



~ Part 19 ~

**Reflections on a Common Theme**

**Grocery Stores**

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**CLOUD COUNTY**

**Glasco's Grocery Business**

by Joan Nothern, based on the research of Jean Schmidt & Maxine Kelly, displayed at the Corner Store.

Some people remember when there were several grocery stores in Glasco. The stories of grocers are often intertwined. This is the story of one family's contributions to the grocery business in Glasco.

Jacob W. and Adam Studt started Studt Grocery and Retail business in March 1887, on the north side of Main Street. Just two years later they moved several doors to the west and were in business there for 13 more years. They traded that building for the corner lot on the south side of Main Street in order to have a bigger store and expand their stock.

J. W. and Adam Studt built Studt Mercantile in 1902. The handsome two-story building was made of rock quarried and hauled by team and wagon by the sons of the stone mason, Henry Haselwood, who cut and laid the stone.

Adam Studt died in 1917, and his brother, George Studt, joined Jacob W. to continue the Studt Brothers business. Two years later, J. W.'s health failed and they sold to C. W. Granger. This completed the first 32 years of the Studt family business.

The Granger Store continued in business from 1919 until 1934. It was owned first by C. W. Granger and his son, E. L. Granger. After only six months, Mr. and Mrs. Alderman assumed ownership. Mrs. Alderman was the daughter of C. W. Granger. The store kept the Granger name.

A second generation of Studts enter the picture at this time. Jacob Studt's sons, Charles and Roy Studt, bought the store from Aldermans in 1934. Both of them learned the business by working with Albert Grittman at the Royal Market. Roy had been his partner. Charles worked there during summers while he was in college. In September 1935 Charles bought out Roy's interest and became the sole proprietor.

Charles's wife, Juanita, was in charge of the dry goods from 1952 until her death in May 1964. In 1966 the dry goods department was remodeled to convert the grocery store to self-service. Charles continued in business until 1968, when failing health forced his retirement. He listed 45 names of people who had worked for him during his 34 years in business. The list is a familiar roster of community members.

During those years the store had closed twice because of fire and once because of the flood of 1951.

The editor of the Glasco Sun in 1917, E. A. Pinkerton, had this to say about the Studt brothers. "Everyone in the Solomon Valley knows the Studt Store, knows of its dependability and they still have the same confidence in the honesty and integrity of the firm that they had for the past 32 years. . . . they so conducted their business that they were able and willing to take care of their customers in lean years as well as the prosperous ones."

In 1968 the Glasco Sun noted there were many people who felt this could also be said of Charles Studt when he retired after 34 years in business.

Ross and Maxine Kelly moved from Hill City to take over the grocery store in 1968. They were in business until 1990. Starting in 1968, they expanded groceries and eliminated dry goods. They replaced wooden shelving with metal shelves, lowered the ceilings from 14 foot, and installed the first refrigeration equipment. Kelly's Fine Foods was upbeat and progressive, but a news article in the Glasco Sun about their tenth anniversary reflected on the plight of small towns and merchants. Kelly's Fine Foods was commended for thriving. It was then the only market in town. During their years the building was struck by a tornado. On August 4, 1977, the windows were blown out.

Rick and Lisa Pauls became the owners July 16, 1990. They conducted the business for ten years, then sold it at auction. Glasco Community Foundation was just in the process of organizing at that time, with the mission of sustaining the built and social environment of Glasco. The first act of the new foundation was to purchase the Studt building at that auction. They have done extensive preservation work on the building, including new roof, upstairs windows, masonry repair, and interior renovations.

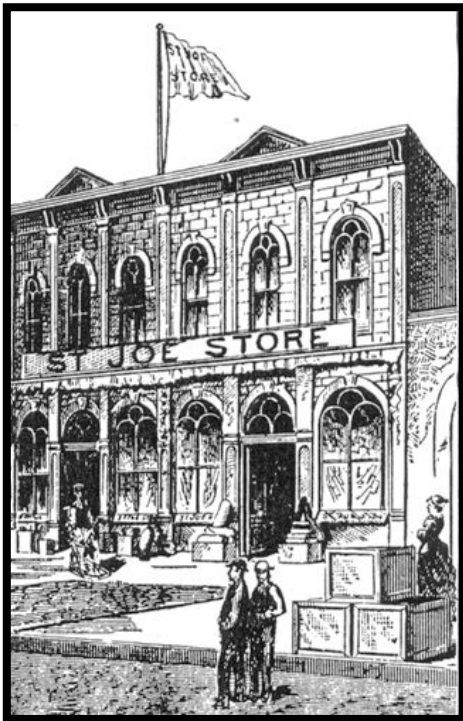
For the past ten years a Farmers Market is held each Tuesday at the Glasco Community Foundation's Corner Store. This happens year around, bringing fresh produce and products to the community, as well as many scheduled events that nourish through fellowship. The president of the Glasco Community Foundation is Jean Schmidt, granddaughter of Jacob Studt, daughter of Charles Studt. Her work through the foundation continues the family tradition of building and serving the community.

A paper mache figure, a likeness of Charlie Studt, stands at the scale weighing potatoes, ready to help. This artwork commemorates the personal dedication of Charlie and the Studt family, and the many merchants along Main Street, Glasco.

## MITCHELL COUNTY

### Grocery Store(s) for 133 Continuous Years, Cawker City

by Steve Richardson



Last known as "Basco's Market," the ornately carved, arched, double storefront building on the north side of Main Street in Cawker City was the site of a grocery store from 1872 until the beginning of 2005. No other building has played as important role in the life of our town.

With \$60,000 from four investors, the town of Cawker City was located in the early spring of 1870 by E. H. Cawker, his law partner R. G. F. Kshinka, and a surveyor, John Seger. A sod house and corral was hastily constructed near the corner where the clinic stands today (2014), and wood for the first building was hauled from Solomon City, the closest railroad connection. A furrow was cut across the open prairie in lieu of a road to direct new settlers away from the Solomon River near the future town of Glen Elder, and lead them directly into the town of Cawker City, thus bypassing the town of Waconda which was located just a mile and a half south, at the fork in the Solomon River. Alexander Parker was a wealthy entrepreneur who already owned two stores in St. Joseph and was out scouting the territory for a new store location. On January 27, 1871, he and Frank Leggett arrived in Cawker City in a spring wagon and were met by "Uncle" John Seger. After learning of their intentions, Seger informed that men that a city lot would

be given to any person who would place a store building upon it.

The men continued on their journey to explore the area, but soon returned to dicker for a better deal. In the end, Parker acquired the east half of the block on which he intended to place his store.

Parker's prime building lot was on the north side of the east-west running Pennsylvania Avenue (US-24) in the middle of the block just east of the main intersection of the four quarter sections which formed the town. As the town had yet to be surveyed, the location of the lot was paced off and construction of a cottonwood building was begun. The A. Parker & Co. store was later determined to be standing in the designated alley for the block.

With their frame building under construction, Parker and Leggett returned to St. Joseph to procure four wagon loads of corn, bacon, cornmeal, flour, and potatoes. In March 1871 they opened their doors for business. Soon, a second trip was made to St. Joe, but this time returned with \$13,000 worth of dry goods and groceries to restock and expand their inventory.

As was the custom of the time at the edge of civilization, Parker kept an open barrel of whiskey near the door to greet the customer and all were welcomed to use a common tin cup to quench their

thirst. As many as 19 barrels were kept on hand at any one time so Parker's hospitality would never run dry.

With the arrival of the Government Land Office, Parker's faith in the future of Cawker City as a major trading center was secured and he began construction of his massive stone residence in 1872, the first mansion in town and last known as the Rothschild home, which was followed by six buildings, five of native limestone and one of brick. The room above the grocery store was an important meeting place in town and was called Parker's Hall.

W. W. Wheeler bought out A. Parker and hung out the "St. Joe Store" sign the beginning of 1879, just months before the railroad arrived in Cawker City. Advertisements touted an inventory of \$40,000.00.

In February 1881 arches were opened up between the two St. Joe Store buildings to connect the grocery department with the clothing and dry goods. In July of that year, W. W. Woodmansee replaced J. W. Hubbard (son-in-law of A. Parker) as manager of the store. The building was expanded again in July 1886 when the rear wall and the center columns were removed and extended 40 feet northward. Mr. Woodmansee passed away at the age of 44 on Dec. 30, 1891 and J. A. Stinson took over as manager. In May 1894, Stinson was replaced by A. Van Diest.

The St. Joe Store closed its doors in August 1895. E. M. Lyons, of Palouse City, Washington, bought the stock and moved it to that place. Established in 1878, the Iowa Cash Store and the Iowa Grocery House jumped at the chance to combine their stock into one location and move into the vacated space.

Due to his failing health, William Cribbs relinquished management of the Iowa Store to C. C. Brown in 1913. Upon Cribbs's death on April 14, 1915, the fate of the Iowa Store was uncertain.

However, the son, Frank G. decided to make Cawker City his permanent home and reopened the store. Two years later, Frank began construction of his beautiful home in the second ward which is currently owned by Lois Schreuder.

The next major changes came in November 1933. The grocery department was moved from the back of the east half of the store to the front of the west half. Repairs and a general redecorating freshened up the store and the panels of the window displays were removed to flood the store with natural light. The new affiliated "Clover Farm Store" name completed the transformation.

Unlike his father, death came quickly and unexpectedly for Frank Cribbs. He had been suffering from a slight cold and decided to go home from work early. An hour later, his wife locked up the store and returned home to find Frank seriously ill. She called for the doctor and within the hour, he was gone. He was 63 years old.

Mrs. Cribbs continued to keep the store open after her husband's death. Then, disaster struck in the early morning hours of May 28, 1945. It is believed that defective wiring in the motor of the electric refrigerator started the fire which burned a hole straight upwards to the ceiling of the second floor. The excessive smoke hindered the firefighters in battling the blaze. The contents of the store were a complete loss due to fire, smoke, and water damage.

E. C. Riley purchased the buildings from Mrs. Cribbs, but the store was sold to the Farmers Union Co-op in July. Four months of renovations completely rejuvenated the business. The second floor was remodeled into comfortable, modern living quarters. The store was replastered, floors sanded, and the latest florescent lights installed. A brand new Deep Freeze meat display case and a Krispy Kold vegetable display cabinet were the highlights of the renovations. Unfortunately, most of the decorative carvings on the façade were chiseled away and the metal cornices were removed.

On Saturday, December 15, 1946, the new Clover Farm Store and the Cawker City Electric Co. had a grand opening. Paul Champlin continued to manage the Clover Farm Store and B. D. (Billy) Scott managed the Electric Store in the west half of the building. The Electric Store eventually moved to new quarters two doors east to become the Riley-Rhodes Appliance Store.

After the Mitchell County Co-op purchase, the Clover Farm Store had several managers, the last one being Mr. and Mrs. Lorenz Deiter. Then at the end of November 1961, Mr. and Mrs. Richard (Dick) Koster bought the Farmers Union Store. His family was moved back to Cawker from Denver and lived in the apartment above the store. Koster's Market featured the Hy-Klas brand of groceries and Koster's legendary homemade sausage.

Dale and Shirley Luft purchased the store from Dick and Rosie and had a grand opening on December 19, 1987. The name was changed to Dale's Market.

On New Year's Day 1994, the last change in ownership took place. Fausto and Viki Aramendi moved to Cawker City from Washington State to be closer to relatives and to raise their family, which at that time consisted of Julian and Olivia.

In recent years, the general decline in rural population has affected Cawker City too. The 2010 census counted just 469 citizens; a far cry from the 1,027 people in the 1880 census or the 908 people counted in 1966 while Waconda Lake was being built. As a result, the school district consolidated Cawker City with Downs and Cawker's High School became the Middle School. Without sufficient business from the community, Basco's Market closed its doors the beginning of 2005. Editor's Note: The following story was told by Martin Folger, who witnessed it at the Cawker City grocery store, date unknown but early 20th century, and repeated to me by Folger's son-in-law, the late Ralph Hathaway: A farmer came into the store with butter from his farm wrapped in paper and asked if he could trade it for some other butter. The proprietor said that would be fine and asked why he wanted to trade. "Well," said the farmer, "a rat fell into the cream and we would prefer not to use this butter. But if someone else got it, they wouldn't know, and what you don't know won't hurt you." The proprietor said o.k. and took the butter into a back room where he wrapped the same butter in another paper and presented it to the farmer, who was pleased and departed. When he was out the door, the proprietor remarked, "What you don't know won't hurt you."

## OSBORNE COUNTY

### Kuhl & Son IGA Store, Osborne

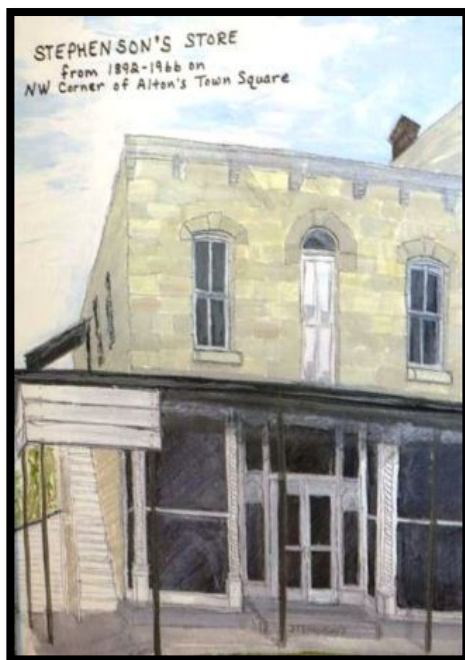
Barbara Wilson provides a snapshot of a grocery business in Osborne, one she actually saw from her family's apartment across the street. Barbara's mother, Norma Search, took a photo of the store from the apartment window.

This article from the *September 12, 1936, Osborne County Farmer* announces the opening of the new store, with Barbara's father, Denzil Search, as assistant manager in the grocery department. "The new Kuhl & Son I.G.A. Store will hold its grand opening sale. The store was recently purchased by Kuhls from Ernest Williams. The new store will be under the management of Frank Pierce who moved here from Cawker City, where he was manager of the store owned by Kuhls. The meat department will be managed by Denzil Search, who has been an employee of Williams for several years. He will remain as assistant manager in the grocery department."

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### Descendants of the Stephensons Proud of Their Enterprising Heritage, Alton

by Carolyn Williams



Some background: The original Stephenson came from Tyrone County, Ireland, then to Canada, then to Alton, Kansas, the West! William Stephenson's father Alexandar worked for a cobbler for three years to repay his benefactor for his passage fare and food from Ireland. Thus his son William was trained as a cobbler. This William is my husband's (Bill Williams) great-grandfather who came from Canada with his wife Juliaetta to Ontario where their first son Edward Albert Stephenson was born. Soon after the second son, Richard William "Dick" was born, their mother died. The family moved to Galesburg, Michigan, where both boys began school. There William married Delia Dibble and another child, a daughter, Emma Ellen was born.

The Stephenson family moved to Alton shortly after Emma was born, where William set up his business as a cobbler and general merchant. In 1892 he moved his small store to a much larger two-story limestone building complete with living quarters on the second floor which was accessed by the outside staircase on the south side of the building, at the northwest corner of the intersection

of Mill and Nicholas Streets where it stood for more than 70 years. Stephenson's Store as it was called remained in the same location until 1966, following the sudden death of William's grandson Robert Blake Stephenson. The letterhead of the Stephenson Store stationary was "In Same Business in Same Building Since 1892." Incidentally, this is the date on the abstract of the house now occupied

by Robert Blake Stephenson's nephew Bill Williams, my husband. It stands immediately behind where the original store stood.

In 1942 the store was declared the oldest store under the same ownership in the state of Kansas. In the early days it was truly a general store, with everything from bacon sides to bolts of calico, from women's hats to men's suits, overalls and shoes; also peanuts and candy for the kids. In the old safe was an invoice from an Atchison Kansas Vinegar Firm for a 50-gallon barrel of vinegar, cost \$4.00 and, in appreciation for his business, he got another barrel of vinegar free. This safe is still in the community, in the Community Room, where another grocery store once stood.

Saturday was the big day for the farmers to come in to buy their groceries. They often brought eggs and cream to trade for their at-home needs. Many charged all groceries for the full year and paid up after harvest. Most people gave their lists to a clerk and visited friends until ready to go home, then picked up their groceries, loaded their wagon or buggy, and left town for another week. In the 1950s it was a usual occurrence to have coupons handed out to those who purchased a certain amount of groceries. At a later hour, just before closing, a drawing would be held and the person holding that number was awarded a prize. Shopping in those days in their local community certainly paid off!

(It is told within the Stephenson/Williams family that during the Depression years, some of these grocery bills were "written off" by E. A. "Ned" Stephenson because there was no harvest money to repay him. Many would have lost their homes to him if he had not had a kind and gracious heart.)

The original owner William died in 1900, and Ned, Dick, and Emma took over the store. Later Ned became the sole owner. He had earlier returned to Michigan to school and was also a student at the Harlan Academy, Harlan, KS, boarding there during the week and returning to Alton on the weekends.

Ned married Blanche Louise Blake of Galesburg, Michigan, in 1898 and brought her to Alton to live in the house mentioned before. They raised five children in Alton, one of whom was Adeline (Stephenson) Williams, my husband's mother. Ned's brother, Dick, had men's clothing stores over the state and lived in Augusta where there was another "Stephenson's Store."

The Stephenson/Williams family continues to revere the enterprising example of their forefathers. All of Adeline's family, all nine of them, excepting one who died in his teens, have been noted as being outstanding in the communities in which they lived. So the heritage continues----

## **ROOKS COUNTY**

### **Webster's Supermarket, Stockton**

by Roger Hrabe



Webster's Supermarket is the lone remaining grocery store in the Highway 24 town of Stockton. Like so many other small towns, the need for multiple grocery, hardware, or clothing stores has passed. Stockton, in the recent past, had three grocery stores that once were all on Main Street. Slansky's IGA and Conn's Affiliated Grocery both closed their doors in the 1980s after long tenures in town, but Webster's has remained.

Webster's Supermarket was once known as Webster's Peter Pan and was located two blocks to the east and north of where it is currently located. The move was precipitated by a devastating fire on November 24, 1961,

that destroyed all the contents of the Peter Pan store. The building was later restored and is now the site of the Stockton Recreation Center. Webster's moved immediately after the fire, and it was a move that allowed for a gradual expansion of the store which now takes up most of the south 300 block of Main Street.

Howard and Eloise Webster were the owners and managers of the store until 1980 when grandson's Rusty and Roger Hrabe, along with longtime meat cutter Efford Lowe's son Nick,

purchased the store. Both Roger and Nick eventually sold their interest in the store, and it is now solely owned by Rusty.

In 2012, the former Dino Discount convenience store located just to the west of the main store was purchased by Webster's and now houses the deli and catering business for the grocery store. Shirley May's Deli and Catering is managed by Rusty's wife Cheryl, and has become a very successful side business for Webster's and a great addition to the community.

## **GRAHAM COUNTY**

### **Morland Mercantile Update**

by Faye Minium

The Morland Mercantile, "An Access to Healthy Foods Initiative" of the Morland Community Foundation, Inc., opened the door for operation November 1, 2013.

The project took 7 years to complete; the largest obstacle being located in a 100-year flood plain area. Resolving the flood plain issue resulted in approval of a "Letter of Map Revision" with all improved properties except two residences removed from the flood zone.

Strong community support was shown throughout the 7-year project and included a CDBG grant through the City of Morland, and donations from individuals and organizations (including churches, 4-H, Graham County Commissions, Graham County Economic Development, City of Morland, and fundraisers and volunteer labor led by the Morland Lions Club). Patience, understanding and positive attitudes maintained by the community during the seven years exemplified the desire for local availability of convenient, healthy foods.

The Morland Mercantile employs one full-time manager and two part-time employees, a significant addition to job availability in the community. Volunteers assist with stocking shelves, etc., on delivery day.

The Mercantile continues to be sensitive to fulfilling the needs of the community that fall within the stated charitable purposes. As an example, with cuts in hours of operation at the local post office, an application was approved to operate a Village Post Office. This provides extended hours for local residents to purchase stamps and the convenience of an additional service in one location. Made to order deli sandwiches, beer, and bagged ice purchased for resale through the local restaurant services were added at the beginning of the summer. Locally produced grass-fed buffalo meat is currently being considered as a healthy food choice to add to the product lines available through the Mercantile.

A couple of display areas have been set up to promote special holiday items, i.e., antique replica of a wood-burning kitchen stove for display of canning supplies and a male mannequin bust displaying a Bar-B-Q apron and utensils surrounded by other cookout items.

## **SHERIDAN COUNTY**

### **Hoxie Store**

by Edith Davidson Byers, as published in the Sheridan County History Book,  
*A History of Faith and Labor*, 1984

Walter Davidson was born in Columbus, Ohio, January 13, 1878, and moved to Adrian, Missouri, at an early age. He attended a little country school along with Elta Timmons (Summerson) and her brother, Charlie Timmons, who also moved to Hoxie, KS, to live. Suda Largent was born in Upper Track, West Virginia, September 21, 1883, and came to Adrian, Missouri, as an infant. She spent her early life in that area. In 1905 she was married to Walter Davidson. To this union two children, Alfred and Edith, were born. Walter got a job working for Henry Percival in his general store, as a clerk, selling groceries and dry goods.

During the winter months, when the creeks were frozen, the men would go out with teams and wagons, cut the ice into blocks, bring it in and put it in the "Ice House" back of the store. The ice was layered with straw so it would stay frozen until summer, then it was put in the customers ice boxes, to keep the perishable foods cool.

Other items, like sugar, flour, beans, cookies, dates, etc. had to be weighed and packaged to order. Chewing tobacco plugs were cut with a cutter that looked like a paper cutter. Bananas were

cut from a stalk hanging on the end of the fruit stand. And who could forget the old pickle barrel with the large juicy dill pickles, at five cents apiece?

The old potbellied stove, at the back, was a meeting place for customers to spin their yarns of the happenings of the town and country. Then when the first radios came to town they took turns listening to fights, politics, music or whatever, with ear phones. What a thrill!

Walter worked for years for the Percival and Son (Elmer and Sylvan), and later bought the grocery part of the store. It became a family project and was later operated by their son, Alfred.

Walt and Suda endeared themselves to a wide acquaintance of friends throughout the county. They were both ardent workers in all church and civic affairs, and both were members of the Hoxie Methodist Church.

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### **Pratt Store in Studley**

by Pearl Pratt as published in the *Sheridan County History Book, A History of Faith and Labor, 1985*

In August 1932, John and Jesse Pratt borrowed five thousand dollars from a Morland, Kansas, bank and bought the General Merchandise store in Studley from Mr. Bob Morgan. At that time the store was housed in a frame building located at the corner between the Studley State Bank and the Harry Pratt Hardware. Three years later they bought the rock building from the Turtle family and moved their merchandise to that building. Bob Morgan had been postmaster, and John also became the new postmaster. The new post office was located in one corner of the store.

At the time of the purchase, Jesse had completed his junior year at the Morland High School. During the 1923-24 term, he drove to Morland each morning and attended school, then drove back to Studley and worked in the store in the afternoons and on weekends. He graduated in the spring of 1924. In addition to the grocery store, they sold a big variety of dry goods, shoes, gasoline and anything else that the public wanted. They also bought chickens, hides, and cream. In midwinter they cut ice from the pond and stored it in a house, covered with straw and in the summertime, Jesse would get up early and deliver ice to the homes around town. There were no electric refrigerators and the housewife looked forward to a chunk of ice to help preserve the family food.

In the "dirty thirties," times were bad for most people and many needed groceries, but often did not have enough cream and eggs to cover the cost of their purchases, but no one was denied food from the store. In due time, a little money would be forthcoming and people would come in and pay the bills. A few old bills hung on for years, but most were paid in time. In those days, there were no grocery carts.

People brought in their eggs, the clerk counted the eggs and transferred them to another case, then took the customer's order, settled the bill and the groceries were put into the case to be taken home. In summertime, the eggs had to be candled to make sure they were fresh. The customers usually stayed on for a while to visit with neighbors whom they had not seen for a week or more.

One time, Mr. Bill Cunningham of Morland was buying eggs to help fill a train car for shipment. Jesse loaded a truck and started to Morland via the river road. More eggs had come into the Studley Store, and a hired man loaded several 30 dozen cases into John's car and started out to catch Jesse. Near the Earl Stout farm, the hired man caught up with Jesse and somehow crashed into Jesse's vehicle, and dozens of eggs were broken, to say nothing of the damage to the cars. It was difficult to keep fresh meat because of poor refrigeration. Before strict laws concerning fresh meat were effective, and when the weather was cold, many times Jesse would go to the pasture, select and shoot an animal, butcher it and in turn sell the meat to the customers. The big piece of meat would hang in the cold store room. This would not be permitted today.

Jesse owned a Model T Ford with a box in place of a back seat. He went to the farm homes and picked up the farmer's cream and brought it in where Harry tested it. Next week Jesse took the empty can and the check, made the same trip and brought in more cream. After moving to the rock building, Jesse operated the creamery.

Sometimes they would buy a train car load of vegetables or fruit. Once they bought a load of fruit and sent their brother, Frank, out with a truck loaded with peaches. He went west to Colby, back to Selden, etc., and could not sell any at \$1.50 a bushel. He called in and John said "try to get \$1 a bushel," but he still couldn't sell any, so they loaded them back into the train car and sent them back to the wholesale house.

In May 1930, John married Hattie Cunningham of Morland. For several years they lived in rooms on the east side of the store.

Jesse was married in 1933 to Pearl Ferguson of Penokee. They, too, lived in the same building and in 1934, moved to the home just west of the store which had been purchased from Alice Turtle.

In 1952, the Pratt Brothers sold their store to Clarence McClelland and Neecy Wood Sloan. However, John remained as postmaster for a couple of years to complete his 30 years of service. Upon his retirement, John and Hattie moved to Morland to the home that had belonged to Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Cunningham, who were Hattie's parents.

In 1955, Jesse and Pearl moved to Atwood where they owned and operated the theatre and the drive in theatre for 17 years. John and Hattie died, respectively, in 1974 and 1976, Jesse died in 1978. All three are buried in the Studley Cemetery.