
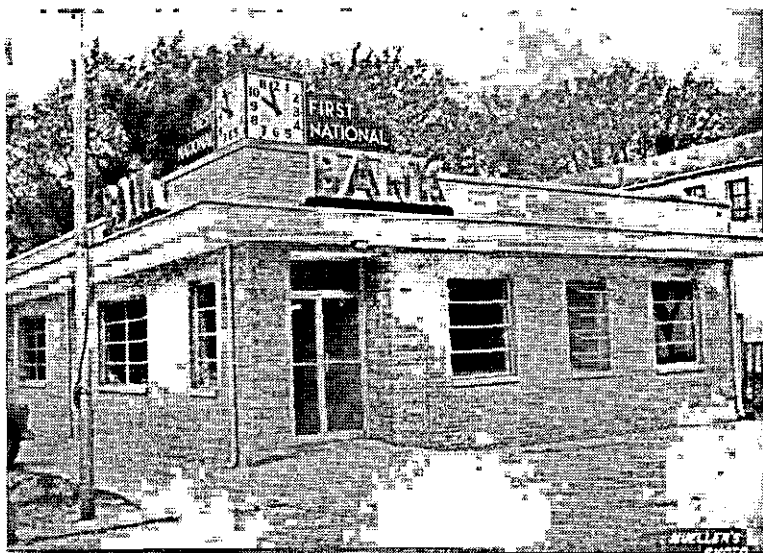


Byron Business Review



**A review of Byron's business and
professional men at the time of
the formal opening of the new
building of the First National Bank
on June 4, 1952.**



New home of The First National Bank of Byron

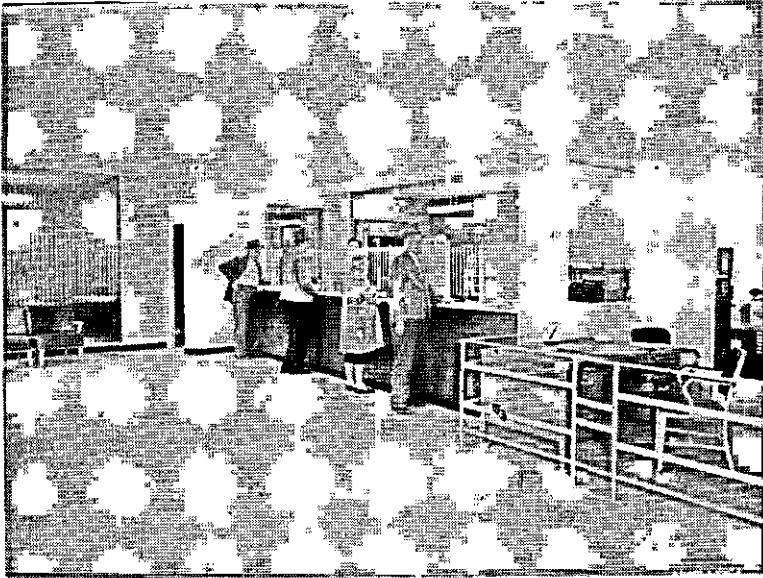
Probably the first thing a stranger looks for in a town is the bank. It is his assurance that there is a thriving business group, able to maintain a full agenda of transactions on a commercial basis. The presence of a bank in a community immediately sets the whole citizenry upon a business par with anyone else in the country.

That very need for financial security and backing prompted the formation of the first bank in Byron by Junius Rogers in 1873, just 28 years after the founding of Byron. Mr. A. B. Knowlton was cashier and partner in this bank, which was located on Second and Union Streets. Mr. Rogers was succeeded by Mr. Knowlton and he was followed by Mr. W. D. Brown of Geneva, who in turn was followed by R. D. Hollenbeck.

Meanwhile, J. C. Woodburn, in 1882, had organized a bank, a private institution which was continued many years under private management. In 1885 D. H. Campbell assumed the management and in 1892 S. B. Stuart, in partnership with other men, purchased the bank and it became known as the Byron Bank.

In 1921 it became the Byron State Bank when it took over the Farmers and Merchants Bank.

Wm. C. Bunn had withdrawn from the Byron Bank in 1891 and had established the Farmers and Merchants Bank, which in later years built the bank building which The First National Bank has just left. They continued in the new building until taken over by The Byron Bank and became the Byron State Bank until 1931.



Spacious interior of the new bank building.

The year 1931 was a time of distress in Byron for the bank closed and business was slowed perceptibly in the community. The need for a new bank became acute and finally on June 30, 1932 a charter was filed under the name of Rock River Community Bank with the organizers listed as Albert Johnson, Leo Piper, E. F. Reber, F. A. Nott, E. G. Stukenberg and D. L. Sherman. The roster of stockholders was impressive, indicating that the community spirit was at its highest point and was behind the venture whole-heartedly. Three hundred and four of the 915 citizens owned stock in this new bank.

A large celebration was organized to make festive the opening of the bank on July 7. Mayor Spoor opened the program and Mr. James W. Rogers, the new President, was introduced, as well as F. A. Nott, Vice-President, and other directors. Dr. Stewart Thomson acted as master of ceremonies and it was at this occasion that the support of Ruth Hanna Simms was announced. She pledged 10 per cent of the funds necessary for reorganization and her financial secretary was made president of the new institution which was capitalized at \$50,000. Total resources of the bank were then \$276,261.34. It was a small bank, but was one of the strongest in the Midwest in liquidity. The fact that the bank opened during an economic crisis and remained at the service of the community demonstrates the soundness of the organization.

In 1939 F. A. Nott was made President followed by O. F. Bakener in 1941, Leo Piper in 1943 and E. J. Auken in January of 1947.



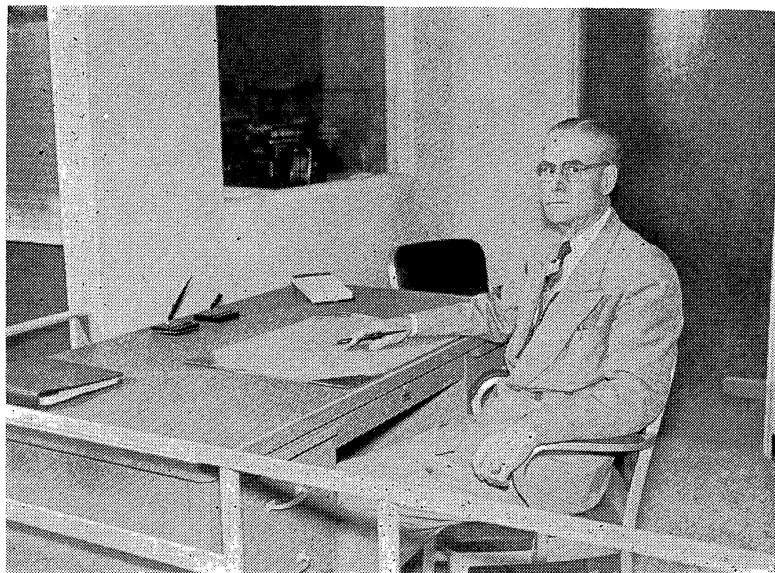
Left to right, back row: directors M. E. Auker, E. F. Reber, B. E. Auker, Cashier Ken Swanson; front row: Asst. cashier Nina Thompson, President E. J. Auker, bookkeeper Margie Grenda. Josephine Love Weber, bookkeeper, was absent when picture was taken.

Mr. E. J. Auker came to Byron in 1941 and when the opportunity presented itself in 1946, bought, with his sons, M. E. and B. E. Auker, the controlling interest in the bank. In July of 1947 the bank was nationalized and became known as The First National Bank of Byron. The officers of the bank are: E. J. Auker, President; M. E. Auker, Vice-President; Ken Swanson, Cashier; Nina Thompson, assistant cashier; directors are E. F. Reber, B. E. Auker, M. E. Auker, Ken Swanson and E. J. Auker.

With resources nearly ten times that (as of 1932) of the Rock River Community Bank (\$2,434,313.40) and business activities increasing proportionately the Board of Directors have erected a new building on the corner of Second and Walnut Streets, with Don B. Johnson, contractor.

Constructed of tan brick and crab orchard stone, the building provides the latest in banking facilities — namely the Drive-In Banking Window, a night depository as well as 100 added safety deposit boxes. The lobby is harmoniously designed to satisfy the most discriminating.

The National Room on the lower level of the bank will seat 75 people. Kitchen facilities will be available. This room is a reflection of the strong community spirit of the entire First National Bank organization.



E. J. Auker

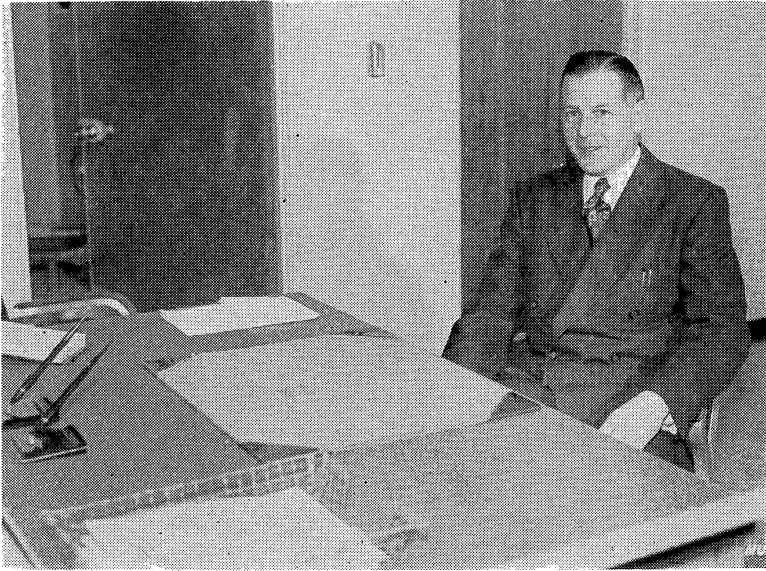
E. J. Auker, president of The First National Bank, was born Aug. 11, 1890 on a ranch in Western Nebraska. In 1899 his father traded the ranch for a farm in Eastern Nebraska. Mr. Auker farmed with his father until he was 19 years old. Then, he bought half interest in a blacksmith shop. He sold this interest in a short time.

Married in 1910, Mr. Auker began farming, and buying and selling cattle. During the drought and depression, he worked for some time for the RFC in making and inspecting loans. In 1933 he began devoting all of his time to the cattle business.

During three winters at El Paso, Texas, he brought several thousand cattle out of Old Mexico. He also bought cattle all over the range country and shipped them East to be fattened for market.

Mr. Auker purchased a farm near Byron in 1940 and took his two sons into partnership. During 1940 he stayed in the West until he had sold the cattle for which he had contracted. In 1941 the Aukers opened the livestock sales barn in Byron which they still operate.

In 1946 they bought controlling interest in the Rock River Community Bank.



Ken Swanson

Ken Swanson, cashier of the First National Bank, is a graduate of Rockford Public Schools and of Browns Business College.

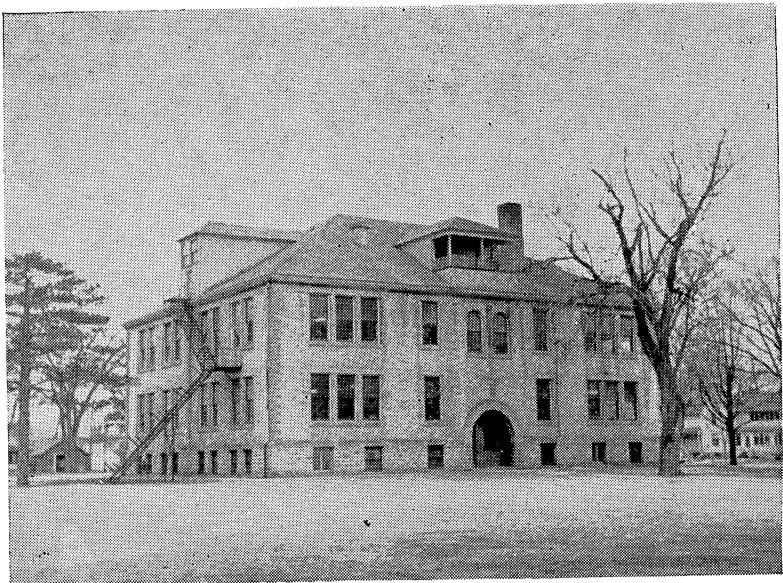
For five years he was employed at the Rockford National Bank. At the end of that time he was transferred to the Rockford Trust Co.

In 1935 he moved to Byron when he became Assistant Cashier of the Rock River Community Bank. In 1941 he became Cashier and Director.

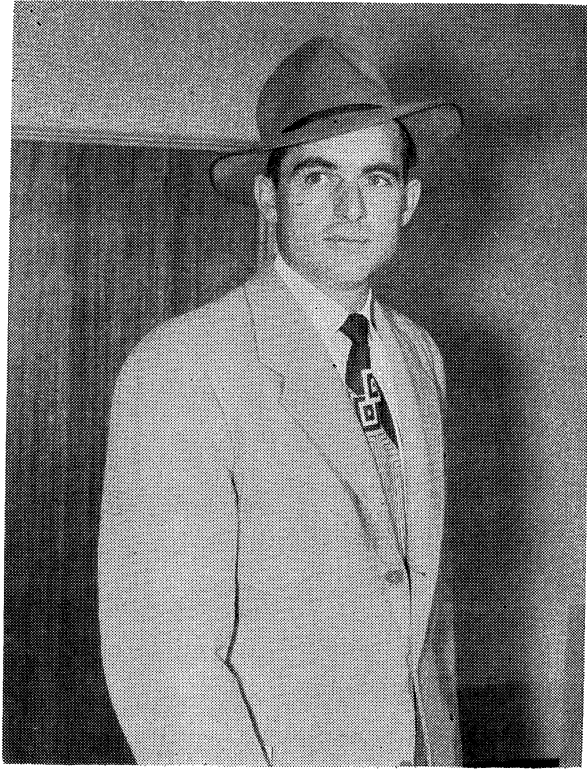
Mr. Swanson is a City Alderman, School Treasurer and Vice President of the Byron Theatre.



This high school building was built in 1939
Byron Community Unit District



Byron Grade School



Blaine Auker, Auctioneer

Farm Sales

Real Estate at Auction

No sale too large or too small

Auker Agency

Real Estate Bought and Sold

Real Estate Loans

Blaine Auker



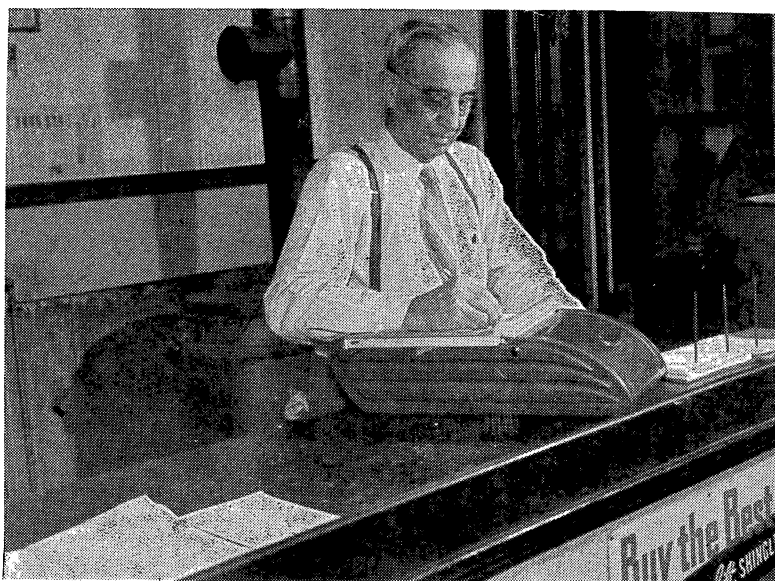
Mr. Orville F. Bakener, standing by his ambulance-hearse in front of the Bakener Funeral Home.

Bakener Funeral Home

The Bakener Funeral Home, founded July 1, 1933 by Orville F. Bakener, is dedicated to the memory of those who in eternal sleep repose therein, and is for the use and comfort of relatives and friends.

This is one of the oldest houses in Byron and it is recorded that as late as 1862 many slaves were hidden and fed in this building while enroute from the Mason-Dixon line to points on the Canadian border.

On October 10, 1862 a dinner, followed by a ball, was held in this property for members of the 92nd Illinois Infantry who were leaving the next day from Rockford for Cincinnati from whence they went into service near Mt. Sterling and Danville, Kentucky.



Mr. H. R. Humm, manager of the Barker Lumber Co., working at the counter in the Byron office.

Barker Lumber Co.

"We treat you ☐ the year O" is the trade slogan of the Barker Lumber Co. In 1924 the Barker Lumber Co. purchased the Byron yard from Armour Grain Co. Mr. H. R. Humm had been the Byron manager for Armour since 1912. He stayed on as manager for the Barker Lumber Co.

All kinds of building materials and fuel are sold by the Barker Lumber Co., which has its home office at Delavan, Wis.

Among the products sold by this firm are Old Ben Coal, Celotex Insulation, first quality millwork, Bird's roofing, American Fence and Anchorite studded steel posts.



Earl C. Barnhart

Barnhart's Heating Service

Plumbing and heating, electrical wiring and sheet metal work are the fields of work covered by Barnhart's Heating Service.

Mr. Earl C. Barnhart began this business on Sept. 1, 1947.

Service night or day, Sundays and holidays is one of the reasons for the success of Mr. Barnhart's business.



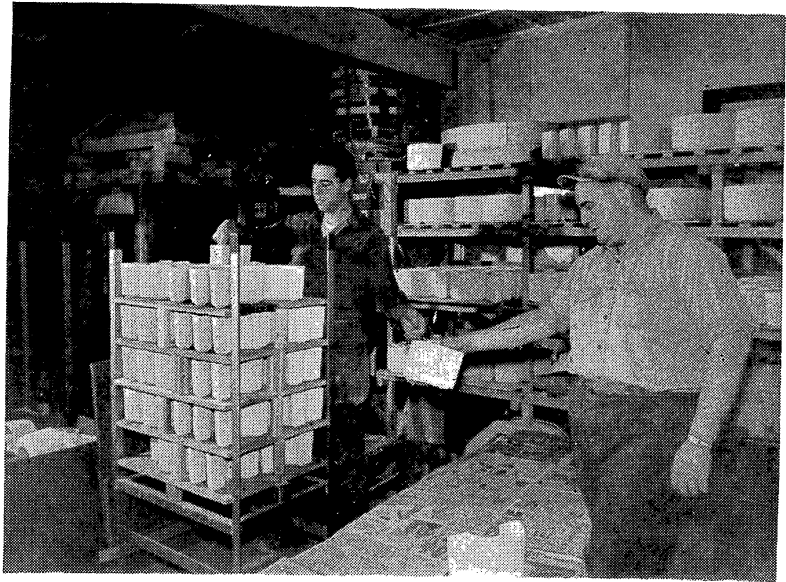
Mrs. Jack Hagan and Sherman Wickwire in Barrick's Drug Store. You'll identify Mrs. Hagan again in the mirror but the other "persons" are not identifiable.

Barrick's Drug Store

Barrick's Drug Store, owned by W. B. Barrick, is under the management of S. E. Wickwire, registered pharmacist. The present owner bought the business from L. T. Barrick in 1914.

A Rexall drug store, the firm has a modern soda fountain, carries Kodak supplies, handles photo finishing, sells greeting cards, magazines, daily and Sunday papers.

Of course, prescriptions are reliably and carefully prepared. Sherm suggests "Try the drug store first."



Workmen inspecting some of the products of the Beacon Pottery. Note the drying racks in the background. One of the kilns may be seen at the extreme left in the background of the picture.

Beacon Pottery

The Beacon Pottery is an interesting place to visit. Stop in and pay them a visit when you have time.

The Pottery is owned by Leslie E. Glasser. Various ceramic products are manufactured at the pottery.

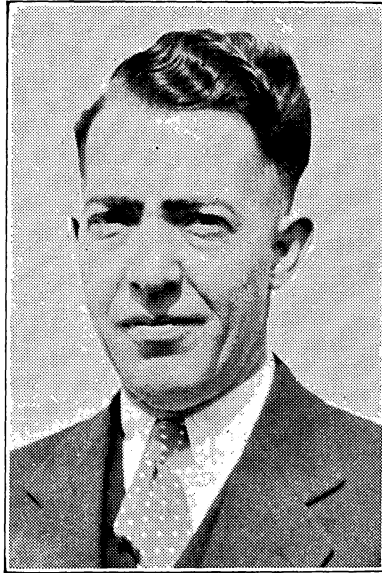


Bemis Motor Co.

The Bemis Motor Co. was founded in 1919. The corporation serves Byron in two ways — as the local Ford dealer, and as the distributor for Gulf petroleum products.

Ford sales and service are handled in Byron by the Bemis Motor Co. Currently, the 1952 Ford is making new car history.

When your Ford needs tuning up, or a general overhauling, bring it to Bemis Motor Co.

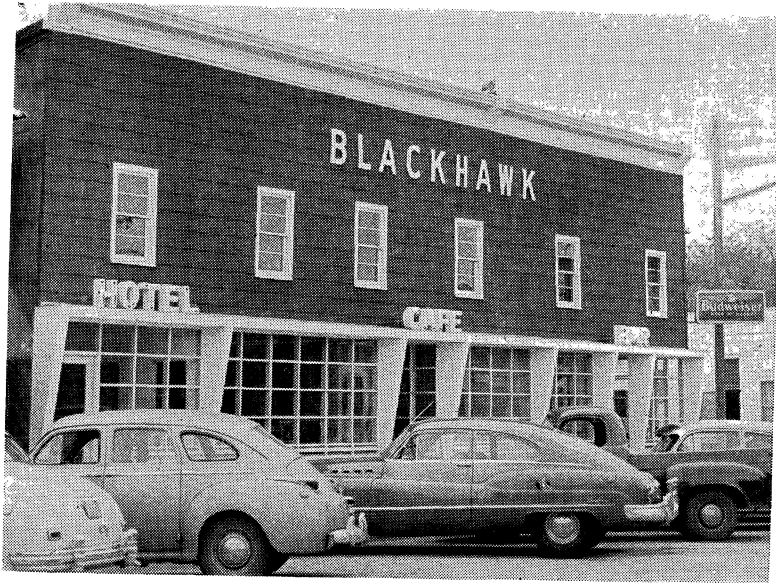


Harry Bittner

Bittner's Bakery

Harry Bittner founded the bakery business on Dec. 21, 1940. In addition to the bakery Mr. Bittner operates a confectionery in the same building.

Besides keeping busy at his business Mr. Bittner is serving the City of Byron as its mayor.



The Blackhawk Hotel

The Blackhawk Hotel has been remodeled this year by its new owner, Don B. Johnson. He purchased the hotel building from Chas. Richardson this Spring.

The Blackhawk Hotel now has three apartments. Each apartment has three rooms and a bath. There are six rooms to be used for hotel guests.

The Blackhawk Cafe, now under the management of Mr. Geo. Manlove, is located in the Blackhawk Hotel building. The Cave Inn tavern is located at the corner of the building.



Clarence Taylor, showing William Hale a can of Glidden's famous "Spreed" at the Byron Builders Supply store.

Byron Builders Supply

The Byron Builders Supply store handles a complete line of paint and builders' supplies. Glidden's quality products are featured by this store.

"Paint And Smiles For Brighter Homes" is the trade slogan for the Byron Builders Supply, declares Mrs. Marjorie L. Taylor, owner of the store which opened in June, 1950.

Byron Cafe

Bertha Capes operates the Byron Cafe which is located by the Byron Theatre.

She purchased this lunchroom from Mr. and Mrs. William Baker on Jan. 1, 1952.

You are invited to stop at the Byron Cafe either for a quick lunch, or for a complete dinner.



Byron Cheese Factory

The Byron Cheese Factory is owned by C. E. Zuercher & Co. of Chicago, Illinois.

Warren Schneider is the manager; Lloyd Woods, the cheesemaker; and Arnold Schneider, the farm fieldman.

Baronet Natural cheese (made at Byron) was originated centuries ago in ancient Normandy and is now made in this country by modern improved methods. Cured and mellowed in Mother Nature's way, producing thus that smooth, wholesome texture and piquant, yet delicate flavor.

Baronet Natural (not processed) cheese is made from pasteurized milk. Special imported pure cultures are added in order to produce that exquisite, continental cheese flavor.

Baronet cheese has an unequalled food value. It promotes health, vigor and builds up resistance. For growing children there is no finer food than Baronet Natural cheese. It contains most of the valuable vitamins.

Baronet cheese is never fattening. It is at its best when served just as is, on bread, toast or crackers. Here is a cheese that can stand on its own!

The factory at Byron, an historic old stone structure, was remodeled and a new brick addition was put on in 1941.



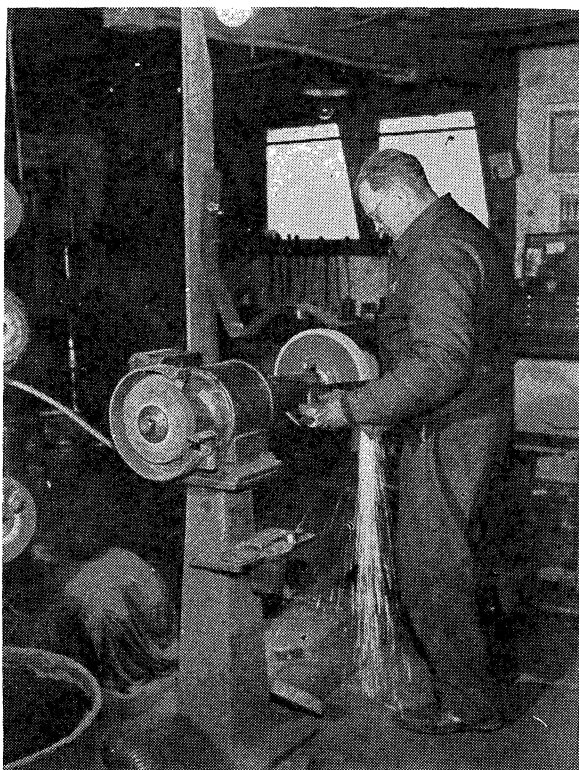
From left to right: Miss Rachel Knowles, Mrs. Evelyn Klein and Mrs. Jean McCormick, in the Byron Cleaners office.

Byron Cleaners

Mrs. Evelyn Klein and Miss Rachel Knowles purchased the Byron Cleaners in August, 1947. They bought the business from Mr. Leonard Porter.

The Byron Cleaners staff is at your service. Everything in dry cleaning will be accepted, including fur coats and hats. Zippers may be replaced and other repair work will be done upon request.

Let the Byron Cleaners keep your clothes looking fresh the year around.



Oscar Johnson working at the emery wheel in his repair shop.

Byron General Machine Repair

On Sept. 1, 1946 Mr. Oscar H. Johnson began operating the Byron General Machine Repair shop.

Repair work done on agricultural implements. Machine parts made. Rebuilding, sharpening and changing to hydraulic control.

If it can't be repaired, it can be made new. "I have yet to turn anyone away who was in a tight pinch for help," Mr. Johnson declares.

Everything in arc and oxy-acetylene welding and brazing. Lathe work, drilling, key way cutting and milling. Plow shares rebuilt. Wood and steel wheels changed for rubber tires.

Shafts and most any new part made that is beyond repairing.

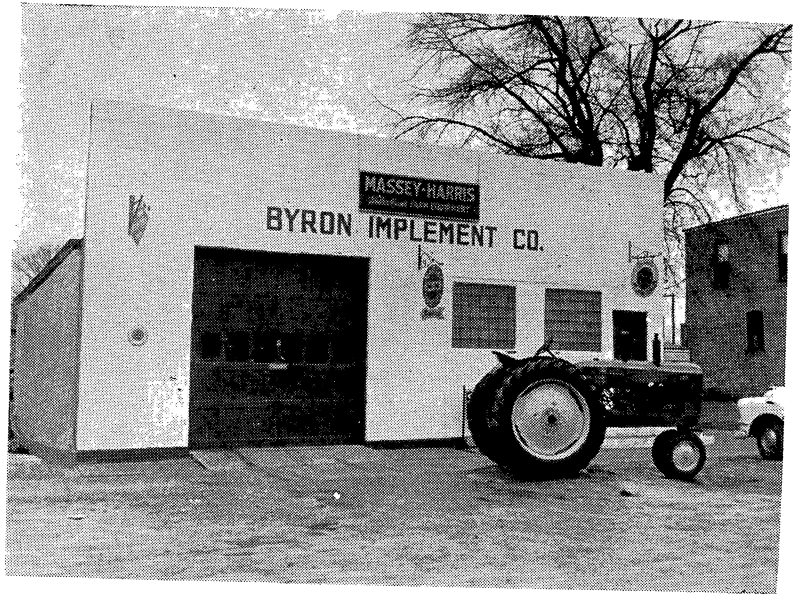


Eldon Mosiman

Byron Hatchery Co.

Eldon Mosiman is the present owner of the Byron Hatchery Co. which was started by his father, J. R. Mosiman, in 1935. Besides the operation of a commercial chick hatchery, the Byron Hatchery Co. sells poultry, hog and cattle feed, poultry houses and dairy-barn equipment.

"Quality With Service" is the slogan for the Byron Hatchery Co. The old Gill's Hall was remodeled into an up-to-date hatchery for the operation of this business.



Byron Implement Co.

The Byron Implement Co. was established on April 1, 1950. It is owned by William Calvert, James Calvert, Jack Calvert and Stewart Norton.

Massey-Harris farm machinery and DeLaval milking equipment are featured by the Byron Implement Co.

Modern farming methods call for modern machinery. That is why so many farmers have come to depend on the latest in Massey-Harris farming equipment.

Does your farm machinery need repairs? Bring your equipment to the Byron Implement Co. and keep it in the best of shape.



Byron Livestock Commission Co. Sales Barn

Byron Livestock Commission Co.

E. J. AUKER

M. E. AUKER

B. E. AUKER



Sale Day — Every Monday



Floyd Piercefield, an employee of the Byron Lumber Co., is seen standing by one of the company's delivery trucks.

Byron Lumber Company

Lumber and coal are the main products sold by the Byron Lumber Company. Gail A. Taylor, the present owner, purchased the business from Geo. Sherman in August, 1948.

"Service Before Self" is the motto for the Byron Lumber Co.

Extensive lumber sheds, coal sheds, and a scale house and office make up the Byron Lumber Company's yard where you are always welcome.



Byron Radio Shop

Merle C. McKee, owner of the Byron Radio Shop, began business in Byron in January, 1932, some 20 years ago.

The Byron Radio Shop features radio, television and appliance sales and service. Merle's motto for his business is "We Service The Products We Sell."

The Byron Radio Shop is located at 127 W. Second St. This building was used as a physician's office by Dr. A. J. Woodcock from 1880 to 1900. Later, the building was occupied by the Farmers and Merchants Bank until its merger with the Rock River Community Bank (now the First National Bank of Byron) in 1912. Later, the building was used as a millinery shop and hardware store until occupied by Mr. McKee in 1945.



Byron Theatre

Owned by Balle & Johnson Enterprises, Inc., the Byron Theatre brings fine entertainment programs to this area each week. Three changes of shows are made weekly: Sunday, Wednesday and Friday.

The Byron Theatre was built by the present owners and opened in December, 1949. The theatre will seat 420 people.

Super Simplex equipment is used in the projection booth, assuring local theatre-goers of fine sound and clear reproduction of all pictures.

Herb Johnson is manager of the theatre and Jack Campbell is chief operator in the projection booth.

Two complete shows are presented each night. For an evening of enjoyable entertainment you can count on the Byron Theatre.

Byron Tribune



Mrs. Howard Shank

Mrs. Howard Shank is editor of the Byron Tribune, published by Associated Publishers each Friday morning at Byron.

John R. Van Sickle is the owner of Associated Publishers which issues community newspapers in 10 Northern Illinois towns and also does commercial printing. The printing plant is located at Durand, Illinois.



John R. Van Sickle

Cave Inn Tavern

The Cave Inn tavern is located in the Blackhawk Hotel building. Stanley A. Skurski is the owner.

He purchased the business from Frank Cassioppi on August 13, 1951.

"Through our doors pass the best people in the world—our customers."



Certified Super Mart

The Certified Super Mart was opened in Byron in March, 1950. Mr. Hans M. Balle, who had been operating the Royal Blue Store in Byron, had a new building built for the Super Mart.

Of concrete block construction, the Certified Super Mart is 40x110 feet. The Mart is a completely modern grocery and meat market.

A beautiful black glass front decorates the front of this up-to-the-minute building. Inside, spacious aisles are lined with groceries and meats.



John Cassell at work in his Corner Barber Shop.

Corner Barber Shop

John L. Cassell operates the Corner Barber Shop. He purchased the shop from William Frailey on Dec. 26, 1937. The modern barber shop is located on the corner in a white brick building, with a red tile trim.

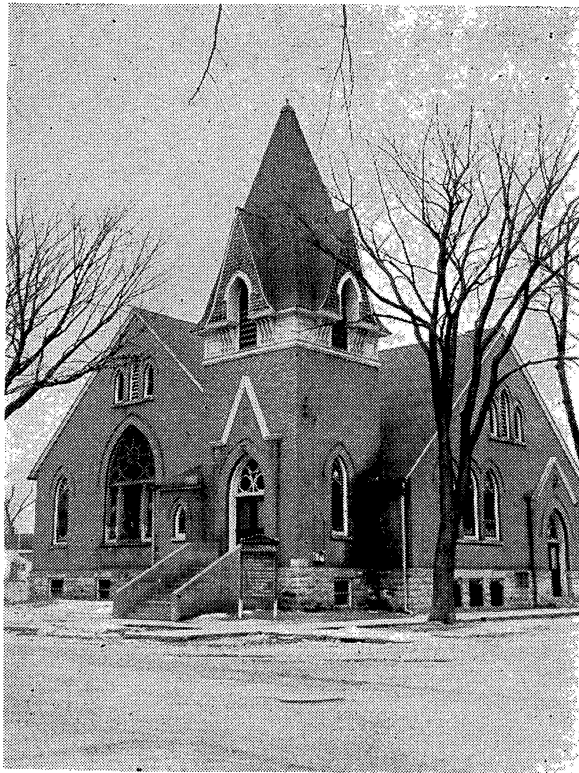


Robert Cox, Ralph Dyer and Gene Moring standing by one of their milk delivery trucks.

R. L. Cox Dairy

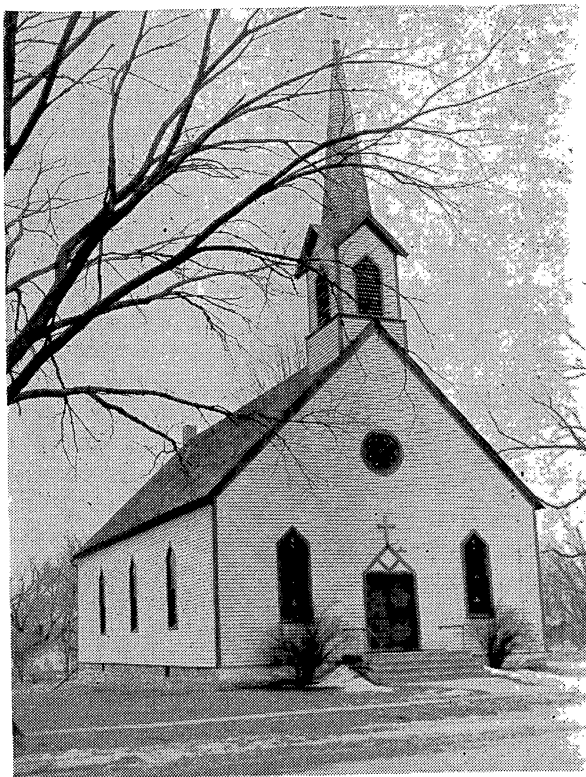
Robert L. Cox has been distributing Dean's milk wholesale throughout most of Ogle county since 1945.

Mr. Cox employs Ralph Dyer and Gene Moring to assist him with the work.



The United Church of Byron

The United Church of Byron is the union of religious effort begun in the spring of 1837. The Methodists and Congregationalists worked parallel until 1930 when the question of the merger was proposed. With both churches' officers voting for the union, the properties were incorporated under one board of trustees; the membership was placed in one book: the membership of the United Church. During the last six years the property has been improved about \$1,000 each year, not counting a \$5,000 pipe organ in March, 1948. Six ministers have served the United Church: L. M. Isaacs, W. J. Hopkins, Ralph Vieth, Fred N. Anderson, J. K. Arnot and James H. Hagerty.



St. Mary's Church, Byron

St. Mary's Catholic Church was organized by Father John McCann in April, 1895. A few months later the church building was started, financed in part by a successful fourteen-night "Catholic Fair" at which \$1,500 was raised — a considerable sum in those days! Mary Nally (Carver) was voted the most popular girl at the fair, and her daughter, Mrs. Robert Cox, still has the silver teapot which was presented to her mother on that occasion. Almost all the work on construction was donated, and the church was dedicated on June 3, 1896 by His Grace, Archbishop Feehan. Prior to that time, Mass was said either at Gill's Hall, or the Masonic Hall, which was directly across the street from where the church now stands.

A few of the families belonging to early congregations were: Riley, Hogans, Barry, Nally, Kennedy, Mayewski, Higgins, Leary, Hickey, Rush, Gorman, O'Mally, Kiley, Connor, Whalen, Quinlan and Diggins.

St. Mary's has been served by priests from Oregon; among them are the present pastor, Rev. Arthur M. Kreckel, his predecessor, Father Thomas Meehan, and before that, Father J. J. Hackett, who was "the priest" in the Centennial pageant held here in 1935.



Dr. Robert F. Dearborn's Office

Dr. Robert Fuller Dearborn was born June 23, 1911 at Riverside, Ill. Following graduation from Proviso High School, he entered the University of Illinois, receiving a B. S. degree and his Doctor of Medicine in 1937. An internship at Madison Methodist Hospital qualified him for practice and in 1938 he became associated with a Freeport physician and practiced 18 months at Orangeville, Ill.

On April 1, 1941 he purchased his Byron office and began practice here. Enlisting in the Medical Corps of the U. S. Airforce in July, 1942, he was discharged with the rank of major in February, 1946.

Returning to Byron, he resumed practice and set, as his goal, new offices to replace the tiny, 100-year-old building which had been serving the community. This dream was realized in November, 1951 when a modern eight-room office was opened, offering the latest type of medical services and equipment to the community of Byron. With the ever present thought of expansion of services and activities, the building is designed to accomodate another physician.

Dr. Dearborn is married and has three children. He is an active member of service organizations in Byron, as well as Rockford, where he is a member of the executive staff of the Rockford Memorial Hospital, as well as the associated staffs of the other three hospitals.



Dixon's Department Store

Mr. W. F. Dixon began operating Dixon's 5c to \$1 Store in Byron in 1936. He was located in the Embeck building, the place now occupied by the Bittner bakery.

He moved his store to the Jackson property in 1939. Then, on June 1, 1943, he bought the Nott property at the northwest corner of the main business block. The Barrick and Hunter clothing store had been located in this building for many years.

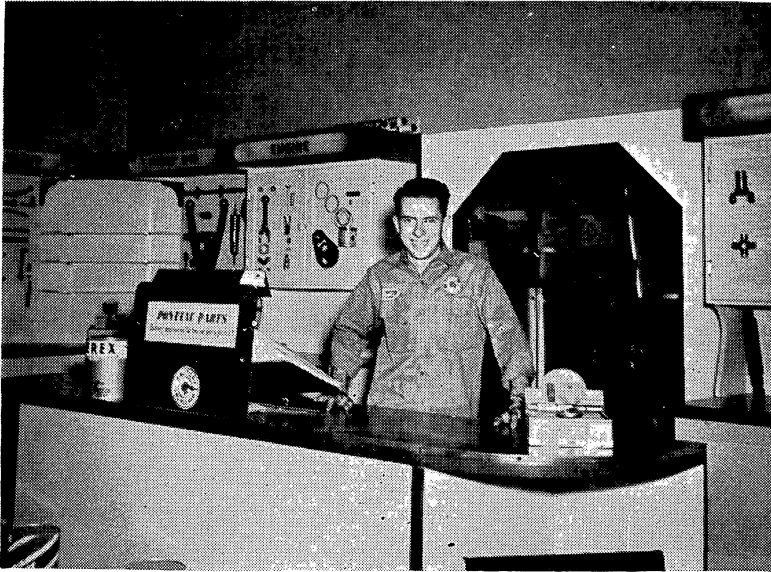
Expanding his business at this time, Mr. Dixon began serving the public under the firm name, Dixon's Dept. Store. He now operates a modern department store, selling many, many lines including wearing apparel for the family, furniture and floor coverings, Hot-point appliances, Easy and Speed-Queen washers, notions, stationery, candy, etc.

Gamble Store Authorized Dealer

Morris W. Altenburg took over the authorized dealership as a Gamble Store in Byron on Oct. 1, 1941. He bought the business from Ambrose Stover.

Known as "The Friendly Store," the Gamble store offers the full line of Gamble merchandise, including hardware, home appliances, auto supplies and clothing.

Mr. Altenberg in recent years enlarged his store considerably to take care of his expanding business.



David Hamer, back of the counter at Hamer Service. David, parts and service manager, is now serving with the U. S. Navy as an engineman. He is located at the Navy airbase at Jacksonville, Fla., and is managing the engine repair shop.

Hamer Service

K. B. Hamer is the owner of Hamer Service, where Pontiac cars and GMC trucks are sold and serviced. Ken opened his new building in 1947. The salesroom and garage are located near the junction of Routes 2 and 72.

Previously, Ken and his father, M. J. Hamer, were owners of Byron's Standard Service Station for 25 years.

Helsdon's Tavern

Helsdon's Tavern is operated by Ethel Helsdon. She became the proprietor on January 1, 1944.



One of the units in the fleet of the Hi-Way Motor Service, Inc.

Highway Motor Service, Inc.

The Hi-Way Motor Service, Inc. is a line haul common truck carrier, serving an area of about 30 miles around Byron.

Officers of the firm are:

E. F. Reber, president.

James F. Calvert, vice-president.

George R. Noyes, traffic manager.

The Hi-Way Motor Service has a large fleet in service, including 17 tractors, 22 trailers and 4 straight trucks.



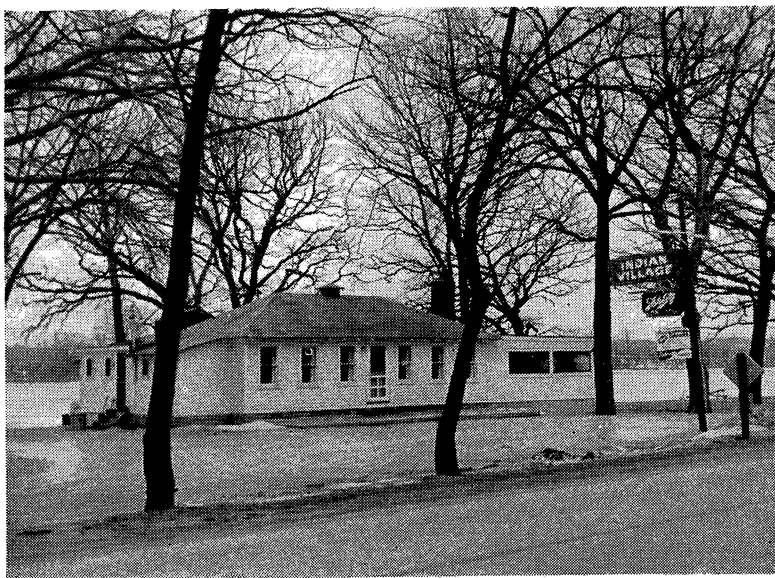
Mrs. Christie Kaltenback, waitress, and S. Bernard Humm, owner, at work in Humm's Soda Lunch.

Humm's Soda Lunch

S. Bernard Humm began business in Byron March 10, 1933, buying the business from Kenneth Hamer. He was gone for awhile while serving with the U. S. Army in World War II.

Short orders, sandwiches, ice cream, etc. are served at Humm's Soda Lunch. The lunchroom also serves as the Greyhound Bus depot.

It is located in the Standard Service Station building on Routes 2 and 72 in Byron.



Indian Village

Cliff Seybert and Arnold Nordgren have been running the Indian Village restaurant and tavern since March 1, 1951.

Good food and good service is the motto of the two owners.

The Indian Village is located just south of Byron on Route 2.



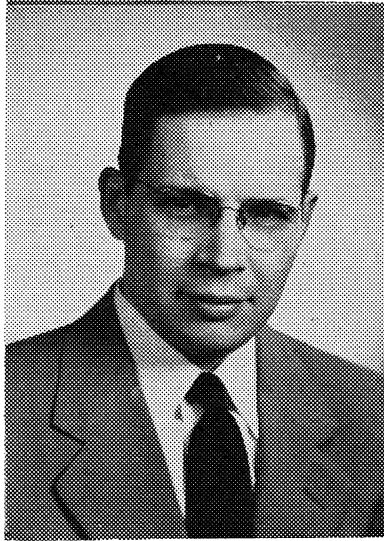
W. Homer Ives

W. Homer Ives Insurance Agency

W. Homer Ives started in the life insurance business in August, 1931. He opened his present office in November, 1939.

He now operates a general insurance business, handling all types of insurance.

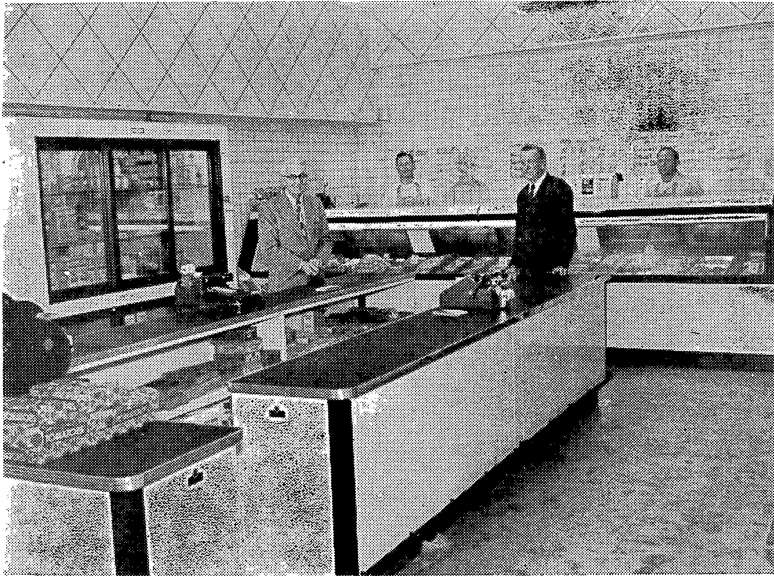
"Insurance That Assures."



Dr. R. M. Jarrett, Veterinarian

Dr. Robert M. Jarrett was born and raised in Waverly, Illinois, and attended the public schools there. He received his Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Illinois, did graduate work at the University of Wisconsin, and received his degree of Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from the Kansas State College.

He was associated in cattle practice with Dr. J. W. Pirie of Cedar Rapids, Iowa before coming to Byron in 1946 to practice large animal medicine. He is a veteran of World War II. His family includes, besides Mrs. Jarrett, four children, Susan, Lynn, Robin and Sallie C.



E. F. Reber, Lawrence "Dent" Noyes, Albert Johnson and A. J. "Ike" Falk in the Johnson & Reber store.

Johnson & Reber

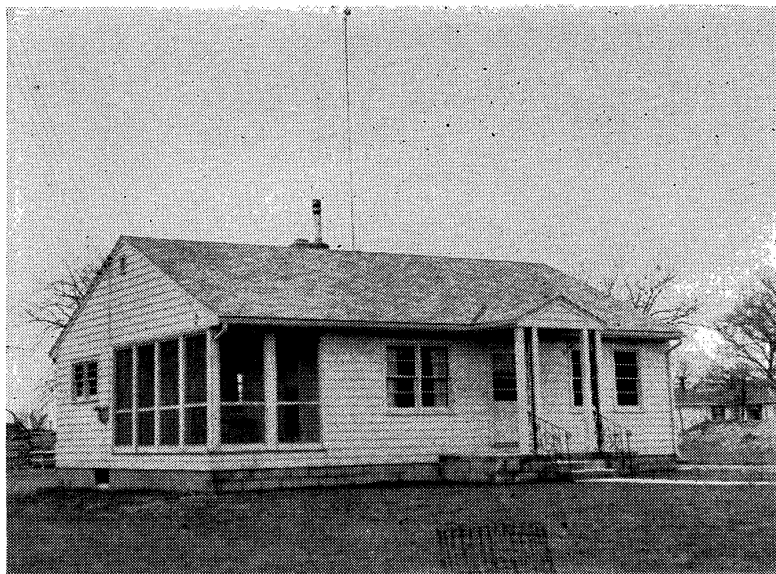
Highest quality foods at lowest prices are featured by Johnson & Reber.

In 1908 A. E. Johnson and E. F. Reber started in business as a meat market on Walnut St. In 1912 the present building was erected and groceries were added.

In 1922 Arlington Falk joined the firm as a clerk, and in 1931 Lawrence Noyes was added to the organization. In 1946 A. E. Johnson and E. F. Reber retired from active duty and the management and operations have been carried on since then by Falk and Noyes.

The business has been expanded not only to the sale of fine foods, but to processing meat for our customers, which gives employment to a total of 12 people.

The present building, erected in 1912, was completely remodelled in 1949. The present owners of Johnson & Reber are E. F. Reber, Arlington Falk and Lawrence Noyes.



Home built by Don B. Johnson, general contractor, for Evelyn Klein and Rachel Knowles.

Don B. Johnson, General Contractor

Don B. Johnson has been building many homes and buildings in this area since 1945, taking the general contract for their construction.

In addition to the numerous residences that he has built, Mr. Johnson can point with pride to these buildings:

Dr. R. F. Dearborn office

First National Bank building

Byron Theatre

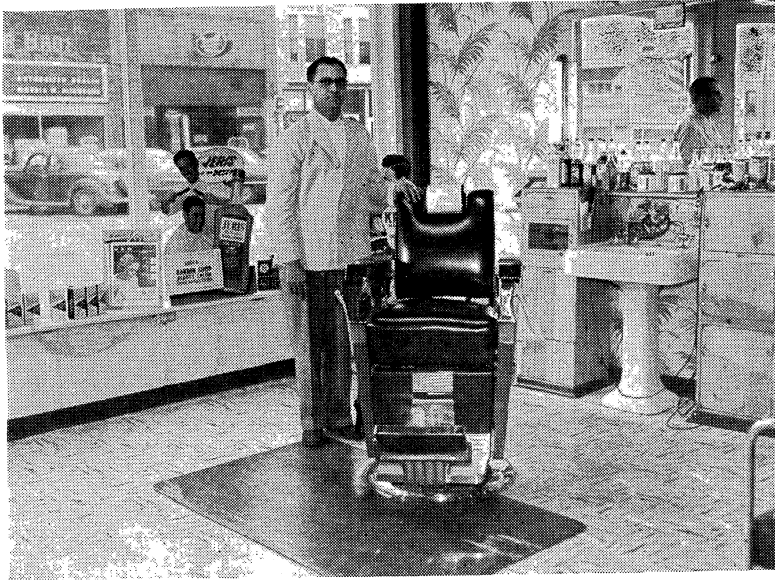
Ashton Theatre

Certified Super Mart

S. F. Piper Hardware

Elmer Reeverts' addition to his salesroom

Blackhawk Hotel, just remodelled

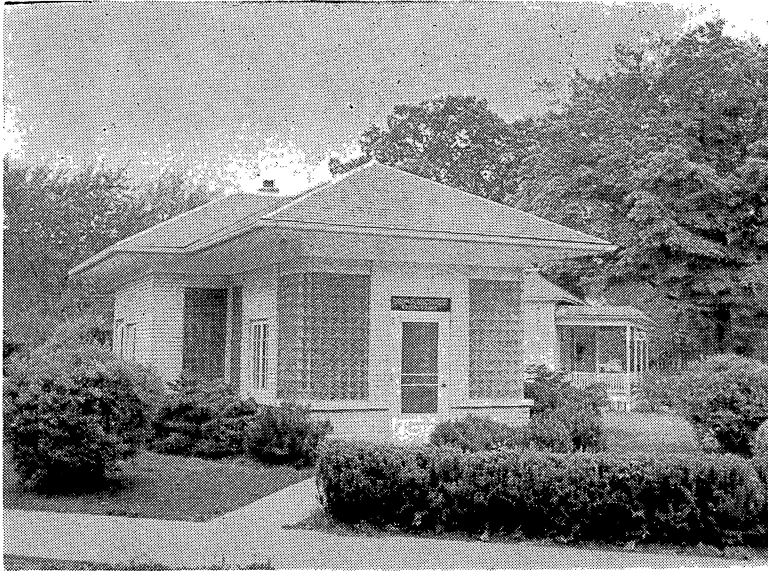


Louis Fasanella, standing by the barber chair in his shop. The chair is the very latest in barber shop equipment.

Louis' Barber, Beauty and Watch Repair Service

Louis Fasanella opened his business in Byron on June 1, 1937. He left here in August, 1949, and returned this year in January, 1952. While residing in Byron before, Louis served the city as police magistrate and as city clerk.

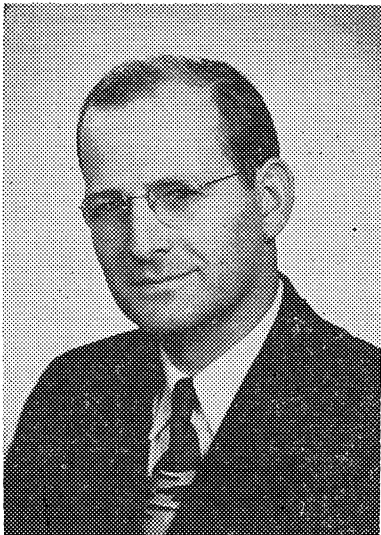
Louis operates the barber shop and watch repair service while Mrs. Fasanella runs the beauty shop. He graduated from the Elgin Watchmaker College in 1944. He uses the electronic Watch Master to test all watches.



Office of W. F. Michaux, D.D.S.

W. F. Michaux, D.D.S.

Dr. W. F. Michaux graduated from the Northwestern University Dental School in 1936 with the Bachelor of Science Degree



in Dentistry, and degree of Doctor of Dental Surgery. He practiced in Chicago two years and then came to Byron in the Fall of 1938. He bought the practice and building of Dr. Steketee, where the Byron Cleaners are now located. He remodelled the old Sites' oil station for his present modern dental office. Dr. Michaux is married and has four children.



Nally's Colonial Inn

Harry and Vivian Nally purchased the Colonial Inn on Nov. 1, 1951. The Inn is located at the corner of Routes 2 and 72 at Byron.

Steaks, seafood and chicken are served in the restaurant which is operated by the proprietors in connection with their tavern business.

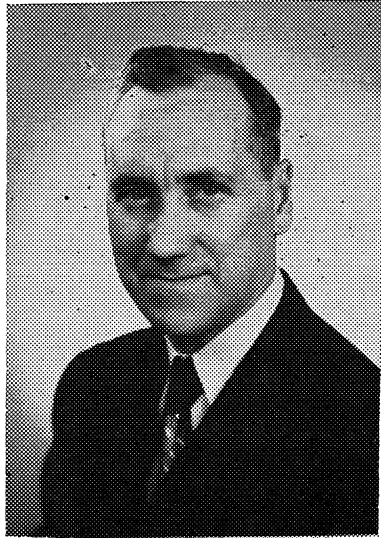


Natural Gas & Appliance Co.

A. G. Showalter founded the Natural Gas & Appliance Co. at Byron in March, 1939. He has built the service from 30 accounts to 1,200 accounts in the years since that time, distributing Pyrofax gas in these Northern Illinois counties: Ogle, Winnebago, Stephenson, Boone, Jo Daviess, and parts of DeKalb and Carroll.

He moved the business to the present location in October, 1948. This 40x60 concrete block building houses the showroom, offices and workshop of the Natural Gas & Appliance Co.

Mr. Showalter sells Magic Chef gas ranges, Bryant water heaters, Servel refrigerators, and Johnson tank warmers — all gas-burning appliances.



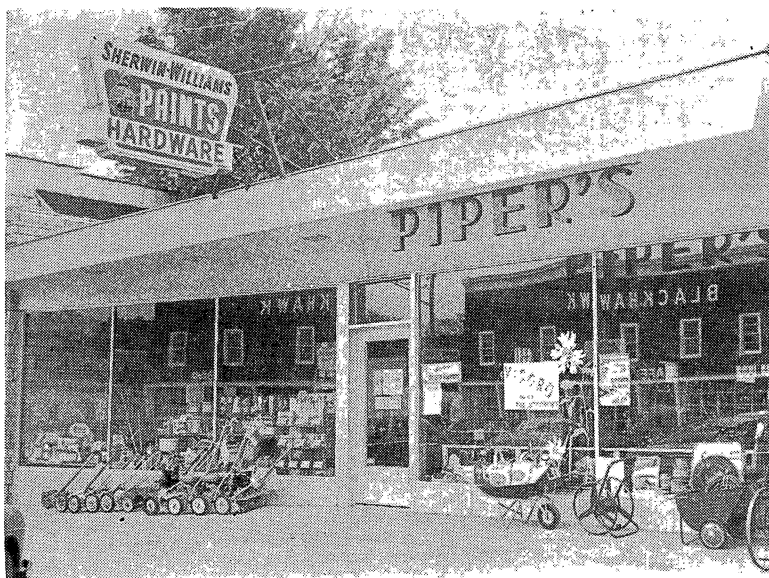
Kenneth J. Nelson

Nelson Jewelry

Kenneth J. Nelson began operating the Nelson Jewelry store and repair shop at Byron on January 7, 1946, having purchased the jewelry business from John A. Osborn.

Besides selling a full line of jewelry, Mr. Nelson specializes in watch repairing.

"Your Satisfaction Is Our Pleasure."



Piper's Hardware

Leo E. Piper took over the operation of Piper's Hardware on Sept. 1, 1919. His father, S. F. Piper, previously owned the store.

Hardware, plumbing, heating and electrical contracting are featured by Piper's Hardware with this motto: "Piper's Pipers make the water do the running."

After 16 years in the old store, Piper's Hardware moved into its new, modern building in February of this year. With more floor space the store will now be able to broaden its already complete lines of merchandise — paints, sporting goods, household goods, appliances, general hardware, besides its plumbing, heating, electrical and sheet metal lines.

The proprietor, Mr. Piper, points out, however, that the firm still has the same old aim to give friendly service to its customers. He also writes: "We are happy to have played a part in helping to 'build up Byron' by adding our new store to Main Street, and we are also happy to have had an opportunity to add our bit towards the construction of the new bank building by doing the plumbing and heating on the building. Our congratulations and best wishes to the bank board and their employees."

E. F. Reber Insurance Agency

Since June, 1932, Mr. E. F. Reber has been in the insurance business in Byron. Previous owners of the agency were George F. Bunn and Ray Barrick.

Insurance of all kinds is handled by the agency with its office in the Hi-Way Motor Service Garage building.

The agency represents the following companies:

Fire: Aetna, Hanover, Hartford, Insurance Company of North America, and Sun.

Casualty: Economy Auto Insurance, General Casualty Auto Insurance, Hartford Accident and Indemnity; Lloyds of London, and Maryland Casualty.

Life: Connecticut Mutual Life. James Calvert is broker-agent.



Elmer Reeverts, Paul Minter and Lloyd Rowland (reading left to right) are seen standing by one of the 1952 Dodges in the newly-completed addition to the Reeverts Motor Sales.

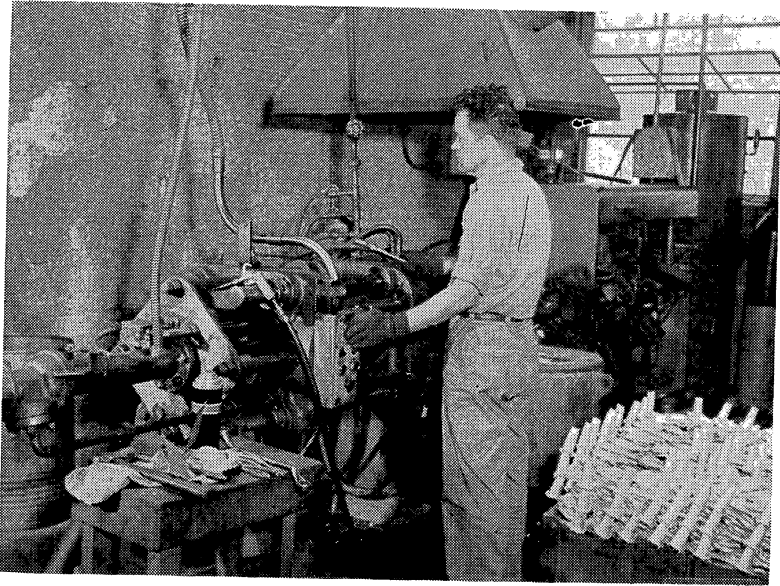
Reeverts Motor Sales

"Dependability In Business" is the trade slogan for Reeverts Motor Sales, the home of Dodge and Plymouth sales and service in Byron.

Elmer J. Reeverts, the owner, began this business on July 1, 1935. At first he rented space in the Byron Transit Garage. He moved to the present location in 1937.

This year Elmer has added a new showroom at the east side of the original building.

You are invited to stop at Reeverts Motor Sales and ride in a new Dodge or Plymouth. Both cars are nationally known in the automotive field.



Stevens Manufacturing Co.

The Stevens Manufacturing Co. started in Byron in 1945 as a partnership. The firm was incorporated in October, 1947.

The company manufactures a locking gasoline cap and a rear view mirror for automobiles. Other operations of the plant include: metal stamping, die casting, polishing and buffing, plating and light assembly.

Officers of the company are:

W. C. Stevens, Jr. — president

Burt Way — general manager

Earl Pierson — superintendent



Stukenberg Bros.

E. G. and L. J. Stukenberg founded the Stukenberg Bros. store in 1910. They moved to the present location in 1917.

The new store front was built in 1934. The firm became an affiliated Clover Farm store in April, 1946. Now, Stukenberg Bros. have the benefit of the buying power of thousands of Clover Farm Stores, offering customers fine values in groceries and meats.



One of the fleet of vans operated by Superior Sales & Service, Inc. of Byron.

Superior Sales & Service, Inc.

Superior Sales & Service, Inc., of Byron, Ill., is owned by Maurice Gambrel, Stanley Dyer and Evan Hess. The firm began business at Byron on January 1, 1950.

Doing local and long distance moving, the Superior Sales & Service, Inc., is an agent for the North American Van Lines. The firm also hauls uncrated new furniture to the East Coast.



George W. Thomas is filling a customer's car with gas and J. W. Stroup is washing the car's windshield at the Thomas Standard Service station.

Thomas Standard Service

George W. Thomas took over the operation of the Standard Service station on Nov. 4, 1949, succeeding Kenneth B. Hamer.

"We do the work right and the price is right."

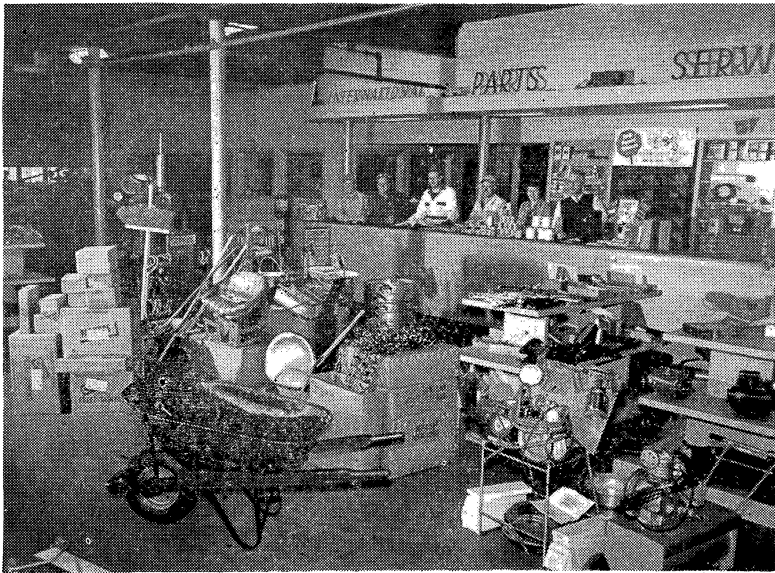


Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Hallberg at the bar in Vets' Tap.

Vets' Tap

On August 1, 1950 Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Hallberg purchased the Vets' Tap from Roy Plant. This tavern is located in a one-story building on Union Street.

Ernie and Gerdie Hallberg extend good fellowship at Vets' Tap.



Standing at the counter of the Walker Implement Co. are (reading left to right): Lyle Bain, Bob Powers, Ferdinand Fransen, Ernest Zellers, Mrs. Harold Walker, Harold B. Walker.

H. B. Walker Implement Co.

Purchasing the implement business from C. W. Wagner on June 16, 1938, Harold B. Walker, began his career as the International Harvester dealer in Byron.

Harold had the building completely remodelled, installing a glass front in the 88x120-ft. stone building.

Well known for years among farmers, the International Harvester trademark continues to win friends as farmers know that you can count on International Harvester farm machinery.

In addition to the complete lines of farm machinery, the allied lines of International Harvester equipment are offered for sale by the H. B. Walker Implement Co.

Of course, the firm maintains an excellent service department.



Ronald A. Wallace demonstrating the motto of his Texaco Service station — "The Best Friend Your Car Ever Had."

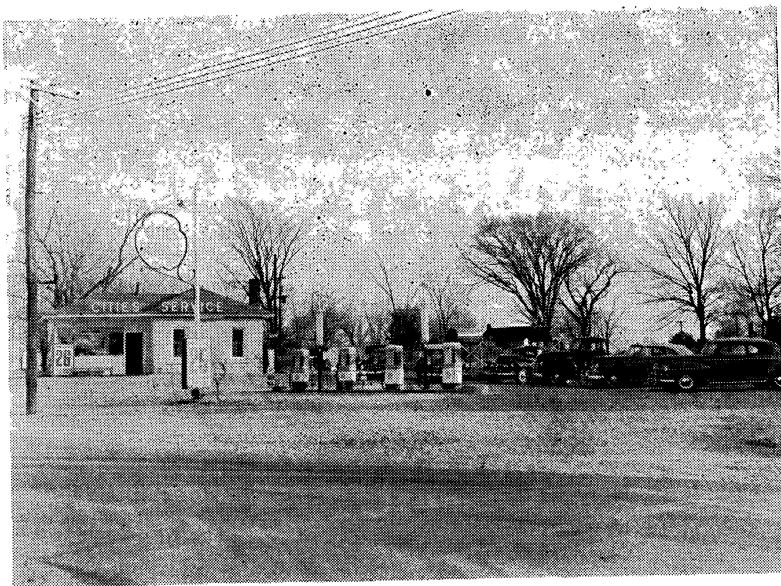
Wallace Texaco Service

Ronald A. Wallace, owner of the Wallace Texaco Service, bought the business from Weyland McDaniels on July 1, 1950.

Texaco Sky Chief and Fire Chief gasolines, Havoline motor oil and Marfak lubrication are featured at the station.

The Wallace station has two bays with 6 gas pumps and a 4-lane drive. It is located on Routes 2 and 72 in Byron.

Have your car lubricated the Moto Sway way. Car washing, polishing, and simonizing our specialty.

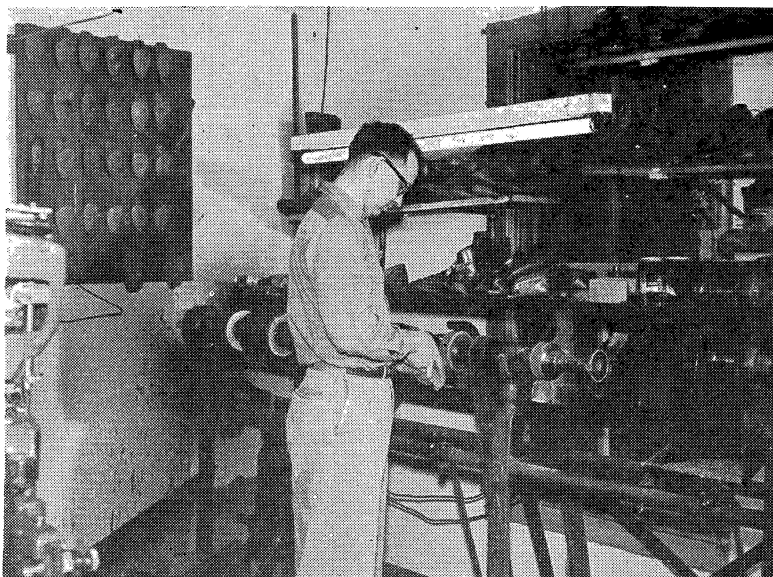


Wells Chevrolet Company

Chevrolet was first again in 1951. The Wells Chevrolet Co. at Byron will be glad to give you a demonstration of this year's model.

Owned by Tom Wells, the Wells Chevrolet Co. was founded at Byron in 1949. It is located at the Cities Service station on Routes 2 and 72 in Byron. Don Hamer and Tom Wells are partners in the ownership of the service station.

For sales and service on Chevrolet cars and trucks, see the Wells Chevrolet Co.



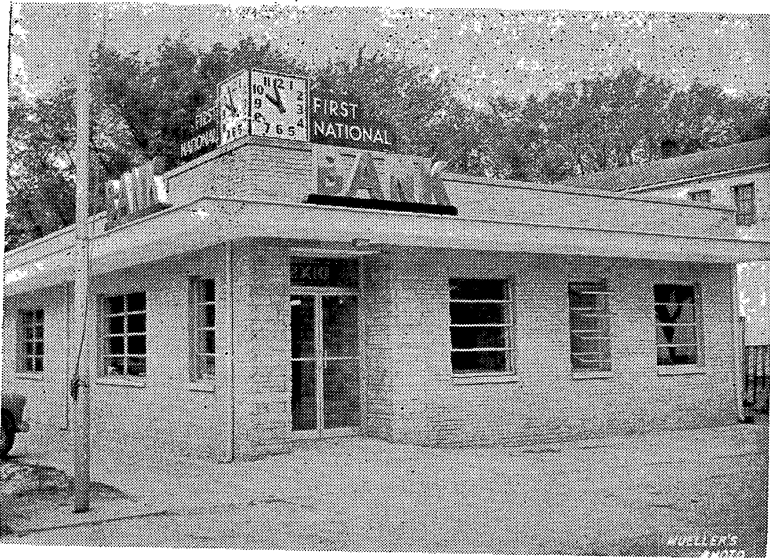
Wilbur Whetsel putting the finishing touches on a pair of shoes in his shoe repair shop.

Whetsel's Shoe Service

In January of 1946 Wilbur W. Whetsel purchased the shoe repair business then operated by P. A. Rydholm. Mr. Rydholm had operated a harness shop and shoe repair shop but Wilbur put in a line of new shoes to replace the harness business.

Operating under the firm name, Whetsel's Shoe Service, Wilbur is now selling shoes for the entire family as well as continuing the shoe repair business.

BYRON BUSINESS REVIEW



New home of The First National Bank of Byron

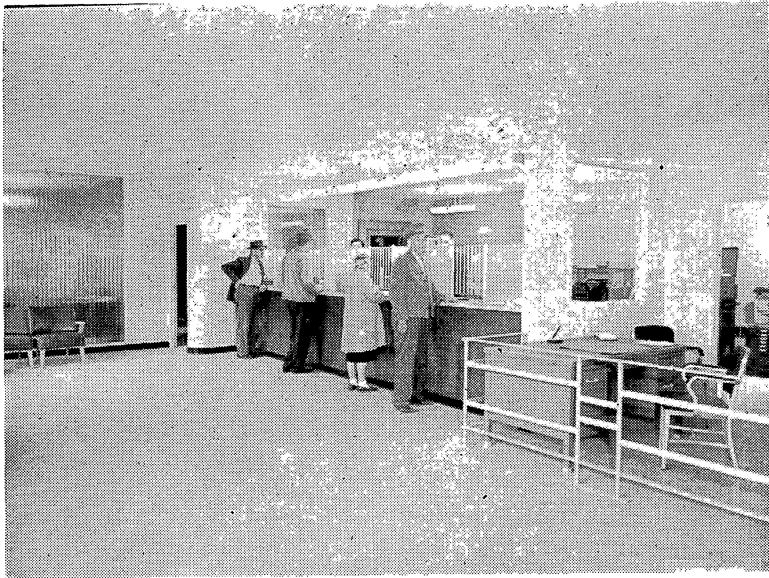
Probably the first thing a stranger looks for in a town is the bank. It is his assurance that there is a thriving business group, able to maintain a full agenda of transactions on a commercial basis. The presence of a bank in a community immediately sets the whole citizenry upon a business par with anyone else in the country.

That very need for financial security and backing prompted the formation of the first bank in Byron by Junius Rogers in 1873, just 28 years after the founding of Byron. Mr. A. B. Knowlton was cashier and partner in this bank, which was located on Second and Union Streets. Mr. Rogers was succeeded by Mr. Knowlton and he was followed by Mr. W. D. Brown of Geneva, who in turn was followed by R. D. Hollenbeck.

Meanwhile, J. C. Woodburn, in 1882, had organized a bank, a private institution which was continued many years under private management. In 1885 D. H. Campbell assumed the management and in 1892 S. B. Stuart, in partnership with other men, purchased the bank and it became known as the Byron Bank.

In 1921 it became the Byron State Bank when it took over the Farmers and Merchants Bank.

Wm. C. Bunn had withdrawn from the Byron Bank in 1891 and had established the Farmers and Merchants Bank, which in later years built the bank building which The First National Bank has just left. They continued in the new building until taken over by The Byron Bank and became the Byron State Bank until 1931.



Spacious interior of the new bank building.

The year 1931 was a time of distress in Byron for the bank closed and business was slowed perceptibly in the community. The need for a new bank became acute and finally on June 30, 1932 a charter was filed under the name of Rock River Community Bank with the organizers listed as Albert Johnson, Leo Piper, E. F. Reber, F. A. Nott, E. G. Stukenberg and D. L. Sherman. The roster of stockholders was impressive, indicating that the community spirit was at its highest point and was behind the venture whole-heartedly. Three hundred and four of the 915 citizens owned stock in this new bank.

A large celebration was organized to make festive the opening of the bank on July 7. Mayor Spoor opened the program and Mr. James W. Rogers, the new President, was introduced, as well as F. A. Nott, Vice-President, and other directors. Dr. Stewart Thomson acted as master of ceremonies and it was at this occasion that the support of Ruth Hanna Simms was announced. She pledged 10 per cent of the funds necessary for reorganization and her financial secretary was made president of the new institution which was capitalized at \$50,000. Total resources of the bank were then \$276,261.34. It was a small bank, but was one of the strongest in the Midwest in liquidity. The fact that the bank opened during an economic crisis and remained at the service of the community demonstrates the soundness of the organization.

In 1939 F. A. Nott was made President followed by O. F. Bakener in 1941, Leo Piper in 1943 and E. J. Auker in January of 1947.



Farr's Wigwam

Farr's Wigwam is located on Routes 2 and 72 at North Lafayette street in Byron.

Mr. Ernest Farr purchased this business Dec. 14, 1951. The restaurant is operated the year around and the root beer stand during the summer season.

"Serving Good Food Prepared The Way You Like It."



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"Serving Good Food Prepared The Way You Like It."



Andrew Jackson at the wheel of one of D. V. Wright's trucks.

D. V. Wright

D. V. Wright entered the plumbing and heating business in January, 1933. He now specializes in dry and wet heating, water systems and rural plumbing.

Mr. Wright maintains a well-equipped shop and a display room. He is a dealer for Jacuzzi pumps, Sundstrand oil burners, Kohler fixtures, Briggs Beautyware, Kewanee boilers, electric water heaters, Westinghouse appliances and Monitor water systems.

"Moderate Priced, Reliable Service."