

**A Walk Down Plainview's
Mainstreet
with Kenneth Baldwin**

(from an interview recorded January 5, 1984)

Edited by
Ron Manzow

-Forward-

I wish everyone reading this could have met my Great Uncle Kenneth Baldwin. He loved his community and his tall, lanky figure could be seen walking down mainstreet almost any day after he retired from farming and moved to Plainview. His friendly manner and willing smile was always evident. He was a great spokesman for Plainview hospitality.

Kenneth grew up on a farm two miles northwest of Plainview. By cutting across the field the journey shrunk to a mile and many times that's just the way he and his brothers went to town. Kenneth attended the Burhnam country school for eight years. He then farmed with his brother on the home place. (His father had passed away.) He married my Great Aunt Naoma Staudacher in 1924 and moved close by where he farmed until his retirement in 1961. Never one to be idle, he sold silos for Madison Silo Company for many years after his "retirement". And of course, he was always involved in organizations and activities in the community. My favorite one was his job as emcee at the 1976 town meeting held in the Plainview school. But his favorite one was probably his job as President of the Greenwood Prairie Old Settlers Association which he held for many, many years.

This booklet is an edited version of the tape recording made January 5, 1984. At the time of this interview, Kenneth was 87 years young. His mind was as sharp as a tack and he traveled methodically in his mind down the streets without missing a beat. We spent a pleasant afternoon at his home. It didn't take too much persuading to get him to consent. Kenneth was always ready to help me in any way on my pursuit of collecting Plainview history.

I can see him yet as we sat around the dining room table, the warm sunshine of that winter day streaming in through the south window and his familiar voice rattling off memories of times I never knew. He was my mentor when it came to local history and on that day I was in my glory as I listened and learned. Today I pass on his stories to you so that you, too, can enjoy and learn about a Plainview that has gone before us. May you grow to love the community's past as much as I do. It is an understanding of the past that focuses us for the future. Enjoy.

Ron Manzow
September 19, 2000

List of Current Locations for
A Walk Down Plainview's Mainstreet
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Everything changes! That's why this list of places corresponding to those mentioned in this booklet has been placed here. As businesses change, these pages can be updated without re-editing the book. It means you'll have to do some flipping back and forth, but it's the easiest way to keep the booklet current!

The listings are not in order according to actual physical placement. They are in order according to the narrative.

Lakeside Packing Company- Same today
Depot-Furniture Restoration
Rest Home-Hillcrest Community Care Center
John Libinske-East of Plainview on Co. 8
Maurice Cravath-340 5th St. S.W.
Haley Place-640 N. Wabasha
Jacob Trailer Court-Edgewood Acres Traylor Court
Norman Kruger Place-450 N. Wabasha
Bob Pierce Place-655 N. Wabasha
Stockyards-N.W. Corner of 9th St. and 2nd Ave. S.W.
Turntable-N.W. Corner of 9th St. and 2nd Ave. S.W.
Kraut Factory-N.W. Corner of 9th St. and 2nd Ave. S.W.
Elevators-Between 9th St. and 5th St. S.W. a half block south of Broadway
Greenwood Prairie Roller Mills-Across alley south of Presbyterian Church
Congregational Church -Community Presbyterian Church
Laird-Norton Lumber Company- Haley Comfort Systems
Davey Saloon-Custom Electronics
Tailor Shop-Custom Electronics
Dr. Slocumb- Former Stucky Chiropractic
Landon & Burchard- Youth Center
Mack Publishing Company- Boyd's Barber Shop
Gem Theater- The Plainview News
Bates Building- Car Quest Auto Parts
Dr. French office- Parking lot behind Car Quest
Methodist Church- Plainview Area History Center
Edward's Shop- Parking lot south of Plainview Locker Plant/4th Street Gallery
M.A. Grove & Sons- Plainview Locker Plant/ 4th Street Gallery
Garage- Plainview Locker Plant/4th Street Gallery
Plainview News- Plainview Locker Plant/4th Street Gallery
Albert Erding's Saloon-Stucky Chiropractic
Harry Erding's Barber Shop- Plainview Farmers Mutual Co.
Reifkogel Harness Shop- State Farm Insurance
Butcher Shop-J.T. Varieties & Toys (two story part)

Will Lawton's Grocery Store- J.T. Varieties & Toys (one story part)
Bolton Drugstore- Clarissa's /Laundromat
Al Drysdale's Barber Shop- H& R Block
Shoe Store- American Family Insurance/ Erin's Touch of Style
First National Bank-Mallard Seeds
Hotel -Same today
Sample Room- Brick building behind the hotel
Dairy Bar-Cafe on Third
Livery-Across the alley south from Cafe on Third
Power Plant-Michaels Tie & Auto
Water Tank-North of Michaels Tie & Auto
Sparks Implement- Farm Country Coop
Chinese Laundry-Wedgewood Park near the rest rooms
George Foreman Iron pile- East side of Wedgewood Park
Creamery-Same as today
Blacksmith- Schad & Zabel Funeral Home
E.R. Cornwell Hardware Store-Greenwood Agency Inc.
City Hall-Same as today
August Hanson's House- Moved to 145 East Broadway
Funeral Parlor- Schad & Zabel Furniture & Floor Covering (West part)
Furniture Store- Schad & Zabel Furniture & Floor Covering (East part)
Brueske and Hanson- Marie's Ribbons & Roses
Butcher Shop-Ken Jacobs Phone Installation & Repair
Bowling Alley- Gopher Lanes Bar & Grill
Steam Laundry- The Golden Churn
Standard Oil- Phillips 66 (Lyons Mini-Mart)
Tin Building-Lyons Motor Co.
Lutheran Church- Immanuel Luthern Church
Veterinary Barn- Schleicher Funeral Home's parking lot
Dr. Tefft's House- Tefft Bed and Breakfast
Charley Grieve's- 125 2nd St. S.E.
Norah Boehlke- 10 W. Broadway
Car Wash
Seibert Welding and Blacksmith Shop- 1st National Bank Parking Lot
Herman Schwantz- 1st National Bank
Allaire Mill- 1st National Bank
Louis Sunquist Woodworking Shop-On/Off Liquor parking lot
Herman Hostettler Blacksmith Shop-On/Off Liquor parking lot
Small House-On/Off Liquor parking lot
Opera House-East half of ABA Water Systems Inc
A.J. Frickey Harness Shop-West half of ABA Water Systems Inc
Wooden Koenig Store-High Plains Hardware- sided part with letters
Koenig Store- High Plains Hardware- windows and side parking area
Petit Livery Barn- High Plains feed store north of the alley behind hardware store
Lumber Yard- Parking lot north of Plainview Eye Clinic
Saloon and Pool hall- Plainview Eye Clininc/Finnes Cafe

Dentist Offices- High Plains Co-op Parking lot
Cleaning Establishment- High Plains Co-op Parking lot
Sylvester Bank- High Plains Corporate Offices
Julius Erding Saloon- High Plains Corporate Offices (two story part)
Martin Schwartz Saloon- Drive thru
Duerre's Hardware- Broadway Video & Fitness
Martin Schwartz- Montgomery Reality
Undertaking & Furniture- Cassie Harrington Building- Alternative Learning School
Odd Fellows- Rebekah's
Post office- Same
Burchard and Laack Drugstore- Youth Center
Seed house- Library
Grist mill- Buildings behind Hassler Theater
Dickerman Brothers Woodworking Shop- Building's behind Hassler Theater
Seibert Blacksmith shop- Area behind Hassler Theater
Deering Machine Shop- Area behind Hassler Theater
Restaurant- Grass area east of Hassler Theater
Music and Jewelry shop- Grass area east of Hassler Theater
White Star- Jon Hassler Theater
Woodcock's House- Kleiber residence & apartment
Church of Christ Parsonage- Jon Hassler house site
School House- Same as today
Catholic Church Parsonage- Same as today

**A Walk Down Plainview's Mainstreet
with Kenneth Baldwin**
(from an interview recorded January 5, 1984)

We'll start up at the west end of town on the south side of Main street. The first that we come to is the **Lakeside Packing Company**. It started out as a local cooperative. Through lack of experience, it didn't succeed. It changed hands several times until today it's owned by the Lakeside Packing Company, Manitowoc, Wisconsin and is one of the largest canning factories in the state of Minnesota.

When it first started they did just corn. Later they added peas. This corn was picked by hand and hauled in with horses and wagons and shoveled off with potato forks. It was shoveled onto a platform and the older men, ladies, and boys that husked it for so much a basketful. The head man dumped the basket and punched their ticket every time they had a basket full. Each one had a ticket. The season started around the first of August and lasted about six weeks.

Now we'll go into the **railroad**. The **railroad yards** and the **stock yards** and things are the next. We had three trains a day. The first went out at seven o'clock in the morning and returned at 10:30 or 11 in the forenoon. It went out again at 2 o'clock and came in at five. These two trains carried passengers and freight. But the one that went out at seven pm and came back at nine just carried passengers as a rule.

And Saturday afternoon was a big day. That's when the farmers brought in all their livestock and shipped them out to Chicago on a special train. They shipped them out on Saturday night. Left Plainview around six o'clock Saturday night and got into Chicago around daylight Monday morning.

It was not unusual for them to have fifteen or twenty carloads in a day. And they also picked up stock in Elgin, Viola, Eyota, St. Charles, Utica and at Winona they fastened on to a special stock train that went to Chicago. This was more or less a pick-up train.

After the cattle had been in the cars this long with no feed or water, you didn't hardly know your own cattle when you got down there. We'd put a little hay and stuff in the car, but they usually stomped that down.

And they had two men working in the depot all the year round and in the fall of the year when they were harvesting cabbage, onions, and potatoes, and like that, there was an extra man, three.

On Saturday afternoon the **depot** was quite a hangout for people who pooled their money and telegraphed into the cities to get the score of the Minnesota football games. I'm not sure but what there was a little gambling there. They'd telegraph in at the end of every quarter or have them telegraph back here.

They had two depots in the same place. The first one they tore down and built the new one in the same place. (1914). One end was for passengers, the other end was for freight.

The **stock yards** were closer to Lakeside. Some of the early buyers were

Fred Weikel, Verne Wright, Ed Schultz, William Schultz, Franklin Durgin's grandfather. Later we had the Plainview Shipping Association formed, and they shipped the bulk of the stock after they got organized.

Some of the managers of this association were William Burnham, Charlie Greive, Roy Irish, Blake Fisk, and others. There was a building with a scales and a little office at the stockyards that they worked in. There were eight different pens in the stockyard, I believe. There was a covered shed on the north end, but the sides were open on the south.

The cattle loaded up chutes on the north part of it. There was a side track that went right along the north side of the stock yards. That was one of the coldest places in Plainview! I froze my toes there one day.

They'd mark the cattle, different times, with paint or something like that. The cattle were either driven or hauled into Plainview with horses at first and later trucks. Most of them that lived in close drove them in. I guess the stock yards disappeared in the late forties or early fifties. I'm just guessing at that.

The **turntable** was up by the stockyards. The engine had to be housed over night all the time and in cold weather, greased up and gone over, see if there was water and everything like that. And then in the morning, when the crew all got there, they'd have to turn the engine around end for end to go back to Eyota.

The main night watchman that was to keep the locomotive in shape was Lamprey. I think his first name was John. There were two chimneys on the building. One for the stove and one for the locomotive.

It was quite a job to switch everything around on the side tracks, the cattle and things then back up all the way to the depot. The elevator had grain, and then there was cabbage and onions. Sometimes there would be a special train for the cabbage and onions, too when there was most too many to put on the regular train.

Then we had the **Greenwood Prairie Truck Growers Association** organized around 1910 for onions, cabbage, potatoes, and sugar beets.

The biggest growers of onions were A.C. Woodcock and son. Their field was up there where the **Rest Home** is now. Henry Walch was out east of town where John Libiniski lives. Frank Smith and sons were where **Maurice Cravath** lives at the south end of town, and of course the smaller growers were Reed Mills, Walter Mills, John Mills, Clarence Waterman, and John Waste. Reed Mills was the **Haley place**, Walt Mills was the **Jacob tailor court**. Waterman took over his when he retired. John Mills was the **Norman Kruger place**. Waste was the **Bob Pierce place**. There was also Underwood and Ritter. A lot of people grew a few.

The big plots were as large as 20 acres. The smaller plots would be one to three acres, different sizes. They had to be weeded. It was not unusual to see twenty-five or thirty boys and girls on their hands and knees weeding besides three or four men with hand cultivators- wheel hoes, or whatever you want to call it.

Early in the season, just as quick as the ground got dry, they seeded. They were transplanted. They planted the seed and then transplanted the plants. They were harvested the later part of September, as a rule. The cabbage harvest varied on the brand of cabbage. The early cabbage, I would say the first of September to freeze

up time. They would be different varieties, some early, some late.

They also had a **kraut factory** here. That's one thing I forgot to mention. They used to contract cabbage. That was up near the stock yards, too. They cut it all up there and put it in a big silo, and after it fermented, they would can it up.

I believe it was across the tracks, north of the stock yards across the tracks. It wasn't a big operation, just a small silo. It was just one silo, I'd say ten by thirty feet. Not very big. It was made out of cement staves. I guess some of them made them of steel, like a steel granary.

For the onion field, they would haul manure from around town. A lot of people had horses or a cow or two or something like that. They'd go around every spring and load it all up and take it out and have it in a pile to cure for a year. That would spoil the weed seed germination.

The onions later got lice. The cabbage got stump rot. That came from always putting the crops on the same spot. And they didn't have any chemicals at that time to control those things.

They had three **elevators** in town. One was managed by John Boehlke, Sr. The one John Boehlke managed was the one that burnt down. The other one was the Meachum Brothers, the **Greenwood Prairie Roller Mills**, and they bought barley, oats, and corn. Mostly barley. All the other ones bought mostly barley. And they all sold coal.

The Meachum Brothers also ground feed for the farmers. And they ground Greenwood Prairie Flour, and they also ground buckwheat flour for pancakes and corn meal for Johnnie cakes. They ground by steam power- a steam motor with a line shaft. The engine was on the north side of the driveway and then there was a shaft running along the other part and then there were long belts up to the shaft.

Adolph Timm used to run the steam engine. Lee and Gil Meachum and they had some hired help. Frank Nettekoven was the head flour mill man. This flour was sold in stores and at the mill. And they also shipped some out, I think.

The other elevator sold coal, and bought barley mostly. Some oats and some corn and it was all shipped out. Meachum shipped out a lot, too. The other two didn't grind stuff.

If the barley market happened to boom in the winter and there was good sleighing, there would be teams and sleds clear back out to Main Street waiting to unload sacks of barley. They'd probably be doubled parked or something like that. You know, they'd watch the barley market. Cattle and hog market, we got to sell them when their ready, but barley, they'd store it until the price suited them unless they had to have the money or something like that.

The **Old Congregational Church**, that was later named the Presbyterian Church, is next. The first minister I can remember in there was Rev. Todd. At one time it was one of the largest churches in town. The Lutherans and Catholics were both quite small at that time. It was probably a toss up between the Congo and Methodist for the largest church in town at that time.

Then we go across the street where the **Laird-Norton Lumber Company** of Winona operated their lumber business. Fred Gilbert was the manager. That was a pretty big chain outfit for that time. The yard sold lumber, cement, lime, brick, tile. Of course they didn't have as many kinds of stuff as they do now days. The lumber at that time was all shipped in by train.

The next place down the line was the **Davey Saloon**. At that time Plainview had five saloons each one paying one thousand dollars in license fees. That was to keep the city going. The Davey one wasn't one of the top notch ones. Two of the best saloons in town were Albert and Julius Erding.

Mr. Davey was an older man. The Davey house was between the lumber yard and the Saloon. It set in there just about where the second lumber yard building is today.

The next place , Nick Weimerskirch had a **tailor shop** and pressing shop. He didn't keep in the business too long. He would also make suits. Not too many. It would cost a lot more money for a tailor made suit. Mostly cleaning and pressing. He had a family. He had Mary, Lena, and Frank. He was a widower. They lived in the back end of the shop. Then Later **Dr. Slocumb** bought that ground and tore the old building out and put up a new building where Stucky is now. Later Dr. Glabe went in there. He sold out to Dr. Glabe. Slocumb had been several other places before this one. He was first up above the drugstore over **Landon and Burchard**.

Mack Publishing Company built that building right in there, and then they bought the old Gem theater, too. The **Gem Theater** was run by Mr. and Mrs. Gardner Colby. Tickets were ten cents a piece. And you could buy a bag of popcorn for a nickel, so you could take your girl to the show and eat pop corn for a quarter!

Gardner Colby was a farmer and he had a stroke of paralyses and he wasn't able to farm anymore, so he started the first moving picture show in Plainview. Then he later sold it to Carter. The first shows were silent movies. They had a player piano some and then Ed Allen used to play, Vivian LaRock, but most later years, after the player piano came in, it was canned music. Movies were every night and there was a continued movie on every Saturday night. Go from one Saturday night to the other. The same story. Like a serial. The theater sat around one hundred people. Carter added onto it. Carter sold out to the Plainview News. The Plainview News built their first building on the empty lot, I think.

We got to the west part of the **Bates Building**. There were several different ones in there. Jac Eggers had a jewelry and musical shop there. And then there was Bill Allen, started a restaurant in there for awhile. And then Earl Batemen had his cream buying station in there, a cream and egg buying station in there. And a man named Murrison had a variety store there, too, for a few years.

Then came the **corner store (Bates Building)**, Woodcock and Oliverson run a grocery store there. That's where the woman came in with some home made butter wrapped up in newspaper. She told Bert Woodcock it was just as good as any butter if you didn't know it, but a rat got into the cream and she couldn't bare to eat it, and she

wondered if she could trade it for another jar. So Bert took it out in the back room and unwrapped the newspaper and wrapped it back up in store paper and give it back to her. Mr. Woodcock was always a hand at a good practical joke!

Later Woodcock bowed out, and Oliverson was in there alone. They were both in there to start. But Oliverson run it alone for quite a number of years. It was a grocery store. Woodcock later did a lot of cement work. Practically all of the first sidewalks in Plainview were built by him. Then he went into the onion business and then he had the see house and later the pure oil. There were about four grocery stores in Plainview at that time.

Let's go south of there, behind the store. There was a little house in there. Mrs. Lont Wood lived in there and **Dr. French** had his offices in there for awhile. Dr. Ernest and Eddie French, I believe they were both in partnership at that time. It was a small house. Manchester lived there later for just a short time. He lived above the depot most of the time.

Then came the **Methodist Church**. Rev. King was the first minister I can remember there.

Then I guess we'd go across the street to **Edward's Shop**, run by Wilfred, Clayt, and Ralph Edwards for a good many years. Wilfred was the father, Clayt was Wilfred's brother. They did general blacksmith work, and the first people in town that did acetylene welding, and welding of any kind, acetylene or electric. They also sharpened plow shares and did general blacksmith work including shoeing horses. It was a long, narrow building.

M.A. Grove and Sons had a machine shop- a farm machine shop in there that burned down. I don't know just where it was. Somewhere between Edwards and the locker plant. I imagine they had Deering and also Fairbanks-Parks gas engines. George French, in later years, he run the Deering business and Deering and McCormick were separate. Schwantz run the McCormick and French run the Deering. Then they combined the two and called it McCormick -Deering. Also he had a windmill and pump service. Grove came from Millville. He was a civil war veteran. He had two sons, Iley and Alfred, and another son, Martin, who became a doctor.

North of him, Wilfred Edwards, Doc Slocumb, and Pete Schilling put up a big **garage** and sold Buick cars. Chevrolet, too, I believe. Slocumb didn't do the selling. He had his money in the business. He was also quite a promoter of cars. He had one of the first cars in Plainview. The cars were shipped in by train. They used to call them automobile cars They unloaded them on the platform up there by the elevator. It was quite a job to get them unloaded. There used to be a big heavy platform in between Doanes and Dill- where Coop is now. They repaired cars there too. They needed lots of repair in those days. Tires didn't last at all. I think they had a pump or two out in front to get the gas for the cars.

The next place was the **Plainview News**- Bolton was in that. He hired W.G.

Mack as his publisher. Grace Dittrich used to work in there. Mit Leininger helped in there. Later Glenn Mach, Bob Mack, and Bob. Jr. Will Mack met every train with his scratch pad. He'd ask "Where have you been? How long have you been gone?" He was very nice about it.

Albert Erding's Saloon on the corner was next. It was one of the bigger saloons in town. It sold beer and hard liquor. I don't think it had pool tables. I never was in there! I didn't have my mother's permission!

He was a stocky built, medium height man. Dark hair. Not a real ruddy complexion, but not too fair either. He had a family, a boy and a girl. George and Alta. It was one of the five saloons.

Harry Erding's Barber Shop was next. He had three barbers and one apprentice. On Saturday night he had a boy in there to shine shoes. Also he had a bath tub in the rear where you'd take a bath for a quarter if you furnished your own soap! So you could go in there and get a hair cut for fifteen cents and a bath for a quarter and your shoes shined for a dime and you was ready to go out on the town for less than a dollar! Hair cuts weren't so dangerous, but shaving, that was different. That was more risky. A handy man could catch on to that. Saturday night were their busiest. They'd work til midnight lots of times on Saturday night.

Next was the old **Reifkogel Harness Shop** run by William and Albert Reifkogel. Old J.W., the father, was the founder of it. They made homemade harnesses, hand sewed harness, carried saddles, halters. They didn't make the saddles. They sold those. They also had a big white wooden horse in the show window where they displayed their harnesses and saddles on their horse. Albert Reifkogel was a city clerk and played in the city band, one of the brass instruments. William was a family man. Albert was a bachelor. They also did a repair work and greased harnesses. They sold buggy whips. There was also a shoe repair business upstairs run by Bill Rosenberg for a short time.

Next was the **butcher shop** run by William Weikel and sons Harry , Fred, and Dave. They did most of their own butchering and sold most all kinds of meat. You'd go in there, they'd had a quarter of beef on the chopping block. They'd cut you off a chunk. You wanted a pound, they'd kind of guess at it and weigh it and you'd pay for what ever they cut off. They were good guessers. They and Brueske had a slaughter house up in the southeast part of town. They had living quarters upstairs they used to rent out. I don't remember who lived there.

Will Lawton's Grocery Store- he was about the only grocer in town that stocked fresh fruit at that time. He was one of the oldest grocers in town. He had been there the longest. He had a son Arthur, but he was a railroad man. He didn't carry on the grocery business, that I remember. Grocery stores handled very little meat at that time because of the meat market and the meat market didn't have any groceries, either. They specialized. It was quite a small store.

William Lawton was a fat chubby man with a white mustache. He had quite a

hitch in one leg. I don't remember if one leg was shorter than the other of it he had arthritis or what. He had quite a limp to him. He wasn't a man to go out and get trade. He was just there if you wanted something. He'd sell it.

The **Bolton Drug store** was next. It was a double building. Also Dr. Ernest French's office was in the front part of one of those.

Old Tom Bolton was quite a large man, medium build, chin whiskers, high cheek bones and he and both his sons, Miller and John, were all registered pharmacists. They were average dressers. They weren't real dressy, but they weren't sloppy either. John was probably the dressiest one of the three. They handled wallpaper, paint, drugs, candy, school books. It was pretty handy for Dr. French to get his drugs. He'd go out the back door and pick out what he wanted. The front part wasn't quite as big as the back part where Bolton had wallpaper and paint and that kind of stuff.

And then we had **Al Drysdale's Barber Shop**. He also had three barbers and an apprentice and a shoe shine boy and a bath tub. That made six barbers, two apprentices in a town where women didn't cut their hair then, either. Drysdale run it and then Frank Taylor had both shops for a little while and then he moved from the one where Erding was to this one. That had an upstairs to it. Dr. Carpenter was up there. He had a dentist shop. He kind of had two, one above the barber shop and one above Goetz'.

And the next is the **shoe store**. The first fellow I remember in there was Herman Thom. He had one son, Lewis who married Agnes Askew. He was quite a hand to build houses and sell them, that I mean hire them built. There are three or four houses over here that he built. Not any great amount, but maybe one a summer. And he sold out to Charles Bush when he retired. His son went to the cities and learned to be a dentist. Mr. Thom spent his last days in the Cities. Then Charles Bush. Then Ernest Goetz was in there about fifty years, I guess . A long time, anyway. Then LaCroix.

They had a shoe repair man back in the back end, as a rule. Of course the style of shoes was all together different than it is now. Button shoes. Women wore shoes laced halfway up to their knee. They carried a big stock. All of them did. For a small town, I'd say they were real good shoe stores.

Then we have the **First National Bank**. For years the upstairs of the bank was the hotel. They had use of the rooms for an overflow crowd. There was a cat walk in between the buildings. Shumway had the bank first. It was a stock company. George French was quite interested in to. M.C. Fuller, Matt Duerre, then Vermilya took over, Wright Miller, Art Wempner. They sold out to Harringtons. They had the first floor and also offices in the basement. Then later years they discontinued leasing to the hotel. The hotel didn't have the rooms anymore. Then they had offices upstairs for a few years.

The **hotel**, a fellow named of Rockwell was the first hotel manager I can

remember. He rented rooms out, also had a dining room for two classes of people. One table had white linen table cloth and white linen napkins and it cost you fifty cents to eat at that table. The other one just had ordinary table cloth and napkins and you got a meal there for thirty-five cents! The high class people ate at the linen table. Lawyers, Doctors, dentists, and big shots. Traveling men, of course. It was a disgrace to their company to eat at the cheap table. The big companies wouldn't let their traveling men eat there. They had the room in the best hotel in town, and eat the best place to advertise for themselves they weren't going to have a second hand.

Mrs. Rockwell supervised the eating part. They had a parlor for the ladies and a waiting room for the men. The ladies used to go in there. It had nicer furniture and rocking chairs. Fixed up like the women would want it.

The men, the part they had, the office part and like that, the men used to sit in there and smoke and play cards. The dining was back, the south end. They had quite a little room back there.

Then of course, they had their **sample room** south of that where the traveling men came and displayed their goods. They'd come in on the train Saturday night and get a room at the hotel and get an appointment with the store keepers to come down after supper and pick out their stuff they wanted, instead of going to the Cities or picking out stuff there, they brought it down here and they picked it out down here. The drays would bring down great big trunks and unload them in there for them to show their wears. Mostly women's and men's clothes. Some hardware. Shoes, too. Mostly wearing apparel, I'd say. They had to be up to date. Then upstairs was used for hotel rooms, too.

The next one was the **Dairy Bar** that was built up to take in milk and pasteurize it and deliver it around town. Also they had kind of a restaurant in connection with it. There was Bob Hillscamp and Jim Harlan. I think they built the building, if I remember right. That was quite a bit later. That's comparatively new.

The **livery** was on the other side of the alley. That was run by S.J. Lillie and Son. They kept around twenty to twenty-five horses to lease out for hire. They also had a dray line where they hauled stuff around town with a big wagon and team. They hired out horse and buggy. Then there'd be lots of times, the traveling men would want a driver, so they'd have old retired farmers around town that would take them out into the country. Lots of times they get in here and they wanted to go to Wabasha. By train they'd have to go to Eyota and Winona and back. so they'd hire a livery team to take them to Wabasha if they wanted to go down on the Milwaukee Railroad. If the roads were good, it was about a two and a half hour trip for a team and buggy and of course the traveling man got off and the fellow would put the team in the barn down there and feed and water them and rest the team. Then he'd drive home.

The power plant was west of there. And also the city water supply. T.J. Bolton started them both. The city well was somewhere near where the **water tank** is now. Before we had a sewer, why all the stores on the south side of the store either had a back house or a cesspool draining down into the city well. Indirectly, of course.

It all sloped down that direction. I don't know what the pollution control agency would have thought of that set up!

Bolton put in the first water works and he also had the first light plant. The light plant was where Don Haime's garage is. They had a diesel engine. They also had a coal fire in there to keep the engine warm or they wouldn't get it started. The power was on from six o'clock in the morning until ten o'clock at night. There were no refrigerators or deep freezes or motors of that sort then.

On Main Street they replaced a lot of the old **street lamps** with electric lights in the middle of the street at the intersections. Before that, they had big kerosene lamps on every block from the Lutheran Church past the lumber yard. After you got both sides of that, you were in the dark.

Clarence Timm's grandfather used to be the one to carry kerosene cans and a step ladder to light them street lamps. On a real windy day, they didn't stay lit very long. They were quite a big ones, kind of a lanterned shaped thing. They were up on a post just out of reach of kids, maybe eight foot high or something. Or six foot high. Probably eight.

There were a lot of people that didn't hook onto water at first. They had their own shallow wells here. It was pretty easy to get water here in this town. Quite a lapse of time before everyone was hooked onto water. The last one I can remember, they had a hand pump down at Wedgewood Park. Maybe there were others later, but that's the one I remember. They also had a meeting room down by the town well. I think probably in the course of time, the city took over the water end of it. Just how, I don't know.

South of that was **Sparks Implement Company**. August Johnson built that for Case machinery. That's fairly new. I'd say around 1930-40. He died and Wabasha Implement Company took it over. They sold out to Harry Sparks and the John Deere People. Case built the building out on 42.

And we mustn't forget over across from the park they had a **Chinese laundry**. A China men and a rubbing board. They called him Jake Spitz. I don't know what his real name was, whether he was a spitter or what, but they called him Jake Spitz, the China men. He used to do family wash. It wasn't very high toned. High toned people would have a washer woman come in. This would be old bachelors around town.

Later **George Foreman** had a big iron pile there. He piled it up until World War one and there was a big demand for iron and he loaded it all up and shipped it out of town on gondola cars on the railroad. They had sides on them up six feet high and no cover on them. Open freight cars, I guess you'd call them.

The **creamery** started in 1900 by the University Extension Department who sent a man out here to talk to different farmers around their neighborhood guaranteeing milk from so many cows to come to this creamery. They had to have so many for it to pay to start.

And when they first started, they used to bring whole milk in here and they'd

separate it. And they'd make butter out of the cream, and the skim milk they'd take home and feed to the pigs and calves. They didn't have any cream separators on the farms then.

Mr. Lund was the first butter maker I remember. They didn't have enough milk in the winter to pay to hire a butter maker, but he was a very good butter maker so they kept him. They were afraid they'd lose him and he'd get another job somewhere. The power for this was furnished by steam engine and they used to haul the ice from the Whitewater to refrigerate their cream and butter.

Andrew French worked with the extension people. It was a little old wooden building that was down below where Deb Hassig lived at that time. They built the new one in the twenties and they also incorporated at that time. Before that, nobody owned it. It was a cooperative deal. They bought the land from Amy R. French and her mother. And they bought several houses since.

When the farm separators became popular, they changed. They didn't separate the milk anymore. They just took the cream and made butter of it. The farmers brought the cream to town.

Then they put in anew drying machine, They tried bringing whole milk in in ten gallon cans. They separated the cream out and made butter out to it and dried the skim milk. This went on for awhile until they got bulk tanks and started hauling it in in bulk trucks. The cans were, a lot of them, hauled in trucks, too. Of course after they got bulk tanks, they all had to be hauled in trucks.

Today they're turning about 700,000 pounds of milk a day (1984) One of the largest home owned cooperative creameries in Minnesota. They also handled all sorts of feed seed. There used to be fertilizer, but not anymore.

Sam Purvis and sons George and Jim were next. They did general **blacksmithing** and horse shoeing and sharpening plow shares. That was a wooden building. Medium sized. It wasn't too big.

Next was **E.R. Cornwell Hardware Store**. He handled all sorts of hardware, plumbing. He had a tinner. He had one son, Glenn. Glenn worked in there some, but he wasn't interested in it. So when the old man died, why Ralph Murray took it from Cornwells. Carpenter and Goetz went in after Ralph Murray. The Masonic lodge had their lodge room upstairs for years.

Cornwell was an old Civil war veteran. If you come in, it was alright. He waited on you. But if he was down by the stove telling war stories to some of his old comrades, he didn't hardly have time to wait on trade. He done alright. Those old civil war veterans, he had an old wood stove or coal stove, and they used to sit in there around about like we sit at Komisars. They had a lot of fun.

City hall was built in 1910 with fire hall right beside it. It also had a jail in back of it. Two cells and barred doors. There was a dance hall upstairs in the city hall. They had creamery meetings up there, Old Settlers meetings, different public gathering. Down stairs they had the library, reading room, office and toilet.

Before they built the city hall, there was a vacant lot in there. I remember that. I happened to be up town when Abe Leatherman had eight horses in there digging the

basement for the city hall. The horses scraped it. A scraper and horse scraped it out, dumped it, and come back in to take another load out.

Next to it was **August Hanson's house**. A big square house. It was later moved to East Broadway. I think that was where the funeral parlor was.

I believe the **funeral parlor** was built by the Burial Association. I'm not sure. The east part, where the furniture part is now, that used to be Fisher's Bakery. He was one of the first men in there. It was turned over into a restaurant and a pool hall for awhile. And then there was a one chair barber shop in the front end.

The first one to go in the **furniture store** was Art Becker and then Mike Foley was in partnership with him and then Foley and Johnson, and then Johnson and Schrieber and Johnson and Shad.

Brueske and Hanson were a lot like Weikels. Gus Brueske done the butchering and August Hanson run the store. They had a chiropractor upstairs at one time. When Nichols went in, he lived up stairs. Nichols had a grocery and meat store. Nichols retired and Krause run the store, and Nichols bought Brueske out.

The little building next door, Gus Brueske had a little **butcher shop** in that. It was about half as long as it is now. That was before he built the brick one around 1898. He was in there alone. He'd go out butchering, he'd close his shop up, and then he'd bring the meat in and cut it up. Then Bill Rosenberg had a shoe repair shop in there, too. The Chris Tock was in there. He was in there before Rosenberg was.

His wife was a self made Lutheran preacher. Great hand to go to the funeral of her friends and give an eulogy service. She was really good. She was a good hand to give readings. She was a great giver of reading. She used to come out to Farmers Club lots of time. A real nice couple.

Then Earl Lehnertz was in there a short time before Pierce. He had kind of an electrician, radio, and general repair. Something like that. General repair of electrical goods. Then he went across the street and started an auto repair shop and Pierce bought him out. He had his repair shop there until Komisar took over.

Then Clarence Timm built the **bowling alley** on a vacant lot. The bowling alley and restaurant combined. It wasn't the first bowling alley. Marcus Melendy had a bowling alley and Stillman had one upstairs above Askews or some of them stores. I thank Jake Eggers had one up there, too. Either that or he worked for Marcus.

On the corner was the **steam laundry**. E.J. Kuehl. It was a saloon first, Richmond Saloon. Modern Laundry. It was in business quite awhile. The building stood empty and Kuehl went into the Standard Oil truck delivery until Howard Steffen took the building over and they had Allis Chalmers in there. Then the old Richmond building was torn down.

Then Howard Steffen sold out his Allis business and he kept the Ford business in the same building. Geo. Kruger was working for Steffen and he started across the

street there where the First National Bank is.

Standard Oil was a swamp. Henry Gray filled it in and put an oil station there. That was the first thing. An old couple had a house in there. Just a residence. They tore that down. It was a regular swamp there. They filled it in and put in a station.

The **tin building**, Sparks put that up to store machinery in. It was an empty lot.

Then the **Lutheran Church** and **parochial school**, which was south of the church. The youngsters, the parochial children graduated from eighth grade and then had a full-year of German School. I guess they taught other things but parochial was the main thing. Rev. Drew was there for a long time. He taught both. He taught it in German for awhile. And also preached in German. Later he had to change over there was so many of them that didn't understand German. It was hard for him. They said he was always getting mixed up with the German and the English. Which I could see, very easily because he was way past middle age. It was probably around World War one.

There was one time, a store of any size in Plainview, they had to have one man or woman that could talk German. In Koenigs and Cornwells, any store of any size at all. There were quite a few of the old country people that couldn't talk English. There weren't too many Swedish too close to Plainview. They were more off Beaver way.

Old Man Cornwell was from Georgia. Old man Cornwell had Fred Petrich and Henry Binder. Fred Petrich in ready to wear stuff, and Henry Binder in the grocery part. They were both German. Old Man Koenig and his two boys and two girls were German. They spoke German clear up to World War One. After that if you talked German you were "pro German". A lot of the older people that had always talked German tried their darneest to speak English. It wasn't the best of English but it was understandable.

They tore down the old church and I believe they taught these parochial classes in the basement. And I believe they tore down the little school house out back. I think they tore them both down when they built the new church. Then they built the other school.

Dr. McClure- he built a **Veterinary barn** and dealt in vet trade and buying and selling horses. He had a brother in Michigan that used to come here and buy horses and ship them back to Michigan. Jim McClure, his name was. Doc's name was Fred, I think.

And then we get **Dr. Tefft's house**. That was his residence and also his office as long as I can remember. Maybe when he was a younger man, he might have had an office down town. One of the show places of town. I believe Ovid Murray bought it of Tefft. It sat empty for awhile. Tefft's wife was a Gibbs. They had a lot of land up by **Charley Grieves**. That used to be cow pasture years ago. The circus come to town they used to show there, and then they had kids ball games there, and cow pasture. Gibbs owned it. It's called the Gibbs addition.

Tefft's had that whole block except one house in the corner and 42 took that.

Tefft had where **Norah Boehlke** used to live. Charley Boehlke's mother built that. She came in from the farm when Charley got married.

Then there was a house in there where the **car wash** is. Lill Bemus was in there and she had trouble with the neighbors chickens getting over in her garden. She was a crack shot so she warned her neighbor several times to keep their chickens out of her garden. She didn't do it, so Lill took her 22 rifle out and shot one of the old hens in her garden. Lill took it over and threw it over on the neighbor's porch and said, "Here's you chicken for dinner. And if I have good luck, you'll have another for supper!"

That Lill Bemus was something else. She was an old maid that lived there with her mother. She used to alter clothes and press in her home.

Siebert had a **welding and blacksmith shop**, a little one. Then there was **Herman Schwantz** had a McCormick machine business, also sold De Lavale cream separators, windmills, pumps, had a pump service. And then he sold out to Reiters and they expanded and took the little shop of Sieberts and put in two good sized stores where the First National Bank is. He didn't build them all at one time.

Schwantz bought the old **Allaire Mill**, a wind mill. I can just barely remember that. Who run the feed mill end of it I don't know. And they also had a great big mill out at Potsdam. They used to grind feed with.

The first one in the next block was **Louis Sunquist Woodworking Shop**, right on the corner. He repaired wagon wheels, made wagon boxes, larger items of wood. In the summertime, it was quite a job to set those wood wheels. They'd dry out. Then you had to take them apart and take a piece out and shrink the steel rim. They were pretty busy in a dry year. He did lots of work. He did cabinet making, too. He worked alone.

The next one was **Herman Hostettler Blacksmith shop**. He and his two brothers ran it and did most of the horse shoeing in the community. Edwards didn't care to do it. I suppose Purvis was gone. He was an old man when I remember him. In an icy time there was a string of horses waiting outside to be shod. They'd work night and day and had a keg of beer in the shop for refreshments. They was all drinkers. They also did general blacksmithing and plow shares.

The next place was a **small house** that Mr. Glaesmer used to live in there. Then it was later, when he passed away, G. A. Stoltz bought it and had a Minnesota Farm Machinery shop office in there. He had it (the machinery) across the street where the city hall is, in the vacant lot. He didn't have very much machinery. It was made up in Minnesota State Prison. Same as it is now. Then he went in the bank.

Later they tore out all those buildings and Plein Auto Company went in there. Joe Ley, George Plein, Pet Ley and Galliger. They sold Ford cars.

The **opera house** was next. It was built by the G A.R. Grand Army of the

Republic Lodge. Civil war veterans retired. 1890. Then it was the Royal Neighbors bought it. After the old fellows got so old, why they give up. Woodsman was the main lodge. Royal Neighbors was the ladies. They remodeled it and made it into a balcony. They used the balcony when they had over flow crowds. They'd put them up there.

That was the main place where they had public meetings like Old Settlers, creamery meetings. That was before the city hall was built. And they had roller skating in there and used to have home talent plays and used to have vaudeville shows come to town. Christy Olbrecht and what have you. They had graduations in there too. Just a general public meeting place. Christy Olbrecht used to come here every winter and stay for a week with a show every night. A different show every night. He had two girls, two boys and he played the violin. His two girls played wind instruments of some kind, and that was quite a novelty for girls to play wind instruments in those day.s.

There were dances there every Saturday night after the band concert. Exhibits in there during the Street Fair. Also had a baby show there one year.

There was a little entry way there, two doors. One door you went down the east aisle and the west door you went down the west aisle. There was three rows of seats. The wide row was in the middle, and the two on the sides were narrow. The ticket office was there. I believe they had racks or hooks inside for coats. The entry way was a pretty small place. Just seems to me they had a rack for part of them, and the rest they hung on hooks.

The next one was **A.J. Frickey Harness shop**. He took over when his father retired. His son didn't take over. His son was an electrician. George. He had two daughters, Florence and Jesse. He hired a harness maker to help him and he had about the same line of harness, halters, blankets and robes. Horse material. He wasn't as big as Reifkogel, but they both had up to date harness shops.

Then we run into the **wooden part of the Koenig store**. That was the original Koenig store . They have moved over when they built the new one. They had furniture and undertaking in part of it and sold hardware in another part and I guess that was about all there was until you got over to the main store. That was three stories high. The cellar was used as a store room for merchandise shipped in by the carload. Koenig had money. He bought his stuff by the car load to get a better deal.

On the first floor he had a shoe department. Men's ready to wear department, socks, etc, on the other side he had ladies ready to wear and cosmetic goods and material or dress goods.

On the north side he had a big grocery store with office in between.

Upstairs was James A. Carley law office, the telephone company had an exchange up there. Dr. Moore had accouple of rooms for a dentist, there was a millinery shop up there, Theodore Sax had a photograph shop with sky windows for lights, and if the sun wasn't shinning, you couldn't take a picture.

We went to town one day, when my dad died to get a family picture. It was a shinny day like today, before we got to town, it was clouded over. We had to go home and come back another day.

Theodore Saxe was in there, then R.K. Stebbins, George Lutz, all

photographers.

Later Koenigs sold out to Schad Mercantile Company and then they sold out to Farmer's Store. They had a bowling alley in there, Mabel Wood and Mabel Herman had a little restaurant in there. It had various uses. It was the largest store in Plainview. Koenig, the two boys went to Sioux Falls in the whole sale grocery business.

Petit livery barn was behind the Koenig building. He had about the same kind of a line up as S.J. Lillie did. Then in later years, S.J. Lillie run them both. And we don't want to forget, they had the hearse in there, in Petits. They had kind of a box stall or bin set off from the rest to keep it nice and clean.

Across the street John Becker had a **lumber yard** there for a few years. It wasn't too big, and it didn't last too long. Laird-Norton was a big outfit, you know. They'd undersell him and get him out of there. When he got out, they'd put the price up. That's business. Plein Auto Company went in there later.

Then there was Kick Mulcahy had a **saloon and pool hall** where the pantry and parking lots. That was the saloon and the other was the pool hall. Both of them were ram shackle buildings when Mulcahy was there and finally they were built up. I don't know who built them up. The saloon had different owners. No one stayed there very long.

Dr. Carpenter had **dentist offices** and the **cleaning establishment** was north of the bank.

The Sylvester bank was the main bank of Plainview at that time. That run until 1924, the year we was married and then it went broke. E..L. Sylvester skipped out. G.F. Sylvester, Art Kennedy, and G.A. Stoltz. Probably twice the size of the other bank at that time. They also owned the post office and rented it.

Next to that was the **Julius Erding Saloon** and dance hall upstairs. When they voted the town dry, they sold that out and put a drugstore in there. Rohweder and Miller was in there, I believe. Christgau and Douglass had bought out Bolton and they moved here in later years. Rohweder was a good druggist. Ran a nice drugstore. Both were pharmacist. They also kept the dance all upstairs, but used it mostly for a storeroom.

Then there was **Martin Schwartz** saloon there. The city liquor store was there too, and Francis Peters was manager. When liquor came back to town, prohibition was over, why they didn't have any more saloons. They just had a city liquor store and Frank Peters managed it.

Then came **Duerre's Hardware**. He had an up to date hardware shop. Tinning, Plumbing. General hardware store. Duerre got more business than Cornwell. Then his son Donald took over and Tom, too, later. Dr. Smith had his dental office

upstairs.

Martin Schwartz had a saloon in the west side of Duerre. It was a little wooden building. There was other men in there. I don't think he was in there too long. Henry Oliverson bought that building. He had a mortgage on it or something. He tore it down and put Grace Oliverson's dress shop in there. Then Old Henry run kind of a grocery and things in the other store that was originally the Nelson store.

There was an **undertaking and furniture store** in there before Oliverson. The Odd Fellows sold the Bates building and he moved out. Then he rented different ones. Upstairs was the Masonic Building.

The Odd Fellows built the building where Geo. Dickman had Men's clothing. They had lodge rooms upstairs. Dickman was in there for a good many years and Timm and Tanner took over, but they wasn't in there very long. Then Louis Mann took over. They all had men's ready to wear merchandise. Then Chris Carter came in.

The **post office** was Cornwells grocery part. T.A. Askew was manager and when Cornwell died, he took over. His wife was a niece of F.J. Cornwell.

F.J. Cornwell was short, stocky, white beard. Not too long, a trimmed beard. He kept it trimmed. White haired and white beard. Very dressy man. A southerner. Why he came north I never knew. He came north after the war, I guess. When he got older, he got in contact with his niece, and Mr. and Mrs. Askew moved in here and they run the store. Old Cornwell used to set out front and visit with the customers.

One part was dress goods, ladies ready to wear. The other part was grocery and shoes. Dave Leonard managed the shoe department. Henry Binder managed the grocery department. Fancy stuff, bedding and yard goods were in the other side. They had a display of dishes in the basement. There was an archway between the two buildings with the office in the middle.

Then **Burchard and Laack Drugstore**, then Burchard and Reiter, then Rohweder and Miller. Dr. Slocumb had his office upstairs. Then Eggers had his grocery store in there when they moved the drugstore down where Erding's Saloon was. Burchard had quit and went into the seed line. He was a State Representative at one time. More or less semi-retired. He always had the seed business, even when he had the drugstore. Henry Eggers was quite a hand to run it for him. That I can remember.

The **seed house** was across the alley in there. Then Langhams had an egg buying station in there. Egg and cream station. A shack. Then came the seed house next. This is the seed house Woodcocks bought out. Eggers also had the egg buying station.

Seed buying, there used to be lots of clover seed raised in these country years ago. They bought and sold clover, timothy, also oats, barley, and wheat seed. But their main business was buying and selling clover and timothy seed. Buy it in the fall, store it over the winter, and sell it in the spring with the price raised. That's where Woodcock made a lot of his money.

Across the street was Siebert had a small **grist mill** there.

Next to that Dickerman Brothers had a **wood working shop**, Fine woodworking. They were also musicians and had their own dance orchestra. They done more of the finer woodwork.

Siebert had a **blacksmith shop** there. He built that building himself. Sam Lance was his blacksmith. L.J. Hardtke didn't run that. He just built it and financed it.

George French used to have a **Deering Machine Shop** next to it beside the pump business. U.S. Cream separators. All kinds of general business.

On the corner was a **restaurant** and kind of a rooming house upstairs. Mrs. Schmidt had that first and she sold out to Rob Jacobs and his wife. They was in there quite awhile. Jacob's Restaurant, I believe. Then they had rooms upstairs. Like people working around here a short time would hire a room there and then they'd eat downstairs. Then they had that living quarters. Like people working in the factory through the season. They used to have a lot of people come over from Wisconsin to work in the canning factory years ago. They knew how to run the machinery and that kind of thing.

When they were building buildings here, the outside contractors would come in and there'd be a place for them. They didn't have cars then to run back and forth.

The lean to next to it, Henry Eggers had a **music and jewelry shop** in there too before he went across the street. Later it was converted over into a ladies dress shop. Anna Stephans run it. Vera Smith's dress shop from Viola had it. Schultz bought it and tore it down.

Dick Damoude had a residence between there and Schultz. Mrs. Schmidt ran the **White Star**. She went out of the corner restaurant and she just run a boarding house and rooming house. It wasn't a public boarding house. She just took borders by the week. They ate there. That was the Dick Damoude house.

Next was **Woodcock's house**. That's the site of the former Watkins home.

Then came the **Church of Christ parsonage**. The church of Christ, that was a smaller congregation. Burton Hoffman was a minister there at one time. They never stayed very long. They were supply preachers.

The **school house** was next. That land was donated by J.J. Butts, a city block provided it was always used for school purposes. That was a two story wooden building and in 1903 the new school was built. That had no auditorium in it, so they fixed up the attic in it to play basket ball. It wasn't built strong enough for big crowds so it was, nothing ever happened, but the floors used to vibrate. They did put more supports in the middle after that. In the rooms underneath.

That burned in 1924. It burnt in the early morning. They had school in different churches and lodge halls the rest of the year, and I believe until Christmas until they had the new school house ready. High school was in city hall. They had to acquire a lot more houses when they built the 1957 addition to the school house. Army R. French was superintendent for years.

The Catholic Church parsonage was next. Father Murray was the first priest I remember. He was a tough one, I guess. They had the wooden building and they moved that across the street and used that as a parochial school for three or four years. Then they built this brick church on the north side. They had to re-point the whole church a few years ago. The mortar kept giving out on it. The old church was moved out of town and used as a Club Hall. They had sisters to teach the school, but when they had to hire them and pay them, they closed up.

(End of the interview.)