

On the east side of Union Street between the railroad and Market street, Mr. Wm. M. Thurman built a suitable shed for making cement blocks. He operated this business for several years; then was followed by Fred Thurman, Lee Barrett, and W. E. West, who operated the elevators west across the street. The volume of business was not large enough to justify its being carried on very long; so it discontinued.

One other business on Market street, that demands mention, was a restaurant and saloon combined, which was operated by Pegleg Washburn, her name indicating that she had a wooden leg. She did. Strange to relate, the exact location of her place of business is uncertain. Mrs. Etha C. Hensley, who lived in Yates City from childhood until she moved to California only a few years ago, and whose memory of the early history of the village is excellent, locates it on the north side of East Market Street. However, Edwin Ekstrand, living in Elmwood, but who also lived here in the early days, locates it on the north side of West Market Street. My memory of its location tells me that it was on the south side of East Market Street. So take your choice of locations, as we do all three agree as to the existence of the business and its proprietor.

Beginning at the southwest corner of the intersection of Main and Union streets, in the early days, frame buildings occupied the ground south to the alley and west about half way in the block ending at the present location of the Village Hall. There was a break of about twenty-five feet to the next frame building, which, in later years, became the property of Grant Bruce and then of his son, Guy Bruce. Within the past two years, it has been demolished as it was not safe or fit for occupancy.

The first occupancy of these buildings is not a matter of record, but within my own memory and that of others to whom I have presented the subject, we find that in the corner building facing east on Union Street, Mr. Balcolm operated a dry goods store; Charles A. West, a harness sales and repair shop; I. N. Truitt and his brother Tom, a grocery store; and Charles Coykendall, a grocery store.

The next building south was occupied, as a restaurant, by T. J. Kightlinger, Jeff, as he was commonly known. Marion DeFord followed him in the same business.

Other buildings occupied the ground farther south, down to the alley, and were occupied at various times by: C. V. Bird - grocery store; P. A. Taylor - barber shop; J. B. Coykendall - postmaster; Arthur Taylor - grocery store; George Davey - grocery store; and probably others.

Across the alley to the south stood a frame building. It was occupied at various times as a residence by J. B. Coykendall and Jack Coykendall, and later, as a saloon by Mr. Weaver, during whose occupancy it burned. Some time following the fire, a concrete block building was erected on this same ground. It was occupied by Garrison and West as a garage and auto salesroom; later it was purchased by H. E. Kjellenberg, who is using it mostly for storage purposes.

Going west on Main Street, next to the corner building facing on Union street, was the drug store and office of Dr. James W. Hensley, father of Dr. Herman J. Hensley.

The next building was a furniture store operated by a Mr. Fox and later by George Broadfield, followed by a saloon and later on as a grocery store conducted by Wm. Bybee.

On west of the furniture store stood the hardware store of John W. Wood and Son. It was a two story building, and Ed Baxter occupied the second story as a tin shop for Mr. Wood.

Others who occupied the buildings in this location at different times were: Newell Livermore—willow twig furniture factory; Earl Carter—dentist in the second story of the H. J. Hensley drug store; D. W. Mason—cigar factory; Hunter & Jones and Newton Faith—billiard halls.

On September 22, 1906, a fire broke out in the stairway between the first two buildings going south from the corner of Main and Union Streets on the west side of Union Street. Before it was under control, it had burned everything south to the alley and west to the break between the Wood's hardware and the Bruce building, which, as I recall it, was occupied at that time by Smith Rhea and his wife, who operated a millinery store. The only fire fighting apparatus the village had at that time was the old Cyclone hand pumping engine and, in spite of all the efforts of the men that night, not a single drop of water was pumped through it. I suppose that was accounted for by the fact that the leathers in the cylinders were dried out, and it would not take hold. The only other thing that could be used was the bucket brigade, which was useless in putting out the fire, but did manage to stop the fire at the Bruce building.

In the fall of the year of the fire, T. J. Kightlinger (Jeff) purchased all the lots on the west side of South Union Street beginning at the alley and going north to Main Street, except the last lot where a filling station now stands. He erected the cement block buildings that now stand there, which, in recent years, were purchased by A. L. Terry and have been occupied by various lines of business including: grocery

store, a post office, and a barber shop. At this time, it is owned and occupied by his son, T. L. Terry, as a grocery and freezing plant.

The corner lot was finally purchased by Maro S. Corey, and a building was erected as a gas service station, which he operated for several years. At this time, this also belongs to T. L. Terry, who rents it to others occupied in the same line of business.

Some years later, after the fire of 1906 described elsewhere, Arwine Garrison and O. B. West, who had been operating an auto sales and repair business in the cement block building on South Union Street now owned by H. E. Kjellenberg, purchased the lots where the Hensley drug store and the furniture store of George Broadfield had stood. They constructed the fine brick building now standing there and moved their auto sales and repair business into it.

They continued here for several years, but decided to discontinue and Dalton Bros. came into it with the same business. They carried on for several years, then Louis Windish followed with the John Deere Implement Company agency. This line still continues there but is now under the ownership and management of Ralph Culver, doing business as the Yates City Implement Company.

Sometime after this building was constructed, the village dads purchased the lot where the Wood's hardware store had been located and built the present village building, which originally housed not only the village business, but in the northeast corner, the fire truck.

When the present water and fire truck building was built, the fire truck was moved into it. The room it had occupied is now used to store the village truck.

West of the building described as the Bruce building, there was nothing but open lots down to the next street, which is named Elizabeth. In 1885, my father purchased all of those lots, and he moved the lumber yard, which he had purchased prior to that date, from where it stood on North Main Street to these lots, in order to be closer to the railroad and save the long haul of lumber from the railroad to the yard. He moved the office building and shop attached to its rear. In addition to these buildings, he erected south of the alley two lumber sheds, and, next to Market Street, a building to house shingles. After a few years, he enlarged the business by building a two story frame building on the east side of the office and shop, which stood on the corner of Main and Elizabeth



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streets and started the farm implement business. Finally, to complete the line, he built another two story frame building east of the farm implement unit and inaugurated the buggy business. This was all profitable until the buggy business began to decline when the automobiles began to come in about the turn of the century. About that time, he sold the entire business in 1898 to L. D. Fletcher, who carried on for a time. He in turn sold it to Ralph and Fred Taylor, who soon took J. D. Scott in as a partner. They finally sold to the Pioneer Lumber Company and they disposed of the farm implement and buggy business. The implement business was taken over by Louis Windish, as a John Deere agency, and so continued in that same building for several years until he moved to the building, where it is now operating under different ownership. In the meantime, the old frame buildings having become badly in need of repair, were torn down by Joe Baxter, who was operating the lumber yard for the Pioneer Lumber Company at that time. The present hollow tile and brick building was erected, which added much to the appearance of the village as well as to the convenience of operating the lumber business, as the lumber could all be housed under cover from the weather in that commodious building. Since then, the yard, now known as the Yates City Lumber Company, has been owned and operated by the Pioneer Lumber Company, and various men have been employed by the company as local operators. The present operator is James E. Howell and, under his management, the yard is enjoying a fine volume of business.

Across the street west from the lumber yard, as far back as I can recall, stood the livery stable of the village, which business began to fade away around the turn of the century. The automobile began to be seen in the cities and soon spread out into the surrounding country and small villages. Among the early operators of the livery business, were George Golliday, Frank H. Chamberlain, John Craig, Arwine Garrison