

A Walk to Remember...

Block 3, Lot 26

Carnduff Agencies

Originally built on this location was a large two-storey building owned by Edmund Joseph (E.J.) Huxley, who also owned the Queen's Hotel on Railway Avenue. The ground floor was divided into two stores; the north occupied by the butcher shop of J.J. Pierson, who lived with his family on the second floor. The south half was Mr. Cochrane's store. Cochrane opened his first store when the town was founded in a small building on the most western site of Railway Avenue. Mr. Cochrane occupied the south half of this building for just a short time after which the space was converted into a residence. The next merchant tenant was John B. (J.B.) Wilson, the first jeweler in town. Mr. Wilson, who served as chief of Carnduff's first fire brigade, went on to build his own building on Railway Avenue when he moved from this building.



After the butcher shop left the north half of the building became the first home of the Carnduff Gazette with Lambton Bohn as publisher. Mr. Bohn, while a very energetic young man was not so good with finances. One day Mr. Bohn disappeared and was never heard from again. Only one issue of the Gazette was missed before Mr. John Hawkes of Whitewood took it over. When Mr. Hawkes took over the newspaper relocated from this building to the second block of Broadway.

The Huxley building was home to a harness shop after the Gazette moved and for a time Andy Foulds also had his office here. The upstairs was used for a time as a club room with a pool table and several card tables. The building was moved to a lot across Broadway by the mid-1900s. After the move, a restaurant and pool room replaced the building on this site. One of the early owner's is believed to be John & Mary Walker. The Walkers, having started in the Red Onion, operated here for only a brief period before settling in the J.H. Taylor Furniture Store on Railway Avenue.

William Creer purchased the pool room and adjoining restaurant which his brother, Alfred and wife, Sarah turned into a successful business. In 1912 both Creer families sold out and moved to Alberta. By the 20s the restaurant portion of the

building had become a one-lane bowling alley to complement the poolroom. In the 1940s, Burrell Anderson purchased the billiard hall and bowling alley. Mr. Anderson sold the business to Harold Chrest in the mid-50s as his involvement in the IH dealership was firmly established.

With a pool hall later being installed adjacent to the Green Lantern Café to the south, this location transitioned into retail space. Armand Hoffart built the Marshall Wells hardware on the location. The building was purchased by Martel's Electric and in 1977 they were joined by McComb Automotive Supply. McCombs required temporary space when they were forced to vacate the Smiths Block which was scheduled for demolition. Martel's Electric bought out the Radio Shack business from John Sanders as he wound down his store in 1978 and needing more space, took over the whole building forcing a move for the McComb business once again, this time to the north end of the block.

In March 1983, Mar-Val Sewing and Western Wear, operated by Marlene Bayliss and daughter, Valerie leased space in the building from Martel's Electric. In the fall of 1985, the Bayliss family purchased the I.O.O.F. building and Mar-Val moved to that location. Susan McKennitt became the next owner, renovating the building as home to her hair salon, and later, Selections on Broadway.

In approximately 2007, Carnduff Agencies operating in the adjacent property, purchased the building. Renovations were completed to join the two buildings and Cheryl Young opened 'Travel Only', a full-service travel agency in this space which continues to operate today.