Merchants Made Village Bustle

By DAVE PHILPO Staff Writer

When The Birmingham Eccentric published its first edition in May, 1878, there was a small group of merchants creating the peaceful but busy little village.

From the ads which appeared in the pages of the newspaper, a fairly clear picture can be painted of the Birmingham business section of that day.

Hugh Irving, who had a hardware store on the west side of N. Woodward where the Huron Hardware is now located, started his business in 1849 with a tin shop.

About 1855 he expanded his enterprise and added stores and hardware and in 1864 took his son, John, into partnership with him.

In 1870 he added the celebration of Weed sewing machines to his stock of merchandise and dealt extensively in fertilizer under the Homestead.

FRANK HAGERMAN, the druggist, stocked the store with drugs and groceries, and P. E. Lewis, the building contractor of the spring of 1870. Business was transacted in the south end of the National Hotel building on the place where Hawthorne Electric is now located on N. Woodward.

In the fall of 1870, John Daines, who owned a store on the east side of N. Woodward, moved to the National Hotel. In 1871, he sold his store to Frank Hagerman.

ODYKE & MILLER were the proprietors of the Birmingham Flour Mill, which stood on the corner of Lake and the present Woodward.

In 1870, they put up a new corn sheller with a capacity of 150 bushels per hour and it was said that it "can keep up and feed so quick that it makes you dizzy."

Mrs. T. (Ivonne) Purman, who had already been in the millinery and dry goods business for 10 years in 1870. She had the largest and most complete stock of millinery and fancy goods in the village.

LYMAN R. PEABODY, a general store manager, opened his first store in 1846. It was located on the west side of Woodward, about the middle of the block between Maple and Willow.

In 1841, he moved his store to the northwest corner of Maple and Woodward and in the fall of 1843, moved it to the northeast corner of Hamilton and Woodward where he still is in business in 1878.

He specialized in dry goods but also carried groceries and groceries as well as boots, shoes, caps and hats.

Peppleton, it was said, had the advantages of a very large capital so he was able to pay cash for his goods, a truly practical enterprise. These savings he passed on to his customers by offering his goods at less cost than his competitors.

National Hotel Was Popular Meeting Place for 101 Years

By DICK ZEMMIN Staff Writer

One of Birmingham's most famous landmarks was the National Hotel. A well-known place for railroad workers for over 100 years, it has now been restored to its former glory.

A well-known landmark for railroad workers, the National Hotel was in operation from 1850 until it was torn down in 1950. Its heyday was from 1882 to 1906.

The hotel served as a welcome refuge for railroad workers and its architecture was described as "the most splendid hotel in the state of Michigan."

In 1882, Daines sold "The National" to his brother-in-law, James O. Beattie, for $50,000.

The former village undertaker, Reddick, moved into the hotel and installed a ladies' parlor and men's barber shop.

In 1892, the hotel was sold to the Birmingham Hotel Company for $25,000.

The hotel was finally sold to the Detroit, Toledo and西湖 Railway Company in 1906 and was used as a depot for many years.

Today, the National Hotel is a popular meeting place for 101 years.

SERVED B'HAM 30 YEARS

First Meat Market

ROBERT HANNAN, COOKS, FRIENDS

He owned half interest in market in 1888.

Sawdust on the floor ... utensils and dill pickles in barrels and the butcher standing by a big wooden cutting block wearing straw caps.

Scene: a butcher shop in the prosperous market era.

On the northeast corner of Woodward and Maple stood a small white building that served the village of Birmingham as a meat market for almost 30 years.

The first Providence Church of this community, the building was erected in 1844 and was used as the headquarters of the town. In 1875, a new church building was erected on the same site.

When the church was submerged, the congregation built a new church building on the same site.

It was the only one in the village at that time for many years afterwards.

James R. McLaughlin, as far as can be determined was the town's first butcher.

LATER THE BUSINESS was taken over by Justin P. Thorne and a man named Woodburn (1867), then Thorne and Lewis & Co. and finally Allister Randall (1882), Converse and A. M. Parks (1896) and in 1955 by Parks and John Hannah.

In 1850 when the partnership of Parks and Hannah was dissolved, Parks built the brick building that now stands on the site and the little old meat market building was moved back from the main street and behind the new business block.

It served as a feed store and a carriage shop and finally was torn down.

NATIONAL HOTEL AND ITS GUESTS ABOUT 1890

Served as the village center until Prohibition.

The store of Meele & Whitehead, which stood on the southwest corner of N. Woodward and Perries was a well-known landmark.

After the building was destroyed, the store was reopened by Mr. Purman in 1846. It was located on the west side of Woodward, about the middle of the block between Maple and Willow.

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