associated with Minneapolis-Moline and in 1935, they added the Massey-Harris line, which was almost unknown of in this area. For a few years they kept both lines of equipment, but dropped the Minneapolis-Moline and retained only the Massey-Harris.

As the business continued to expand the Millers added buildings; the larger office area was added in which stock was displayed, a shop was added to the east and later the shop with the hoist was added to the back. They later took on the Fox Tractor line, and also kept this line until discontinuing business.

The large machine warehouse that stands on the adjoining lots east of the station was erected by Leonard in 1942 after purchasing the property from the American Legion following the fire that destroyed their hall in January 1940.

In 1943 Bill and his wife retired from the business and Leonard became sole owner. They exchanged homes and the senior Millers moved into the former Wattawa home, where they resided until they moved to Manitowoc. Bill died in 1944 and his wife passed away in 1965.

Leonard Miller’s daughter, Betty, was married to Francis A. Dolezal. Tony joined his father-in-law in the business and Betty became the bookkeeper, secretary and general assistant.

Elmer Radtke worked for the Millers for many years. Upon his 25 years of devoted service, he was presented with a gold watch by Leonard Miller. Walter Brandt was also with Millers Service Station for many years.

Leonard retired in 1973 and the business was operated by Betty and Tony Dolezal until December 31, 1974, when they also discontinued it. In 1975, the station was purchased by Robert Wilhelm of Reedsville. It is now known as Wilhelm’s Resale, dealing in used furniture, appliances and antiques.

R H. Willems Equipment Company

The John Miller Equipment Company, a farm equipment retail outlet started business in Reedsville in the summer of 1949 in a small garage owned by Mr. Milton Schultz on Second Street. The company was owned by the three Miller Brothers, Victor, C. J. and Ray from St. Nazianz, Wisconsin. They also operated a farm equipment retail store in St. Nazianz selling International Harvester tractors and equipment.

Ray Miller operated the Reedsville store with some of the first employees being Herman Klann, Ben Wilbershiede, and John Burkart. After the business grew for two years, the three brothers saw fit to buy the Begalke farm located in the center of town and remodel the barn into a repair shop and retail store. At this point besides International Harvester contract, the Gehl line and New Holland line of farm machinery were taken on. Also at this time a complete line of appliances and hardware were added. The John Miller Equipment also sold new International Harvester trucks and Pontiac cars.

R. H. Willems joined the company as a retail salesman in 1951. The company continued to grow and in 1959 Miller and Willems Auction and real estate was formed along with the farm equipment business.

In 1983 Ray Miller dissolved partnership with his brothers, Victor and C. J. Miller and the company changed its name to Reedsville Oliver Sales. The officers of the new corporation were Fay Miller, Ray Miller, and R. H. Willems. The International Harvester contract was dropped and a new contract was signed with the Oliver company and also the Ford Tractor Company.

On October 12, 1965, disaster struck the business with fire destroying the complete building. Instead of rebuilding, the Oliver and Ford lines were discontinued and the Gehl line of machinery was retained. For temporary quarters the old village hall was purchased and business continued there until July of 1967 when Miller and Willems purchased the
garage from Roger Olm along with land on the south side of Highway 10 for a used equipment lot.

In April of 1968 the partnership of Miller and Willems was dissolved with R. H. Willems staying in the farm equipment business and the new business as it is today called R. H. Willems Equipment Company.

When Ray Miller left the partnership, he returned with his brothers Vic and C. J. at the John Miller Supply Company in St. Nazianz to start a dealer organization for the distribution of Leyland Tractors in the states of Wisconsin and Michigan.

R. H. Willems has remained in the farm equipment business and the auction business. In 1971 the former Sheahan building was purchased for a service shop and also for assembly of new equipment. In 1972 4½ acres of land were purchased for display of new and used equipment on Highway 10.

The two major suppliers for the R. H. Willems Equipment Company are the John Miller Supply company, who supply the Leyland Tractors and the Gehl Company, who supply all the forage harvesting equipment.

R. H. Willems Equipment Company has the recognition of being the largest volume Gehl dealer in the world in the past two years.

Present employees of R. H. Willems Equipment Company are Donna McDonough who has been with the company for 25 years, Vernon (Marty) Marsicke, Wilfred Schulz, Myron (Shorty) Kochan, John (Grand Pa) Willems, Larry Vallesky, Tom Haeflirsch, Jim Savage, Dale (Beaver) Barnard, Greg Willems, and Jack Willems, with R. H. (Bob) directing the sales of the company. Donna McDonough assumes the responsibilities of the office and accounts. Vernon Marsicke is in charge of all shop, delivery service and parts for the company.

**Wojta Store**

W. I. Wojta bought the general merchandise store in 1909. He sold it to George Pappe who changed to groceries in 1940. Later the business changed hands again when Andy Schmitt bought it. The business was discontinued and it was changed to a residence.

**Ye Olde Inn**

The United States of America sold the land to the State of Wisconsin October 14, 1848. George Reed bought all of Reedsville July 29, 1852. In 1857 Ludwig and Wilhelmina Rusch bought the land. In 1876 Ludwig Rusch built the building that is known as Ye Olde Inn.

A huge dance hall is now the tavern and side room. Where the bowling lanes are located, there once stood a blacksmith shop operated by Frank Koudelka. At that time Tom and Mary Koudelka tapped the beer.

In 1916 Michael Benzschawel rented the tavern from the Koudelkas. Michael had two sons, George and Paul.

In 1923 George Benzschawel and Christine Cherney were married. They made their home with Mike Benzschawel to help with the tavern operation. In the winter of 1923 Benzschawel sold to Feigel and Mutschinsky.

In 1936 the building once again reverted to the Benzschawels, George and his wife Christine, and Paul and his wife Alvina. Christine and George had a daughter, Marion.

In 1939 and 1940 the four bowling lanes were added. In 1945 Christine Benzschawel and Jerry and Marion Mulhaney bought the tavern and bowling alleys from Paul Benzschawel. It was then that the place was to become known as “Ye Olde Inn”.

Paul Benzschawel passed away May 5, 1956. Jerome Mulhaney moved to Manitowoc in