

How many residents of the South Ward remember when the house at the north-east corner of Glenelg Street was a painted white grocery store? The owner was Sam. Walker and his little old-fashioned wife was fond of children, particularly when they brought old coppers in their chubby begrimed hand and bought old fashioned candies, striped wintergreen sticks, delicious barley sticks and brown sugar sticks.

It was a compact store crammed with all kinds of vegetables, groceries, a few dishes, plugs of chewing tobacco and even lead pencils, slate pencils and scribblers. Sam Walker sold out to Fred Bruce and Fred was in business when his father-in-law Joe Staples, a veteran grocery storekeeper on King Street erected a fine red brick store at the opposite corner of Glenelg and Sussex, for his son-in-law.

This was a good store and Fred Bruce did a good business when there were no super markets. After several years of business Bruce sold to Ken Simmons, a clerk in the store, who also carried on business for a number of years and occupied an apartment above the store. The last storekeeper in this building was George Langdon, now a resident of Victoria Avenue north. Today this store is being turned into an apartment.

A few days ago a former resident on the street, Mrs. Marian Buckley, recalled the days when she was a school-girl living on Sussex Street, the Fisher home, south of the Bruce store. "These were the good days when a large open ditch became filled with deep and fast running water and flooded the street" remarked Mrs. Buckley. "The ditch ran down the east side of the street and residents along the street had to maintain bridges and gangplank walks in order to get from their homes to the sidewalk or road. Many a time fast rushing water carried these walks and bridges away and fences and gates were carried down the ditch as far away as Kent Street.

It was a dangerous ditch but it provided a lot of fun for boys and girls. It was so dangerous that there were many narrow escapes from drowning. Every year home owners bothered Town Councillors as they strenuously complained

about their misfortunes. Councillors were just as slow making amends and trying to appease home owners as they are today."

Continuing, Mrs. Buckley added: "neighbours were kind in those days and everybody knew everybody. They did not gossip but they sure had a lot to talk about when they met at the back garden fence or when they walked to and from church — and everybody went to church and everybody walked.

Former residents along Sussex street from Glenelg to Russell included: Bob Sylvester living in a big white house at the south-east corner. When the Hood Woollen Mill on Sussex St. near Kent was destroyed by fire the business was moved into the old Sylvester house. The Scott's were in line to the south and other fine families in the block included:

Fowler, Sam Galbraith, Bert Johnston, George Hall whose son Ed. Hall is Dean of Western University, Barclay, Ed. Golden. Other residents in the block included the Ferris family, one of the daughters being married to A. E. Silverwood the dairy king of Ontario; also the Brokenshire family."

For many years one of the best known business men in the same neighbourhood was Robt. T. Touchburn who operated a grain shed and warehouse at the corner of Russell and Victoria Avenue.

Corner stores which received good patronage also included the one now occupied by Gordon's at the corner of Albert and Durham Streets which was previously occupied by a man named Fisher and before that by Earl Pitts. A small store on the opposite corner was operated by W. J. Hussey and Bryce Hussey.

The St. Thomas store on

Colborne Street East was also a store which was quite popular. It was later occupied by Lloyd Kennedy.