

Strolling by the old grocery store at the south-west corner of Sussex and Glenelg Streets the noise of Carpenter's tools, hammer and saw, drew attention to the fact that the building is being turned into an apartment, one up and one down.

Decade after decade has witnessed the gradual cessation of the old corner store.

The store above was erected by Joe Staples, who will be remembered by many as he bore the nickname "Smiling Joe". He was a veteran grocery man with an emporium at the corner of King and St. David Streets. He was always smiling.

He was for several years Superintendent of the Queen Street Methodist Sunday School at the corner of Queen and Caroline Streets. This gentleman built the red brick store for his son-in-law Fred Bruce, who successfully ran the store for a number of years, being succeeded by Ken Simmons, who in turn was followed by George Langdon.

Fred Bruce was for a time in the grocery business at the north-east corner of Sussex and Glenelg. The business was purchased from Sam Walker . . . there was a memorable old time grocery man. He was short of stature, as was his gracious wife, who was a great help in the store.

Sam Walker carried everything, well almost. Groceries, bits of china, the old plug of chewing tobacco with the maple leaf emblem on the face, pencils, slates, and scribblers, needles and thread, were usually in stock. He also sold "The Evening Post".

PEPPERMINT STICKS

He is best remembered to this day, however, by youngsters of yesteryear who tripped into the corner store to buy peppermint sticks, maple sugar sticks, old time lozenges and also a chew of tobacco, a flat cake of delicious licorice, which also bore the stamp of the maple leaf.

Once in a while he sold imitation Irish pipes, but instead of being clay, they were made of licorice. It was fun to imitate the grown-ups and expectorate the black stuff.

Stream lined super markets with their wheeled buggies and their self service ideas have pushed many of the old time corner stores out of business.

There were two on King Street. Besides the Staples' store, J. R. O'Neill was located at the north-east corner of King and St. David. He operated a large store (the word 'operated' was not heard of in those days). It was a farmers' store and much bartering took place as the farmers and their wives brought in brown and white eggs, yellow butter, and sometimes chickens, ducks or geese. Homemade maple syrup was also a precious article.

Before buying cheese, the customers were allowed to take a neat nibble or slice. O'Neill handled dresses of calico for the women, a few pairs of work pants and boots and horse-hide gloves for the men, and carried candies for the children. It was a friendly store.

The east ward was just about the busiest part of Lindsay away back and other corner stores were run by George Mills at the north-east corner of Caroline and King, and a Mrs. Hopkins ran a store at the north-east corner of Queen and St. Paul, now the well known Barney O'Neill store. For service day and night, many visit this store where a large business is conducted in a comparatively small store.

Alex Fisher ran a grocery store at the corner of Peel and William Streets, and Amos Hawkins ran the grocery store at the south-east corner of William and Bond Streets.

In this day and age the banking institutions clamour for the corner locations, but

in distant days of the past, it was the grocer's aim to locate on a corner. Thomas Blackwell was followed by Adams Brothers as grocers at the corner of Kent and Cambridge Streets, and for many years W. M. Robson ran a store at the north-west corner of Kent

and Sussex Streets. Archie Campbell was a pioneer at the north-west corner of Kent and William, and a man named Dobson had a grocery store at the south-east corner of Kent and William Streets.

For several decades, Burkes' Store did a big business at the north-east corner of Lindsay and Russell Streets. The corner grocery at Ridout and Simcoe, at one time operated by S. E. Potts, has been for many years past, operated as Doherty's Store.

Switching back to the corner of Sussex and Glenelg, one resident urged that mention be made of some of the

pioneers in this section and they include Col Robert Sylvester, F. Scott, B. Johnston, Barclay, Fisher, Galbraith, Brokenshire, Ferris, Collins, Holden and Touchburn who owned a grist and fanning mill and seed cleaning business.