

CHERRY VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY, 2012

First, I must apologize for an error I sent to you regarding our web site address. It is www.cherryvalley.lib.il.us/historicalsociety.html This will bring you to our link with the Cherry Valley Library. Then click on cv.historical86@frontier.com Our telephone number is 815-332-5200. Please let us know if you would like to add anything of Cherry Valley interest to it. Eventually there will be much more posted every quarter of the year.

We are looking for abstracts that we can copy. We would appreciate it if you would look for yours and bring it in. There have been no deaths since the last newsletter. We have been having work days this winter and eight of us have been eliminating miscellaneous clutter. Also, we are going through the files and reorganizing them. We hope to be more organized by May. We are still open for our posted hours.

We are contacting Cherry Valley businesses regarding a donation to our society in return for an ad in the newsletter. Our expenses are more now that we have a telephone and a web site.

The following is a continuation from the last newsletter about confectioneries. Kathryn Oberg sold the business to Charlie Robinson. The following is a letter I received from Mary Wanke (daughter of Phyllis Robinson) in April, 2006:

“I was four years old when my folks married and moved to Cherry Valley in 1946. I’m not sure but think it was in the late spring. We lived on Genoa Street in Mrs. Kling’s house. In the fall we moved up on the hill. That house belonged to Dr. Klontz.

The reason we chose Cherry Valley was because it was the only small town in the area that had a store for sale. The folks had been driving around the area looking for a store. After dad left show business he worked for his brother in Rockford. He had a drug store with a pharmacy. I suppose that’s where he got the idea to have a store of his own. He and mother met through mutual friends.

The first few years were pretty good. Of course he worked seven days a week with the store open 9am to 9pm. That brings us to all the young people over the years that worked for dad. I want you all to know how much we enjoyed every one of you. It was great how many brought their girlfriends, husbands, wives, and children back to meet Dad. He loved every one of you!

Do you remember the movies down by the old fire house? Well, that was great for business. Then the grocery stores in Rockford started stocking some of the same items we had and it was easier for people to do one-stop shopping.

That was about the time mom started baking pies and coffee cake. Dad brought a big pot of coffee with him to work. Usually Mac McFaul and Elmer Johnson were there for the morning coffee break. Soon sandwiches were also made (ham and cheese), or as dad would say “cheese and ham.” Later they sold barbeques.

When Union Hall came to Rockford it was a big shock for us. They could sell cheaper than dad could buy drugs.

Ice cream cones were	7 cents a dip
Milk shakes & malts	25 cents
Coffee	10 cents
Pie	25 cents

In the late 1950’s mom decided she must return to work. The store just wasn’t making it. Dad didn’t know what to do with himself so just kept going to the store until he finally got sick and ended up in the hospital. Mom was working for Public Aid at the time he got sick. He later had surgery.

I would take our son to a friend’s house, open the store, close at noon, run over to the hospital in Belvidere, feed dad his lunch, and go back to work. Then Dick would come and work the store and I would go get Dickie and go home.

Dad had surgery and wasn’t expected to live but he fooled us all and lived another sixteen years. He wasn’t able to go back to work, so the store was sold. I can’t remember their names.

Daddy died right before Easter in 1975. We had a grave side service. It was a warm, spring day and about fifty people came. Many were home for the holiday and were able to say fond farewells.

The service was especially moving since Christ’s death and resurrection would be celebrated the next day. Dad had given his life to the Lord about a month before he died. It was a glorious day.”
Mary Wanke

Circa 1966 another man bought the confectionery from Charlie Robinson, and moved it across the street where the Katie Burke dry goods store had been. The business didn’t last very long and this was the last confectionery in Cherry Valley.