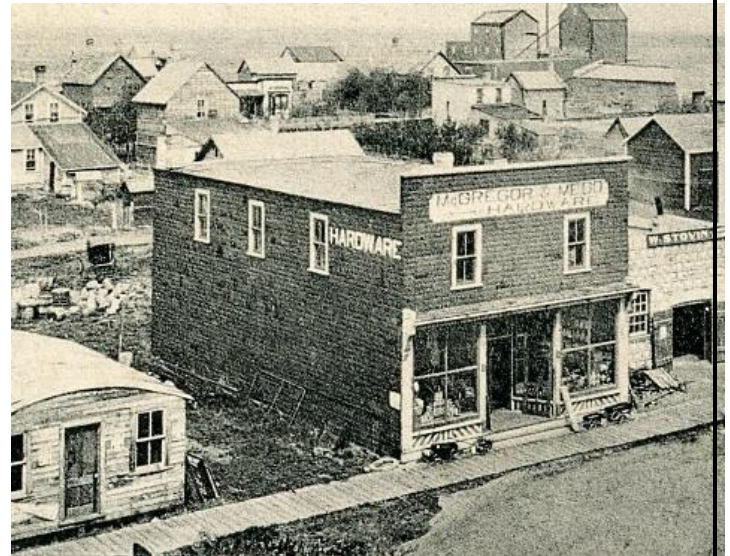


A Walk to Remember...

Block 2; Lot 20 & 21

Spencer's Store

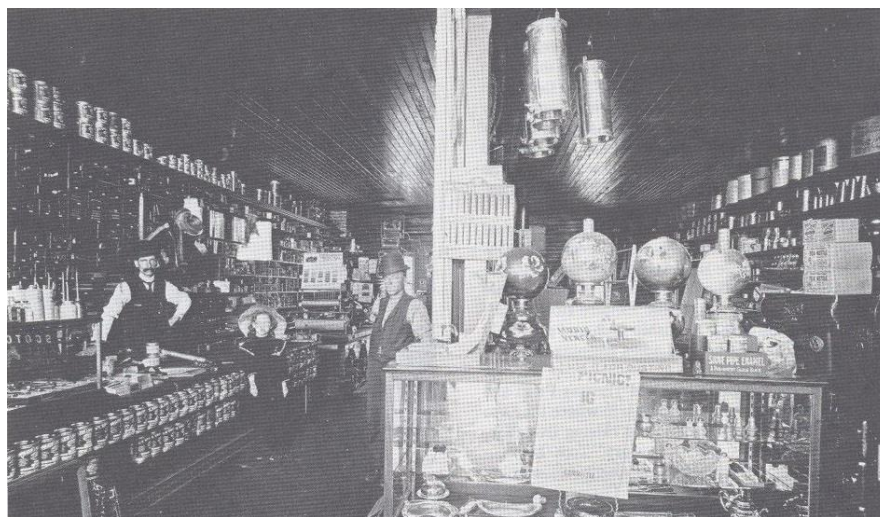
Nelson & Elizabeth Spencer, homesteaded in the Carnduff district in the 1880s but in 1903 they moved from the farm into a new home and a new venture in the growing community of Carnduff. In addition to building a nice brick residence, Nelson partnered with Matt McGregor and built a hardware store on this location. He became the first of several Spencer generations to run a store on these lots.



McGregor & Mead Hardware (c. 1909)

Mr. Spencer became the first overseer of the village performing duties such as collecting taxes, dog taxes, acting as the police, and grading the streets for the grand sum of \$25 per year. Eight horses provided the power necessary to grade all the streets in those days, slightly less than the horsepower that is utilized by today's standards. In 1907, with no money received from the sale of the farm, and now believing that 'town was no place to raise kids', Spencer sold his interest in the hardware to John Mead and happily returned to the farm, where he and Elizabeth lived well into their 90s.

McGregor and Mead operated for a short time before Mr McGregor sold his share to his new partner as well. Mead continued to run the hardware briefly before the hardware changed hands again with Rabeau & Glazier, becoming the new owners. That partnership lasted for the next 35 years. Harry Glazier came to town in 1904, as an experienced tinsmith in Stinson's Hardware. Franklin (Frank) Rabeau had been hardware clerk in town with Stinson's competitor, J.P. Shannon. The hardware continued to grow and prosper under Rabeau & Glazier, even surviving the depression but in 1940 Harry Glazier died.



Rabeau & Glazier Hardware (c. 1912)

Frank Rabeau relocated the hardware store further north on Broadway for several years before moving it once again to its final home on Railway Avenue. With the move from this location, the property remained vacant for a period of years. Wilfred Daniel (W.D.) Corbett used the building for an implement warehouse for his International Harvester agency in the 1940s. The next occupant of the property was Earl Harrison. Mr.

Harrison, a nephew of Nelson Spencer, had an electrical business which was relocated to this location for a few years in the mid-40s. In the early 1950s with the building sold, Earl went on the road installing theatre video

and sound equipment and did the upgrades to the screen, projector and sound for Carnduff Community Theatre when Cinemascope was introduced in 1956.

In 1953 the grocery store owned by Harold and Marj Spencer had recovered from a devastating fire in their store on the north end of Broadway. They bought this building and Spencer's Store moved here, nearly fifty years after the store was built by Harold's grandfather, Nelson. In the fall of 1977, the building was in need of updating and Spencer's



Spencer's (c. 1974)

needed more space. Opting against further renovation, Harold and Marj moved their grocery store, temporarily, into the Swayze's Snowmobile Shop on Railway. The original hardware store building was demolished and a new store was built.

The grand opening of the new store on November 2, 1978 was a moment of pride for the Spencer family and their legacy of store ownership in Carnduff. The store continued to grow, change and prosper. In 1981 the tradition continued when their son Kevin and wife, Gail returned to Carnduff and assumed ownership of the grocery store. While their family have now grown and moved on to families of their own, Kevin and Gail continue to operate Spencer's Foods.