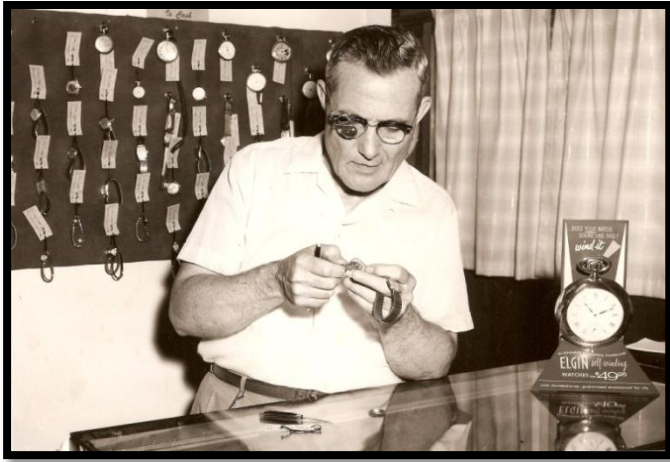


Business Histories

Submitted in 1986

Andrew's Time Center



(Taken from a "Know your Merchants" article from the Randolph Times July 1960). Clyde Andrew, a Randolph businessman the past eight years, since opening his jewelry store known as Andrew Time Center, has been in the jewelry business for about 30 years. Nationally known brand names such as Elgin and Bulova watches and Feature Lock diamonds are carried by the firm. The business is also headquarters for watch, clock and jewelry repair.

Mr. Andrew is a native of Randolph and was graduated from the Randolph Public High School. He attended the Horology Department of Bradley University of Peoria, Ill.

Prior to returning to Randolph, Mr. Andrew lived in Denver, Colorado, where he was an instructor at the American Academy Of Horology, one of the most widely known schools of its kind in the United States. Following that period he was in the jewelry business for several years in Denver.

Mrs. Andres is the former Bert Jiskra of Wilber. They have a daughter Victoria.

Andrew's Tune-up Shop



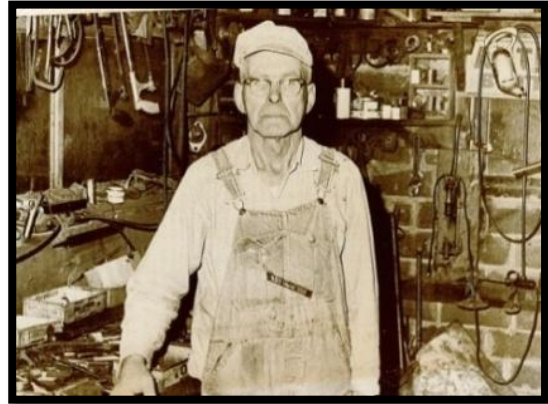
(Taken from a "Know Your Merchant's" article from the Randolph Times dated February 3, 1972). Pictured above

is Paul Andrew from Andrew's Tune-up Shop, who has been in business from 1967. Before that he worked at the Chevrolet Garage for 36 years.

The firm does motor tune-up and generator, starter and carburetor work.

Mrs. Andrew is the former Elsie Riddiough of Fennimore, Wisconsin. The couple have five children; Pauline, Harriet, George, Don and Judy.

Backer's Repair



(Taken from a "Know your Merchants" article from the Randolph Times dated June 29, 1972). Pictured above is Tony Backer, who has been in general car and machine repair work for about 45 years. He started working for Martin Buol, who operated the Ford Garage, later the Buol Oil Co. for about eight years. After that he was in the repair business for himself with the exception of three years in the John Deere Implement business from 1945-1947. He built the present repair shop in 1948. The firm offers general mechanical work.

Mrs. Backer is the former Helen Kelsh. The couple have seven children; Edward, Marie, Vernelle, Joan, Arlene, Dorothy and Shirley.

Backes Sisters Millinery Shop

On April 1, 1897, the Misses Frances and Helena Backes opened a millinery store on the south side of Broadway in Randolph, Nebraska. According to ads in the Randolph Reporter, they carried, "A nice line of trimmed hats, and a large line of Sailors and Walking Hats. We also have the Idaho and Dakota hat, which is the latest." Each spring, after a visit to Omaha or Kansas City, they had a grand showing of the latest in hats with free favors being given away.

These two enterprising young women were the daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Peter J. Backes, Sr., of Lindsay, Nebraska.

Miss Frances Backes left the millinery shop in 1898 when she married Henry J. Billerbeck, II, on May 3 and moved to Osmond, Nebraska.

Miss Helena Backes turned the millinery shop over to Miss Coe in January of 1899, before she married Andrew Joseph Billerbeck of Osmond, Nebraska, on February 8, 1899 and also moved to Osmond. *Mrs. H.J. Billerbeck*

Backus Sand and Gravel

Kenny began in 1944 as an operator owner when at the age of 17; he bought his first truck, a 1940 International and went into the livestock and grain hauling business.

About one year later, Kenny married Jean (Veik) Backhaus. Together they added corn shelling to their trucking business. At that time they owned three straight trucks and one sheller and employed three people.

Around 1954, Kenny leased some land near Pierce and opened his first gravel pit under their present business title "Backus Sand and Gravel". The first pit, located north of Pierce, is now known as the Rod and Gun Club. Kenny kept his business near Pierce from 1954 until 1980, working the pit all in the vicinity of one mile.

Kenny and Jean kept both businesses, the Livestock and Shelling and the Sand and Gravel for a while, working the pit by day and the livestock at night. Later, they concentrated on the sand and gravel and dropped the livestock and shelling business.

In 1959 they went into the readi-mix business, opening their first readi-mix plant located near the railroad tracks in McLean. In 1974 this readi-mix plant was moved to Pierce near the gravel pit.

They opened a second readi-mix plant in 1967 in Bloomfield which they are still operating.

Kenny and Jean opened a second gravel pit west of Hartington in 1970, and then relocated it just south of town in 1978 where it presently remains. After depleting the Pierce pit in 1980, they opened a new pit between Wee Town and Pierce in 1984, also moving the readi-mix plant from the north Pierce pit to the new pit near Wee Town. The first shop Backhauses used for their machinery, Kenny built in 1950 near their home in McLean. In 1979 a new shop was built in which they do most of the maintenance and repairs of their equipment.

Kenny and Jean have a family of three daughters; Judy, Cheryl (deceased 1983) and Lynette, also six sons; Jerry, Rick, Jim, Gary, Doug and Scott. Five of their sons work with the business full-time while Jerry, a farmer, works part-time. Presently one son-in-law works with the business also.

The bookkeeping for the four businesses is primarily done by Jean in her home.

In the early years of their business, Kenny's readi-mix trucks could carry three and one-half yards, today his largest carries ten yards. The gravel trucks they used years ago carried four yards, the trucks they own today carry up to twenty-two and one-half yards. Their first loader was a track type machine that held three-fourths cubic yard. Today they have rubber tired front end loaders with capacities ranging from two and one-half yards to six yards. At present, Kenny owns six gravel trucks, six readi-mix trucks, one bulk cement truck and six loaders.

Today Kenny and Jean employ approximately 20 people for their businesses in Hartington, Bloomfield and Pierce.
Rick Backhaus

Barker's Grocery and Meats



(Taken from a "Know Your Merchants" article from the Randolph Times dated July 1, 1971). Pictured above is Ellis Barker, who has been a Randolph business man since 1934.

The Barker's came here from Coleridge that year and Mr. Barker began his duties as manager of the Fairmont's Creamery. Mr. Barker worked for Fairmont's until 1944 when he opened Barker's Grocery in its present location.

Mr. Barker's store is an independent grocery which features a complete line of grocery items, a full line of fresh and cured meats and complete line of fresh fruits and vegetables.

During his residence here, Mr. Barker served as a member of the city council for a total of ten years, terminating his service on the council this spring when he was not a candidate for re-election.

Mr. Barker is a native of Ponca, His wife, the former Almeda Goranson was born near West Point. They are the parents of one son, Clifford.

Bermel's Grocery Store

Bermel's Grocery Store was a landmark. The building was built by Boughn and Ziegler in 1887. It was first used as a saloon and was in the heart of the business district. It was then moved to the location now the southern part of the parking lot of the Randolph Post Office.

In 1911 Joe Bermel had the grocery store and Peter M. Bermel purchased it from him. He operated the grocery store and produce buying business. The store sold all groceries, shoe ware, feed, tires, clothing and notions. It was open Wednesday and Saturday evenings. The store had a large trade area and was well known over the territory.

The most unusual attraction of the store was the coffee. The green coffee beans were shipped in, Pete would roast the coffee beans, grind them and package the coffee, selling it for 25 cents per pound. On sales it was sold for 22 cents per pound. The people of Randolph would know

when the coffee was roasting from the aroma. Also green peanuts were roasted and sold for 10 cents per pound.

Pete would ship in a carload of certain groceries (potatoes, cabbage, and flour), etc. He then would have the telephone operator announce it over the party line and farmers would come with their wagons to purchase these items.

In 1928 Henry A. Bermel went into partnership with his father, Peter M. Bermel and the store was known as Bermel and Company. They delivered groceries six days a week, twice a day. When Henry was twelve years old he delivered fresh milk by horse and buggy to customers in town for 5 cents a gallon. The groceries were delivered in wooden delivery boxes.

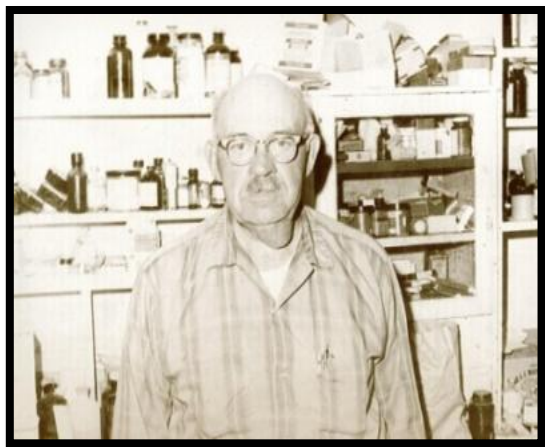
Vinegar came in fifty gallon barrels and was sold accordingly. Many foods, dried fruits, navy beans, brown sugar, and powdered sugar were shipped in boxes and had to be packaged at the store.

During the depression years, the customers could not pay for their groceries and many paid their bills with butter, chickens, beef and pork.

When Pete died in 1934, Henry Bermel went into partnership with his mother, Mrs. Anna Bermel. The store was destroyed by fire on February 1, 1940. Henry Bermel reopened a grocery store in a building which is now where the Hobby Shop is located. He sold it to Mr. and Mrs. B.F. Leiting. All of Peter and Anna Bermel's children, Henry, Mary, Bertha, Margaret, Joe, Nick, Marx and Annie clerked the store.

The building north of the store was erected in 1888. John Boughn operated a garage in the building for a number of years and then sold it to Pete Bermel. For a number of years it was used as storage and in 1937, Joe Brown opened the place of business as a shoe and harness repair shop. It was also destroyed by fire. *Eileen(Bermel) Leise*

Dr. Jim Black

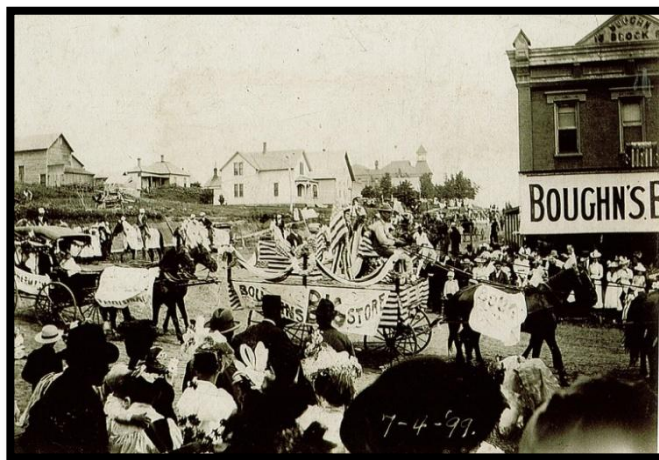


(Taken from a "Know Your Merchants" article from the Randolph Times dated June 1, 1972). Dr. J.O. Black has been a veterinarian in Randolph since 1929. He was graduated from Iowa State College at Ames, Iowa. For his

first eleven years as veterinarian here, he was associated with his father, Samuel O. Black.

Mrs. Black is the former Leone Black, also a native of Randolph.

Boughn's Big Store



Parade going by Boughn's Big Store

The establishment known as Boughn's Big Store was Zachariah Boughn II's venture into the merchandising business in Randolph after moving into town and building the Boughn Hotel.

From a small beginning, the store expanded until it utilized the entire space back to the alley. The population of Randolph and surrounding area grew and there was a demand for a greater variety of merchandise. It became a department store selling clothing, shoes, and all kinds of "dry goods" as well as groceries.

At busy seasons of the year, Mr. Boughn, who was my great-grandfather, employed fourteen clerks as well as his sons.

An elevator was used for easy access to the basement and upstairs areas of the store. A cash carrier system with a cashier's cage was installed for convenience in handling the volume of business.

My great-grandfather lived by his philosophy of life and was very generous and kind, never turning anyone away who needed assistance. Many stories were told of how he would extend unlimited credit to many of these families, telling them paying up when their crops came in would be fine. Many families said they would not have been able to stay in their new locations had it not been for this.

A custom of the "olden days" was observed in this store. When the supply of groceries and other goods were sacked up, there was included that little complimentary bag of candy for the children and no doubt for the "missus" also.

Mr. Boughn operated the business until 1906 when it was sold to a Mr. Smith of Beemer, Nebraska.

Boughn's Big Store was located on the north side of Broadway where the Randolph Laundromat is located. *Jean Boughn Andersen and Julia Boughn*

Boughn Hotel

When the Hotel Boughn burned on November 18, 1927, a special era of Randolph history unofficially ended. As Editor H.L. Peck of THE RANDOLPH TIMES-ENTERPRISE wrote the next day, "In the early days the old hotel enjoyed a big business and was filled with travelers. Banquets and meetings of various kinds have been held there, and many distinguished men have been its guests. The building burned slowly, as though reluctant to pass out of Randolph activities after a service of forty years."

It did, indeed, serve. It was built in 1887, on land he had just purchased from the Peavey Townsite Company, by my husband's great-grandfather, Z. Boughn, a "shaker and mover" of the frontier society. The same summer he installed a 110 foot-deep well at the intersection point of Main and Broadway, providing the town with its first city water by tank and windmill, and the hotel with piped in water. He immediately rented space in a basement room to the city's first newspaper, published by E.J. Bennett, and a corner room on ground level to its first bank, launched by C.S. Whitham. There was also a dining room large enough for public functions as well as hotel guests.

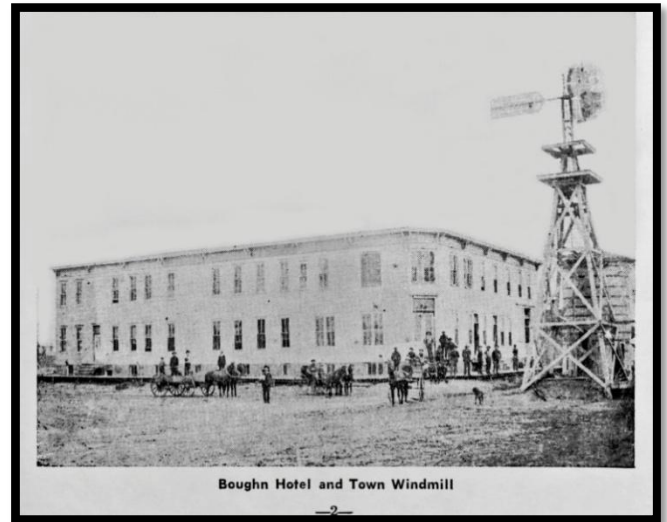
Interestingly, the two-story, tin-roofed frame building with the "raw prairie running up to its walls", was situated at the same spot where the present Randolph bank stands, the structure of which was designed in 1964 by Z. Boughn's great-grandson, Tommy Boughn.

The hotel was a half-block long and some 75 feet wide, with the front entrance at the same place and at the same angle as that of today's First State Bank. At the north end, across the alley from what later became the site of Dr. Gleason's Office, a stucco building which still stands, Z. Boughn built large, quite luxurious quarters for his own family, the front door opening on Main with a large bay window near it and a large veranda facing the north alley. There was no exit into the hotel.

In 1894 he added the Boughn Opera House, adjoining the south end of the hotel to the east and facing Broadway. There was an entrance to it from the lobby. This became a popular gathering place for many kinds of entertainment. In 1900, he built on the east wing, having acquired that lot from John Runyon, which had two and one-half stories and opened onto what they called the "back galleries", a porch where people sat to watch summer picnics and other pleasures in the open space within the L-shape now created. The Opera House was torn down in 1922 by his son, John near the time of Z. Boughn's death, and the east wing after some years was no longer used.

The family apartment was heated through large floor air vents from furnaces in the basement, and the ground floor of the hotel may have been, also. Bessie and Zack Boughn occupied the apartment during its last period of existence with their children, Zack, Jean, Keith, and Janet. Jean was small, but she remembers being impressed with its elegance, the long kitchen, the great French doors opening

to the dining room, parlor and sun parlor, and the long, formally appointed dining room in its basement where Z. Boughn loved to give big parties, dinners, and banquets.



The Boughn Hotel late 1800's

The Hotel Boughn must have been a lively place. Though the bulk of its clientele were travelling salesmen, coming first by passenger train and wagons and later also by motor cars, many others used its services. Helen Keller with her teacher Anne Sullivan, stayed there during Chautauqua appearance, practicing a whole afternoon on the word *nation* in her room because it kept coming out a harsh and loud "na shun" (told to Jean Anderson by Lillian Harrison Boughn). Among others staying at the hotel were William Jennings Bryan, Nebraska Governor C.H. Aldrich and theater troupes appearing at the Opera House.

There were at least four managers during the years, including Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Gordon, a Mr. Bagley, Bruce Harrison, and Charles Ovesen.

Before his death in June of 1922, Z. Boughn passed the hotel on to his son, John, in a division of property among his wife and sons, and John tore down the Opera House that year. In the fall of 1927, ownership of the property passed into the hands of A.J. Oben.

At 4:30 on a cold November morning in 1927, Manager Ovesen "heard a crackling noise and something fall," and seeing flames at the roof of the East Wing, he ran barefoot to warn and oust the hotel occupants. The older Boughn children, Jean and Zack, remember the excitement, the flames, people running, and Keith, two years old, yelling "Fioh!"

There was an almost mythical quality to the burning that one feels in reading Editor Peck's account written the next day: "One remarkable thing was the coolness of the fire ... The big building burned from the top, like a candle," the firemen skillfully preventing the spread of the flames to other buildings with their good supply of water and the new city fire hoses. "So close was the fire confined within itself that the trees, whose branches almost touched the building, were not burned ... A light sleet ... keeping the

hot ashes flying before the northwest wind from taking fire on other roofs." Bessie Boughn, watching through the shattered windows in the night from a distance, saw the fire reflected in the French doors in the apartment, W.M. McLean, working in bedroom slippers in the "bitter cold" for several hours to keep blankets over the plate glass windows of his store across the street, saw that the windows "didn't even get warm".

While Fire Chief Harry Sellon directed his brave volunteers, nearby businesses were monitored for danger, wrote Mr. Peck:

Lee Gibson moved all the autos from his repair garage next door east of the burning building and had his tools ready to move if necessary. Brenner Nelson took no chances and removed a few valuable steel burial vaults and metal caskets from the basement of their undertaking parlors. Watchers kept a close tab on flying sparks in the rear of Stageman's Office, A.C. Glasser's feed store, the Times office, Brenner Nelson's undertaking parlors and J.J. Vinckel's Implement House, while watchers were on the roofs of Leiting & Leiting, the post-office and the McLean store.

"Zack Boughn," reported Peck, "said he expected to move this week but not this way." His wife was praised for being "one of the coolest at the fire. She directed the removal of her household goods and in a level-headed manner." Peck was very proud of the firemen and especially of the new hoses, which he said, with pardonable satisfaction, "came in handy". Ted Fishman "distributed warm chore mittens to the fire fighters, "while the cafes "did a brisk business in hot coffee," and "the cold north wind thoroughly chilled the spectators."



Boughn Hotel in the early 1900's

For the Hotel Boughn, it was a dramatic finale that the kindly adventurer who built it might have, himself, appreciated, had he lived but five more years. *Mrs.*

Zack Boughn and Jean Boughn Andersen

Boughn Opera House

John Hagner Boughn, my husband's grandfather and the son of Pioneer Z. Boughn, termed the Boughn Opera House "The entertainment center of early- day Randolph". His father built it in 1894 as an adjunct to the Hotel

Boughn, joined to it on the east and facing Broadway, accessible to the hotel through an entrance in the lobby.

The Opera House was said to be elegant, nicely furnished, with the most spacious stage in this section of the country outside of Denver, Omaha, Norfolk, and Sioux City at that time, being 26 by 16 feet. In addition to the regulation chairs in its auditorium, "there were two galleries with a combined seating capacity of 150, two private boxes, and four dressing rooms". (Notes from John Boughn, about 1939 or 1940, taken by his granddaughter, Jean Boughn Anderson).

"All public functions" met here. Graduations, dances, theater presentations, Decoration Day Services, lectures, and other kinds of events took place here for around 27 years. Ruth Hughes remembers being in the last high school graduation ceremony in June of 1921 before it was torn down. After that for several years the "Randolph Times Enterprise" (Editor H.L. Peck) encouraged the town, through editorials, to build a city auditorium, citing the loss of the Boughn Opera House as creating the need.

Early issues of Randolph papers up to about 1914 appear to be lost, but the "Belden Progress" of earlier years has frequent mention of affairs at the Opera House. Ruth Hughes speaks of the appearance in 1902 of the Oberlin Glee Club from Oberlin College in Ohio, called "the best college glee club in the United States," and of William Jennings Bryan

Lecturing on "Free Silver" in October, 1903. Although Chautauqua performers stayed at the Hotel Boughn, they never appeared at the Opera House, having their own tents with them.

During her 1939-1940 conversations with her grandfather John, Jean Anderson kept a written record. "The big shows of the day," he said, "stopped in Randolph enroute to Omaha and Denver and played at the Opera House for one-night stands. Two of these plays were 'The Flaming Arrow' and 'The Lion and the Mouse'." Local theater lovers presented their own plays, photographs of the cast of one of these plays showing it to be from Shakespeare. One of the players, among other familiar Randolph names, being Zack and Jean's father, Zach Boughn.

A fascinating story comes from Ruth Hughes. Some time before 1914 there appeared at the Opera House, with his manager, a very large, blind-mute black man, a pianist, named Thomas Boone who was called "Blind Boone." Since he could not speak, his manager spoke for him, explaining his story (which Ruth Hughes also read in the April, 1940, issue of ETUDE, and I had also seen in a chapter of MY ANTONIA, by Willa Cather, who used the pianist as a character).

Blind and mute from birth as a slave child in the South, Blind Boone had a very loving, protective mother who worked as a maid in the "Big House", and kept him near her. One day when he was very tiny, he hung about the open window of the parlor listening to the daughter of the household play beautiful music on the piano. He drew

himself up to the sill and listened intently, enchanted with what he heard and memorizing the notes. After the player withdrew from the room, he climbed in and up on the piano stool, where he fingered out the melody. She heard from the hallway, and approached the frightened child, soothing rather than chastising him, and encouraging him to go on. The upshot of this encounter was that the young lady undertook to teach him, blind as he was, and from this he learned a livelihood, having the gift of hearing a piece once and being able to play it exactly as he heard it. This fact his manager played upon during concerts.

Thus as the concert at the Opera House progressed that night, the manager stopped the playing and invited any volunteer from the audience to approach the stage and play any piece whatever, promising that Blind Boone would then repeat it verbatim. The house was silent, but after a moment a lady arose and came to the piano, where she played a complicated piece which the performer at once repeated as promised. The audience was stunned, not only because of his virtuosity, but also because the lady was a quiet, retiring sort of person who had never shared her gift with her neighbors. Her name was Mrs. Upton Denman.

The Opera House was heated by a wood and coal stove, and there is a story mentioned by Evelyn Weese in a letter to Mrs. Pat Rogers that a lady with a celluloid comb in her hair sat too close to the stove one night and set her comb afire. Mrs. Weese also mentioned a night when one of the balconies collapsed with the weight of its spectators, and the people in the seats below it held it up until those individuals could get out. The Opera House had its emergencies!

John Boughn, who owned the first movie projector in town and managed the Opera House, also showed the first silent movie to be seen in Randolph. It is said, in fact, that it was the new popularity of movie theaters, that at last did in the Opera House. A theater was soon built in Randolph and drew a fascinated audience. The need for the Opera House seemed no longer urgent. At the time it was demolished, near the time of Z. Boughn's death, Editor Peck wrote this in the February 1, 1922, issue of the "Randolph Times-Enterprise".

"An opera house is not always a money maker, and Mr. Boughn was no doubt well aware of that fact, yet he knew that a place of that sort was needed and supplied the need. In these days of movie theaters, the traveling shows of 15 and 20 years ago are known no more, and the small town 'oprey' house has lost out."

Ruth (Mrs. Clift) Hughes recently echoed that thought, saying that though Z. Boughn realized that the Boughn Opera House would not make a profit, his way was to draw many others in to share his own benefits. When he built the Opera House, for example, it was a gesture of a cultural gift to Randolph, the town and the people he loved. *Mrs. Zack Boughn, Jean Boughn Anderson*

Braden's Super Saver



(Taken from the "Know your Merchants" articles from the Randolph Times dated May 13, 1971) Mr. and Mrs. Barrie Braden pictured above are the owners and operators of Braden's Super Saver. They purchased the business from Paul Tunink in September 1967.

The firm offers a complete line of groceries, dairy products, produce, meats, toiletries, and other non-food items. They have a delivery service on Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays.

Mr. Braden is a native of California. Mrs. Braden is the former Judy Meyer and is a native of Randolph. The couple has two children, Nikki and Jakki.

Broer Planing Mill

In 1905 Herman Broer bought the blacksmith shop from Carl Schoepner and gradually developed the planning mill. He had been trained to be a cabinet maker in Germany but having come to a rural community, he was able to adapt his work to the needs of the people. In early years he employed Carl Burmeister.

In 1925 the Raubach garage fire damaged the planning mill so Mr. Broer remodeled the mill and the blacksmith shop. The blacksmith shop was later sold to his nephew, Ludwig Broer.

Mr. Broer did repair work for farmers, made wagon boxes, wagon wheels, filed and sharpened saws, sharpened lawn mowers, made window sashes, and sold paint as well as doing cabinet work for businesses, homes, churches, and schools. In later years, his son, Albert assisted him.

In 1947 he sold the business to Pete Milander. At the present time the building is occupied by Paul Tunink.

Buchanan Drug Store

The establishing of a business has many very interesting aspects. One of them was the Buchanan Drug Store located at the corner of Main and Broadway. For many, many years this corner location has been a drug store under various ownerships. One of the first owners was W.P. Hill and the store did business as Hill's Drug Store.

In the early 1900's the store was purchased by Gus Obert and Ed Walz and the store became known as Obert

and Walz Drug Store. In the 1920's Mr. Walz sold his interest in the store to Mr. Obert and the store did business as Obert Drug Store.

In 1935 Roger and Esther Buchanan became the owners of the drug store having made the purchase from the Gus Obert family. The store did business as the Buchanan Drug Store



Buchanan Drug Store- 102 W Broadway

Esther received her college education at Wayne State and taught school for several years previous to her marriage. She has served as chair person of many local civic organizations as well as Fraternal organizations. In 1946 Esther served as Vice President of the Nebraska Pharmaceutical Auxiliary and in 1947 as President of the Auxiliary. In the early years Esther worked at the drug store as clerk and bookkeeper.

Their two daughters, Rogene and Jana, were employed at the drug store as clerks previous to their marriages. Rogene married Paul Korth of Randolph and Jana married Keerthe Kumar of Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Roger received his Pharmaceutical degree from the College of Pharmacy at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln in 1929. For a period of time Roger was employed as pharmacist at the Bowles Drug Store in Randolph.

Roger considered participation in civic activities to be a part of a busy work schedule. He served on the Methodist Church Board, the Masonic Lodge, Library Board, Lions Club, the Community Club, and Volunteer Fire Department as well as pharmacy and related talks at schools and civic organizations. He served on the Randolph Public School Board for 38 years during which time a new elementary school and gymnasium, as well as a new athletic park was built. During this time the consolidation of the schools took place.

In 1946 and 1947 Roger was one of the directors of the Nebraska Pharmaceutical Association.

In 1978 Roger was awarded the Good Neighbor Citation which is awarded annually in various communities by the Knights of Ak-sar-ben. This citation was preceded by a

National Pharmaceutical award known as "The Bowl of Hygeia" presented by the A.H. Robins Company of Richmond, Virginia. This award is given annually to one pharmacist in each of the 50 states in the United States and ten provinces of Canada. The award is given on the merit of pharmaceutical accomplishments and civic activities. The recipients, with their spouses are the guests of the company and have a tour of the pharmaceutical product productions. Mr. and Mrs. Buchanan thoroughly enjoyed attending this national event. During the early years of the drug store the soda fountain was a favorite place for delicious treats, ice-cream sodas, ice cream sundaes, banana splits and malted milks of your favorite flavor. Ice-cream cones and malt cups from the ice-cream freezer for a nickel, were a favorite treat for many. The drug store furnished part time employment for many of the high school students.



Roger Buchanan inside his Drug Store

Upon discontinuing the soda fountain, the store was remodeled and given a "new look". A new tile floor was laid and the ceiling lowered. New windows and front door entrance were shielded by a new marquee awning. Some new fixtures modernized the store. A new department was added which was a jewelry and watch repair. This was owned by Robert and Georgia Holmes.

In 1977 Roger and Esther Buchanan sold the store to Jerry and Nancy Lagerstrom of Plattsmouth, Nebraska. Jerry graduated from the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha in 1977 with a degree in pharmacy. He belongs to the Randolph Community Club and has served on various committees. Nancy has been employed by the Colonial Manor Nursing Home for the past five years as a E.S.M. (Care Staff Member). The couple have two children, Suzanne, age ten and Craig, age six. They are members of the United Methodist Church.

It is very interesting to note the doctors that have written prescriptions which were compounded in the pharmaceutical department of the store. The records of the store, back over many years and at the present time, show the following doctors; Dr. Kennedy, Dr. Braum, Dr. Kerley, Dr. Crawl, Dr. Miller, Dr. Colen, Dr. Siegler, Dr.

Eddy, Dr. Hartman, Dr. Peebles, Dr. Peters, Dr. Haase, Dr. Cook, Dr. Gleason and Dr. Billerbeck. In addition to these local doctors, prescriptions are on file from doctors of the surrounding towns. Interesting to note also are the prescriptions on record from metropolitan cities such as Sioux City, Iowa; Omaha and Lincoln, Nebraska, as well as the Mayo Clinic of Rochester, Minnesota.

We find in the drug store pharmacies, throughout the world, a group of dedicated individual pharmacists along with doctors engaged in a "Life Saving Profession". *Roger Buchanan*

Chuck's Bar



(Taken from a "Know Your Merchants" article from the Randolph Times dated October 21, 1971) Pictured above are Mr. and Mrs. Charles Meier. They have operated Chuck's Bar since 1955. Before that they farmed north of Randolph. The firm offers favorite beverages and packaged liquors.

Mrs. Meier is the former Fern Blotz, a native of Randolph. The couple have three children; Patricia, Sharon and Judy.

Cliff's Radio and T.V.



(Taken from a "Know Your Merchants" article from the Randolph Times, dated December 2, 1971). Pictured above is Cliff Cautrell of Cliff's Radio and TV. Mr. and Mrs. Cautrell began operating their shop in Randolph on

January 15th of this year. Before that they operated a radio and TV shop in Coleridge.

The firm offers new and used television sales and service. They also repair all makes of electronic equipment.

Mrs. Cautrell is the former Laurie Williams of Kansas City, Mo. The couple have seven children; Barb, Jim, LeRoy, Danny, Ronnie, Tammie and Pamela.

Cornhusker Cafe and Bakery

In 1922 V.C. Havorka Sr. (better known as Bake) started the City Cafe and Bakery in the location that is now Daddy Jack's Bowling Alley. Sometime between then and 1945 the name was changed to the Cornhusker Cafe and Bakery.

In September of 1945 he sold the business to Roland Braaten, who in turn sold the business to Ed Benton in March of 1946.

In May of 1947, I, John Pock, my wife Mary Pock and our two daughters Patty and Linda left Sioux City, Iowa, and along with our friends, Larry and Clara Arndt, purchased the Cornhusker Café and Bakery from Ed Benton. I was manager of the cafe and Larry was in charge of the bakery.

In May of 1949 Larry bought out my half of the business. In October of that same year Larry asked me to buy back in and co-own the cafe and bakery with him. In December of 1949 our youngest daughter, Kathy was born.

In 1951 the Arndts decided to purchase a bowling alley and cafe at Pierce, Nebraska, so I bought out their half of the partnership and Mary and I became sole owners.



Irene and John Pock

In 1954 I sold the cafe and bakery to Mr. Bill Griffin of Omaha, but before the year was out he asked me take it back.

During the '50s Northeast Nebraska was a pheasant hunter's haven. Hunters came from all over the United

States and stayed with local residents. It would not be surprising to serve 200 hunters breakfast on the opening day of pheasant season. We also served many tourists and traveling salesmen during these years as Highways 20 and 81 were traveled heavily. We often heard the statements "We ate here last year on our way across the country" or "We stayed at the motel here so we could eat at your cafe again." Randolph has always been known for its good water, therefore we received compliments all the time on both what good water the cafe served and what delicious coffee we had.



Cornhusker Café- Mid 1950's

Our bakery was very large and extensive for its time. On Saturdays 150 dozen glazed donuts were fried, glazed, and sold. Every day of the week except Sunday our bakery turned out hundreds of loaves of bread and dozens upon dozens of rolls, donuts, etc. In those days a dozen glazed donuts sold for 35¢, a loaf of home-made white, French, or wheat bread at 15 cents, and a dozen pecan rolls for 49 cents.

A favorite with the high school crowd was the 100 caramel apples I made every Friday afternoon.

In those days there were no school busses and the Cornhusker Café was the site for the after school get-togethers and the "after the game hang-out" for the fans and teams alike. "Meet you at the Husker for lunch after the game," was heard often during the game. At the end of the sports season I often entertained the teams and coaches, from both Randolph Public School and St. Frances Catholic School, to free steak suppers.

Back in the '50s Saturday night in the small town was "IT". The local businesses were open until midnight and then their owners along with the farmers came to the café for a snack or even supper. A T-bone steak supper with all the trimmings cost \$2.00 at that time. It was always 2:00 A.M. before we could lock our doors.

A few other menu items and their prices of the times were:

Hamburger	20 cents
Cheeseburger	25 cents
BLT sandwich	35 cents
Bowl of Chili	25 cents

3 cakes and coffee	30 cents
Side of sausage	25 cents
Large frosty rootbeer	5 cents
Pint of ice cream	25 cents
Cake ala mode	10 cents
Baked ham dinner	80cents
Banana split	35cents
Sundaes	20 cents
Pie ala mode	20 cents
Malts	25 cents

In 1959 the Cornhusker Cafe and Bakery the Roxy Theatre, and Miller's grocery store were ruined by a fire. The Cornhusker was rebuilt later that year.

In 1961 I sold the business to Frank Thieman but before the year was out he asked me to take it back. Over the years many Randolphans were employees of the Cornhusker. Some of those who come to mind are: Agnes Schmidt, Ida Barker, Annie Brenner, Dorothy McDonald, Alice Neuhalfen, Carol Neuhalfen, Sharon Griffith, Shirly Chleoborad, Betty Baker Bonge, Marilyn Hochstein LeClair, Gladys Hochstein Borst, Pauline Strathman Karlberg, Marilyn Newbauer Podany, Lorraine Bierschenk, Irene Martindale Wurdinger, Mary Gubbels, Mary Ann McDonald Peters, Carolyn Lenhoff Lackas Leon Van Slyke, Inez Bodenstedt Ethel Hungerford Kelsch, Harry Pate Jr., Coleen Bierschenk, Bob Roeder Willis McDonald, Gladys Van Auker, Leona Brandl, Gay Lanphear Forest Berner, Louis Lewis, Doris Lewis Thelen, Jana Patent Kuhlman, Evelyn Landberg,. Brenda Brown, Shirley Brown Lewis, GaryLandberg, Maggie Van Slyke, Mary Lou Lenhoff, Barbara Winkelbauer, Claudia Reed Hansen, Patsy Moran, Peggy Rogers, Marsha Van Slyke, Nancy Puntney, Ann Anderson, Joyce Delozier, Maggie Mae Delozier, Rick Kelsch, Rudy Kelsch, Jeanie Kelsch Gartner, Darlene Van Slyke Boughn, Noni Schenk, Norma Barker Roland, Marlee Delozier Burbach, Patty Pock Gubbels, Linda Pock Gubbels, Kathy Pock Eberhardt.

I realize that I may have missed many people and I apologize to anyone I have overlooked. We enjoyed all of our years working with you.

In 1966 I sold the furnishings, equipment, inventory, and even the Cornhusker sign to a corporation from Wakefield that was going to start a cafe in Wakefield.

The Cornhusker Cafe and Bakery of Randolph, Nebraska was no more. *John Pock*

Country Club Inn - Kelschs' Bar

The year was 1933 when John F. Kelsch and Irene Kelsch, his wife, decided to go into business in Randolph.

There was a small lunch room, operated by "Pink" Hickie, a former Randolphan, which he wanted to sell. Pink was asking \$100.00 for his equipment but when we offered \$75.00 we were promptly in business. The building we started in is now owned and occupied by the

Rogers Law Firm. Our rent was \$15.00 a month and somehow we eked out a living.

By 1934, since Prohibition had been repealed, Johnny decided he wanted a beer tavern along with the lunch room so he applied for and was granted a license to sell beer. We did a little remodeling and had a front and back bar built by Herman Broer, an old timer here. Our rent went up to \$25.00 a month. We named our place "The Country Club Inn" and hired our first bartender for a whopping \$8.00 a week. Those were the days of five and ten cent beer and five cent pop. Also free lunches every Saturday.

In 1943 we moved across the street to a larger building we had purchased, added another front bar and named it "Kelschs' Country Club Bar".

After having been granted our 25th license in 1958, we sold out our business and equipment to Harold Schnell. He operated it until 1972 when Jack and Lil Reed bought him out. That same year we sold the building to the Reeds and it has since been operated as "Daddy Jack's Lounge".
Irene Kelsch Pock

Dairy Dream Store

The announcement and opening of the new Dairy Dream Store was set for July 1, 1954, with the grand opening to follow on July 27th. It was to feature soft ice cream and other ice cream products. This new business was built and operated by William (Bud) Rohde.

It was first built to serve as a drive-in and a few years later was enlarged to become a coffee shop and fast food cafe. The following year on May 5, 1955, William Rohde married Vivian Viergutz and this was to become their business until January of 1963 when the sudden death of William forced Vivian to close the business. There were numerous persons running the cafe without success. In 1980 the land and buildings were sold to Randall Langemeier, who dozed out the original buildings, and erected what is now the Minute Market. *Yvonne K. Rohde Larsen*

DeVore & Deines

This hardware and furniture store was part of the Randolph business community for more than thirty years in the first half of the 1900's. L.V. DeVore and George O. Deines bought the business here in 1909 from L.A. Peters and established the firm in the building now occupied by Randolph Senior Citizens Center. They came here from St. Edward, Nebraska, and their wives, Anna (Finch) DeVore and Jennie (Finch) Deines, were sisters.

From these two families came five Randolph High School graduates, Bethyne (DeVore) Demmon (deceased); Helene (Deines) Joselyn; Stanley G. Deines; Gary Joselyn; and Blair Joselyn.

L.V. DeVore sold his partnership to George Deines in 1929 and the DeVores left Randolph. George and Jennie Deines owned and operated the store until the death of George Deines in 1940. Mrs. Deines continued the

business until 1942, when she sold the store to Robert G. Secord. *Helene Deines Joselyn*

Dibbert's Repair Shop



(Taken from a "Know Your Merchants" article from the Randolph Times dated January 6, 1972). Pictured above is Russ Dibbert, who has operated his auto repair shop since November, 1970. Before that he served in the U.S. Army and managed a service station in Texas a year before coming here.

The firm offers front end alignment, brake and engine tune-up, engine overhaul and has parts and accessories on hand.

Mrs. Dibbert is the former Joan Leiting, also a native of Randolph. The couple has four children

Dittman's Market



(Taken from a "Know Your Merchants" article from the Randolph Times, dated August 19, 1971). Pictured above is Paul Dittman who has worked in the meat market since 1942. It was owned by H.H. Sherwood until seven years ago when Dittman purchased it. Dittman's was closed for a while last year to be completely remodeled. The remodeling was finished in February.

The firm offers a full line of fresh and smoked meat, processing and homemade sausage.

Mrs. Dittman is the former Ruth Schulz of Elgin. The couple has two children; Don and Deanna. Mr. Dittman is a native of Randolph.

Eddie's Liquor



(Taken from a "Know Your Merchants" article" from the Randolph Times March 2, 1961) Pictured above is Wendell Eddie, who has operated the Eddie Package Store here for four years. He purchased the business from Paul Borst in December of 1956.

The firm business handles a wide variety of popular brands of liquors and wines and also soft drinks.

Mr. Eddie was born in the Carroll community and has resided in this area all of his life. Wendell and his wife Marvene have six children.

Farmers Produce and Huwaldt Oil Co



March 1935, Harrison Huwaldt and Nick Borst, Jr. purchased an egg buying business from Frank and Albert Kuhl. It had been a one day a week, Saturday, business but was then expanded to six days a week. They also began to buy cream from the farmers and stocked a farm feed store.

In 1936, Harrison purchased his partner's interest and became sole owner. In June, 1939, Harrison purchased from Rev. Carmony, a retired Methodist minister, living in Texas, approximately one acre of ground, including the produce station, service station, three tourist cabins and a house, bordering on Highway #20. He added a livestock and grain truck and a farm delivery tank truck.

Wade Chapman operated the tank wagon and Mike Koeppel and Blair Van Slyke were the truck operators.

In 1947, the original buildings were torn down and one large cement block building replaced them, and the tourist

cabins were sold as storage sheds to farmers. Three trucks, drivers, and a truck storage shed were added.

In 1955, Harrison sold his ICC truck. Grandfather permits to Melvin Rosenbach and disposed of his trucks, giving him more time to spend with his family.

Changing times brought changes in the business also. The advent of milk plants and farmers selling fresh milk saw an end to the separated cream sold to the produce stations. Strict laws governing the sale of fresh eggs discouraged farmers from raising laying hens. The produce part of the business was phased out and more services were added to the Service Station.

In 1965, Harrison decided it was time to spend more time with his family, so the business was leased to Clarence and Bob Berner. Retirement, travel and golf were so attractive, Harrison sold the business to the Berner brothers in February 1968.

The Flower Basket

The Flower Basket opened its doors to the Randolph community on February 21, 1983. The shop offered fresh cut flowers, silk arrangements and an assortment of potted plants.

Our first taste of what the florist business was all about was on our first Mother's Day in business. We sold 135 corsages, 130 plants, 83 fresh cut flower arrangements, and 28 silk arrangements.

The shop was owned and operated by Charlotte Keifer. Donna Buell and Barbara Hanna were part-time designers.

On December 1, 1984, the shop was sold to Barbara Hanna. Part time employees are Charlotte Keifer and Donna Buell. The Flower Basket is located on Broadway in downtown Randolph. *Charlotte Keifer and Barbara Hanna*

Gamble Store



Glen Stingley

George Reed started the first Gamble Skogmo Store in Randolph in 1933, and it was located at what is now Daddy Jack's. It was entirely hardware. His family operated it until 1938, when Glen Stingley came to Randolph and worked for George. Glen left Randolph in

1941 and sometime between 1941 and 1949 a complete dry goods and ready to wear line was added to the inventory. The store was moved to the location where Sam's Hardware Hank Store is now.

In the fall of 1948, Glen Stingley went into partnership with George, but before Glen moved to Randolph in the spring of 1949, George passed away. Then Glen and George's wife, Elsa, were in partnership until about 1955 when Glen bought Elsa out and became sole owner. After selling her share of the store, Elsa Reed moved to Lincoln, and lived there until her death in 1982 at the age of 92. At this time the ready to wear and dry goods department closed out changing entirely to hardware.

During the time when they had clothing in the store, Maude (Blotz) Cole, now living in California, was the head clerk helping Claribel Stingley, Ardis (Stingley) Cunningham, and Elsa Reed. Some of the men who have helped in the store were Paul Tunink, Marlyn Stingley, Elwin Nitz, Gleason Landberg, and Vurney Copple.

In January 1964 Kenneth (Sam) Reineke came to work for Glen in the hardware store. Glen decided to sell the Gamble store in December 1970 to Sam. The store had the same continuous owner with the Gamble Company until January 1985. Then the franchise was changed to Hardware Hank. *Nancy Reineke, Claribel Stingley*

Gordon Millinery Shop

The Gordon Millinery Shop was owned and operated by Mrs. J.M. Gordon, my grandmother on my mother's side of the family, in a building located on the south side of East Broadway in the one hundred block, from about 1914 until her death in September of 1923.

Mrs. Gordon was assisted in the business part time by her daughter, Bessie, later Mrs. Zachariah Boughn IV (1895-1981) who was my mother, and by Miss Lillian Harrison, later Mrs. Kenneth Boughn, now of Fremont, Nebraska.

For the bulk of her stock, Mrs. Gordon purchased foundation hats of velvet and straw. The trimming of the hats were done by Mrs. Gordon and her assistants, using their own creative talents to produce many fashionable hats. Ribbons, feathers, plumes, braids, flowers, bullions and beads, as well as other ornaments, were purchased in bulk to be used in the trimming.

The shop also carried in stock "Gage" hats, a very well known and expensive line of hats of the times.

My grandmother had a very warm and outgoing personality. She was very well liked by all who knew her and many of her friends would stop at the millinery shop for a visit with her when they came down town. As was customary in those days, one usually walked down town and babies and little ones were pushed along in their baby buggies or perambulators for their daily outing.

The Gordon Millinery Shop was closed immediately at the time of my grandmother's death. Prices for the "closing out" sale back in 1923 were: sport hats from 75¢ to \$2, children's hats 50¢ and up, ladies hats from \$2 to \$5

for values up to \$14. The velvets, plumes and trimmings were also closed out at sale prices. *Jean Boughn Andersen and Lillian Harrison Boughn*

Home Oil Company



Al Sauser, Vic Caster, Russ Van Slyke

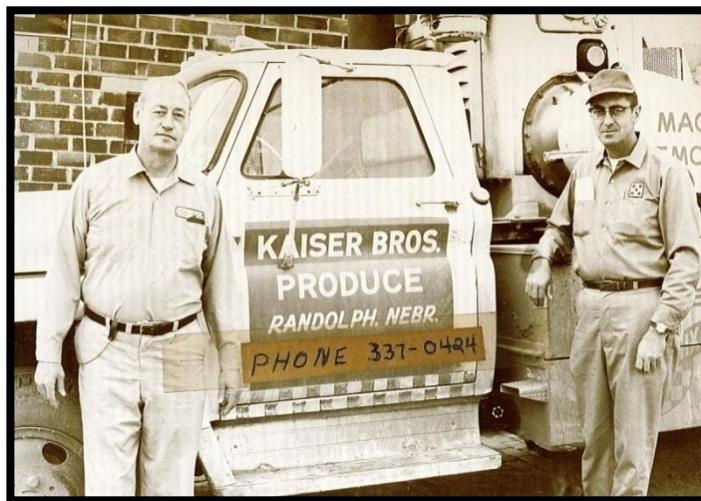
(Taken from a "Know Your Merchant" article from the Randolph Times, dated April 29, 1971).

Al W. Sauser has owned and operated the Home Oil Company in Randolph since 1940. Russell Van Slyke and Vic Caster are also employed by Al.

Mr. Sauser purchased the business from M.P. Buol in 1940, prior to that he had been employed by Mr. Buol for 12 years.

The Home Oil features DX gasoline, motor oil and greases, Firestone and Goodyear tires and Delco batteries. The firm operates a tank wagon service and specializes in car lubrication, washing and all types of services.

Kaiser Brothers Produce



(Taken from a "Know Your Merchants" article from the Randolph Times November 18, 1971). Pictured above are Gene and Pat Kaiser, Randolph brothers, who have operated the Kaiser Bros. Produce here since 1948.

The business was started by their father, Tony Kaiser, May 4, 1942. Pat was associated with the business prior to going to school for a year in Omaha, rejoining the firm in

1947. Gene joined the business in 1945 following his discharge from service.

The brothers took over the business after the death of their father in 1948.

The firm handles Purina Chows and Vis-Vita feeds and operates a Daffin Feedmobile for on the farm grinding and mixing. They also handle a complete line of Purina poultry and livestock sanitation products.

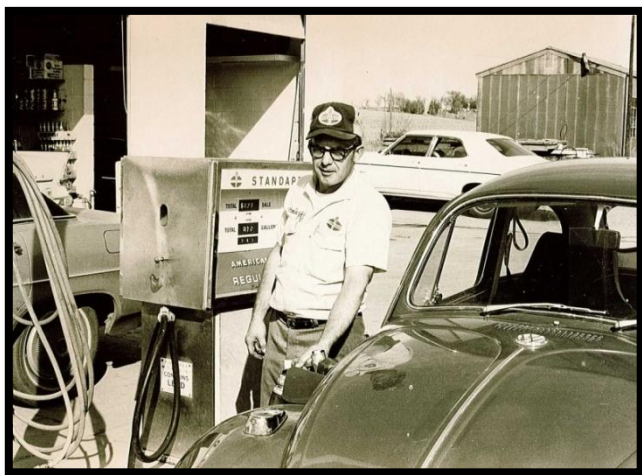
The business buys cream, eggs and poultry and operates a farm route pickup service.

The brothers are natives of the Randolph community. Mrs. Gene Kaiser is the former Teresa Coughlin of Laurel and Mrs. Pat Kaiser is the former Elvera Winkelbauer.

Marley's Standard Service

Marlin Wurdinger, son of John and Josephine Wurdinger, leased and opened a service station from the Leonard and Ann Drucker family. It was known as the Sinclair Station in 1960. He renamed it Marley's Standard Service.

In 1965 he purchased the building, and in 1967 he tore down the old building and moved it away.



Marley Wurdinger

Marley stated he never lost a business day while the new station was being built, since the new and present station was built on the site of the cafe and living quarters, which were attached to the old Sinclair Station. He was able to operate the older station until the new one was finished.

The present station is a two stall building with a service room and car wash room. The first car wash machine was a 25¢ machine. Late in 1972 he expanded the wash room and installed a fully automatic turbo machine, known as the Big Red Machine. It's the only automatic machine in the present area.

As this history is written, Marley is in his 26th year of business. Marley is a lifetime resident of Randolph, graduated from St. Francis School in 1954 and served two years in the U.S. Army.

He also coached basketball from 1956 to 1964 for the team formerly known as St. Frances Blue Jays. He had some good winning seasons.

He has been a Randolph Community Club member for 26 years.

In 1977 he married Irene Martindale and has one stepdaughter, Sharolyn Cunningham, of Dixon, Nebraska, and one stepson, William Martindale, of Omaha.

Meat Market

The first owner of the meat market, as far as we know, was Gus Hanssen. In 1912 Frank Bernholtz purchased the meat market from Hanssen. Frank with the help of three of his sons, Frank Jr., Victor, and Joe, conducted this business for six years.

Charlie Koles bought the market from Bernholtz and Fritz Ovesen bought from Koles.

In 1923 Harold Sherwood bought it with Fritz Ovesen and they were together for ten years. In 1927 Ovesen and Sherwood purchased the first electric refrigeration system in Randolph. Before that 40 three-hundred-pound cakes of ice a week were used for refrigeration.

In 1934 Harold Sherwood bought Fritz Ovesen out and operated the meat market with lots of help from Alfred Schaeufele, an employee. They were noted for the best home-made hot dogs, ring bologna, country style sausage, etc. There were three small trucks that sold and delivered these meats to many other towns around. Some of the early drivers of these trucks were Eugene Mailliard, Don Mailliard and Pete Christensen. Later drivers were Ray Craven, Paul Dittman, Jeff Cleveland, and others.

Some of Harold Sherwood's long time employees were Alfred Schaeufele, Leo Dickes, Vernon Viergutz, Paul Dittman, Ray Craven, Art Brown and bookkeepers, Laverne Reed, Helen Bloomer and Agnes Collier.

In 1962 Paul Dittman purchased the meat market from Sherwood. Some of his employees were Alfred Schaeufele, Ray Craven and Joe Anderson. Bookkeepers were Agnes Collier and his wife Ruth Dittman. Paul did some very extensive remodeling of the building and made many improvements.

In 1977 Paul Dittman sold to Merlin Toelle. Some of their employees were Neva Hamilton, Alfred Schaeufele, Pat Stratton, Robbie Olberding and Leonard Weseman. While Alfred Schaeufele was working for Toelle, they celebrated Alfred's 50 years of employment at this meat market.

November 1, 1983, Brad and Doris Hale purchased the meat market from Merlin Toelle. It is called "B & D Market".

This is one of the oldest business establishments in Randolph and is still located in the same building on the north side of Broadway Street. *Fern Meier*

Midway Bar

(Taken from a "Know Your Merchants" article from the Randolph Times dated August 1960). Mr. and Mrs. John Borst, both natives of Randolph, have operated the Midway Bar here for a little over two years. They

purchased the business from Glen Lingenfelter. Mrs. Borst is the former Irene Ostendorf.



John and Irene Borst

The couple are parents of four children; Carol, Carmen, Stan and Sherry at home. The Midway Bar features Hamms draught beer and carries other popular brands of bottled and canned beer. A lunch counter is also a fixture of the business.

Novelty Shop

From 1924 until 1931, "The Novelty Shop" was owned and operated by Zachariah L. II and Bessie (Gordon) Boughn who were my parents. At first this endeavor was a retail store dealing in gift items imported from Japan and China.

Some of these included oiled and waterproof parasols. As I recall, these had a distinctive aroma about them. Also on sale were prints of Japanese art, many of which depicted the famous Mt. Fujiamao. A very delightful small item was the one that resembled an English walnut that had the magical powers of opening up when dropped into a container of water and a beautiful paper-like flower would burst forth in full bloom. It was very fascinating to me as a child.

After a brief period the business was changed into a wholesale operation, manufacturing and selling on consignment, stamped goods for embroidery work, an art form that was very popular at the time. Many of the patterns were designed and perforated with a perforating machine in the firm's Randolph workrooms. All of the stamping and hemstitching was also done in Randolph.

Packages on consignment were sent to Ladies Aid societies and similar organizations. The organization kept twenty-five percent of the amount of their sales for their commission.

In a folder printed Sept. 10, 1925, for mailing to customers, many items were illustrated and prices given. Some were as follows: Buffet set, hemstitched, \$1.25; a 54 inch scarf hemstitched at \$1.25; and a cushion cover for 75¢. They were stamped on heavy tan linene (imitation linen). Porch aprons or dresses stamped on fine quality linene were priced at \$1.39 each. Colors were available including tangerine and lavender, peach and

blue, and green and rose. Tea aprons without bibs were 19¢ each and were stamped on good quality white lawn. Huck towels were 50¢. Pillowcases were a very popular item and were stamped on a good quality linene finished seamless tubing. A 42 inch hemstitched pair sold for \$1.85. Nightgowns were of nainsook, made up and hemstitched at the neck and sleeves. These sold for \$1.75. Many scarf sets were of black sateen and were \$1.35. Numerous buffet sets, centers, scarves and dresser sets, etc., were stamped on heavy white "Val Art" cloth and were of comparable prices.

A color and working chart was furnished with each piece, and all patterns in this particular folder were carried in stock until August 1, 1926.

The Novelty Shop mailing list included all of the 48 states at that time and orders were sent to all 48 states. All postage was paid by The Novelty Shop.

The business was a family business operated for the most part by family members.

After my father's health failed and his death in 1931, my mother decided to discontinue the business and sell the equipment. *Jean (Boughn) Andersen and Julia Boughn*

Olberding Bros. Elevator



(Taken from a "Know Your Merchants" article from the Randolph Times, dated August 26, 1971). Pictured above are Julius (on left) and Norbert Olberding, partners in the Olberding Bros. Elevator. Norbert has been in the elevator since 1951. The partnership was formed in 1955. Both are lifelong residents of Randolph. The firm handles all grains.

Norbert is also the Mayor of Randolph. He has held this office since 1966. Mrs. Norbert Olberding is the former Mary Ann Van Slyle, and is a native of Randolph. They have three children: Jean, Holly and Lisa.

Mrs. Julius Olberding is the former Joy Hinkle, a native of Randolph and they four children; Jule, Jane, Joedy, Jackie.

Patent Electric

In February of 1962, I, Ray Patent, resigned my position as Superintendent of the Randolph Power Plant. It was then that my wife, Gladys, and I started Patent Electric. We began by using our garage as our warehouse. This



moved into the Omaha area where he met and married Rosann Nordhues.

The Pollards lived in the Omaha area for ten years. They retired and moved to Randolph only to become active again in the craft and upholstery business.

In 1985 the upholstery shop located at 402 W. Hughson was enlarged and remodeled to include a wood working shop and an area to display crafts.

The shop is open daily 8:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. Monday through Saturday for upholstery work in home furnishings, business furnishings, automotive and marine as well as farm equipment. Craftwork in stitchery, sewing, flower arrangements, novelty items, as well as custom made items, are done at the shop.

worked until we outgrew it. We purchased our first building from Peter Milander in 1964. It was located beside Broer's Blacksmith Shop. Being by the blacksmith shop gave us an opportunity to watch an original country blacksmith at work. We were at this location for 15 enjoyable years.

In 1979 we decided to erect a new building. The building is located where the VFW hall used to be or where Abts Harness Shop used to be. As time went by we expanded to air conditioning, heating, and appliance sales and service. We feature Whirlpool Appliances. Kevin and Alice Patent are now associate business partners.

Peterson's Store



(Taken from a "Know Your Merchants" article from the Randolph Times, dated December 30, 1971). Pictured above is Charles (Bus) Peterson of Peterson's store. He has operated the store since 1933.

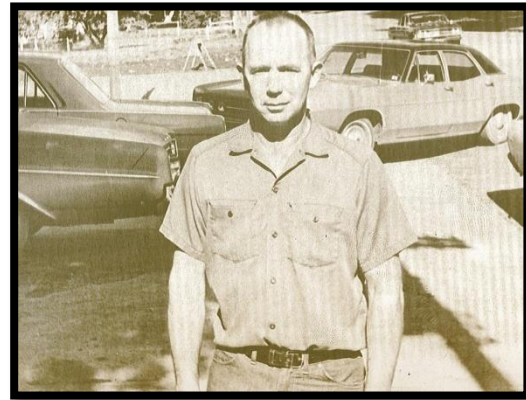
The firm offers dime store merchandise and some ladies and children's clothing.

Mrs. Peterson is the former Marcella Smith of Hartington. The couple has three children; Mick, Jim and Dan

Pollard's Crafts and Upholstery

Ken and Rosann Pollard opened the Craft and Upholstery Shop in Randolph in December of 1981. Prior to this opening Mr. Pollard owned and operated an upholstery shop in Long Beach, California. Then he

Poppe's Repair



(Taken from a "Know Your Merchants" article from the Randolph Times, dated July 6, 1972). Pictured above is Melvin Poppe. He has operated Poppe's Repair for seven years. He will also be taking over the Gillette Milk route in the near future. He worked in Laurel two years prior to that. The family moved to Randolph in 1963 from Blunt, S.D.

The firm offers general mechanical work and will make home deliveries of Gillette Milk and dairy products.

Mrs. Poppe is the former Shirley Berner. The couple has eight children; Sharon, dennis, Danny, Lyle, Larry, Shelly, Janet and Joedy.

Randolph Feed and Milling



(Taken from a "Know Your Merchants" article from the Randolph Times, June 3, 1971). Pictured above is Bob

Alderson, who has operated the Randolph Feed and Milling in Randolph since 1958. The business was started when he purchased a portable mill from the Olberding Elevator.

The business now has two portable mills for on the farm grinding and mixing of feeds. The firm handles Kent Feeds in bulk or sacks, soybeans and ingredient feeds.

Mr. Alderson has lived in the Randolph and Belden community all of his life. His wife is the former Irene Jordan of Hartington. The couple has two sons, Larry and Rick.

Randolph Oil Company



(Taken from a "Know Your Merchants" article from the Randolph Times, dated May 20, 1971). Pictured above are Larry and Leonard Keifer who have operated the Randolph Oil Company, since July 1968. They lease the business from M.C. Rosenbach.

The firm offers Conoco gasoline, Conoco and Pennzoil motor oils, Goodyear tires and repairs for cars. They also offer servicing of cars and tank wagon service.

Larry and Leonard are natives of Randolph. Mrs. Larry Keifer is the former Charlotte Berner, a Randolph native. The couple has three sons; Kevin, Michael and Johnny.

Reed's Ice Cream Factory

In 1897 two young men from Scotia, Nebraska traveled on horseback to Randolph, Nebraska, to visit their sister, Mrs. R.L. (Kate) Brown. After visiting the town they decided to locate there and enter business. These young men were George and Sam Reed.

Before coming to Randolph they had both worked in restaurants. They formed a partnership and opened a restaurant in a building later occupied by the O'Neill Funeral Home. They began first using a five-gallon freezer, later installing a ten gallon freezer. Thus the beginning of Reed's Ice Cream Factory.

The demand for ice cream was great and they could not keep up with the demand for the product. They continued in the restaurant and moved the freezer into a building which burned and was later occupied by Louis Broer Blacksmith Shop. They then moved into the building

located at the corner of Wayne and Main where the Fire Station is now located.

They bought milk, cream and eggs from the farmers of the area. They put in a small churn which later was replaced by larger and more modern machinery. Besides ice cream they made cottage cheese. They also bought a cheese press and made longhorn cheese.

George and Sam brought in a buttermaker from Denmark. His name was Jim Jensen. Tillie Idler taught him to read and write English. He married and lived the rest of his life in Randolph. Jim knew how to make good butter.

Velvet butter was packed in one-fourth pound and one pound packages for Cudahy Packing Company and was their first grade butter called "Sunlight." It was sent to Sioux City, Iowa, and later shipped to all Cudahy plants in the world.

The ice cream was known as Reed's Velvet Ice Cream. It was the best. They made it out of real cream and ingredients and not the artificial ingredients which are used today.

There were the Eskimo Pies. Remember when the kids knew they were making Eskimo Pies, they would all be there. They got to eat all the "cripples." The men working with the pies would sometimes keep count of how many each kid ate. Would you believe some ate as many as twenty?

Some of those working at the creamery were Milo Brown, Milo Reed, Frank Van Slyke, and Pete Farrow.

Reed's Creamery serviced many of the small towns in this area and of course the county fairs. They also served as a dairy store, selling milk, cream, eggs, butter, etc. to the people of Randolph.

For over thirty years the creamery served the people of this area. One particularly hectic and frightening night was when Raubach's Garage, just across the street north, burned down. A night to remember! Around 1934 the Reed Brothers sold the creamery to Fairmont Foods and they no longer manufactured butter, ice cream, etc. at this plant. *Frances Ann Hash, Ruby Munter*

Rita's Beauty Shoppe



(Taken from a "Know Your Merchants" article in the Randolph Times, dated May 11, 1972). Pictured above is Rita Van Slyke. She has operated Rita's Beauty Shoppe

since 1958. She got her license in 1942. Her apprenticeship was under Freida Larson. The firm offers permanents, haircuts, shampoos and sets.

Mrs. Russ Van Slyke is the former Rita Winkelbauer, a native of the Randolph area. The couple has seven children; Dallas, Marsha, Leon, Craig, Randy, Gail, Dan.

Rohde's Bar

Rohde's Bar had its beginnings in Eddie's Package Liquor Store which Elsie and Harold Rohde purchased in 1965. After major remodeling, the establishment was remade into a combination restaurant and bar, serving full meals three times a day.

After some time, because of Harold's ill health, the meal plans were changed into the short order variety to cut down on the time spent in the kitchen. The high school football players enjoyed several year-end victory feasts of hamburgers, chips, and 16-ounce pop provided by Elsie and Harold as an athletic supportive gesture. Several athletic teams were also treated to free pop and chips after each victory through the cooperative effort of Rohde's Bar and the pop distributors. Eventually, the food portion of the business was shortened to just the "fast food" variety when the grill was sold and the kitchen remodeled into part of the bar unit.



Elsie Rohde

Along with being supporters of the education system, Elsie and Harold tried to remember the boys who went over to fight the war in Vietnam. They had "going away parties" as well as starting "a dollar-bill coming home party collection". Each guy who went to Vietnam would be given dollar bills by his friends for good luck. He was to sign his name and the date on these bills and then hand them to Elsie or Harold to be taped up over the back bar, waiting for his safe return. When the guys came back, they were suppose to set a time for a "welcome home" party, but this has yet to be done. All of the boys who signed their bills returned, but they weren't the same people as before they left. The dollar bills have now been taken down and put away, as still another memory of another time.

An added attraction of Rohde's Bar was the backroom that was first used for small gatherings and dances and later as a game room. Many an evening was spent whirling to the jukebox, manning the foosball tables, or trying to win a free game on the pinball machines. They also had several shuffleboard matches with the machine in the front room. Shuffleboard, pool and pinball can still be enjoyed at Rohde's. Elsie continued to run Rohde's after the death of her husband, Harold in 1973, with the help of her son, Jack, and hired help as needed. Elsie took a short hiatus in 1981 and 1982 when Jack took over the management of the bar. It was still in the Rohde family and Elsie held an interest in its running. The bar was returned to her direct supervision when Jack sought employment elsewhere.

Elsie's bottle collection still adorns the walls of Rohde's Bar. You can still get "fast" food, if hunger strikes, as well as a large variety of candy and snack food to choose from. There have been a few changes in the interior: such as the addition of booths and removing the lunch counter but you'll still find Elsie Rohde behind the bar to serve your favorite drinks and chat with you. *Cindy (Rohde)Bieghler*

Tunink's IGA

Paul Tunink opened Tunink's IGA in Randolph on February 13, 1961. The home-owned business was affiliated with the Independent Grocers Association (IGA). The business was located in the building which formerly housed the Miller Grocery, one of three businesses gutted by the fire in May of 1959. The store featured supermarket conveniences with open self-service cases for all refrigerated products. The firm also featured twice daily delivery service. The Grand Opening of the store was held on February 25, 1961. Some specials were: chickens at 59 cents a pound, brown or powdered sugar at 10 cents a box, and a two-pound box of Velveeta Cheese for 79 cents. Competition was tough because there were a total of four grocery stores in Randolph at the time.

Bonnie Juergens, now Mrs. Robert Schmit, from Osmond, and Mrs. Gene (Teresa) Kaiser, were clerks in 1960. Mrs. Joe (Florence) Anderson and Mrs. Mike (Geraldine) McDonald worked in 1961. Max Lamphear, Patrick Rogers, Bernard Craven, Paul Eddie, Leon Van Slyke, Gene Young, and Ronald Korth also worked for Paul.

In November of 1960, thieves entered the IGA Grocery by cutting a hole in the window at the rear of the store. They unlocked and opened the window. The burglars were primarily interested in cigarettes, as they passed other merchandise to reach the cigarette case at the front of the store. They took 125 cartons of cigarettes and \$15 to \$25 worth of S&H Green Stamps.

Paul decided to change the name of IGA Grocery to Super Saver Grocery on January 26, 1967, because freight was too expensive from IGA. The Super Saver Gang at this time consisted of the following Mrs. Walt (Phyllis) Huetig, Mrs. Joe (Mary) Leiting, and Mrs. Gleason

(Evelyn) Landberg, working as clerks; and Fred Brandl and Larry Thieman as carryout boys. Specials featured at this time were two pounds of Wimmer Weiners for 98 cents and bananas at nine cents a pound.

Paul sold the Tunink's Super Saver Store to Barrie and Judy Braden. They took over ownership on September 1 1967. The sale involved the fixtures and stock, since Ray Craven owned the building.

Paul Tunink

Weyhrich's Skelly Service



Warren (Breezy) Kint on left, Marvin Weyhrich on right

(Taken from a "Know your Merchant" article from the Randolph Times dated December 1960).

Owners and operators of the Weyhrich Skelly Service are Warren (Breezy) Kint and Marvin Weyhrich.

The partners have operated the business since July 1, 1959. Mr. Kint had previously owned the business for five years, purchasing the business from Mr. Weyhrich's father, Henry Weyhrich. The elder had the business since 1946.

The firm features Skelly gasoline and oil, Hood tires and Delco batteries, in addition to operating a tank wagon service. Besides regular car servicing, the business features motor tune up and brake servicing.

Mr. Kint is a native of Laurel and his wife is the former Shirley Weyhrich, daughter of Henry Weyhrich. They have two children; Carolyn and Timothy.

Marvin Weyhrich is a native of Randolph and his wife is the former Margaret Shindeldecker formerly of Pennsylvania. They have two children; Darrell and Robert.

Wink's Auto Repair

"Sold to bidder #8," the auctioneer yelled! That, and many other successful bids were the start of Wink's Auto Repair owned by Robert Winkelbauer. Actually, It started seven years earlier when I enrolled in a nine-month course in auto mechanics in Omaha, Nebraska. After graduating from Universal Trade School, I worked for a short time in Coleridge at the Chrysler Garage.

After a three-year hitch with the Navy working on Detroit Diesels, I went to work for Russ Dibbert at Russ's

Repair. Two years with Russ went by fast to find me where I started this story.

The date was May 19, 1974, and it was the day Russ sold out his equipment and retired from the auto repair business. From this sale, I bought tools and parts enough to start on my own at my present location. This building was built in the 1940's by Tony Backer and is located at 122 North Main Street, between the Post Office and Kaiser's Produce. Moving in, included Sam, the cat, who strayed in while I worked with Russ. My official opening date was June 1.

The back room was rented out to the Randolph Creamery, so at first, all I rented was the front room. In November of 1974, I expanded into the whole building as the creamery vacated the back room. On August 2, 1974, I made a part payment to KW Grain on a 1958 Chevy half ton pickup which would serve as a service vehicle until December of 1976. At that time, I purchased my present service vehicle, a 1972 half-ton Ford pickup.

On April 7, 1975, I bought the building from Melvin Rosenbach. On April 20, while working on a car, it came down on me and broke my right leg. Insulating the ceiling took place in 1977, thanks to Roger, my brother, and Randy, my brother-in-law, as I was again in a cast with a broken leg from playing softball.

My primary business, to this day, has been car and light truck repair. *Robert Winkelbauer*

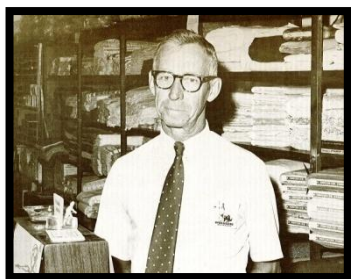
Other Know Your Merchants Pictures



Jim Sauser- Home Oil



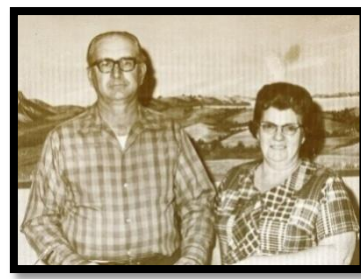
Harold Sherwood- Mayor



Roy Gibson- Gibson's Dept. Store



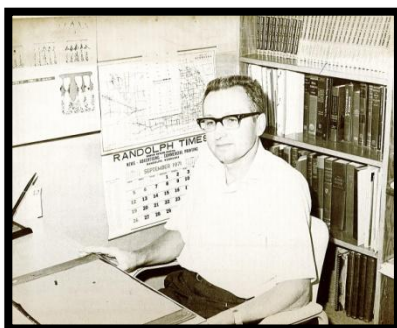
Nancy Renieke Nancy's Beauty Salon



**Dorman & Bonnie Kuykendall
Cedar Motel**



**Roger Buchanan behind counter, Jeweler
Bob Holmes, Dr. Haase far right**



Dr. Leland Peebles



**Wanda and Joe Ficter- J & W
Dairy Cream**



**Ed Kessler, Duane Purcell, John Pock-
P & M Motors**



**Eddie Danielson & Marjorie Bowers
Corral Bar**



**Joe Koenig, Great Plains
Lumber Mgr**



Dick Wilkinson-Carharts Mgr.



Jim and Sharon Riedel- Jim's IGA



Jerry Albers- Jerry's Hilltop



Kenny Rath- Tri- County Co-op Mgr.



Eileen Leise- Roxy Theatre



Dick Daws- Terra Western