L. C. Bruss Store

Mr. L. C. Bruss came to Reedsville in 1902. He had a shop at home (now Bergmann Barber Shop) in which he repaired bicycles and watches. The next shop was in the Lau house in 1904.

In 1906, Mr. Bruss built his store. He and his wife operated the establishment as an ice cream parlor. Some members of the family would walk to the John Jonas farm west of Reedsville to pick up the pure cream that was used in the making of the ice cream that was a treat to the people of the village and surrounding area.

Other items featured in their business place were candy, which was displayed in wood or heavy paper pails; bananas hanging on stalks, tobacco, package or plug style and cigars; and post cards.

The ice cream parlor was the only such place from here to Manitowoc, from here to Appleton or from Reedsville to Green Bay. Saturday evenings and Sunday evenings found the street in front of the parlor lined with horse and buggies. Many couples had come to town for a ride and stopped at Brusses to have a sundae or soda. Salted crackers were always served free with a dish of ice cream.

At the time, Mr. Bruss had the building constructed, the cost was $1700.00. There was no basement and the upstairs was not finished.

Mr. Bruss also maintained a jewelry store and did watch repairing. He stocked radios, far different than the models of today. Programs had to be listened to with ear phones. He also tested eyes and fitted glasses.

When the electrical appliances were able to be used in this area, the Brusses also stocked those items. When electricity came to Reedsville, the Brusses had a crew of four and they wired most all places in the village and the surrounding farms.

Everyone in the Bruss family was kept busy. The parents were assisted by their two daughters, Minnie (Mrs. John Kuehne) and Leonetta (Mrs. Carl Goldbeck).

The family also maintained the telephone office from 1915 to 1936. The board was taken care of 24 hours a day and gave out all information such as time, fires, and deaths.

The wiring crew for the Bruss store was made up of John Kuehne, Wm. Link, Joseph Stueber of Whitelaw and Earl Bergmann, now living in Brillion.

In 1936, the Bruss daughter, Minnie and her husband, Jack Kuehne took over the business. They operated the jewelry store.

Mr. John Kuehne married Minnie Bruss in 1925. He had received an education to be a jeweler and passed the Wisconsin Board of Licensed Watchmakers. He operated as a jeweler until retiring in 1962.

In 1945, the building was purchased by Ervin Rodrian who once again converted it to an electric store. He sold the business to Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Huiting in 1946 and they continued to operate the electrical business until Mr. Huiting’s death. For several years, the building was empty until 1962 when the Orths started a television sales and service operation.

Now Del Orth has remodeled the building into a residence and no longer runs the television business.

Dr. E. C. Cary

Dr. Cary was born in Michigan, son of Charles E. and Elizabeth Cavanough Cary. The family came to Manitowoc County and located in Reedsville where Dr. Cary finished high school. After graduation, he taught school in Manitowoc County for five years. Then he entered Marquette University School of Medicine in 1906. He graduated as a General Practice Family Doctor in 1910.

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He married Eleanor Scherle at St. Wendel Church at Cleveland. For two years he practiced medicine at Bear Creek in Outagamie County before coming to Reedsville and opening an office in the Link Building, now the building of Ron Urban. Dr. Festerling and Dr. Ott also practiced in this same building.

When they first came to Reedsville, the Cary's and their infant had difficulty finding a place to live. They were ready to return to Bear Creek when Mr. and Mrs. Charles Luedtke offered them three rooms in their upper flat.

Electric lights had been installed previously, but Reedsville had no water system, however Dr.'s practice flourished as the village progressed.

He serviced as a volunteer in World War I. Upon returning to Reedsville, he moved his office to his residence on Manitowoc Street where he practiced for fifty years.

Their residence was the Julius Krueger home which they bought with a hundred dollars down payment.

A daughter Elizabeth came to brighten their home for thirteen short years. After her sudden death, Mrs. Cary devoted her time to making a home for many of the teachers who came here friendless and welcomed her motherly advice and guidance.

In the years to follow, Dr. Cary served as President of the Academy of General Practice in Wisconsin. He was speaker of the House of State Medical Society, president and secretary of the staff at Holy Family Hospital at Manitowoc, commander of the local American Legion and Vice Commander of the state. He served as medical examiner for Boys' State for many years. Illness forced him to retire in 1957 at the age of 73. He passed away on April 23, 1960.

Mrs. Cary left Reedsville in October, 1965 to make her home in Milwaukee close to her son, Dr. John and family. She was just 90 years old and still resides in her own apartment.

Dr. Cary's home and office is now the Fredric Radtke home.

Otto Dahlke, Blacksmith

Otto Dahlke came to Reedsville in 1914. He bought the blacksmith shop from Herman Boettcher. That same year he married Alma Karnopp. The location of his shop was on Manitowoc Street next to the old public school where the new school building now stands.

He learned the trade as a young boy in Ellisville, Wisconsin, shoeing horses at $1.00 per week. He also worked in Milwaukee shoeing horses for the brewing company. When Mr. Dahlke started to shoe horses, the price was twenty cents for an old shoe and forty cents for a new one. His revenue was about eighty cents an hour. The business later expanded to sharpening plow shears and building heavy sleighs.

After 41 years of hard labor, Mr. Dahlke retired in 1955, selling the land to the Reedsville Public School.

Mr. Dahlke also served as a village trustee for six years when Dr. Morrissey was the village president. He was on the board when the water works was installed in 1938.

Equity

In the memory of older area citizens, the northwest corner at the intersection of Hi-Way 10 and 6th Street was the site of the Baseball Park, scene of many pleasantly remembered ball games. Beyond it to the north, lay only wide open fields and it was thus to remain till the summer of 1958 when the deep roar of earth moving machinery and the clatter of gravel trucks flowed by the tapping of carpenters' hammers was heard through the vicinity. When quiet returned, a new building at 513 6th St. stood proudly gleaming ready to open its doors to a spanking new venture. Equity Cooperative Livestock Sales Assn. was ready for business. The opening of the auction was part of a new livestock selling