

Wright's Food Market

Many goods were sold in bulk

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sold in paper bags until plastic bags were developed. Goldie was quick to try the new bags and soon the store had ladies coming there just for the sugar because it kept longer.

"If you put brown sugar in a paper bag, in two weeks you could hit it with a hammer. It was just like candy," he says.

Hours at the store were long. It opened at 6:30 a.m. and closed at 8 p.m. or 9 p.m. on weekdays. For many years it stayed open until midnight on Saturday to get the farmers' business as they headed home after an evening shopping or watching a movie at the theatre. Wright's was never open Sunday.

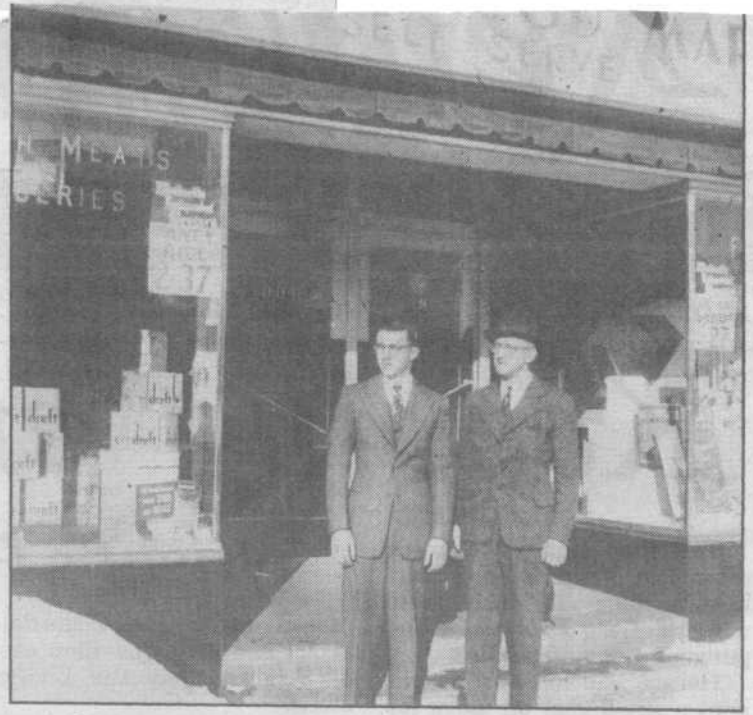
*Intell. Remember When
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The store sold many of its goods on credit. It was the Depression when Horace bought it and few people had much money. When the war began the government introduced rationing. Mary recalls one lady came to the store the morning of the announcement with her son and his wagon in tow and bought 100 lbs. of sugar and 100 lbs. of flour. "Up to that point she might have been a two-pound buyer," says Mary.

Francis made deliveries in a truck while a teenager delivered goods on bicycle.

Although Mary says the store wasn't a place where people congregated for long periods, several neighborhood women often showed up at the same time, leading her father to believe they saw each other going to the store and headed out themselves for a chance to chat.

Francis and Horace knew their customers well but always addressed them as Mr. or Mrs. Gradually such habits went by the wayside.



James and Horace Wright at the store, January, 1948.

The Livingstons and Wrights sold the business in 1986 to Floyd VanVolkenburg, who operated it for only five months. After that it housed a photography studio and then VanVolkenburg turned the building into apartments.

Today both the Livingstons and the Wrights live on West Moira Street, not far from their former store.



Goldie Livingston and long-time patron Vi Foley in the doorway of Wright's Food Market.

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