



THE SIGN on the top of Raye's Grocery Store (above) has changed as the owners of the building have in the past years. The first building on the lot was J.A. Quinn's Farm Implements (below), as seen in this drawing.



JOHN QUINN (above) operated a blacksmith shop and then a machinery coal, implement and tractor shop replaced it on the lot where Raye's Grocery now stands. In 1954, Don Fredrickson bought the building from W. J. Roshong, who built the new building, and moved his grocery store (below) into it.

Museum covers history of store

With Oberlin's 125th birthday approaching, staff of the Last Indian Raid Museum has been giving presentations full of information about the town and buildings from past to present.

Director Sharleen Wurm said they do several presentations. Anyone with a club or other special meeting coming up can contact them for a program.

Different shows feature different businesses. Recently, Mrs. Wurm said she gave a presentation for the Decatur Professional Women's monthly meeting. The slide show and talk included pictures of businesses downtown back when the streets were dirt, featuring the building that is now Raye's Grocery Store.

Mrs. Wurm said the museum had a lot of pictures of the building from beginning to present, so it seemed like a good place to start.

The pictures, she said, aren't on display at the museum but are in the collection. The lot where Raye's now was first occupied in 1885 by J.A. Quinn as a blacksmith shop. He was energetic, said Mrs. Wurm, and after a few years, he added farm machinery to his shop and then coal.

Mr. Quinn never married. He went from a little blacksmith shop with practically no money and increased that business until he grew wealthy. He left one of the largest implement establishments in northwest Kansas.

In December 1912, Mr. Quinn died. Henry L. Murphy bought the

business from Mr. Quinn's estate in 1913. He had worked for Mr. Quinn from 1898 until 1912.

Mr. Murphy's brother bought into the business. He passed in 1938 and Henry died in 1942.

The coal, implement and tractor shop was cleared in 1943, allowing for a new building on the lot built by W. J. Roshong.

In 1944, a dealership selling McCormick-Deering farm machinery, International Harvester products and Chrysler and Plymouth cars moved into the structure and was operated by Mr. Roshong.

Ten years later, Don Fredrickson bought the building and moved his grocery business into it from the corner of Penn Avenue and Commercial Street. He made several

expansions and improvements.

The advertisement of the opening showed bread at 10 cents a loaf, half a gallon of milk at 35 cents and half a gallon of ice cream at 65 cents.

Don's Super Market, she said, was sold to Bud Kelling and his son-in-law, Bill Steinmetz, in 1985. The museum doesn't have a picture of the building when it was Kellings.

In April 1996, the store was sold again, becoming Raye's Grocery. Raye's had been in grocery business for many years at the present location of Dollar General on W. Commercial.

Many remember, she said, that Raye's Grocery closed its doors in the old store at 1 p.m. Sunday and opened in the new location on Monday morning.



FROM 1913 TO 1942, Henry Murphy ran a coal, implement and tractor shop on the lot.

