



BENZIE
SANGMA
Intelligencer

Intel
Feb. 26/05
p. D2

In his 20-year plus experience as an auto mechanic at a local car dealership/garage, the worst thing that city resident Bernie Cannon ever saw inside of a customer's automobile trunk was bloodied bits of flesh — the remains of a slaughtered animal.

That customer happened to be a butcher by profession.

"It was unbelievable and disgusting to say the least. I had never seen anything like it," he chuckled.

At the time, Cannon was employed at the J.B. Boyce & Sons car dealership that used to be located at the site where McNabb Towers are today. Local residents would remember it as Chevrolet/Oldsmobile dealership. Prior to this location, the Boyce dealership was located at two different sites in downtown Belleville. It was founded by J.B. (Bert) Boyce in 1924 as Grey Dort dealership and its original location was thought to be 317 Front St. Shortly after, it was moved to another location nearby, before being moved once again to the McNabb Towers location in 1927.

When Cannon joined the staff in 1950, the original founder had passed away four years earlier. The business was then being run by his two sons Robert and Donald and when the latter died in a tragic airplane accident in 1952, Robert, who most know as Bob, began to run the business on his own until he sold it to Col. Hugh Kennedy in 1964.

Cannon went along to work for the new owner. By then, it had become a Plymouth Chrysler and Fargo Trucks dealership. Kennedy moved it to North Front Street location at a later date.

Almost 41 years later today, Cannon could not help but remember his first boss, Bob Boyce, with fondness for the



The staff of 1949 at J.B. Boyce & Sons Chevrolet dealership downtown.