

# MEMORIES

(Earl Shinn recently persuaded C. L. Teel to write a history of Mentone, and we are indeed grateful for the following excellent response.)

The wrecking of the old Hotel Building takes us back in memory to the time when Mentone was born, when the largest thing in the place was a large wooden windmill derrick that stood in the corner of a field just where this old hotel building is now being razed. As the writer recalls it, the well beneath this derrick became the town well.

It might be well at this point to mention the naming of the town. "Tucker" was the first name suggested for our town. The name of Mentone, I'm told, was suggested by a small girl named Flavie Underhill, later the wife of Carlin Myers and was taken from Mentone, France. Inasmuch as Carlin Myers' father, together with Albert Tucker, Sr. and a Mr. Hackerdorn were instrumental in getting the town located here and due to Carl's regard for this lady the name she suggested was chosen and our town became Mentone. This is the story of the naming as told to the writer.

old barn was the sight of a thriving business. Hundreds of the country's best horses were taken into this barn later to be shipped to the large city trucking centers. To the east of the old hotel and facing Main street and extending to the alley at the old Gazette office, now occupied by Mentone Produce Co., was a row of wooden structures occupied at one time or another by Manwarings general store, the Tipton Harness shop, the Teel & Miller butcher shop, the Belle Moltenhour Milliner store, all of which buildings except the room now occupied by VanGilder Dentistry were destroyed by fire Feb. 2, 1906. Just to the south of the present Farmers State Bank building was a small frame structure, still standing, the first home of our telephone exchange. Through the efforts of about a hundred men, some rope and wrecking hooks, this building was saved from fire which destroyed the buildings in this half block.

Crossing Main street north, we have what was the first really permanent business building of the town. Known as the Banner Block, extending in part from Broadway on the west to Morgan street on the east. Among the first occupants of these business rooms was the Forst general store, now occupied as a drug store. The Forst store was the first store in town to be lighted by

was E. M. Eddinger, later the banker. Then there was the Lash stave mill, the Mollenhour and Moon sawmill, the Fitzgibbons boat car factory and the grain elevators, all of these being located in the block south and west of the depot. Next to mention was the large band saw mill of Val Brown and Son, located just north of the present Moltenhour sawmill. Next to the north-west part of town to the Manwaring box factory where the first egg case that the writer ever saw was built. This factory was destroyed by fire some years later.

Other places of interest were the old M. P. Church which stood where Ray Rush now lives. The building was removed by L. P. Jeffries to its present location and is now Stanfords garage. The first Baptist church building now replaced by the beautiful new structure stood on the site of the present building. The Mc. M. Forst building (called Mery-Go-Round) was moved to its present location, the Dana Starr residence on Main street and the Church of Christ building was erected in 1909. The old M. E. Church building has taken its place, too, in giving Mentone three fine church edifices. There was the old wooden school house that stood where the old brick structure stood which recently was

ip Bowman, hotel prop.; John Johnson, lawyer; Mace Wertenberger, hardware; Melvin and Allen Milbern, hardware; Nash N. Latimer, hardware; H. D. Pontius, monuments; Philetus Leiter, carriage maker; John Welch, livery; Henry Mills, barber; Louis Salinger, clothing; Riley Ralston, carpenter; Loyd Dunlap, carpenter; David Diltingham, carpenter; Roland Ferry, electrician; Chas. Casad, acrobat; John Lee laborer; John Sellers, drugs; W. B. Doadridge, drugs; R. Rallsback, undertaker; Wm. Clark, general store; C. L. Ernsberger, drayman and lumber dealer; S. S. Mentzer, general store; Sociates Martin retired farmer; C. M. Smith, publisher; Jack Tipton, harness; John Clark, mason's helper; Frank Bowman lawyer; Ernsberger and Mills alone surviving this group.

Who lives now that can recall the old mud streets, the town sprinkler to keep the dust down in dry weather, the cisterns in the street intersections as a water supply to fight fires, the old pump to fight fires pumped by teams of men on either side of the pump, the arched street lighting system, and before that the carbon lights at street intersections, the open toilets and swarms of accompanying flies, the hitchhacks, the people now dead who came into town in the buggy or the wagon to visit or do shopping, the old



ted by the Manwarings on the present site of the Farmers State Bank Building. The hotel building followed soon after. From this time on buildings sprang up so fast it is hard to recall at this time the succession in which they came. There was a row of frame business buildings extending from the Ellsworth shoe shop north to the corner and west to Byron Linn's repair shop. Included in this row was the Old Opera House built by Wm. Mollenhour. The W. W. Kimes building occupied for many years by Warren Kimes' Store. Up and down and in and out in this row, for many years the town's saloons thrived and failed. This row was also the chief home of the restaurant business. Probably more meat has been sold in the rooms of this row of buildings than any place in town. The Farmers State Bank had its origin in one of the buildings now being wrecked. South on Broadway was the Kintzel boarding house later occupied as a home by the Aurelius Vandermark family.

Crossing Main Street there was also a row of wooden business rooms extending from Broadway on the east to the alley on the west. This half block was occupied at various times by grocery store, meat markets, etc. . . . L. P. Jefferies had a furniture store in the building next to the alley in what was known as the Robinson building. This half block of wooden structures was destroyed by fire February 2, 1902. At the west of this block facing Main and along Tucker street stood the old livery barn, the present site of the Sinclair station. In its time this

by electrical fusing of two carbon sticks. Next to this room, now a cafe, was a skating rink. Next was the N. N. Latimer hardware store, now occupied by Hill and Lemler grocery. The writer is uncertain as to the earlier occupancy of the next three rooms but L. P. Jefferies, Furniture, The Big Drug Store and the Milbern Hardware were some of the earlier occupants. The room which is now the Cooper Store was the First National Bank for a number of years.

Crossing the alley and now occupied by our telephone exchange and the barber shop was the D. W. Lewis dry goods and grocery store. Farther along on the corner was the old Creamery building now the dental parlors and home of Dr. F. B. Davison. At the rear of the Forst building was a room, now a doctor's office, which at one time was occupied by the John Taber Bank, later merged with the Farmers Bank of Mentone and operated by L. D. Manwaring and Elmer M. Eddinger.

Leaving the center part of town we will try to call to mind some of the outstanding features of the old town. One of the first to mention was the Geo. Jefferies sawmill which got a great majority of the lumber that went into the building of the residences in the earlier part of the life of the town. This mill housed the first dynamo that furnished the first electric lights in Mentone. The lights were turned on at dusk and turned off at ten or eleven at night. This mill stood on the present site of the Smith grocery in the southwest part of town. Just north of this was the old grist mill whose first miller

plant which preceded the present lighting system was housed in the old portion of what is now the town hall and fire department. The only automobile ever built in Mentone was built in the A. T. Mollenhour Mochine shop by Amos Mollenhour and his son Clark. The building, later the home of the Ernsberger Lumber Co. is now operated by Elmore Fenstermaker in the production of eggs. But the sweetest place in town was the I. K. Smith sorghum mill at the extreme north end of Franklin street.

The first store to be opened in Mentone was the Manwaring store, where the bank now stands. Probably the next was the Allen Blue store which stood just east of where the present stockyards are located. The building was one which was moved up from what was formerly called Chicago, just one mile west of Mentone and which accounts for several homes at that point. Mc. M. Forst was another of the first liners.

Now coming to the more prominent personages of the early life of our town, it is fitting to mention the following: C. L. Ernsberger is perhaps the only living man today who has seen the town grow from its origin to its present state and has been in business nearly the entire existence of the town. There was D. W. Lewis, dry goods and groceries; Hayden Ray, harness; John Dunlap, groceries; L. P. Jefferies, furniture; Wm. Huff, blacksmith; Henry Daman, butcher; Cal. Shinn, butcher; A. L. Ketterman, marshall; James Cox and Elmer Leiter, horse dealers; W. Kimes, grocery; Phil-

less places where the people sat and enjoyed the scenery or fought fires or missed the curb with their tobacco? Who can now recall when we all rushed down to the depot to see the train come in? Who still remembers the staggering drunk and the stench that came from the drinking places? There were from the street brawls and the "cooler" where they got a chance to think things over. And who remembers the oil well located just east of the cemetery where the writer has fifty dollars worth of post-holes still for sale. And best of all, who living today does not recall when we got the city water system and the streets paved and the Winona railroad which has now been abandoned.

In fancy the writer looks back and sees all these people and businesses pass and fade away as the morning fog before the rising sun and a new day is ushered in. So has the fog been taken from our town and a new era ushered in, making our town not only a good place in which to live but a place where every citizen should be proud to say:—MENTONE — MY HOME TOWN. Respectfully,  
C. L. TEEL

Roy Rush and daughter left Saturday morning for a week in Michigan.

### Efficient Motor

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