement business in Wheaton today.**

and around White Rock until 1936. In 1941 he purchased the Wheaton branch of the White Rock firm, which had been managed by William Magnuson during the 1920's. During World War II Larson was alone in managing the company and said he found it a "rough row to hoe" with farmers clamoring for machinery, which was rationed. His son, Milton, and Everett Cole joined him and picked up interests in the business following service during World War II. They were later joined by Elmer's son Lionel and son-in-law Rodney Johnson who also became part owners. Johnson managed the Rosholt store which was

started in 1955 and closed in 1968. Milton continues to operate Larsons Inc.

International Harvester had a dealer here for more than fifty years. Ed Johnson and W. A. Lundquist bought into the Wheaton Tractor and Machine Co., predecessor of Traverse Implements, in 1920. Lundquist and his son Edmund, who was associated with the firm, sold their interests to Johnson and his son Tony, at which time Edmund went into business with Massey Harris, succeeding Ed Cordes in that business. Traverse Implement closed in 1967. Shortly after that Garner Schmidt re-opened the dealership and closed it in

## The Genuine T. G. Mandt Wagons



The  
Wagon  
that  
Excels  
all  
others

In good looks, finish, and proportion. And it is manufactured from the very best and thoroughly seasoned material, ironed up and painted so it will last almost a life time. The "MANDT" is known all over the world as the best wagon on wheels. There are 35 reasons why the "MANDT" is better than all the rest. Call in and we will show you many new and valuable features about wagons. We handle everything in the machinery line.

—'PHONE No. 53—

**PLANALP & FARMER.**

1973.

Bill Summers, salesman at Lundquist Implement, bought the business in 1969 when it was located south of the Farmers

Elevator. He later purchased the former Larson Implement building on West Broadway and moved his business there, but closed it out in 1985.

# WHEATON GAZETTE-REPORTER.

VOLUME 16.

WHEATON, TRAVERSE COUNTY, MINN., FRIDAY, MARCH 9, 1900.

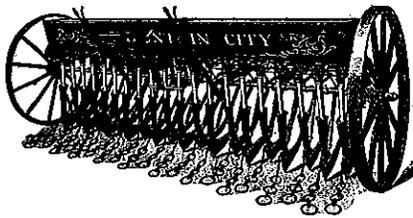
NUMBER 3

## Isaac Lee, Wheaton, Minn. ←



Has a complete line of High Grade Farm Machinery, Top Buggies, Surries, Farm Wagons, Gang Plows, Corn Planters and Cultivators, Disc and Shoe Drills, Boss and Lever Harrows, Farm Scales, Fanning Mills, Steam and Gasoline Engines, Threshers, Horse Powers, Etc.

NEW FOUNTAIN CITY DRILL.



The New Fountain City Drill is up-to-date. Good farmers buy them. Those who raise big crops have them.

Sizes—14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24 and 26 shoes; 5 and 6 inches apart.

Call and see the superior qualities and fine workmanship of the Fountain City Drill.

If you are going to buy a drill, buy a Fountain City before they are all gone.

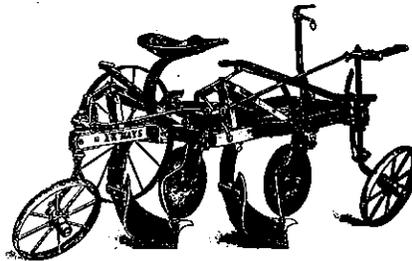
Write for catalogues.



BOSS HARROWS.

This is the only Boss Harrow that will clean itself of rubbish. It is made of well seasoned white oak and double riveted.

Do not buy until you can see this line of goods.

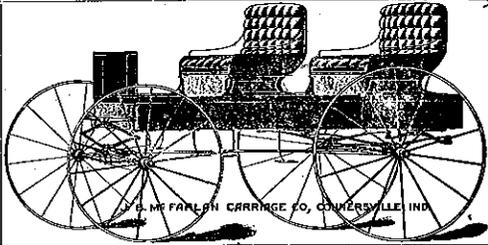


GANG AND SULKY PLOWS.

The XX Rays Bradley Gang Plow is a stone dodger and is the only good plow for stony land.

They are the lightest draft and easiest operated and turn the best furrow.

They have an Automatic Lock Malleable Frog, Spring Clevis, no Landside. The XX Rays Bradley Gang gives universal satisfaction.



ALL GOODS GUARANTEED BY

**ISAAC LEE, WHEATON MINN.**

Office Opposite POSTOFFICE.

Advertisement in the Gazette-Reporter, March 9, 1900.

### JEWELERS:

Grosland Jewelry started business in 1946 and was in two different locations before moving to the present site at 1010 Broadway. Grosland bought out A. L. Jacobson in 1973 when he retired after starting a business here in 1938. Predecessors were S. A. Durgan, Wegner, Kent the Jeweler, Erick Anderson, M. P. Lovgren, H. G. Lawrence, A. H. Deipenbrock, and I. O. Brown, who also repaired bicycles.

### LAUNDRIES, DRY CLEANERS, LAUNDROMATS:

Peterson Sisters were the providers of laundry service in the early years. Otto Paulson had a laundry just north of what is now the Super Valu parking lot, and "Tuddy" Thorson had a laundry in what was once Paulson's pop factory just west of the Farmers Elevator on Broadway.

In 1933 Nydia Nielson began a dry cleaning service in the old bank building on

the lot now occupied by the State Bank drive-in. The business also served as a station for a laundry service from Alexandria. Nydia and her son, Glenn, who had become a partner, moved to their new building at 1017 Broadway in 1954. Glenn bought out her interest in 1974 and closed the business here in 1976. Another dry cleaning business, Apex Cleaners, had a store in Wheaton for about two years in the mid-1940's.

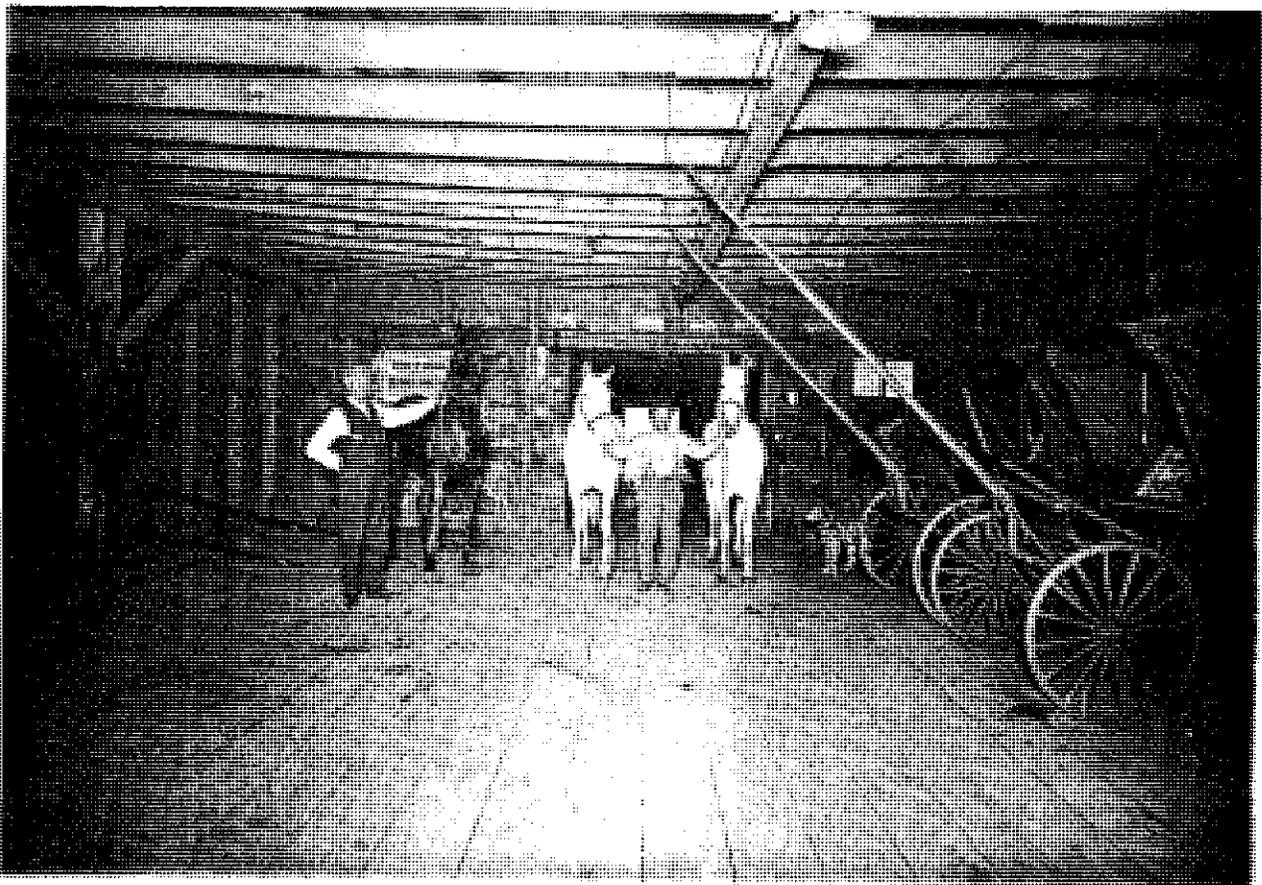
A laundromat, known as Larry's Econ-o-wash, was established in a building now occupied by Hess Insurance. Frisch Enterprises became the owner of the Econ-o-wash and in 1983 constructed a new building on First Avenue North following damage to their building from the Wells building fire the same year.

There was also a laundromat located at



The Wheaton Laundry was a progressive, busy enterprise shortly after the turn of the century.

the Eastside Market for several years but it was closed by Leo Deal and the space converted to other uses.



As motorists of today need garage service, all who traveled during Wheaton's early years needed the service that could be provided by a horse barn — a livery stable. Every town had one, most had several, and Wheaton was no exception. In the photo are horses that were used to pull funeral carriages, pictured on the right. The white team was used for women's funerals, the black team for men's.

## **LIVERY STABLES:**

A traveler coming to Wheaton by train or a local resident with no transportation could hire a horse and buggy or a team and wagon at the livery stable. The decade of the 1890's and early 1900's was the heyday of the livery stable. The first was operated by a man named Pickle, located just south of Broadway where the UBC yard is now located. He later sold it to Dr. Jared Burton, veterinarian, who also operated it for a few years. That stable, or barn as it was also termed, housed Dr. Ewing's horses and dogs.

Others who operated barns were P. J. Hopkins, H. Wentworth, Ed Setterlund, and Sam Setterberg, whose barn was located at what is now 12th Street and First Avenue North. Bert Seeley also ran a stable in Wheaton for a time but left here about 1910 for Lemmon, South Dakota, to homestead.

The best remembered barn was owned by Thomas E. Dunn and located on four lots where the Ben Franklin Store is now situated. As a rule, on the front of the building the name of the owner and his business appeared. The color was always red. The building extended to the alley. In the front was an office with space for hanging harnesses and equipment. The Dunn office became a local hangout for men of the community to keep up on the latest gossip and for young boys wishing to sneak a forbidden cigarette. The loft, an immense storage space for hay, also furnished sleeping quarters for visitors to town and acquaintances of the proprietor who couldn't make it home. Before being allowed the use of these accommodations, they were searched for matches, tobacco or a bottle of spirits as a safeguard against fires. The next morning they were given their belongings and sent on their way. The building was razed in 1939 to make way for the new Gopher Theatre.

In addition to the usual one, two and three-seated buggies, sleds and other rented equipment, the mortician Ed Boley stored his horse-drawn hearses at the Dunn barn. Also housed there were his horses, a black team used for men's funerals and a white team used for women's funerals. To the rear of the barn were the horse stalls for rent. A team could be left there for an hour

or two for 15 cents. A light lunch of hay was 10 cents more. If grain were ordered, that meant another 10 or 15 cents. Farmers who brought their families to town on a cold winter Sunday housed the horses in the barn. The family attended a church service, then often went to a restaurant for a tasty meal priced at 35 cents.

Dunn came to Traverse County in 1878 when he was about 28 before there was a town of Wheaton. He filed on a homestead three miles south. When Wheaton started a few years later, he engaged in the livery business and was active in the community for many years. The first graveling was done by Dunn from the depot east two blocks on Broadway. He was also the town's first street commissioner.

## **LUMBER YARDS:**

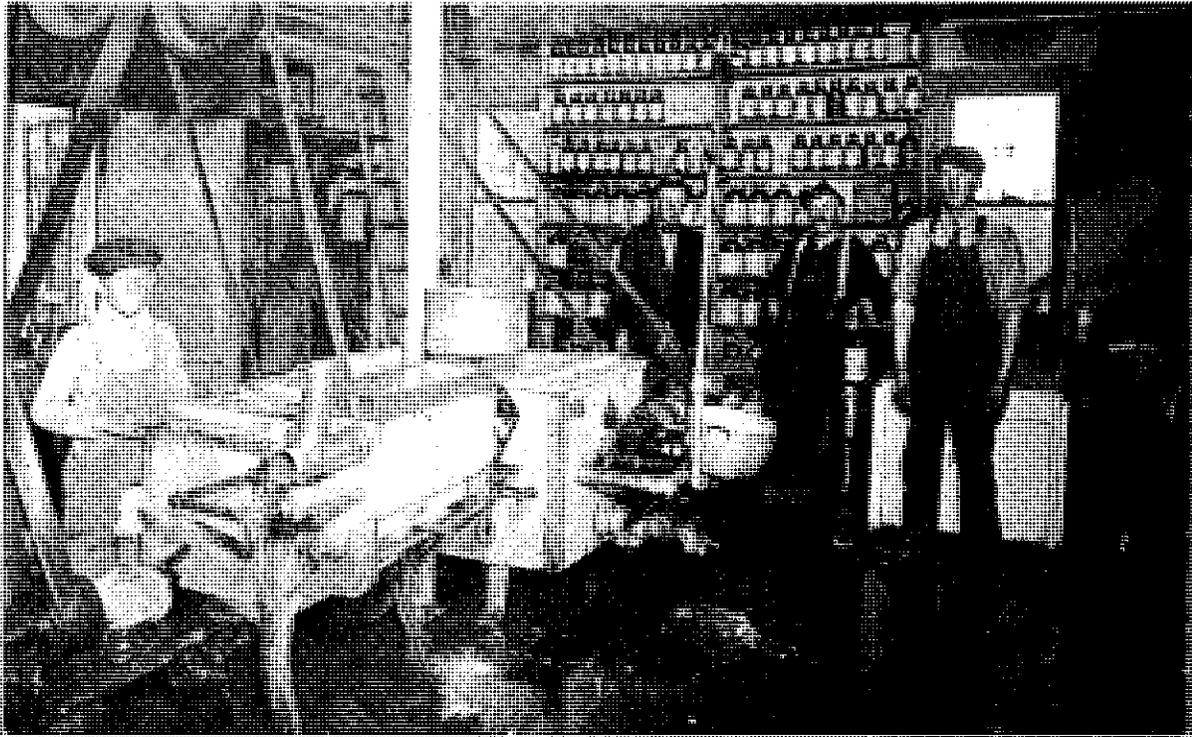
Lee and Erickson opened the first lumber business in Wheaton in the town's first year of existence. O. H. Hellekson joined the business in 1886. The same year Lee and Erickson dissolved, and the company adopted the name Erickson and Hellekson, operating a lumber yard and hardware. In 1921 they had grown to nine yards, named W. A. Vye general manager, and established the head office in Wheaton. In 1949 when Ashley Vye succeeded his father as treasurer and general manager of the firm the company had 18 yards in different towns in Minnesota and North Dakota. The business was sold in 1972 to Affiliated Builders, now known as United Building Center.

A specialty of the company in the early days was blacksmith coal, a specialized coal to use in forges, which was shipped in by a carload of 40 tons at a time. One day in 1921 the company claimed a record for selling genuine moonshine stills when four copper boiler stills with more than 100 feet of copper tubing to make the "worm" were sold.

Other lumber companies in Wheaton were the Charles Betcher Co., Wheaton Lumber Yard, and Hennepin Lumber Co. In 1922 the Geab-Carl Lumber Co., managed by H. A. Quast, was in the business. L. P. Dolliff began a business in 1924 which eventually became Standard Lumber. It

closed in 1982. LeRoy Berger, a building contractor, purchased the site the same year and operated a lumber yard and

construction business until 1985 when the yard closed and the office building was sold to Lance Lundquist of Eyster Realty.



**During its early years, Wheaton, like most small communities of the time, was largely self-sufficient. Among factories located in town was this one — a pop factory. The photo was taken about 1920. Seated at the machine on the left is Robert Neuman.**

#### **MANUFACTURING:**

A roller mill, organized by a local stock company, was running in 1891. It was a three-story building 60 by 30 feet with a basement, and it had a daily capacity of 250 barrels of flour. Power was furnished by an 85 h.p. engine with a 125 h.p. boiler. Acquired by Erickson and Hellekson in 1899, it shipped its first carload of flour to eastern markets in 1912. It was sold and moved to Fairmount, North Dakota, in 1914.

The tow mill opened in 1895 to process flax straw. In 1905 the Brady Tow Company paid \$2.00 a ton for flax straw. The mill was for sale in 1924.

Pete Sorenson started a cigar making industry in 1891 after coming from Denmark the same year. He and Paul Lamprecht worked together, sometimes at

Paul's factory or on the second floor of the building at 1016 Broadway where Pete did his work rolling cigars and placing them in presses to dry and cure. Pete would put a pack of cigars and other tobacco products on his back and walk to surrounding communities to sell his wares.

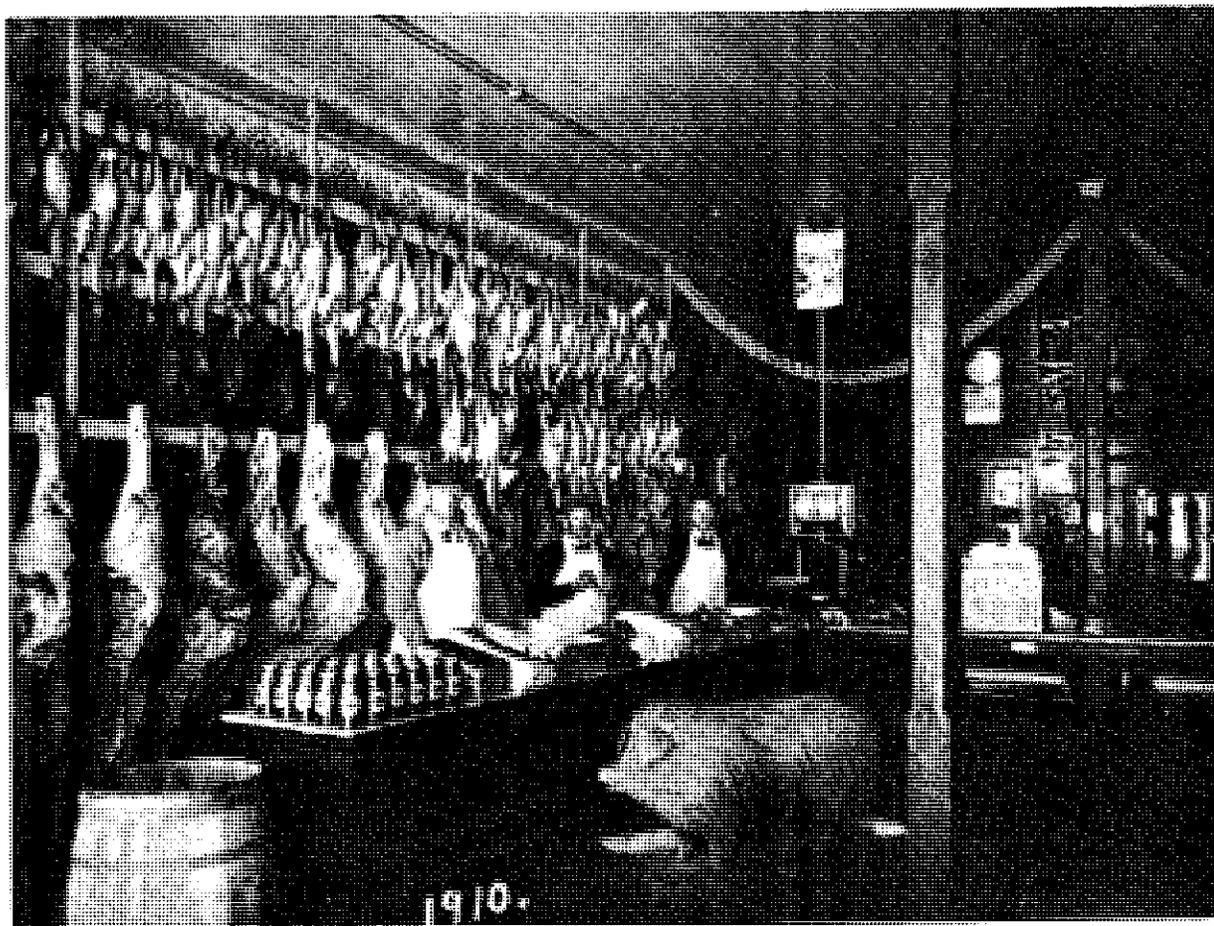
Lamprecht, an emigrant from West Prussia in Germany when he was 15, apprenticed to a cigar maker in Wahpeton, working there three years learning the trade. On January 1, 1895, his store and factory opened on the site of the present Family Service Building after friends got together and raised money to buy tools and tobacco stock. He employed four or five helpers, one of whom was Emil Sorenson who in his teens worked at the factory before going into military service during World War I. Both Emil and Lamprecht

went from town to town selling cigars traveling by horse and buggy. Later Lamprecht moved his business to his home and continued with it until about 1940. His presses are on display at the local museum.

Frank Thill patented a binder evener in 1900. He had been making these since 1891. He also manufactured binder hitches and iron sleds and an evener for use on a horse-drawn gang plow. Thill Bros. manufactured buggies, carriages, wagons, cutters, and sleighs. Joseph Leaser invented a wheat cleaning machine.

In 1953 Clare McClellan operated a sawmill in the northeast part of Wheaton making egg crates for Powers Produce. The wood used was cottonwood lumber cut in the area.

Add-A-Zyme, an enzyme and feed mixing plant, operated from 1961 until 1974. Producing silage additives, livestock and poultry feeds, it was a stock company with Al Carlile, Elmer Worner, David Ranney and Howard Houston as officers. Luke White was general manager.



**Lindig's Meat Market in 1910. Butchers from left: Fred Lindig, Gust Noveen and Oscar Young. Note the absence of refrigeration. The pig in the center of the photo had a special significance. It was made of wood, covered with burlap and then bearded wheat was glued on. It was made by Fred Lindig and Alfred Rustad and was exhibited at both the County Fair and the State Fair.**

#### **MEAT MARKETS:**

Meat markets had wooden chopping blocks, sawed the meat with a handsaw and had coolers kept with huge chunks of ice

which had been stored in sawdust in ice houses in the early days. Most had their own slaughter houses, usually in an isolated location where the butcher did his own

slaughtering.

Some of the early markets were run by Frank Ekberg, S. C. Odenborg, Oscar Young, and Robinson and Walsh. The latter also ran a bakery in connection with their meat market and in 1900 sold to Fred Lindig who came from St. Paul about 1897. It was in a building on the site of the present First Bank Drive-Through. The market first handled fresh and cured meats and bakery needs. Groceries were added in 1930. Outgrowing this location, the business moved to the building which is the west part of Dave's Bar. Ernst Lindig started working for his father in 1921 while still in high school. Upon graduation he went into the business full time. In 1932 his cousin Alvin Lindig came in as a partner and remained until he became county treasurer in 1963. Ernst bought his father's interest in 1936 but Fred stayed active in the market and store until his death in 1955. The store was offered for sale in 1969. Many items from Lindig's Meat Market are now in a special exhibit in the Traverse County Museum in Wheaton.

Another long-time meat market was

Carl Boom's City Meat Market which he owned for some forty years. He gained his initial experience working in Oscar Young's meat market and later worked in Lindig's. Boom was assisted by his son Albert in his market.

#### **MEN'S CLOTHING:**

Albert Olin, 81 in 1949, was Wheaton's oldest businessman at that time, having owned his business since 1902. Olin owned his men's clothing store in partnership with M. G. Olson until Olson's death in 1920. At one time Olin and Olson had as many as seven stores called Model Clothing House in Wheaton and other area towns. In 1946 his stepson James Lundstrom became a partner and bought control in 1953. Ron Jossart, who bought the store in 1958, later sold to Lynn Propp after Jossart and C. H. Bonrud established BonJos Women's Wear stores. Lynn's Clothing closed in 1984.

Another men's clothing store owned by M. K. Nelson opened in 1940 in the former First National Bank Building, now the site of the State Bank Drive-In.



**Special events staged by Wheaton merchants have always attracted big crowds over the years. Below is the scene on Crazy Day in about 1965.**



**The sign says Nelson Music Co., but in 1909 the business was operated by Ed Hanson, pictured seated on the piano stool. Hanson served as president of the County Fair Association for many years. On the right in the photo is Philip Norsen; man in rear not identified.**

#### **MUSIC AND APPLIANCES:**

Earliest retailers of musical instruments were Kindler Bros. and Seeley and the Music Store. The latter place, owned and operated by Ed Hanson, sold several instruments, the most popular of which were pianos and organs. Hanson at one time offered a carload of pianos for sale. He later went to Willmar to engage in the same business before becoming a farmer southwest of Wheaton. Albert Nelson's "Nelson Music Co." was also in business in the early 1900s.

The present dealer in instruments and music is Grosland Jewelry, which has sold such items since 1946. The Groslands, Hubert and Mona, Tom and Eileen, have also been active in teaching music. Others who have taught music in Wheaton over the years have included Mrs. J. I. Place before the turn of the century, a Mr. Rinker (a blind man), Mrs. Otto Neuman, Ida Amidon, Mildred Isaacson, Jane Lee, Rudy Lundquist, Hulda Benson, Mrs. Clarence Johanson, Mrs. George Schmidtke, Mrs. Phil Pet-

erson, Mrs. Don Pederson, Mrs. Kenneth Bjornson, Mrs. Neil Johnson, and Mrs. Larry Krenz.

Hunder Music Co. installs and services video games and juke boxes in Wheaton and the surrounding area including the eastern Dakotas. Bill and Dorothy Hunder are owners of the business. Bill started working with electricians when a teenager. While still a high school student he began repairing radios in a shop in the basement of the E-H-Vye Hardware. Later he started working on coin machines, juke boxes or record players. In 1951 when a television channel was established in Fargo, he started offering TV sets for sale in a shop on Second Avenue South west of the railroad tracks. He moved to a building on Broadway in 1952 where the business stayed for a year, then to the present Senior Citizens Building, where he also offered electric refrigerators, ranges and other appliances. When the former variety store building at 1106 Broadway became available in 1968, Hundersons bought it and moved their store to that location where as many

as five persons were employed. The appliance-TV business was sold to Kings in 1981, and the store closed in 1985.

Hunders also sold snowmobiles and boats at one time. During snow months they might return to their home during evening hours and find one or more snowmobiles waiting for service. One year they sold more snowmobiles than any other Ski-doo dealer in the state.

Gary's Refrigeration and Air Conditioning on Highway 75 North is now the only source of appliances locally. Also located in that store is David Weber's TV and Audio Repair.

#### PHOTOGRAPHERS:

Axel Carlson, Thomas Cannes, and Hirsch Bros. were some of the early photographers. Nelson Studio opened in 1912 in rooms on the second floor of the Dave's Bar building. In 1950 Jennie Nelson moved to a combination studio and residence which she built at the corner of First Avenue North and Tenth Street, the building now occupied by the NFO. An arthritic victim confined to a wheelchair, Mrs. Nelson continued her business until the early 1960's.

Upon Mrs. Nelson's retirement, Arliss Schmitz did photography work for several years, specializing in wedding photos. In 1977 Nancy Rausch opened a studio in a dwelling on East Broadway, which she later sold to Steve Janssen, the present photographer.

#### PLUMBING - HEATING:

Joe Kaess, Sr. served as a plumber for 43 years until his retirement in 1954, when he was succeeded by his son Joe Jr. Others in the business were Harold Gallagher, John Zitzow; Oscarson Plumbing, operated by Gordon Oscarson from 1948 to 1961; Paul Trom; Doug Hess, and Curt Whaley, a present plumber. The Oscarson business was sold to Carl Olson who did plumbing, installed heating plants, and gave appliance service. Retiring in 1983, he sold to McCallum Plumbing, Heating & Sheet Metal of Morris.

Walrath Sheet Metal was founded by Nick Walrath in 1958 and still serves this community's heating, air conditioning and sheet metal needs. Walrath took on a partner, Jerry Braaten, who continues in the business after Walrath's retirement in 1985.



## CASH OFFER

### POULTRY WANTED

We will have a POULTRY CAR in  
Wheaton on.

**Nov. 13 and Nov. 14**

All Day                      Forenoon

Clean up your Poultry, etc. We will  
pay the following prices:

Springs 11½c	Ducks 10½c
Hens 10½c	Geese 10½c
Cox 8½c	Turkeys 14½c

A printed postcard mailed to area farmers by the F. H. Lindig Meat Market in 1917.



**Before the days of electric refrigerators, ice was cut and stored in winter months for use in ice boxes during the summer. The above scene shows ice being harvested on Lake Traverse.**

#### **PRODUCE BUSINESS:**

Early produce stations purchased mainly eggs and cream from farmers and included Wheaton Produce Co., North American Creamery Co., Schoonover Produce, Johnson Produce, Vern Hellerstedt's Produce, and Bock Produce, which was operated by Walter Bock from 1946 until his retirement in 1972. The Wheaton Cooperative Creamery had a large produce department also.

Powers Produce had its beginning in 1939 when Greg Powers decided he would go into business for himself after employment with Cudahy at Wahpeton and Fairmount, North Dakota, where he was a field representative seeking business for the company. He opened a cream and egg buying station in the building at the corner of Trail Street and Broadway. Greg and his wife Ida lived in the upstairs rooms and were available to serve customers at any hour. Their triple-dip ice cream cones for a nickel were popular, and some days they sold out two 12-hole cabinets of the treat. Greg scoured the rural area picking up eggs. Ida stayed in the station until his brother Bob came to help.

As business expanded, Powers put an

addition on the west and employed more people. Later a second addition became necessary. At the time of the first expansion a huge cooler was installed. They began dressing poultry in the fall, at one time employing as many as 100 workers and dressing 1,000 or more fowl an hour. During World War II they shipped carloads of eggs to the U.S. Army — one unusual shipment was 19 cars to Spain. They employed three drivers and had three trucks to pick up eggs from chicken raisers and expanded into South Dakota when Powers and John Landsberger purchased a business at Webster.

With the trend to large henneries, the business here was closed in 1958 and transferred to Webster along with the equipment and was sold to Landsberger later. Powers continued with the distribution of North Star milk products until the 1970's.

At one time Powers had a lot of geese penned which were to be marketed, when a threat of a storm occurred. Greg recruited several employees and herded the geese to a building at the county fairgrounds for protection.

## **REAL ESTATE, LOANS, INSURANCE:**

These were areas that were traditionally combined in one business and sometimes also included land management for absentee owners. J. I. Place and C. H. Colyer were among the earliest in the business, and some years later William Ringdahl entered the field. He was joined by his son Reuben in 1929. Ringdahls moved to their present site at 923 Broadway in 1939, which had been the office for Traverse Land Co. In turn, Reuben's son William came into the business and later a partnership was formed with Leo Terhaar, with the present business known as Ringdahl & Terhaar Agency, Inc.

Others in the field at various times were S. W. Frasier, F. M. Barrett, H. B. Cory, and Carl Saterbak, who was a land man in addition to his duties in a bank. O. C. Neuman was president and R. H. Huntzicker secretary-treasurer of the Traverse Land Co., Inc.

The present firm of Eyster Realty Association had its beginnings in 1908, when Morris A. Eyster bought land here and brought prospective land buyers from Illinois on the train to inspect and invest in this rich agricultural area. He was affiliated at that time with Carl O. Saterbak and worked for him for a few years after moving here in 1911. In 1919 he went into the business of real estate sales, management, and appraisals on his own and continued until his death in 1952. His son, Bruce F. Eyster, came back from California and went into business with him in the spring of 1946 and continued to operate the firm until his retirement in 1982. Bruce's grandson, Lance A. Lundquist, joined the firm in 1980 and presently operates the business in the Wheaton Professional Building at 1112 First Avenue North, continuing sixty-seven years of management by three generations.

In 1985 insurance needs of the community are being served by Donnelly Insurance Agency, First Bank Agency, Ringdahl & Terhaar Agency, American Family Insurance, State Farm Insurance, Farm Bureau Insurance, Aid Association for Lutherans, Lutheran Brotherhood, Tara Mutual Insurance Co., and Equitable Insurance.

## **REFRIGERATION:**

Gary Johnson opened Gary's Refrigeration and Air Conditioning in 1981 in a new building on Highway 75 North. He later moved into appliances after hardware stores no longer handled them. He began in a small shop as a refrigeration service technician. Gary added TV sets to his appliance stock in April 1984.

Orville Johnson was the only trained refrigeration technician for many years. He worked for Hunder's and also on his own. Larry Smith also worked for Hunders and later started his own business but had only on-the-job training.

## **SALOONS, SAMPLE ROOMS, POOL HALLS:**

At one time Wheaton had seven saloons. Some of the names of those who ran them were H. Frase, P. Johnson, O. F. Hallberg, Klawon and Manthei, Benno Bros., F. Neumann and Son, Gunsalus and Tobiason, and John Hart.

Sample rooms were available for use of traveling salesmen who came on the train with their trunks and stayed at hotels until they had made sales to available stores. The rooms were operated in conjunction with a pool room and some had restaurants. Some who were in the business were Dempsey and Maley, Johnson and Anderson, H. Klawon, Ole Korsbrek, Theodore Redetzke, August Seaquist, Twedt and Newman.

One of the oldest buildings in town and one that has remained in the same type of business since its origin is the Neumann's Bar building. Built by H. Benno in 1885, it was one of Wheaton's first saloons. The building was bought by John and Mary Hart in 1907 who continued in the saloon, later referred to as "pool hall", until the early 1930's. They were followed by Art Anderson. Matt and Mike Bohnenstingl later bought the business and were succeeded by Mike's son Bob. Darus and Lucy Bruns bought the business in the 1960's, and the present owners, the Ivan Neumann's, have operated it since October 1, 1970. The building is still adorned by stamped tin walls and ceiling and part of the ornate original bar is still intact.

The county went "dry" in 1909 by majority vote and remained so for several years. Pool halls no doubt got their name from the game of billiards, and no pool hall was complete without its billiard and card tables.

Taverns sprang up after prohibition was outlawed. Among those were "Boots" Klindworth's, Bill Swanson's, Frenchy's, Ray's Tavern, Dave's Bar, and Neumann's

Bar, with the latter two still in business. In 1985 Wheaton Recreation, a coffee shop and lunch counter with a room for cards, is a popular spot. In the early 1900's it was a pool hall operated by John and Walter Jastram until the early 1930's. Subsequent owners were A. Germain, Harold Anderson (1939-1958), Francis "Happy" Hanson, John and Eldora Wagner, Lars Roman, and the present Jim and Loretta Neuman.



**A pool hall in downtown Wheaton in the 1920s, located in the building that is now Neumann's Bar. There was no beer served because of prohibition. The keg on top of the counter dispensed root beer. Standing at the end of the bar is Slim Davison. Others unidentified.**

#### **SEEDS AND FEED:**

Lundquist Seed & Feed Co., Inc. has a history dating to 1919 when H. E. Kiger began a seed and flour business in part of the building on Tenth Street North which is

still in use. The land was originally owned by S. G. Odenborg and later sold to Richard Tyler with several other parties following him until Kiger started his business. Fred F. Moore became a partner in the 1920's

and in 1927 he bought out Kiger and operated it until 1956, when Wilton Lundquist and Harry Hills became owners. Lundquist was an employee from 1937 to 1943, when he began farming, and Hills started working at the seed house. Lundquist and Hills operated the business until 1969 when the former became the sole owner until 1977 when he sold to his sons, John and Eugene.

Several additions have been made to the building and plant. In 1984 storage tanks were put on land once occupied by the Holm Auto Repair shop which Lundquists purchased about 1977. The cleaning equipment is still housed in the main building. During the years the business has evolved into mainly certified seed, both wholesale and retail. The feed business is a sideline.

There were also flour, feed, coal and ice dealers years ago. Among the earliest were Joseph Leaser, T. Roin, J. Place, S. Joubert, John Harvey and Daniel Terpena. Peter Lundell had a wood yard and feed mill adjacent to the railroad tracks south of Sager's honey building. Wood was shipped here in railroad cars. Frase and Hallberg were in the flour and feed business. Some of these dealt in coal, some stored ice and sold it in the summer months. Johanson and Goldblom ran a feed mill, coal shed and ice business which was later sold to H. A. Quast. His son Alvin and E. L. Moede operated it until Quast went into banking. Ice was cut in winter, stored in large blocks in sawdust for summer use, and was popular until electric refrigeration became available.

#### **SEWING MACHINE AND VACUUM CLEANER SALES:**

Sewing machines and vacuum cleaners have been sold and serviced by Ed Barlage since 1936. His son Eugene is associated with him in the business. Sales in the thirties were principally treadle machines until rural electricity became available and many owners had machines motorized. During depression years when Ed went on the road to demonstrate and sell his machines, he resorted to barter or took small payments and continued collecting

monthly to make sales. Sewing machines have had many improvements in recent years, offering an assortment of different stitches and other technological advances. Barlages handle Necchi, Elna and White sewing machines and Hoover vacuum cleaners.

A dealer from about 1900 was the firm of Kindler Bros. and Seeley. Others who have offered sewing machine sales and service were Charlie Kent and Nels Roman. Gladys Lindig sold Electrolux vacuum cleaners until she sold her business to Marvin Erlandson, a present dealer.

#### **TAILORS, DRESSMAKERS, MILLINERS, WOMEN'S STORES:**

C. O. Palmquist had a tailor shop on Broadway, site of the First Bank drive-in. His son, Everett, worked with his father. Another early craftsman was S.C. "Tailor" Anderson. In 1900 the Palmer House Tailor Shop was operated by C. E. Myer. Martin Anderson was a merchant tailor in Wheaton in the early 1920's. He also offered "French dry cleaning, pressing and repairing."

Katherine Uveling, Minnie Anderson (Mrs. Frank Anderson), Minnie Hammond, and Mrs. N. J. McElwee did dressmaking in the early days. In more recent times among the dressmakers were Mrs. Matt Thill, Mrs. Art Cordes, Mrs. A. M. Johnson, Frances Spafford, Em Schmitz, Mrs. Harold Teske, Mrs. Walter Hennen, and Mrs. Milton Larson. At one time no readymade clothes were available. A dressmaker might come to a home and stay for a week or more until enough sewing was done to supply the needs of a family.

A Miss Brown, Edith Chamberlain, and Lizzie Schwartzoff were milliners in addition to the Lundquist sisters and Holt sisters previously mentioned. Mrs. Hammond and Grace Berg also had early hat and frock shops. Ruth Lundstrom had a cafe and dress shop but later closed the cafe to devote full time to the dress shop, which eventually became Marie's Dress Shop. Marie's was bought out by BonJos, which is still in business. Celeste Jacobson opened a women's and children's shop, which she later sold to Helen Monson, who continued under the name of Celeste's. It closed in 1985 when Monson retired.



**The Jacobson Trucking building on Highway 75 in Wheaton. Lawrence Jacobson operated his fleet of trucks from Wheaton for 50 years before selling the business in 1985.**

#### **TRUCKERS:**

Lawrence Jacobson started with one truck in 1935 and would haul whatever his vehicle would accommodate. When he disposed of Jacobson Transport in 1985, he owned 43 trucks and 83 trailers. The transport business was principally black oil, liquid petroleum, anhydrous ammonia, liquid feed, gasoline and oil. He supplemented his trucking income during the earliest years when there was little work by shelling corn during winter months. In 1937 he bought Fred Larson's livestock hauling. For the next 13 years he hauled mostly gravel and livestock. By 1940 he bought his first transport and began hauling petroleum.

Probably the earliest cattle-freight trucking business in Wheaton was started by Joe Flaherty. With the depression in 1929 business started to slow down in the automotive area and Flaherty, searching for ways to survive, came up with the idea of hauling cattle to South St. Paul by truck rather than rail. With much help from his mechanics, Frank and Al Germain, Nick

Gaulrapp, Dick Thiele, Max Goltz, and Don Falk, a truck was designed with a heavy duty axle and hitch. The test run was to Fargo to pick up parts. Finding that the axle was not heavy enough, changes were made and the truck was on the road with a load of livestock picked up at the Joe Deal farm. Frank Germain was the first driver with Don Falk a driver changing off with Frank. After unloading in St. Paul, the trailers were washed and then were ready to pick up supplies to bring back to Wheaton. During the canning season they would pick up fresh fruits and vegetables and would sell them from the garage.

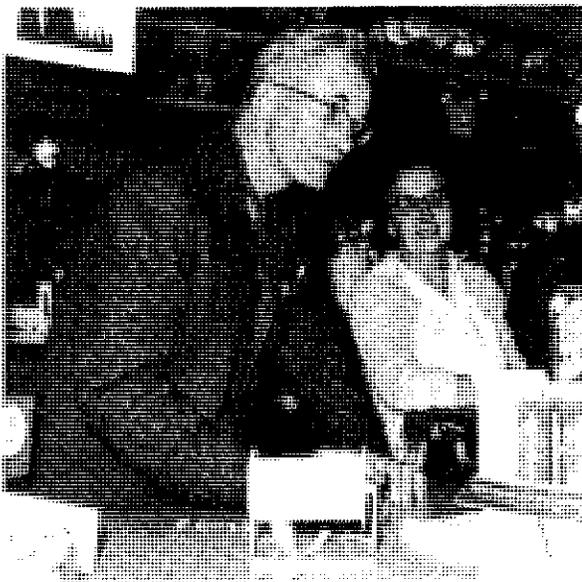
Reynolds Trucking and Howard Weick were among others who have done trucking work. Melvin Frounfelter transported livestock and freight for several years. Henry Jacobsen hauled gravel and did some excavating work. Henry was succeeded by his son Roger, who does similar work. Glen and Clifford Moore purchased Lawrence Jacobson's livestock hauling business in 1948. Dale Jacobs has also had a long-distance trucking business in the community.



**Bill Carlson stands in front of the Ben Franklin variety store he operated, photo taken in June, 1951. The building housing the business was later demolished to make room for a new bank building, and the Carlsons constructed a new building for their store on the east end of downtown Broadway.**

**VARIETY STORES:**

The Ben Franklin variety store was



**Lyle and Clara Stewart in the variety store they operated in Wheaton from 1952 to 1967.**

owned and operated by William and Hazel Carlson from 1937 until 1979. They had bought the store from Robert Bard, who had operated it until that time and sold when he became the postmaster. While Carlson was in U.S. Military Service in 1944-45, his wife continued with the business. In 1963 they moved to the present location after improving the building which had been mostly destroyed by fire. It was sold to Marlyn Rath when Carlsons retired, and in 1983 the Andersons bought it and combined it with their Red Owl.

Stewart's Variety, owned and operated by Lyle and Clara Stewart, was located in the Hunder building. It closed in 1967 after 15 years in business. Lyle's grandfather, Albert Emerson Stewart of Litchfield, had an interest in the A. Wells store in Wheaton.

The early variety stores were called 5 and 10 cent stores. One such store was operated for many years by William (Bill) Nelson. It was located on the drive-through lot of First Bank in the early 20th century.

## VETERINARIANS:

In this predominantly agricultural area where horses and other livestock were an important asset of every farm family, as well as of townfolk who depended on horses for local transportation, veterinarians were an essential element of the community. As early as 1888 Dr. G. L. Strowger was serving the community in this capacity. A veterinarian surgeon from Wahpeton also served the area on an itinerant basis.

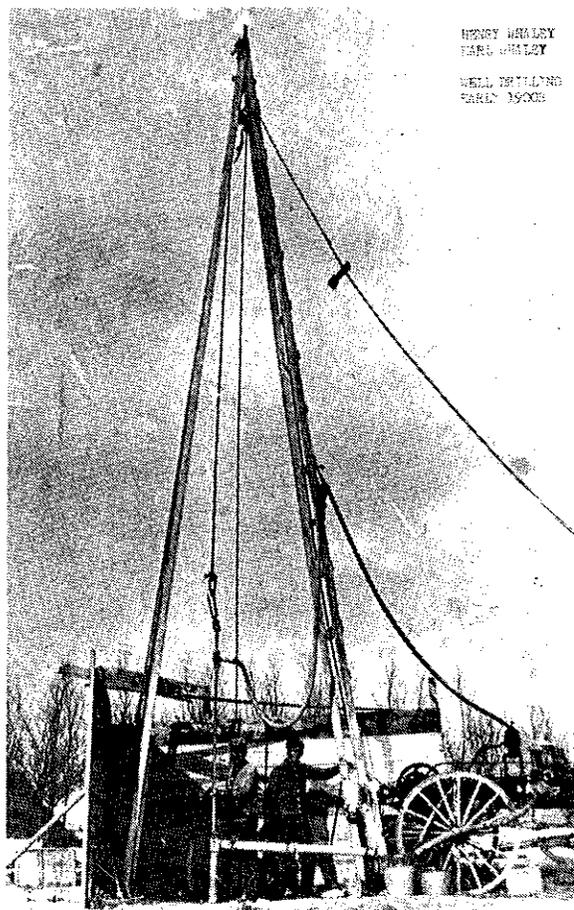
In 1898 Dr. Oscar Rydell arrived to establish a practice, replacing Dr. J. M. Allen who left to study to be a medical doctor. Dr. Rydell practiced here until his death in 1936. Dr. Robert O. Rydell, a son who followed in his footsteps, practiced in the Wheaton community from 1940 to 1948, when he left to take a staff position at Iowa State College. He returned in 1951 and remained until 1960, at which time he moved to Beulah, North Dakota, where he still practices.

Another early veterinarian was Dr. Jared Burton, who had come from Canada with his parents when they located in Walls Township in 1881. After attending veterinarian school in Toronto, Canada, he returned to Wheaton and spent his entire career here as a veterinarian until his death in 1951 at the age of 78. He was also an auctioneer and at one time ran a livery stable.

In 1959 Dr. Hans Peterson, a new veterinarian graduate, located in Wheaton and the following year built a new clinic and animal hospital. The practice was bought by Dr. David Naatz of Austin, Minnesota, in 1963. Dr. Naatz built his present clinic building in 1972 on a site adjacent to his previous clinic at 13 - 16th Street North in Wheaton.

## WELL DRILLERS:

Henry Whaley, grandfather of Don Whaley, started drilling wells in the 1890's, using horse power. His sons, Earl and Floyd, followed in his footsteps with Floyd eventually assuming control of the business. In turn Floyd sold to his son, Arles "Bud" Whaley in 1941, and another son Don bought out the business in 1956. Don and his crew



HENRY WHALEY  
EARL WHALEY  
WELL DRILLING  
EARLY 1900S

**Well drilling has been a family tradition for the Whaley family nearly as long as Wheaton has existed. Whaley Well Drilling is still going strong today, but this photo shows members of one of the first crews in the early 1900s. Pictured are Henry and Earl Whaley.**

drilled many wells on Indian reservations in both North and South Dakota several years ago. Presently the business is housed in a building erected in 1981 along Highway 27. Don's sons, Kent and Mitch, are associated with their father.

George Schild drilled wells also, gaining his experience after working for the group attempting to drill for oil on the Marxen farm southwest of Wheaton. George worked at the drilling trade for approximately ten years before devoting himself to welding. Dennis Wood also drilled wells for several years.

## MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESSES:

There have been a large variety of other businesses in Wheaton over the years.

In earliest days M. J. Jacobson was a machinist; R. M. Sutherland had a repair shop; the bottling works at the location of the present Farmers Elevator was run by Myren and Nelson, and it was later operated by Mr. Paulson; confectioneries which also handled fruit and tobacco were run by H. H. Dokken, Ed Elofson and P. M. Olson; P. J. Spong ran a boarding house, and later boarding establishments were operated by Mrs. Norgaard and the Waschells. George Carey delivered merchandise orders from stores to homes. Carrie Cammerud was an early public stenographer, and later Effie Daman gave that service. Sid Burton advertised a fixit shop, and in 1924 the Wheaton Radio Shop also sold bottled gas. A. G. Peterson manufactured cement blocks for sidewalks in 1905 — some of these blocks stamped with his name may still be seen in residential areas. "Plaster" Erickson, Harold's father, was a cement block maker also.

John Atherton and Howie Bender delivered milk and cream door-to-door from their dairy farms. Wm. (Bill) Nelson had the first taxi, using a Ford model-T sedan. Many salesmen came in by train and Bill would take them to the neighboring towns. "Ike" Haugland also was in that business for a short time. Mabel Worner managed the Interstate Credit Bureau for twenty years, then transferred the collections to an out-of-town office. Brian Buchholz of Red River Design did architectural work here in the 1980's.

Another important business service in a farming community is that of auctioneer. Charles Winchell was the first auctioneer in the area, and later Dr. Jared Burton, local veterinarian, also was active in this field. Other auctioneers since those earliest days were L. J. Boyd, J. W. Kinzie, Walter Plautz, Vern Radel and Tim Ostby. In 1932 Joe Flaherty operated a sales barn in partnership with Dr. Burton. These auctions were held every Saturday afternoon in Dunn's Livery Stable; farmers brought in their livestock to be auctioned off. When spring work started, the sales barn closed for the season.

Two familiar faces to rural residents and townspeople alike were Ed Carlson,

Watkins dealer, and Gust Shuller, a Raleigh salesman. Shuller got started in this business in 1915, traveling with a covered wagon and horses and selling his products door-to-door. It was not uncommon for them to take in farm produce — chickens, eggs, cream, butter — in trade. Present day Watkins dealers are Jennings Larson and Bev Nelk.

Among current services are Culligan Soft Water Service owned by Myron Schmidt with John Haugland, Robert Kochie and Alton Birch previous owners. A locker plant was established at the Wheaton Cooperative Creamery and operated for many years by Art Meidinger who bought it in 1958. Jim Schmitz bought it from Meidinger in 1967 and later purchased the building from the creamery association when it disbanded. Gary Johnson is a taxidermist and also sells fishing bait at his shop along Highway 75. Len's Sport Shop at 1002 First Avenue North is owned by Leonard Rusch. It is a successor to the Sport Shack established several years earlier and managed by David Benson. Two auto parts stores, Sturdevant's and NAPA, are located along Highway 75. Harold Schaffer operates the former and Gene Froemke the latter. The NAPA store was started by Jim Kleespies. Frisch Enterprises operates a car wash adjacent to Highway 75 North. The tree service was sold in 1984 to Brook Buchholz by Clare McClellan, who cut and trimmed trees for many years. Jim Schoenrock established a commercial cleaning service in 1983, affiliated with Advanced Maintenance of Alexandria, to provide cleaning of carpets and other cleaning service. The business was sold to Harland and Beverly Rasmussen in 1985. Ed Zetterstein sells and services typewriters and office equipment, following in his father's footsteps. Among those who upholstered furniture were Martin "Whitey" Setterberg. Recent upholsterers have been Mary Ann Przymus, Janet Gauger, and Deb's Upholstery, with the latter two still in the business.

Among the most recent businesses to open is Darlien Zibell's Special Things, a craft shop on Broadway having craft items and gifts and providing picture framing. Scott Summers offers a small engine repair service.

## How safety engineering reduces insurance claims

The foregoing TIME advertisement calls attention to the biggest building project underway in the U.S. today—the biggest, indeed, in the history of the world. It's our fabulous 15-year interstate highway building program, launched by Public Law 627, enacted by the 84th Congress.

Our cover photo shows one of many reasons why new roads are needed. This spilled milk truck came to grief at a notorious tangle of busy streets known as the "bottleneck," in Minneapolis. At this spot, a broad and handsome new freeway will move traffic safely within a few years.

Small wonder, indeed, that C. H. Johanson, and all the directors and officers of American Hardware Mutual, are actively interested in better streets and highways. These men know that safety engineering can save lives . . . prevent injuries . . . and reduce accidents and insurance claims.

To help promote public safety . . . and thus save money for insurance buyers . . . American Hardware Mutual participates in many kinds of safety programs. We contribute to educational fire-safety efforts. We work for safer electrical wiring, safer steam boilers, safer elevators, safer factory machines.

On all of these fronts, good progress can be reported. But even in Utopia, accidents will happen. When they do, we pay claims within 8 hours\* after proof of loss.

\*Except in those states where specific waiting periods are required by law.

### AMERICAN HARDWARE MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY

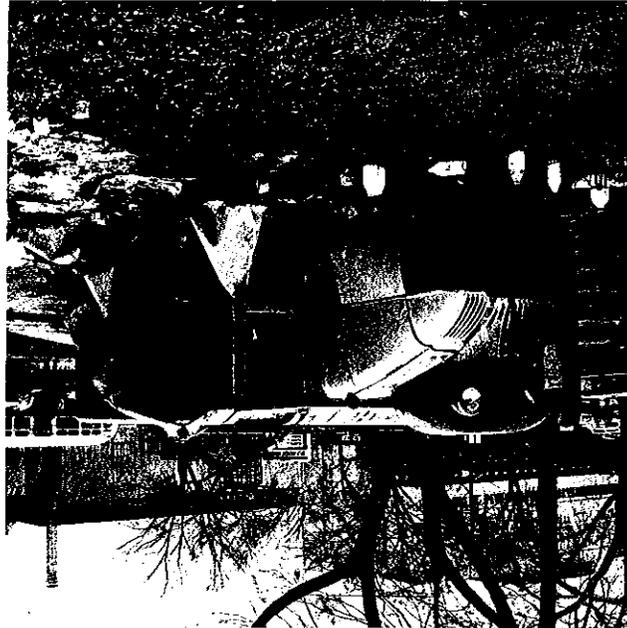
Calhoun Knoll • 3838 Excelsior Boulevard • Minneapolis, Minnesota

**Chester Johanson, longtime hardware store operator in Wheaton and active in the State Hardware Association, was featured by American Hardware Mutual Insurance Company in this advertisement carried in Time Magazine.**

# TIME

THE WEEKLY NEWSMAGAZINE

*Wed like  
your prospects to meet  
C. H. Johanson*



WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE?  
(Turn it sideways . . . see the need for modern highways)

AMERICAN HARDWARE MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY

# *Wheaton Business and Professional Firms - 1986*

Advanced Maintenance of  
Wheaton  
Andy & Arvid's Red Owl and  
Ben Franklin

BJ's Parts Depot  
Barlage Sewing Center  
Berger Construction Company  
Best Body Shop  
Bon Jos  
Bringgold, Jeanne L., Attorney

Carlson's Mini-Mart  
Carol's Beauty Salon  
Continental Telephone Co.  
Corner Drug  
Crandall's Cafe  
Culligan Soft Water Service

Dairy Dipper  
Dale's Steak House  
Dave's Bar  
Deb's Upholstery  
Dee's Hair Shop  
Don's Dairy Way  
Dueber's Department Store

East Side Grocery  
Elaine's Beauty Shop  
Equitable Insurance Company  
Eyster Realty Association

First Bank Wheaton, N.A.  
Flakker's Painting  
Flower Shoppe  
Frisch Enterprises

Gallagher, Dr. Stanley, D.O.  
Gary's Refrigeration & Air  
Conditioning  
Gary's Taxidermy  
Gene's Hardware Hank  
Goodnough, Dr. Lyle, O.D.  
Gopher Theatre  
Grosland's Jewelry & Music

Hess Insurance Agency  
Home Bakery  
Hunder Music Company

Jacobsen Gravel & Excavating  
Jacobson Motors  
Jacobson Transport Company  
Janke Construction  
Janssen Photographic Design  
Jerry's Service Center  
Jim's East Side Garage  
John's Repair

Land O' Lakes Fertilizer Plant  
Lanes Auto Center  
Larson Oil Company  
Larson's Inc.  
Len's Sport Shop  
Lillian's Beauty Shop  
Lundquist Seed & Feed

Main Street Motors  
Marchetti, Michael, D.D.S.  
Margie's Beauty Salon  
Martin, Nelson & Glasrud,  
Attorneys  
Mitteness Chiropractic Clinic  
Moe, Carlton E., Attorney  
Monica's Beauty Shop  
Morris & Michels, C.P.A.

Naatz, Dr. David, D.V.M.  
Nakagaki, Kevin, D.D.S.  
Nelson's Our Own Hardware  
Neumann's Bar  
North American Communi-  
cations Corporation  
North Star Dairy  
Norton's Floor Covering

Ottertail Power Company

Poole, Dr. James, M.D.  
Przymus Enterprises

Radjenovich, Dr. Steven, D.O.  
Ranney Furniture and  
Funeral Home  
Reese Welding and Supply  
Ringdahl & Terhaar Insur-  
ance Agency  
Roberts, Richard S. & Asso-  
ciates, Attorneys

Ron's Diesel & Auto Repair  
  
Schmidt Bus Lines  
Seifert & Fiedler Barber Shop  
Seifert's Shoes  
Special Things  
State Bank of Wheaton  
State Farm Insurance  
Sturdevant's Auto Parts  
Swift Electric

Tara Mutual Insurance  
Traverse Coop Oil Association  
Traverse County Farm Bureau  
Traverse County National  
Farmers Organization  
Traverse Electric Coopera-  
tive, Inc.  
Traverse Fair Association

United Building Center

Walt's Electric  
Wayne's Standard Service  
Weickert, H. N., D.D.S.  
Western Minnesota Savings  
& Loan

Whaley Plumbing  
Whaley Well Drilling  
Wheatery Restaurant  
Wheaton Department Store  
Wheaton Drug Company  
Wheaton-Dumont Coop.  
Elevator  
Wheaton Garden Center  
Wheaton Gazette  
Wheaton Heating & Air Con-  
ditioning  
Wheaton Lanes  
Wheaton Locker Plant  
Wheaton Motel  
Wheaton Oil Company  
Wheaton Recreation  
Willy's Super Valu  
Wilson's Auto Body  
Winter, A. H., Attorney

Zetterstein Typewriter Shop