

Life around Castleton - an Elwood Jones sidebar



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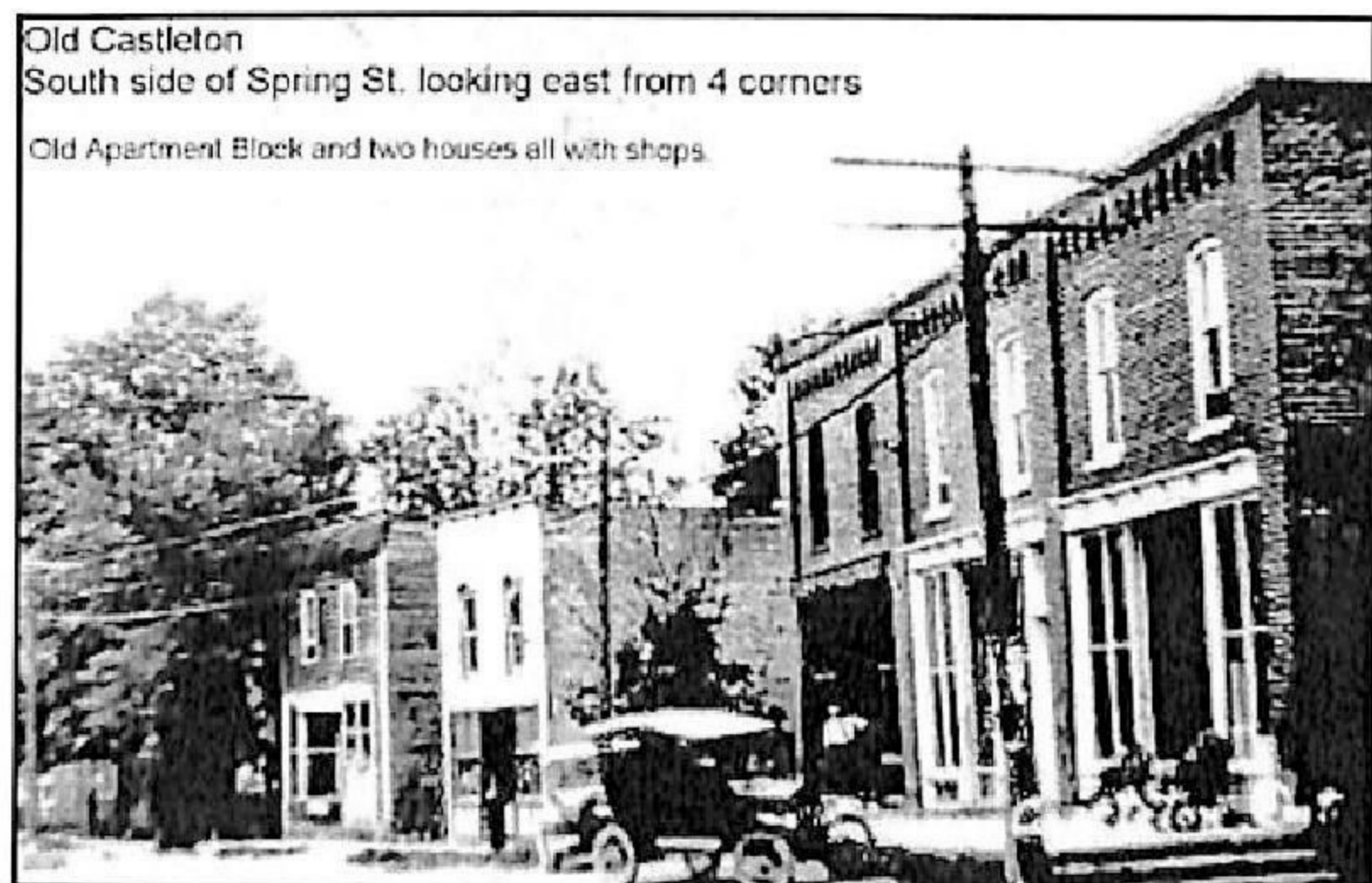
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Yesterday we posted the life story of Elwood Jones. Today, we give his recollections of life in the hamlet of Castleton in the first half of the last century.

Castleton before 1960

Castleton was a very different place in the first 60 years of the last century. It was a thriving commercial centre for the surrounding farm community. Now, little remains of that activity, aside from the Castleton General Store.

Elwood Jones grew up east of the Castleton and has live more than 65 years in the village. In a recent interview he gave his recollections of the business district.



He was perhaps most familiar with the post office which his grandfather Art ran for 25 years from 1920-45. Elwood says the office moved around. He first remembers it being where the garage now sits on Spring Street. There was a house in that spot with the shop in front. From there it was in at least four locations – most often in houses with shops in front. One of those buildings was a three-unit apartment over three stores which stood on the now-vacant lot on the southeast corner of Spring Street and County Rd. 25 (Percy Street).

The businesses in that corner building changed over the years. For many years there was a harness shop owned by Mr. Coleman. As a kid, Elwood had a great aunt and uncle who owned a business there with big glass jugs of candies on the shelves. A feed store, machine dealer, pool hall, butcher shop, bank and