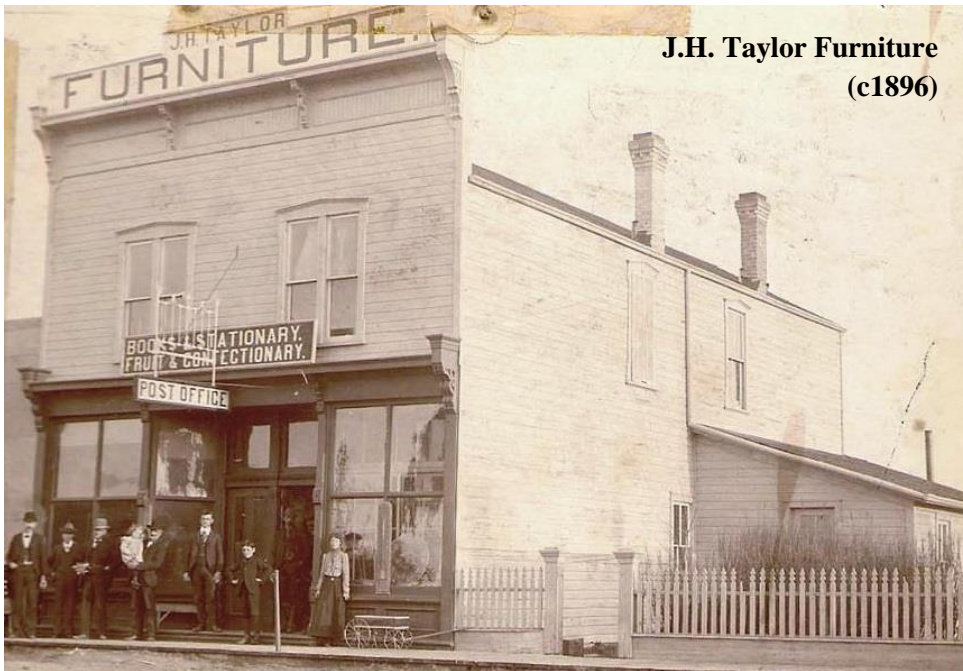


# A Walk to Remember...

# Block 2, Lot 4 & 5

# McComb's



**J.H. Taylor Furniture  
(c1896)**

The new site for the town of Carnduff was established in 1891. Among the first lots purchased were those on this location picked up by Andrew (A.H. Foulds) and John H. (J.H.) Taylor. Each constructed a one-storey building on their respective lot with just a single board partition between the two. Mr. Taylor opened a furniture store, while Andy Foulds opened a hardware store. J.H. subsequently added a second floor to his building.

The Taylor building was divided down the centre, with one side housing fruit, confectionary, and stationery. An exterior sign proudly advertised "Stationary" much to the chagrin of aspiring linguists in the community. The other half of the building was the actual furniture store where one could actually experience the first sounds of a gramophone, an Edison with cylinder records. With no speaker, rubber tubes ran from the machine to the ear and for a nickel you could listen to the music.

A.H. Foulds ran the hardware store in this building for a few years assisted by his brother, W.R. (Billy) Foulds. Billy contributed as best he could to the hardware business, and remained Andy's business partner throughout their time in Carnduff, but was impeded somewhat by deafness. With the railway contributing to growth of the town, a larger location was needed and the large stone building on the corner of Broadway & Railway was built to become the new face of A.H. Foulds and Co.

Andy Foulds and Mrs. C.S. Preston were among the first bicycle owners in Carnduff in the early 1890s. Both were able to get a bargain as store owners, but the wholesale price was still over \$100, a considerable amount at the time.

The government changed hands in 1896 and as was the tradition at the time, the Postmaster changed with it. J.P. Carnduff had served as Postmaster for Carnduff, starting in the original town site as early as 1883. Despite a petition to leave the Post Office with Mr. Carnduff, it was moved to this building in the rear of the Taylor furniture store. Shortly thereafter, an additional building was added to the west of the furniture store to accommodate the Post Office, and the other non-furniture items.



**J Horner Meat,  
J.H. Taylor Furniture  
White Lunch Café  
(c1912)**

Mr. Taylor was an active contributor to the community as a contractor, building many homes and the first large school in town. He also served as the first overseer of the community when the shift was made from hamlet to village status. Another national election in 1912 meant he lost the Post Office to the Smith Block on Broadway so a flour agency replaced it in the Taylor building. Mr. Taylor, whose services also included being the undertaker for many years sold out his stock in 1913 and moved to Alberta.

A restaurant was put in the furniture portion of the building in the early 20s and was originally advertised as the Quick Lunch. In 1927 Edward Blevins opened the White Lunch Café operating it until 1930 when he sold out and moved to Gainsborough where he continued in the restaurant business and added a small grocery store.

The White Lunch Café continued to operate from 1930 to 1945 with new owners, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Watt. Meals ranged from 35 to 40 cents and included soup, meat, 2 vegetables, and pie or other dessert, all prepared on a coal or wood stove. Despite having “a ceiling low enough to touch from the stage”, Coffee Don’s Dance Hall, operated in the former Post Office area for several years before it was converted into the first shop of mechanic Joe Boyes.



**White Lunch Café  
(c1930)**

Joe had been a mechanic for C.W.

Lownsborough for several years before he and his partner Richard (Dick) Dixon opened their own garage business, operating successfully for several years. The hardships of the ‘Dirty Thirties’ took their toll, however, and Joe accepted an opportunity to take over Hill Merritt’s garage. Walter Cottis continued to run a woodworking shop in the Taylor building for a period, but gradually the building deteriorated and was torn down.

Once the Foulds brothers moved their hardware business to their new building, their location on this site became a meat market. The first meat market operator (in the early 1900’s) was Daniel (Dan) Darroch, until he left to farm in the Vanguard, SK area. He was followed by Joe Ramsey, and then, William G. (W.G.) Henderson, who in addition to having the meat market was a cattle buyer until his sudden death in 1911.

Jack Davison took over the meat market and soon hired John (Jack) Horner to assist in the butcher shop. Horner started shortly after his arrival from Yorkshire, England in 1912 but left shortly after to work in an Estevan shop. Several years later, a more experienced Jack Horner returned to Carnduff and purchased the shop from Jack Davison.

J. Horner’s Meats became a Carnduff staple, popular with the kids who were sure to get a free wiener from Mr. Horner on each visit to the shop. The store operated until failing health forced Mr. Horner to sell out.

With the White Lunch Café owned by the Watts and J. Horner Meats both closed, M.L. (Les) Firby bought the two properties and combined them together to make an implement business. The buildings were demolished by the early 80’s. In approximately 1984 McComb Automotive Supply built and occupied their new premises here. McComb’s has been on this location since and continues to serve Carnduff & district as a supplier of automotive, agricultural and industrial parts and accessories.