

## MORE HISTORICAL BUSINESSES

Mrs. Celia Mason started her business (**Mrs. Mason's Style Shop**) in feminine finery in 1900 when she bought out her former employer Miss Ellen Baraen. At first the business was located on West Sale St. and consisted only of millinery. In 1924 when the Depression brought a drop in prices, Mrs. Mason added dresses, lingerie and other accessories. Mrs. Ruth Skinner and Mrs. E. F. Meister assisted her. After changing locations many time, Mrs. Mason located at 106 N. Main St. in 1933.

Earl E. Ferguson of **Ferguson's Motor Sales** bought the business in September 1955. The business dates back to 1923 when **C. A. Rice** first began handling Model T. Fords. Mr. Rice continued in the auto business until 1951. He erected a new building on Route 36 and Indiana Avenue. In 1951 the business was sold to James Hammet and John Schriver. They were succeeded by Mr. Ferguson in 1955. Ned Ferguson and mother, Hazel, continued running the business after the illness and subsequent death of Earl. The Lincoln/Mercury dealership was added in 1958. The 1957 sales staff included: Floyd Grubb (sales manager), Orben Proffitt (salesman); Glen A. Thompson (parts manager); Martha Cook (book keeper); Odell Gillenwater, Dale Moore, Chester Russell, Leroy Harting, Ned Ferguson and Norman Ford (service department.) The first Ford sold with factory installed air-conditioning was sold in 1961. That was a big deal!! The Ferguson motto was "Treat people the way you would like to be treated yourself." The business was sold in 1988 to Tim and Norm Mooney. Mooney Ford was established in 1988. **Tim Mooney, Inc** later, along with the city, closed Indiana St. and expanded the car lots.



**Chop Rice with new wrecker**



**Floyd Grubb**

**Matthews – Waters Insurance Agency** – The insurance agency was formed by William Johnson in 1871 and continued in the Johnson family for the ensuing 71 years, under the direction in subsequent years by R. J. N. Johnson, son of the founder, and his son, Arthur. The location of this agency has changed several times since its first location on West Sale St. two doors west of the Tuscola Kandy Kitchen. The other business locations have been in the old First National Bank Building, (parking lot west of the Community Building), the First National Building (Midwest Galleries) on North Main Street and the last location at 116 W. North Central Avenue.

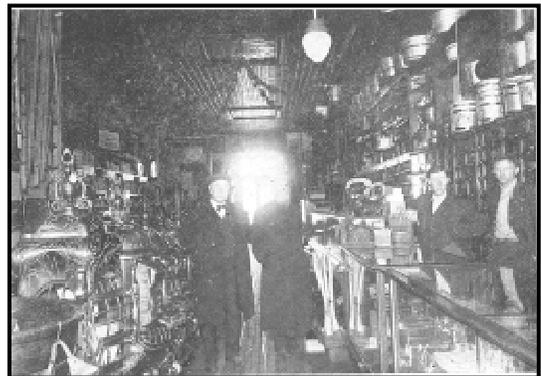
Loren E. Matthews purchased the agency in 1942. In 1945 he bought the building at 116 W. North Central Ave. On November 22, 1945 the agency was moved into the building. It was the day of the

Moore Building fire which was located where the Community Building now stands. The agency moved into the building in the morning, moved out in the afternoon and re-entered the premises again after the fire was brought under control at 10 P.M. that night.

In 1960, Dale “Cork” Waters became a partner in the insurance business with Loren E. Matthews who withdrew from the business in 1962. “Cork” Waters operated the business, with the assistance of his wife, Patti (Lincoln) Waters, until his death on February 19, 1967. At that time, Patti became a licensed insurance broker and assumed operation of the business until June 2001, when she sold the same to **The Hillard Agency, Inc.** Cork and Patti had four children: Mike, John, Jean and Philip.



**Loren Matthews Insurance**



**H. RAY WARREN**

**H. Ray Warren** began business on Sale St. in 1911. He bought the hardware business from M. E. Bigelow. At this time the firm was located on the north side of West Sale St. In the building later occupied by the Consoer Furnace Company. The store in 1957 was managed by his son, Wendell Warren. Also on staff were: Orval Abell, Norman Aiker, Charles Brandon and Robert Horn.

The **Hillard Insurance Agency, Inc.** was purchased in 1959 and operated by George E. Hillard, president of the corporation. The agency also operated the **Douglas County Credit Union** and it was housed in the office at Main and South Central. Neal Tay was vice president of the corporation having joined the agency on January 1, 1959. The farm business manager was Thomas Hawkins who joined the firm September, 1969. The Agency moved into new and larger offices in 1972. The agency handled all types of insurance, real estate and was the credit union of Douglas County.

**Warren Motor Company** – At the time of his retirement on May 13, 1957, Frank A. Warren was the dean of the Douglas County automobile dealers. He was a dealer for Buick and Chevrolet automobiles with garage facilities at 215 N. Main St. in Tuscola and 111 S. Locust in Arcola. In 1929, Mr. Warren’s son-in-law, Harold T. Lincoln, joined him in the dealership, and in 1950, his granddaughter’s husband, Dale “Cork” Waters, joined Mr. Warren and Mr. Lincoln in the business. During their grade school and high school years, Michael Payne and Frank W. Lincoln worked in their grandfather’s garage.

An automobile dealer since January 1, 1923, Mr. Warren for many years presided over his business from a chair outside the front door at the local garage. During the winter months, the chair was just inside the front door. Wherever he was, there was always a new car nearby.

Mr. Warren, who retired after 35 years as an auto dealer, was originally a harness maker by trade and had a substantial business career before entering the auto business. He was born in Arthur and practically grew up in the harness and buggy shop of his father, John D. Warren. After several years in

his father's business, he was in the grain business, at first in Shelby County and later in Sullivan. He came to Tuscola in 1916 and was the owner of the Douglas County Grain Company twice in two years. In 1918 Mr. Warren established the **Texaco Oil and Gas Plant** and operated it for four years. He entered the automobile business on January 1, 1923, in association with Dewey Parker, operator of the **Douglas County Garage**. Mr. Warren had charge of the Buick sales and had automobile display space at the garage, where all of his service work was performed. Other auto lines were added later, until at one time Mr. Warren was a dealer for all General Motor cars. In later years he retained the Buick and Chevrolet franchises. On December 1, 1947, Mr. Warren located his Chevrolet and Buick dealership in the building at 215 N. Main St., which he had owned for several years. He remained in that building until his retirement.



**DOUGLAS COUNTY  
AUTO WORKS**

**Frank A. Warren  
WARREN MOTOR COMPANY**



**DOUGLAS COUNTY GARAGE – 1946**  
Jim Calamese, Henry Senn, Dewey Parker,  
F. A. Warren



Frank A. Warren 1946 Chevrolet  
(1st new car following WW II)  
Harold T. Lincoln

Since 1864 there has been a lumbar yard located at the west end of North Central Ave. in Tuscola, but the business didn't become **F. H. Jones Lumber** until 1898 which still makes it one of the oldest existing businesses in town. The original lumbar yard was known as **Hudson Brothers** and was purchased from them in 1898 by Frank H. Jones. Upon the death of Frank H. Jones in 1925 it continued on under the guidance of Percy and May Jones. Frank Michener started working for them in 1938 as bookkeeper for not only the lumber business that they owned but also for a large grain arming and livestock operation that was located both in Illinois and Missouri. Upon the retirement of Percy Jones in 1954 the business was sold to Frank Michener.

Today the business is owned by Alan Michener and Steve Hilgendorf. Alan and Steve took ownership when Alan's father, Frank Michener, passed away in 1993. Alan has worked there since 1973 and Steve bought into the firm in 1978. F. H. Jones' grandfather and Alan's great, great grandfather was Calvin Jones, making them third cousins.

Twice fires wiped out the lumberyard. The first occurred in 1871 when exploding gunpowder in a grocery store next door created a fire that burned most of the surrounding buildings. The second fire, this one in 1907, was thought to have started from a spark created by a passing train. Both times the buildings were completely destroyed.

In the passing years, a new office and showroom was added to the front of the warehouse in 1950 and later remodeled in 1980. Additional warehouse space was added when the company purchased property on e. North Central from the defunct **Fred A. Smith Lumber Co.** in 1963. Another warehouse was added to that property in 1980.

Much of the heritage of F. H. Jones Lumber Co. has been retained. Despite the passage of time, there are still marks in the warehouse where horses chewed the wood that they were tied to awaiting their time to make deliveries. Over the years F. H. Jones Lumber has been served by many faithful employees, several who have had more that 25 years of service. These employees include Frank Michener, M. F. "Hap" Marrs, Dorothy Vandaventer, Dean Zeigler, Ernest "Doc" Auten, Delbert "Red" Drake, Alan Michener, Steve Leonard, and Steve Hilgendorf.

Helen Owen owned and operated **DuVall's**. J. R. Duvall was her father. It was a general store located on west North Central. The store carried food and clothing, gifts, shoes and pots and pans. The store opened around 1913 and closed in 1979. The original building was sold to the 1<sup>st</sup> National Bank, demolished and made into a parking lot. DuValls then moved to 117 Sale St. and later sold to Harold Weber.

Walter C., Mary and daughter, Catheryn, McGary are thought to have had the first funeral parlor on West Sale St. and later in their home on North Main St. Walter died Aug. 30, 1941.

	<b>Work Shoes</b> Men's Cap Toe All Leather Star Brand Work Shoes. Black and Brown. Regular \$2.99 <b>pr \$2.00</b>
<b>\$2.25</b>	Men's 5 buckle Red All Rubber Overshoes. \$3.25 value <b>pr \$2.89</b>
Men's All Wool Blue Melton Jacket. Tapered Slipped Front. Size 40 to 46. Regular \$3.25 value.	Men's 4 buckle Black All Rubber Overshoes. \$2.25 value <b>pr \$1.79</b>
	Women's Suede Ties, Pumps and Straps in black and brown. \$2.98 value, per pair. <b>\$1.79</b>
	<b>BRIDGE SETS:—</b> One cloth and 4 napkins per set. <b>39c</b>
	Tuck Stitch Knit Struggle Pants and Vests. Small, medium and large, each. <b>19c</b>
	Women's Print Dresses. Past colors. Size 14 to 22. Regular \$1.00. <b>79c</b>
	Women's Long Sleeved Print Dresses. Size 22 to 32, each. <b>89c</b>
	Galvanized Wash Boilers. . . . <b>79c</b>
<b>DUVALL'S</b> 20 N. Central Avenue TUSCOLA, ILL.	

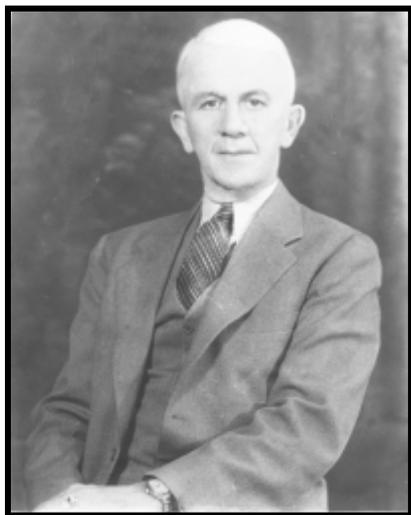
Mr. John Lewis Warren came to Tuscola in 1899 and in 1900 started a furniture and undertaking business on Sale St. Al Amman and Warren were business partners with W. P. Branham and with E. E. Murphy. John Lewis Warren was married to Belle Branham, who died May 16, 1924. He lived to be 73 years old and is buried in Tuscola Cemetery. **J. C. Waddington** came to Tuscola in November, 1918. He was the manager for **Heinz and Creamer**, funeral directors, until January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1919. He was then in partnership with O. L. Ingram and later bought the furniture and undertaking business of J. L. Warren. He conducted this business until March, 1922 when he bought the interest of O. L. Ingram, closed out the furniture business and continued exclusive undertaking business at the Knight's of Pythias building on Main St. He had the only private ambulance in Douglas County. His able assistant was his wife, Blanche Waddington. Mrs. Waddington was in charge of funerals for women and children.



**WADDINGTON FUNERAL HOME**

**400 S. Main St.**

**J. C. Waddington**



**James and Blanche  
Waddington**



In 1927, when Tack Green was a sophomore at Tuscola High School, he began working for Mr. Waddington after school. Mrs. Waddington willed the business to Tack in 1936. Mr. Green retained the funeral home's name out of respect for Mr. Waddington. Tack Green was born October 27, 1908 in Marion County, IL, the son of Samuel A. and Mary Duncan Green. Tack graduated in 1929 after attending all grades in Tuscola. He was a star athlete in football, basketball and track and an all-state end in football in 1928. He then went to Worsham Embalming School in Chicago and post graduate

work in plastic surgery in Cincinnati. Louise (Lois) Campbell and Tack Green were married October 1934. They were the parents of J. Clifford, Douglas and Duane Green. Mr. Tack Green passed away November 11, 1971.



**Tack and Lois Green**



Chuck Brewer had been helping Mr. Green for close to twenty-two years at the time of Tack's death. Chuck also attended Worsham's School of Embalming. Mr. Green's estate was left as such that if Tack's sons were not interested in the business, then Mr. Brewer was to have first chance of buying the funeral home. Mr. Brewer purchased the funeral home in March of 1972. They were the parents of Gary, Douglas and Scot Brewer. Mr. Brewer passed away February 26, 1998.



**Chuck and Mary Brewer**



At Chuck Brewer's retirement in May of 1992, Steve Shrader of Shrader Funeral Home in Arcola purchased the business and it became the **Waddington Shrader Funeral Home**. Tim Hilligoss and Steve Shrader were associates.



**The Matinee Store** was begun in 1901 by N. W. Miller. It first opened for business on the corner of Sale and Parke St. where the hatchery building was later located. The store was also located where Nick's Candy Store was later located and where **Slutsky's** was later located. In 1920 the business moved to 116 W. Sale. Two buildings were united into one store. O. A. Smith purchased the business November 1, 1937. O. A. Smith retired February 1, 1953 and his sons, John and Warren, took over the firm. 1957 employees were: Mrs. Ethel Rahn, Mrs. Lorene Rahn, Mrs. Ada Thayer, Mrs. Mayme Burton, Mrs. Emily Garrett and Stephanie Smith.



**The Matinee Store**



Harry King started in the insurance business in 1907. He began in the **A. A. McKee and Son Agency**. Mr. McKee established the agency in 1879. The son, Paul, was in the agency until 1916 when he died. A. A. McKee died in 1929. He had been in the business for 50 years. Harry King was the sole owner from 1929 until June 1, 1948 when Phillip (Joe) Wills joined the firm. It then became known as **King and Wills Agency**.

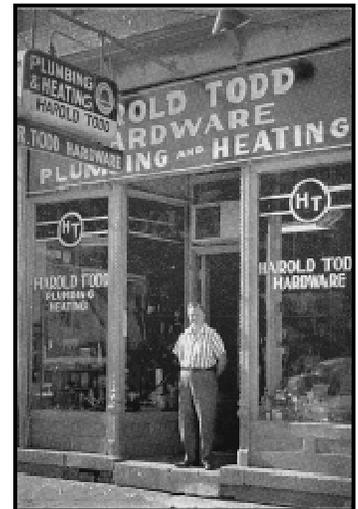


**King and Wills Insurance Agency**  
**Harry King and Joe Wills**

**The Morgan Insurance Agency** dated back to 1895 when it was known as the **Sloan Insurance Agency** with Alfred Sloan being the original owner. The agency was sold to Cap Robinson who established his office over the Tuscola National Bank Building. In 1922 Mr. Robinson sold his interest to his son-in-law, Horace Bierfeldt. On July 30, 1948 Mr. and Mrs. Henry Morgan purchased the agency and located the office in their home at 711 N. Main St.

**The Harold Todd Plumbing and Heating** firm was founded in 1918 by Harold's father, Homer E. Todd. Homer served an apprenticeship under Baldwin and Mason, plumbers. The first business site of the shop was the Hackett building where the Consoer Furnace Co. was later located. After Homer Todd's retirement on January 1, 1953, his son Harold became owner. Homer died shortly after retirement, March 7, 1953 at age 58. Harold moved the business to 115 W. Sale St. Todd also sold major appliances which were displayed at 119 W. Sale St. Employees: Harold R. Todd, Robert Hanson, Ruth Moore, Louis York, Tim Logan, Ben Denham, Ben Holsapple, Gustin Dickson.

**Harold Todd**



**Samuel Bierfeldt** established a confectionery and restaurant in about 1865 located at 123 W. Sale St.

**Earl G. Davies** was a produce merchant in 1922.

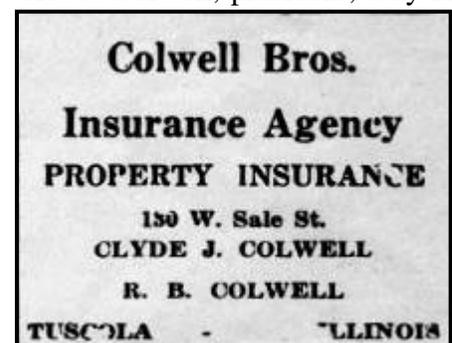
**Roy B. Moulden**, blacksmith, built the first welding machine in the city.

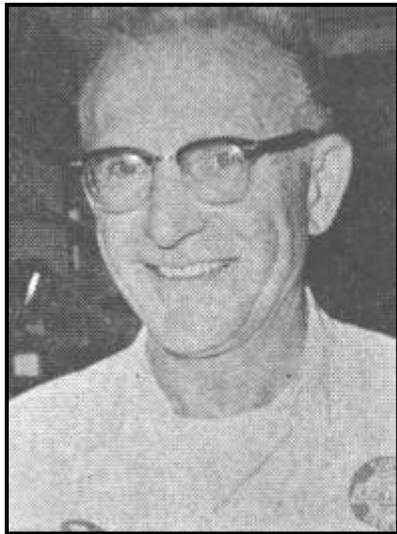
**The Douglas County Abstract and Loan Company** was founded by C. C. Kagey and W. H. Fry in 1896. Immediately after the incorporation of the company, a complete set of abstract books was compiled from the records of Douglas County. Harry C. Marsh started with the company on March 1, 1916 as a secretary/treasurer. The Douglas County Abstract and Loan Company was located at 134 W. Sale St. In 1957 Harry C. Marsh was president and Curtis C. Marsh, secretary.

On February 1, 1893 the **Corn Belt Building and Loan Association** was founded by Charles W. Wolverton, Albert W. Bragg, J. J. Jones, James W. Orr, W. B. Brinton, W. R. Baughman and Charles Cross. The business was first located in the building later occupied by the phone company. The association moved to 130 W. Sale St. in 1955. The 1957 officers were: J. Colwell, president; Guy R. Collins, vice president; R. B. Colwell, secretary/treasurer.



**R. B. Colwell**  
**Corn Belt Building and**  
**Loan Officer - 1930**





Thomas L. Powell  
and  
Herschel Hooker  
**P and H Motors**

On May 13, 1957, Frank Warren sold the Warren Motor Company to Thomas L. Powell and Herschel Hooker and the firm became **P. and H. Motors** associated with Chevrolet.

**Sturgell's Jewelry Store** was founded in 1907 by Alonzo Sturgell. He bought the jewelry store from John Homrighous. It was then located at 113 W. Sale St. later occupied by Young's Electric. It was moved to the building later occupied by Ben Franklin, then to the building later occupied by the Strand Theatre. In 1938 he purchased the building at 131 W. Sale St. Mr. Sturgell was assisted by his wife and daughter. Mr. Sturgell passed away, February 14, 1965. His wife, Blanche Murphy Sturgell carried on the business until selling to Florin Aldridge. Florin Aldridge was the full time watchmaker in 1955. In 1967 Mr. Aldridge opened the store as **Aldridge Jewelry Store**.



**Sturgell's Jewelry**



Florin Aldridge  
**Aldridge Jewelry**

Tuscola was fortunate in having twelve first class grocery stores during the early 1900's. Four of these had meat markets. All had a liberal patronage. Besides the grocery stores located in the business section of the city, Tuscola had two "suburban" groceries both located on North Niles Ave. C. A. Kitts and Brutus Todd each owned one of these establishments.

**B. A. and A. A. Cedusky** owned and managed a grocery and meat market purchased in July of 1907 from Whitaker Bros. on Sale St. They owned their own building located on the South side of W. Sale St. next to the theater.

**F. M. Wardall and Co.** had a grocery business after J. J. Knox sold out in 1890 on Main St. and Central Ave.

**The Thornsbru and Fullerton Grocery** was located on Main St. and S. Central.

Wilbur Hoel started greeting customers at **Hoel Grocery Store** in 1910 when he began working at the J A. (Al) Maris grocery store, corner of Sale and Parke Streets. He also worked for J. B. Wamsley at the corner of Main and Sale Streets and for Alec Hunt, who succeeded Mr. Wamsley. He was employed for a time with Ingram and Thornsbrue, later Thornsbrue and Fullerton located at the southwest corner of Main and S. Central. In 1919 in partnership with Fred Day, Wilbur bought the Jake Smith store, southeast corner of Main and Central. He became sole owner in 1920. In 1920 his brother Claude joined him. Wilbur became sole owner again in 1933. While the Hoel Brothers were in possession, the store was moved to the building later occupied by Hall Jewelry Store. Wilbur retired in 1944. In 1948 he became manager of **Eisners**.



1919 – Wilbur Hoel, Ralph Rideout, Claude Hoel and Ed "Moose" Miller



**Cecil V. Tate** will be remembered for his association in grocery stores in Tuscola having entered the employ of **Hoel Brothers** in 1919. He entered the grocery business for himself in 1934. The man with a hat is Donald Walker, Sr.

On January 9, 1948 the **Eisner Food Store**, then known as **Piggly Wiggly Store** was established in Tuscola and opened for business at 107 W. South Central. At one time the store was operated by Jule Pohlig. This location later became the McCumber building. In 1953 the facilities were expanded when the establishment moved to the old armory building on East South Central. It was remodeled to become Tuscola's first modern supermarket. 1957 employees were Herman Davis, store manager and Joseph Richards, market manager. In 1963, the local store became a home-owned but chain-affiliated business, and Don Beltz came to Tuscola from Danville to assume ownership and operation.

**Wilbur Hoel Real Estate** was established in 1953. His office was located in the McCumber Building on South Central Avenue.



**Eisner's Grocery**  
Formerly Piggly Wiggly



**Wilbur Hoel**

In 1956 the public was invited to tour the new **McCumber Building** which fronted both Wilson and W. South Central Streets just west of Main St. at 105 and 107 west S. Central Ave. A modern office building was provided which included 10 independent office sites and room for expansion to the west. Occupants of the building at the time were: Bush Grain Company, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation, W. R. Stoune Construction Co., Illinois Cities Water Co, Wilbur M. Hoel, Dr. J. N. Cunningham, Armin C. Baer and Soil Conversation Services. The offices of **Douglas Realty, Inc** owned by Don and Ray McCumber were also established at the building. The building was sold in 1972 to Bernard Lecher.



**McCumber Building 105-107 W. South Central**



**Don McCumber and  
Wilbur Hoel**  
1956



**Harold Brinkley  
Charlie Dowler**  
1956



**Orson Moorehead  
Lloyd Holmes**  
1956

**Tuscola Professional Building** formerly named the **McCumber Building** was purchased and renamed by Bud Rice Jr. and Ted Rund. The building is located on West South Central Ave.

Bud Rice Jr. and Ted Rund at opening of the Tuscola Professional Building, formerly the McCumber Building on N. Central and Main St.



**Michener's Dry Goods Co.** was organized in 1922 by Fred and Jeannette Michener. At the time, it was one of Tuscola's largest businesses. It was located at the corner of Main and Sale St. in the Wamsley Building. It was one of two department stores in Tuscola. It sold clothing, shoes, material, draperies, linoleum, etc.

Frank Michener owned the **Ideal Laundry** in 1936-1938. The prior owner was Haden Shouse.



**The Gamble Store** was established in 1954 as a part of national chain with William H. Henderson as the first proprietor. In August of 1956, the store was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. John Rothgeb. The store was located at 141 W. Sale St. The building was originally built by Harvey Bassett. Ed Chaval owned the store next. At his death, Dick Parker



**JOHN ROTHGEB**  
 Your Authorized Gamble Dealer  
 141 W. Sale Street  
 TUSCOLA, ILLINOIS  
 PHONE 514



purchased the **Gambles Store** from Mrs. Chaval (the present Blanche Pflum) and Parker added the **Decorator Loft** featuring wallpaper, floor coverings, fabrics and fixtures.

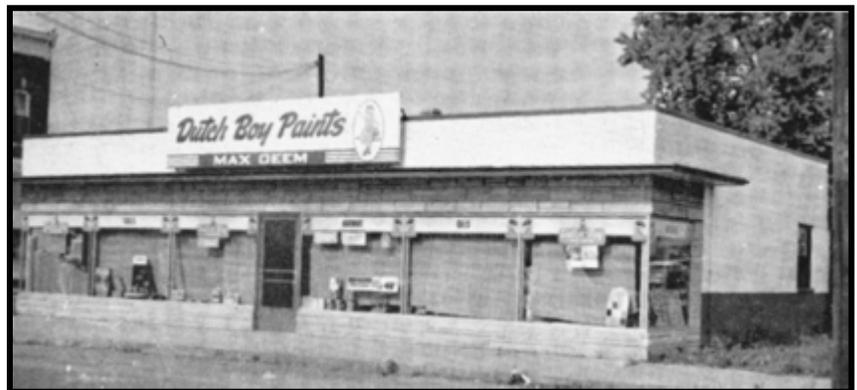
**Max Deem** began his business in 1937 in the small office building belonging to the F. H. Jones Lumber Co. on N. Parke St. On July 9, 1949, Mr. Deem built a new building on ground leased from the B & O Railroad at 76 South Main St. In 1953 a new office and larger storage area was added to the business. Other employees were: Al Carson, Lyle McCollam, Eugene Deem, J. R. Deem and Richard Tabor.



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**Magic Grain**  
**WOOD FINISH**  
 Modernize Old Furniture  
 WITHOUT REMOVING  
 OLD FINISH

- REQUIRES:  
 No sanding  
 No messy paint remover
- It's So Easy to Apply,  
 GIVES YOU:  
 Modern Wood Colors  
 Beautiful Wood Effects
- PRICE:  
 Only \$2.97 for all items  
 needed for refinishings  
 several chairs and tables

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 — BUILDERS SUPPLIES —  
 76 S. Main Street Tuscola, Illinois



**MAX DEEM BUILDERS AND SUPPLIES**