

Historically Speaking

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North, South, East and West



This view of St. Paul, looking south and west of the Howard Hotel, is believed to be around 1915.

By Julie Spilinek

The previous issue of this publication featured the businesses, past and present, along Main Street between 6th and 7th streets. This issue will feature businesses to the west, east, north and south. I'll begin with Citizens Bank and Trust that has occupied their present location since 1888 when it was initially known as Citizens National Bank, so called because it was established by a group of citizens from St. Paul. In 1911 it became Citizens State Bank and converted back to Citizens National Bank in 1930. The building was originally a two story structure, but was demolished and replaced in 1956-57. During construction banking business was conducted from Jarecke Motor's showroom. By 1975 it became known as Citizen's Bank and Trust and had expanded to include the former *Howard County Herald* building. In 1980 it again changed names to Citizens Bank and Trust and retains that signature today.

The *Howard County Herald* was a weekly news-

paper published by the Lorkosky sisters for many years. During the years it existed, newspapers were an important means of keeping people informed of happenings in the world, country, as well as what was occurring in the local community. They also provided entertainment and people looked forward to its arrival each week. In 1971 the *Herald* was purchased by *The Phonograph* and became known as *The Phonograph Herald*. C.E. "Tommy" and Irene Thompson were the owners of the *Phonograph*, having purchased the newspaper in 1959.

Along this same side of the street a variety store existed from about 1915 to 1952 that was operated by Agnes, Ella and William Harvey. Although it was a variety store, many customers referred to it as the candy store. According to Donna Dobish, it was commonly known as Harvey's Penny Candy Store. Their advertising slogan was "Where a dollar buys more." Today this area is occupied by Family Eye Care Center, which has provided a special service to the

A Message From the President *Jessie Kiser*

It is again the Holiday Season. I hope you have a great one.

Our Village is going to be beautifully decorated this year. I hope you all get to see it.

Thanks to all the members for their support.

community. However, it will contribute to the ever changing face of Main Street as it will relocate to the former Swinarski Pharmacy location. Many years ago, a seed and feed store was located along here—Jake's Feed & Seed. Next, there is Jarecke Motors, which has been in business for over 70 years in the same location. It was begun by E. R. Jarecke. The present building was constructed in the 1940s. He sold Chryslers, and later Plymouths and Dodges, as well as International Harvester equipment and appliances. There is an IH freezer in my basement purchased in the mid 1950s from Jarecke's that is still working. They gave up the International Harvester franchise in 1964.

Vance Lind had a radio and TV business further

west where he sold and serviced radios and TVs. He owned the first television set that appeared in Howard County. He and his wife lived above the shop. Before Vance started his shop here, a Mr. Kimber had a photography business. After Vance Lind retired, the Senior Center occupied this space for a time as it provided services to the senior citizens of the area, including providing noon meals. These were originally catered by other eating establishments in the area. Later, they were actually prepared in the Center. Wheelers, a farm, supply store, was also a resident along this block for a time, followed by Country General, who bought out Wheelers. It remained only a few years before closing. The building is now empty.

Across the street to the west is Twin Loups Quality Meats, formerly known as Havlik's Locker, who operated it for many years. Prior to that it was owned by Elmer and Lillian Anderson. Jeff Christensen is the present owner of Twin Loups Quality Meats. Now let's cross to the north and move east. The first building is the present Senior Center, which was built in 1988 and continues to provide a variety of services to senior citizens, such as meals served at noon and delivered to those who are unable to go to the center. Prior to the Senior Center's presence in this location, Clayton Peterson had a Chevy dealership for many years, followed by a repair shop for a time until a fire destroyed it. Next to the Senior Center is the American Legion building, which has occupied this space for many years. Now we cross to



This picture from the last issue was identified incorrectly. It was an early picture of St. Paul of the north side of Howard Avenue at the corner of 7th and Howard. Instead of being of the northeast view of the corner, it is the northwest view. The building is more commonly known today as the Knights of Columbus Building. In this photo the Post Office occupied the bottom floor and dentist Dr. J. J. Bisgard had his office on the second floor. To the north of the Post Office was St. Paul Bakery. The building at the end of the block appears to be a hotel (7th and Indian).



A number of businesses appear to be located on the first floor of the Cushman building at 6th and Howard. This building was originally a hotel.

the east where Ron Tubbs of St. Paul has refurbished the original fire station into an impressive fire fighting museum. In the intervening years it was used for storage and often rented to individuals for garage sales and other vendors. Next to it was Zlomke Furniture, which was started by George Zlomke around 1940. In addition to managing a successful business, George was a strong civic supporter, serving as mayor, mem-

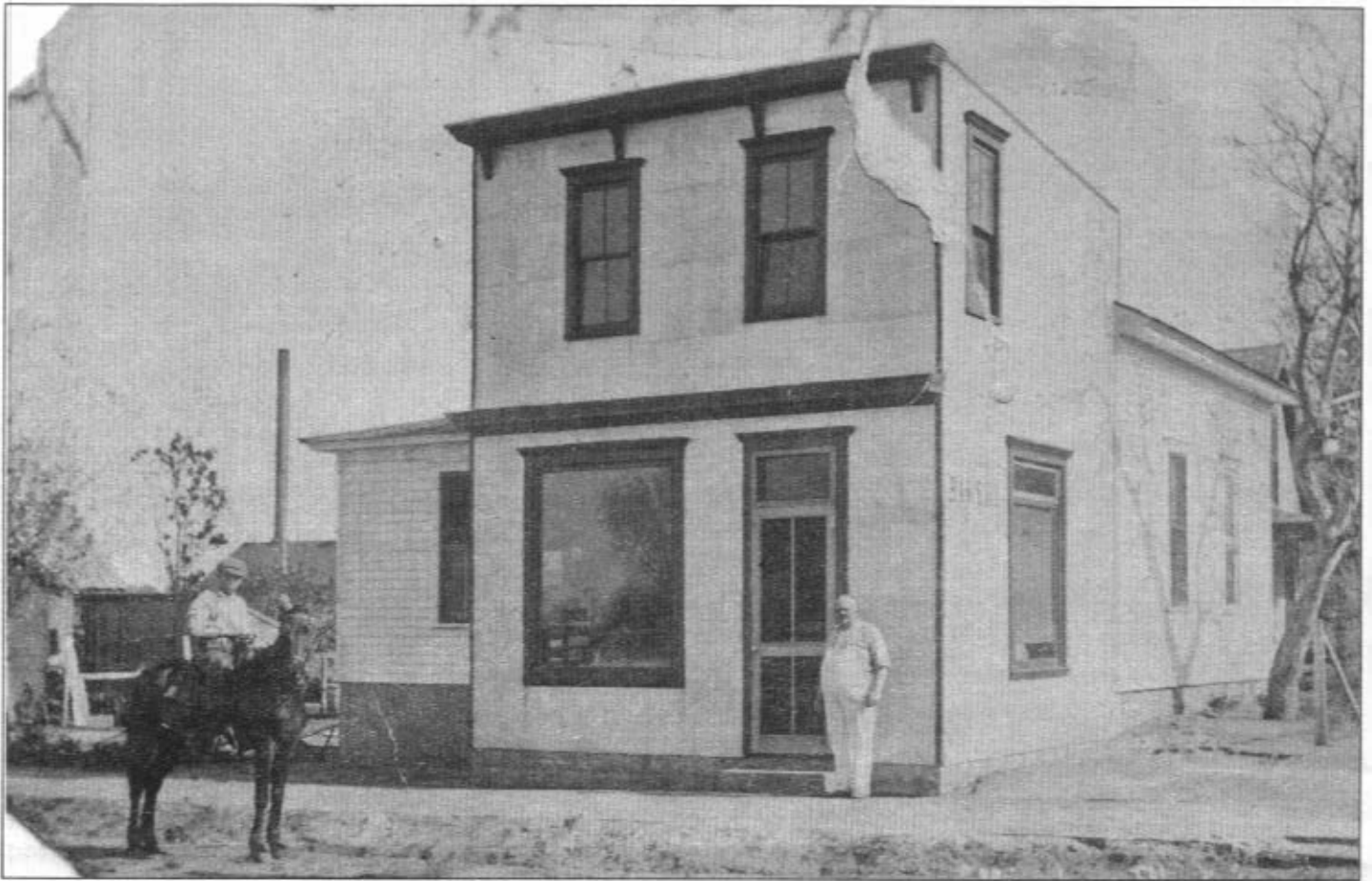
ber of the school board, president of the fair board and was active in the Methodist Church. In 1979, Leonard Koperski and Leona Verley purchased it and continued to operate it until August 2010 when they sold the inventory and closed the business. The St. Paul Development Corporation purchased it to build a civic center. It was the end of one more piece of St. Paul history. At one time there was a tavern next to



In November of 1911, St. Paul's City Hall was located at 8th and Howard. It is now the home of Ron Tubbs's firefighters museum.



In the 1920s Skinner's Station was located at 7th and Indian Street and is now the home of the Royal Coachmen Car Club. Walt Skinner and Leonard Stewart are standing in front of the filling station.



A bakery was located in the building that is now Elstermeier Floral Shop and Greenhouses at 5th and Howard. Information on the back of the photograph said: "Larsen from Denmark and son, Lovie".



ABOVE: St. Paul's greenhouse in the 1930s and 1940s was located north of the present day swimming pool and was owned by Frank and Helen Blazek. They later bought the building where Elstermeier's is now located, then Frank sold the business to Hamie Elstermeier in 1949.



RIGHT: Harvey's 1¢ Store was part of the Citizens Bank Building (facing Howard Avenue).

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St. Paul Cooperative Dairy Association made butter in the 1920s and 30s and shipped the butter to New York. The time the picture was taken Ralph Bower was the manager. It was located to the south of the old Bohemian (now the location of Homestead Bank).



This is a picture of the north side of the 800 block of Howard Avenue. The garage (the writing in the window says St. Paul Auto Co.) is located where the St. Paul Community/Senior Center is now and the Elite Theater is located in what is now the American Legion Club. This was the location of Mudloff Garage, then Clayton Peterson Motor Company. The building was eventually destroyed by fire. There appears to be gasoline pumps in front of Clayton Peterson Motor Company (below).



The men in the 1928 photo of the back entrance of St. Paul Cleaners are not known. Below is an exterior shot of the cleaner's building, located on 6th Street, south of Howard Avenue. Notice the phone number on the delivery truck: 31-W.





This photograph of the old Citizens Bank Building at 7th and Howard was taken in January of 1909.

Zlomke's, later used for storage by the furniture store. It, too, is gone. Then there was the Uptown Grill, also gone.

The next building is occupied by Sue DeCamp and Ron Vonderohe. Mr. Vonderohe began his business in Cy Shaughnessy's office in 1985, then moved to the northwest corner of 7th and Howard until purchasing his present location in 1998. The space to his right has been occupied by a few short term businesses, but is presently empty. During the past several years a preschool has been located along this block, as well as Susie Wolfert's beauty shop. Kellers had a liquor store along here for a time. The hospital auxil-

iary now uses one of the buildings to store items such as wheel chairs, crutches, etc.

Now we'll turn the corner to the north where Total Perfection (a full service salon) is located. This block has also seen a few entrepreneurs come and go through the years, but a family shoe store occupied the corner for a number of years. Next to it was a bakery once owned by an individual named Ohrdorf, followed by Jim and Jane Laughrey from 1970 to 1985. Other former occupants of this block were NAPA Auto Parts, the ASCS office, Nesiba's radiator repair shop, and Prohaska's Garage and Filling Station. Present businesses include a Taekwondo meeting room, New Power Technologies and Dick Czarnek's car repair shop.

Across the street to the east is another former gas station—Farmer's Union. The Royal Coachmen have restored it and use it for their antique car club's headquarters. There was a secondhand shop located there for a few years prior to its acquisition by the Royal Coachmen. Next to it was the Howard Hotel, the last of the many that once served both travelers and short term residents. It was demolished a few years ago. Between it and Swinarski's Pharmacy a few professionals had their offices. Many years ago Dr. Arnold had an office there, followed by Dr. M. D. Mathews.

2013 Dues Being Accepted

Please check your address label to see if your dues are about to expire.

Dues may be sent to Howard County Historical Society, P.O.

Ralph and Dick Haggart and Chuck Taylor, all lawyers, had offices along this side.

Now we'll move to 6th Street. On the southeast corner of 6th and Howard there is another business that has served the community for many years—Jorgensen Electric. Dr. Krejci had a dental office south of Jorgensen's, but recently moved north of the vacated McDowell building. The St. Paul Cleaners was also located along this street. It handled the special dry cleaning service that was necessary before wash and wear became the fabric of choice.

The northeast corner once boasted a fine hotel, the Cushman Hotel and Restaurant. The second floor contained the guest rooms, the manager's suite and ball room. Each room had its own coal stove and chimney for heat. When it was cold each guest was responsible for getting his own coal from the coal room. An interior balcony allowed traveling salesmen to display their "goods." In later years, Keating Mortuary occupied the west side of the building. Even later, the city offices were located there. When they moved to the former S.E. Smith lumberyard building, the Viera Wireless Company was a tenant for awhile. The most recent tenant is Howard-Greeley Food Pantry.

The city library was located in the right side for many years until a new library was established in conjunction with the public school. The balcony mentioned above could be seen in the library. Continuing to the east, we pass the city park where Ed Fleming had his lumberyard many years ago. Next is the Nebraska Public Power District building. This was formerly known as the REA (Rural Electric Association) building. Further along is the *Phonograph-Herald* building. Their old building was located where their parking lot is today and a new building was constructed in the early 1980s. Just before reaching Highway 281, the Pizza Hut now stands where Dobish Garage was a fixture for many years, first by George and Mary; later their son, Dick, and his wife, Donna, took over until 1992 when ill health forced Dick's retirement.

Across the street is the chiropractic clinic and Christensen Insurance Agency. Many years ago a pop factory stood on this location. Moving further north is T.O. Haas Tire. Next to this is Dale Matousek's music store. Further along to the west are the Larson apartments and there was a bowling alley at one time (anyone with any information, please let me know).

There are a few businesses, past and present, that I have not mentioned, but are or have been an integral part of the city of St. Paul and Howard County. Hometown Market, formerly Jack and Jill, but originally built and operated by the Havlik family, has pro-

vided one of the basic needs for many years. Dallas Iwanski operated a repair business near his home on the corner of 5th and Grand.

I have not covered the Highway 281 corridor as yet, but would like to do so once I accumulate the needed information. I could use ANY information that you might have regarding past businesses along there. There have been numerous changes during the past 50 years.

While doing this research, it was interesting to note the changes in terminology. During the 1800s and early 1900s we encountered saloons; later they were known as beer joints. Then we patronized taverns; today most are called bars. The early drug stores became pharmacies. The dime store has become the dollar store due to the new economy. Eating establishments have been and still are known by various names—diners, cafes, restaurants—or simply called by their franchise name such as Subway, Pizza Hut, Runza, etc. Or simply known by their chosen name, such as St. Paul's Sweet Shoppe or Skyline Cafe.

Sidewalk Is Layed

The sidewalk south of the church has been layed. Thanks to Jerry Hruza for making all the arrangements so Adam Dvorak could do the brick work.

Bricks were donated to us by the city and all of their assistance was appreciated.

Other volunteers helping were Charles Schmid, Ted Sazama, Keith Gydesen, Jim Ewers, Ron Schroder, Ken McCray, Roger Van Pelt, John Vogel and Charles Govlik.

This project will be enjoyed for years to come.

Gifts for Christmas

"Entering Howard County" books are the perfect Christmas gift. They are available for the low price of \$25, plus \$1.63 tax.

Books May Be Purchased at
The Phonograph-Herald, and
St. Paul Chamber of Commerce

or by mail from the
**Howard County
Historical Society**

P.O. Box 1

St. Paul, NE 68873

Add an additional \$6 for postage and handling.



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