

A Walk to Remember...

Block 3, Lot 1, 2 & 3

Carnduff Drug Mart

The lot on the corner of Railway and Broadway was purchased by Thomas (Cranston) Gordon in 1891 to set up his law office. The adjacent lot was purchased by Dr. Robert .J. Campbell, the first resident doctor in the community, for a medical practice. Mr. Gordon shared his office with John W. Connell for a time; Mr. Connell serving as member of the legislature for the Northwest Territories through the early 1890s. Likewise the office of Dr. Campbell served a dual purpose, becoming the location of the first drug store.

In 1898 Dr. William Turner (W.T.) Lockhart arrived in Carnduff, to replace Dr. Campbell. His drug clerk was Percy Ellis. Dr. Lockhart partnered with Mr. Gordon to build the Lockhart-Gordon Block on Broadway, relocating their practices and the drug store there. Mr. Gordon sold his small building, which was relocated to Broadway becoming the office of W.A. Smith's lumberyard. The vacant doctor's office was used briefly as a barbershop by brothers, Joseph (Joe) and Ben McGregor.

The two lots were purchased by Andy Foulds who was looking to expand his hardware business from further west on Railway. A. H. Foulds and Co., consisting of Andrew and his brother and lifelong business partner, William (Billy), built the large stone building on the corner in approximately 1898. The Foulds brothers only owned the hardware a very short time before opting to sell in 1899 to J.P. Shannon.

J.P. Shannon Hardware was in business for several years. In 1902, while owned by Mr. Shannon, the hardware became the first home of the Merchants Bank of Canada. J.J. Galloway was the first manager and after only a few months in the hardware building, the bank was moved temporarily to his residence, moving to its permanent location in the Smith's Block on Broadway in 1903.

J.P. Shannon sold out to the partnership of Olson & Bliss. Unfortunately, the hardware ran into financial hardship over the next several years and by the late 1900s the partners were looking for a solution to their difficulties. James Henry (J.H.) Elliott, having a successful general store just a few doors to the east, was looking to expand so made arrangements to trade buildings with Olson & Bliss. J.H. Elliott's after moving into the stone building on the corner, became the largest general store in the district, at the time.

After being wounded in Passchendaele and returning from service, Ken Elliot, son of J.H., returned to the family business. By this time, the store ran as three departments: dry goods, men's wear and groceries. Spring and fall 'Openings' brought in additional workers in the millinery section. Eventually, Ken took over the store and J.H. retired after being active on council and various other community organizations.

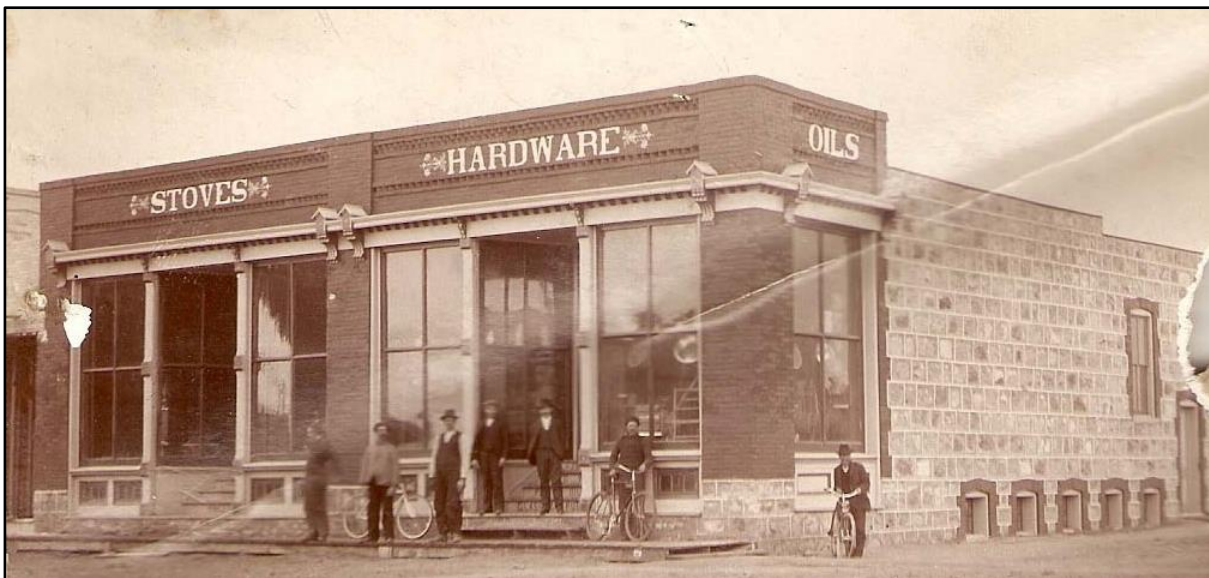
At the end of World War II many businesses changed hands with the return of veterans. Elliott's was one such business, selling to John and Cecil Sanders, brothers returning from overseas, and their father, Alfred John (Jack) Sanders who left his job with the Pool Elevator. On January 31, 1946 they opened A.J. Sanders & Sons. Initially they operated a similar product line to Elliott's, but gradually the inventory evolved to include a stock of wallpaper, linoleum, women's and children's clothing. Cecil sold his portion of the business to his partners in 1953, and moved to Toronto.

Structural changes were made to the building over time. Initially, John and Cecil leveled the wooden floor which had sagged with age. In the late 60s, changes to the outside occurred as well, with Orvil Swayze replacing the entire lower portion of the Railway facing side of the building. The entrance was moved to the west corner of the building, and the north side became a full panel of display windows. Inside two skylights were removed and the old oiled wooden floor was replaced with tile.

John took over full ownership of the store in 1965 when Jack retired. Product lines were optimized and by the late 70s consisted mainly of fabrics, sewing notions, a small supply of dry goods, and a large stock of electronics with the introduction of Radio Shack to Carnduff.

In 1978, Mr. Sanders sold the Radio Shack business to Martel's Electric and the grocery lines were sold to Spencer's, one of the other grocery stores in town. John, not ready for retirement purchased the Wawanesa Insurance agency and operated it from a small office in the back of the building for a year before selling out to Carnduff Agencies.

The remainder of the building was rented to McComb Automotive Supply. They remained here until approximately 1984 when their new building was built on Railway. At that time, Alvin and Dolores Miller, arrived from Ontario and purchased the building transitioning it into a drug store. After several successful years, the Millers sold their business to Bob and Lorna Lachambre of Estevan in 1994. The Lachambres, already successful business owners with a drug store in Estevan, opened Carnduff Drug Mart on November 12, 1994 and continue to operate the store today.



Block 3, Lot 1, 2 & 3 Foulds & Co Hardware (c 1898)



Block 3, Lot 1,2 & 3 J.H. Elliott General Store with Gas (c1910)