

A Walk to Remember...

Block 2, Lot 11 & 12

Creative Cuts

Carnduff relocated to the present town site in 1891. The majority of the already established businesses made the move, including the harness shop of Mr. Sam Ballentine, which was housed in a car-roofed shack on this location. Adjacent to Ballentine's, situated in the alley was the shack of Alberta Fernell, who advertised herself as a dressmaker and milliner. Mrs. Fernell later built a new shop on McKinnon (1st Street West), but Ballentines' Harness Shop remained. The building was expanded to include a living quarters comprised of kitchen, living room and coal shed to the south and bedrooms and parlour in a 2nd storey addition. On the western end of the lot he added a barn to house a team of driving horses and a surrey.

Ironically, the establishment of Ballentine's successful business was in fact in part due to the initial delay in the railway's arrival. W.S. Barker, an original homesteader at the old town location, gave up after years of frustration waiting for the arrival of the long promised railway and moved back to Deloraine. He sold his home to a more adventurous Ballentine, who quickly arrived on the scene, recognized an opportunity, and established his harness shop. His recognizable tag, marking items as being "Sam Ballentine of the Northwest Territories" garnered a reputation for quality craftsmanship in the area.

After 20 years of making harness, tanning hides and offering repair services on shoes, belts and canvas in addition to harness at this location, Mr. and Mrs. Ballentine decided that with "just too many kids" (numbering 10), more space for the family home was needed. They purchased the Gordon home and eight lots in the southwest corner of Carnduff and moved there. Unfortunately, the depression years and changing times took its toll on the business, and the Ballentines sold out the business and closed up shop, relocating to Alida in the 30s where he once again established a harness shop.

The building remained vacant for some time before being taken over by Rabeau & Glazier as a hardware store. The partnership, already established for many years, served at this location until Mr. Glazier's death in 1940. Before the end of World War II, Franklin (Frank) chose to relocate the hardware with the anticipated return of his son, Arthur (known as Mike). Its final location became the former Lloyd and Heller building on Railway Avenue, where the recognizable Rabeau Hardware rested for many years to come.



Ballentines Harness Shop (c. 1902)

Little is known of the history of the Ballentine building over the next couple of decades, by 1970 its physical appearance had changed with the removal of the south living quarters. At this point, Lew Cameron, retiring from managing the Inter-Ocean elevator, began a coin operated laundry in the two-storey building. After adding a dry-cleaning machine, the

business was sold in 1973 to Grant and Lila Forseth. The Forseths operated Carnduff Cleaners until July 1987, adding an open air car wash in 1974, which was converted to a complete car wash the following year with an addition to the building. Dry cleaning services also expanded in 1976 with a larger dry cleaner added to complement the two smaller machines.

New operators in 1987 were Bob and Debbie Martel, followed by Gwen Rogg and mother, Jean Kolb who restarted the business in the early 90's after a brief closure. The dry cleaning business was closed for the final time in 1995 when Gwen and husband, Laurel moved to Alberta. Shortly thereafter Dawne Anderson opened the first restaurant in this location with the arrival of The Java Junction. In 2000, Angie Haider fulfilled her dream of opening her own unique style of restaurant in Carnduff with the opening of the Olive Branch Bistro. The successful and renowned restaurant continued to flourish and Angie opted to expand on the opposite side of Broadway.

By 1998, Laurie Harris had established Creative Cuts Hair Salon in the south half of the building and it continues to serve the community today. After the exit of the Olive Branch, several floral businesses including the Flower Shoppe owned by Barb Paradis, Magnolia Flower Boutique operated by Breck Harris and Kurt Hanson, and Bralyn Florists have occupied the north half. After the closure of Bralyn, the present occupants, Safety Wise began offering safety training services in the building. The rear of the building also houses their pet grooming venture Pawsome Cuts & Supplies.