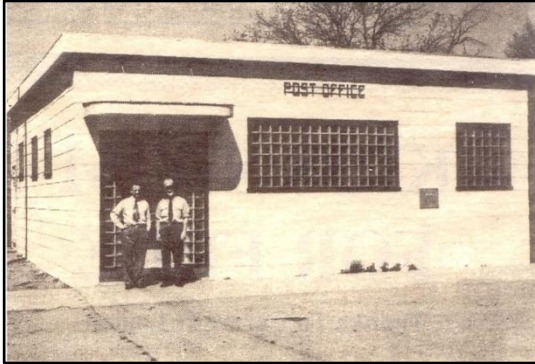


A Walk to Remember...

Block 2, Lot 10A, Plan 11751

Gazette Post News

Herb Emrick, who served as postmaster from 1940 to 1964, purchased the south portion of Lot 10 next to the alley from Harold and Marj Spencer in 1949. (The Spencers were recovering from a major fire in the store and had just bought out their partner, Herb Spencer's share in the business). Mr. Emrick selected this site to become the location of a new post office to be built in Carnduff, moving from its former spot in the Smith Block where the Affinity Credit Union now stands.



Post Office (c. 1954)

The new Post Office officially opened in 1954 and about the same time rural delivery service was discontinued. The mail had been delivered to the rural areas south of Carnduff reaching to the U.S. border twice weekly since 1914. With the growing popularity of vehicles, the population had become much more mobile and it was no longer a once-a-month event to plan a trip to town.

Mrs. Ann Davies took over duties as postmistress in 1964, serving through 1979 and during this time mail service in Carnduff underwent several changes. By about 1963, mail was no longer delivered to town by train, coming by truck instead. In 1974, the Post Office was on the move again. The building was sold to the Gazette Post-News, and mail service moved into a trailer on Railway Avenue to make room for the newspaper's operations.

The first issue of the Carnduff Gazette rolled out in September, 1900 when it became the first newspaper published south of the Main Line west of Melita, all the way to the foothills. Gordon Barnes and his brother, Walter purchased the Gazette in 1946, operating as a partnership for a couple of years before Gordon became the sole owner/operator.

After Gordon's sudden passing in 1966, his widow Ivadelle continued to operate the newspaper, with the assistance of her 19 year old son, Gordon Richard (Ric). They led the paper capably through the next 12 years, bringing changes such as the introduction of offset printing. In 1974 they purchased this building and moved the Gazette Post-News to its present location from its former home one block south. On January 1, 1978 Ric officially took over as owner, carrying on the legacy of his parents.

After 5 years, Ric sold the newspaper to the Shainline family who published the paper for several years. They opted to discontinue on-site printing as did many smaller newspapers around this time period. In September 1986 Bill and Shirley Grass purchased the newspaper. Once again there were many changes made in the publication to keep pace with rapidly changing technology. Side ventures such as video rentals were introduced, but more importantly, the move from offset printing into the computer age and desktop publishing occurred. With the assistance of son, Dave, the Grasses adopted computers, and all the modern printing accessories like digital cameras. By 1998, full colour pictures had been introduced in the pages of the Gazette for the first time.



Gazette

Shirley Grass passed away and Bill continued to operate the newspaper until 2011 when it was sold to Bruce Schwanke. Bruce, was returning to the newspaper business, after a hiatus from selling other newspapers he previously owned. In late 2015, ownership changed one more time as the Gazette became part of the Star News family headquartered in Wainwright, Alberta.

The building has received a new sloped roof and other renovations through the years to keep it modern and efficient. The Gazette Post-News still operates in the same original building which was originally built to house the Post Office in 1954.