

Regarding the many changes in mercantile stores on Kent and William Streets through the years, the greatest has been in connection with the grocery store business. At one time there were 20 such stores and in recent years the chain store business has taken over. There are many people in town and country who will remember these well known business names:

Adams Bros. in the building now occupied by the Royal Bank at Kent and Cambridge, where J. E. Theron, George and Delbert Adams were popular; Alex Primeau and son Jim, where Morley Greaves Electric is today; Dominion Store with C. Murdoff as manager started in the present Stedman Store. James Dwyer had a grocery in the Don Lytle store, and A. L. Campbell and a man named Holloway had a grocery west on the present Sally Shop. Spratt and Killen were grocers where the Bata Shoe Store is now located.

W. E. Baker had a large grocery business in the present laundromat and William Tresidder a grocery in the present Singer Sewing Machine store. T. J. Flurey was in business selling groceries where Johnson Jewellers are today and Jos. Brown was a grocer in the Pulver Store of today.

A. C. Babcock ran a store on William Street south. Loblaw's started near the corner of Kent and York, followed by the A. and P. Store next door. The first A and P store was on the north side of Kent Street, now Woolworth's. The first groceteria store was started by A. T. Claxton, one door east of the present Claxton store.

Probably among the first type of groceteria was on William Street, east side, with Harry Boyle operating the Haboco store. This store was formerly occupied by the Machine Telephone Company with Hammie Lee as manager.

T. A. Fisher had a grocery store at the corner of William and Peel Streets for many years, and Amos Hawkins of Woodville started the store at William and Bond Streets and was followed by Malcolm Cole, a native of Kinmount.

The oldest grocery stores included Robson's at Kent and Sussex Streets, and Jas Robson owned the store.

A small store at the northeast corner of Sussex and Glenelg was started by a man named Walker and Fred Bruce owned the grocery on the opposite corner.

The late Mr. Pitts opened a store at Albert and Durham Streets and Albert Hill had the store at William and Durham Streets and this gentleman was induced to come from Kinmount to Lindsay to play baseball. He was a speed ball artist.

M. J. Fox ran a small grocery on Lindsay Street.

Doherty's started the store at the corner of Ridout and Simcoe.

In the east ward the largest store was owned by J. T. O'Neil at St. David and King Streets and Jos. Staples operated a store at King and St. Peter Streets. For many years Wilbert Nicholls operated the store at Queen and Caroline Streets and the soda water works on Caroline Street. The first soft drink factory was owned by a man named Hines who moved to Orillia and the biggest operator of a soft drink plant was Jas. B. Begg with a plant on Peel Street.