

# A Walk to Remember...

Block 3, Lot 3

## Heritage Building



This lot in Carnduff remained vacant while the hamlet of Carnduff which was originally settled in 1891 grew up around it. For several summers it played home to F.W. Parkin, a photographer operating out of Winnipeg. Mr. Parkin was the first of several travelling photographers who would pitch a tent and set up a photo gallery in various communities including Carnduff during the early days of prairie settlement.

Toward the end of the decade, Mr. Parkin may have dropped in for a shave or a haircut with barber, Joe McGregor. Joe, after homesteading near Dauphin, Manitoba arrived in Carnduff sometime around 1897 and started the town's first barbershop

in the newly vacant doctor's office immediately to the west. Like most barbershops, his business thrived, and shelves were filled with individually decorated shaving mugs and personal shaving brushes for each customer. Men would pay 10 cents for a shave and line up the kids to pay 25 cents apiece to have their hair cut.

The lots stretching to the corner were acquired by A.H. Foulds with plans to build a new stone hardware store on the site. As a result Joe picked up his barbershop and moved it across railway to the north side of the street. While it looked somewhat lonely and isolated on photos from the time it continued to prosper. When Joe's brother Ben decided to join him, it was time to expand and this brick building became their permanent home around 1900.

The two men operated a barbershop in the east half of the main floor, while a men's shop was established in the west half. Upstairs was the first home to the Masonic Lodge before they relocated into the old school house after 1906. The balance of the upstairs space was let to various roomers.

The men's shop was run by various individuals over the 8 years that the McGregors owned the building including Harold Kilbourne, A. D. McKenzie and finally by Ben McGregor himself. When the men's shop was closed, Jack Yee made this space a temporary location for his restaurant while his Carlton Café was being built further to the east.

After the McGregors closed their barbershop, Olson & Bliss hardware opted to downsize from their location next door and moved into this location. This location will stand as a hardware store in the

minds of most people growing up in Carnduff. Several ownership changes occurred including Sparling and Shore, Shortread, Partridge and Co., and E. J. Hunter who joined the hardware trade after selling out his milling business in Carnduff in 1911. He operated the store until his death in 1916.





Jack Heller had joined Hunter's Hardware as a tinsmith and he partnered with Charlie Lloyd in 1918 to operate the hardware for an additional 17 years when they dissolved their partnership. Mr. Heller continued to operate the business solely on his own until his death in 1941. By this time, another familiar name, Rabeau had established itself in the hardware trade in Carnduff with a business established as Rabeau & Glazier on Broadway.

Frank Rabeau opted to buy this location and merge the two businesses into one. After World War II, Frank was joined by his son, Mike who continued to operate the hardware for several decades, at times under a banner such as the Marshall Wells name, while at other times continuing to run independently. When the Saskatchewan government closed their retail liquor store in Carnduff, Rabeau Hardware became the retail liquor vendor for a period as well.

In July of 1982 the partners of Carnduff Health Supplies purchased Rabeau Hardware moving the liquor vendor to their existing business on Broadway. An auction was held to liquidate the hardware merchandise. The building was rented and eventually sold to Don Fuller of Alida. After closing his business, the building remained unoccupied until approximately 2003 when Faye Walker established Around the Corner Gallery & Antiques and resurrected the building.

This brick building withstood many challenges and changes through the decades since its original construction. Probably none could have threatened its existence more than the fire of 1923. As fire raged all along the eastern portion of this block of businesses on Railway, Lloyd and Heller stood strong and its brick exterior kept the fire at bay and from continuing in its path of destruction. It seems fitting that this building now is listed as a Municipal Heritage Property within Carnduff and will hold its place in our history for the foreseeable future.

