

RICHLAND CENTER WISCONSIN - A HISTORY

Margaret Helen Scott c. 1972

SHIREMAN Articles

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Little businesses were numerous with a few brick buildings spotted in among long rambling and low squalid frame structures. The store fronts, with a few exceptions, were small panes of glass set in frames, some in box form extending over the sidewalk with a shedlike covering for protection from the sun. In nearly all cases it was necessary to mount two or three steps before entering the stores.

Ami Shireman's boarding house, where the Richland County Bank now stands, had many windows and doors both upstairs and down. H.B. Allen's store extended back to the alley where he had the "largest intake of ginseng in the country." John Heeran's monument workshop was in the back of Weary's feed store. The old skating rink on the corner of Mill and Church Streets, now the site of the firehouse, was an unsightly building where silk gowned and "bustled" ladies danced to Dick Booth's cornet band and tickets costing twenty-five cents were sold to spectators. West of it was Hillman's studio with its greenhouse windows facing north for proper lighting for the tin types which could be had "while you wait" or five by seven stiff backed photos for \$1.50 per dozen. The scenery stored in the back room enabled Mr. Hillman to provide any type of background desired from floral drapery to a river scene.

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Although there may or may not have been a relationship to the panic of 1907, it was a year of changes. In one week forty transfers of ownership were recorded. Fred P. Lawrence, who had purchased a portion of the Lamberson stock, rented the Chandler building for his grocery and hardware business with Ben C. Davis as his partner. A.S. Rockwell took over the Leonard studio. J.M. Shireman set up his veterinary hospital. Strang's hardware, which in 1905 had moved into the large new brick building west of Speidel's jewelry store, was now Strang and Company, interests in the business having been purchased by T.M. Brewer and A.J. Strang. Charles Knobel sold his second ward meat market to C. W. Davis. Swingle and Meyer in September, 1907, sold out to J.F. Hallada and Walter Barrett, who resold it to Cooper Martin in a couple of years. D.L. Constantine purchased the Fair Store from G.L. Hanson, who in turn bought the grocery business of Frank Lewis. Otto Seybold opened his bakery.

John M. Shireman's harness shop east of Pease's store was a busy place, at times two or three men working at the rear of the building. Fancy harnesses hung on the walls as well as whips and robes. The former Starr harness shop, now owned by Otto Kleinpell, sold luggage in addition to driving needs.