

SHEPARD ROOM INFORMATION FILE

Commercial Street Through The Years

Many years ago Commercial Street was very active and prosperous. We depended upon this district for food, clothing and pleasure. I can remember as far back as 1910. What I recall may not be just right, but I like to think as such.

Beginning at Lyon Street on the north side of Commercial, there was Abbott Coal and Feed, which had free delivery service. MFA was in the same block at one time. Then came The Model Grocery. During the Depression they gave ice to the needy on hot days.

Next came Morgan Picture Studios, then a small hamburger shop, then a carriage barn where you could rent a buggy and horse or a wagon and team for moving day.

Then came the fire station, with engines pulled by iron gray horses. It served Bowerman School when it burned. I'll never forget the rhythm of those horses' hooves; I was ~~6~~

Next came McNeir's Furniture, Loport's Dime Store and Ed. V. Williams' clothing store. Over these businesses were services for the public-doctors, lawyers and the justice of the peace.

We had Jones Brothers Dry Goods, a number of furniture stores and Liedy's Dry Goods with the words "Buttons and Notions" on the window.

There was the Princess Theater, Milenery Hat Shop (hats styled as you desired), and the Diemier Theater, which burned. Next came the Prescott Laundry, home of the purple box. When you got to the Biggs Hotel you could cross over a footbridge to the Alexander Shoe Store, Lloyd Cleaners and the Ozark Hotel.

On the south side of Commercial from Lyon to Washington Street was a drug store. If memory holds right, it served ice cream cones and soda pop, each for 5 cents. It had little round tables of wrought iron and chairs to match, where you were welcome to sit and visit. Then came the butcher shop, a small bakery and a second-hand store. Then the saloon, one of Springfield's oldest. Now it is known as Lindburg's. The building looks very much as it did in 1910.

The Piggly Willy was one of the first stores where you chose your own groceries off the shelf. Next came Robories Shoes, and Jared Furniture. Over these businesses was Dr. Coon's office where I got my first smallpox vaccination shots in 1917. There was also a small court office and a justice of the peace.

Next down the street was Crown Drug and a dime store. It was the first of the Cranks Drugs. Then there was the jewelery store that sold Frisco watches. Following were Platt's Hardware, Springfield Bank, and a book store where I bought all my school supplies. There was another barber shop, the Monday Hotel, and the Iron Horse Saloon, but I can't recall just where. There was the Klinger Funeral Parlor. not sure

Golden and Simmons Dry Goods may have been west of the other places. The delicatessen sold fancy sandwiches, all kinds of cheese and dried fish.

Frank's Restaurant was where the Missouri Hotel is now. The People's Bank was at the corner of Jefferson and Commercial. Golden and Simmons Dry Goods may have been west of the other places. Rathbone Hardware was well known throughout the southwestern where you could buy watermelon and other goodies. There was another grocery store across Washington Street.

There have been many changes through the years. People used to carry most of their groceries home. Commercial Street was a good place to go on a Saturday night. You could have supper, see the show and enjoy visiting with your friends.

I liked everything except the dried fish sandwich and the limburger cheese at the delicatessen.

Written by Irene Holly Cates

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