

Down Memory Lane

By

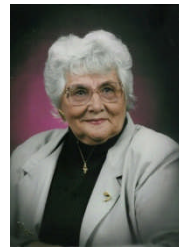
Bernice Jensen

Last week we traveled up Coteau Street visiting the businesses that are no longer a part of Gary. In some instances the buildings are no longer in existence. I call it digging up bones, old bones. At the north end of Coteau Street, the first business was Doc Pinards home at 1202. Dr Pinard delivered many babies in the area, in the homes of midwives and at the local hospital. He was a tough man. He would say when he gave me a shot, that didn't hurt because I didn't feel anything. He passed away 35 years ago in 1974. Eugene and Betty Steele call this lovely old house home. 1126 Coteau was a beauty shop for a short while. It is now home to Randy and Shirley Denekamp. The next vacant lot was called the Central telephone office when I was a child. Ladies that I can remember in charge were Pearl Callens Davies, Mrs. Henry Sueter, a lady from Marshal l that I don't remember her name but she was in charge in the 50's and 60's. Clint and Leona Priest purchased the telephone office until they sold it to ITC. Later Maude Carter lived there and she sold quilts that she made. The next home was the family of Harold and Arlo Meyer and where Dey Rupp operated his barber shop in his home. Next to the barber shop was a building that several may remember in the 30's and 40's was the business operated by Elmer Peterson and his wife. It was a variety store in the 40's. Ardis Hinsvark and Mickey Miller operated a coffee shop in the back with an alley entry door. Elmer then sold it to his brother. It later was the first home of the Sports Inn. There was a building across the alley in the basement and one on the first floor was where Pete and Mrs. Nelson had their bakery and a fine baker he was. His bread, rolls, and cookies were the best ever. They lived above the bakery. I was told years ago, it was the a doctor office and a hospital and the main floor was a hardware store managed and operated by Bill and Edna Hinsvark in the early 50's and later it became the Senior Citizen center. Next door was the Gary Liquor store in the 30's and 40's with a movie theater upstairs and a dance hall and several events were held in the hall. Remember Bert and Jessie Mae, the musical group from Yankton. Adolph Sanden operated the creamery buying eggs and cream and butter. He had trucks visiting from farmers and picking up produce. In the late 20's the Mier Sisters, Clara Mier Mc Lain and her sister operated a millinery shop. They were very talented and my mother said their hats were well made and very fashionable.

Tom and Clara McLain lived in Gary for many years moving to Minneapolis in the 50's. I would be pleased to have one of those hats. Across the alley is the building that now houses the Gate City Store and Hardware. In the lower level in the basement was Eker's barber shop and the top floor was Dr. Grosses first dentist office. There was also a barber shop. It was the home of the Bart Raush family and the family lived upstairs.

On the main floor an exchange was housed. Mr. Snitger was the proprietor. I remember he was a colorful character. Then the bank was there, then the post office and then the bank again if I remember right.

The next door was the Rowland Drug Store. Walter Rowland was the druggist and an excellent businessman. Yours truly, me, worked there after Walter passed away. On the 4th of July a celebration was held and Danny and I worked the drugstore that day. We sold so many ice cream cones at the soda fountain that our wrists hurt. Mrs. Rowland sold the drug Store to Bob and Dorothy Rourke. They lived in the apartment upstairs over the businesses for a few years. Later they sold to Perry and Lena Heaton and their son Perry and wife Joan. Shirley Denekamp



is the owner and operator of this fine grocery store and hardware store. The vacant lot to the right was the home of the Gary Interstate for many years. Mortenson and Reine Miotell and Phil Trieb owned the paper. On the right of the store under the same roof was Pete Beaudrys egg buying station. The next vacant lot was the home the Eakens café. When I was in high school Ed and Loretta Windenback, Dode Mueller, Jennine Miller and Armetha Kemig were the owners and operators of the A and J café.

The next door is the Alibi which was the home of Kenyon hardware owned and operated by Jud Kenyon Sr. and later Judd Kenyon, Jr. It was a hardware store for years with a gas pump on the sidewalk outside the store. When Kenyon's sold out the store to Louis and Mrs. Olson and operated a feed store. After Mr. Olson's death, Harold and Minnie Helmberger purchased the store. It was later purchased by Jimmie Geisel who named it the Alibi. After a few years he sold it to Bruce and Diane Melby. The next business was John Kenyon General Merchandise where groceries, clothing, shoes, ladies hats, yard good etc was sold. John was a great man and a lot of fun. His wife was a gracious lady. If I remember right she was an Oswald.

The next business was the Herrick Hotel and is the only business that I remember there. It was a fashionable place to enjoy dinner, dance and a great night out. Alice Knopp later told me a lot about the great businesses. Her mother was one of the cooks and it was later an apartment house for families. Across the street was Banwarth garage with Frank and Sara. Frank was a real business man. He sold Ford, Chrysler, Dody and Desota, I hope that I remember that right. John and Loretta Hentges owned and operated a Laundromat and later it was taken down. East of the Garage, John Nielson operated a car repair shop. The business was later operated by John Hentges, Barney Ladwig and Sheldon Lokken. Across the road was Griffing and Eng who had an implement store where they sold machinery and repairs and twine. I went with my father when I was very young and he purchased a McCormick binder. Later it was an apery or called a bee house. It is no longer standing. Mr. Thorpe has the spot nicely landscaped. Mr. Thorpe has purchase the elevator that was one operated by Sexauer. Where the bank now stands was the Youmans Lumber Company on the corner; was a top shelf lumber yard. I have enjoyed walking through the years to the present. We are all so proud of the founders of Gary