

W. Water Street 441 Businesses

The Lichtenberg Pharmacy
Werske Ford Garage
VA Yahr Grocery Store
Bill Schmidt Grocery Store
Strong's Landing

THE LICHTENBERG PHARMACY BB Patricia Vining 1961

In 1871 Otto Lichtenberg came to Ripon from at the age of 19 together with several other young lads. He was a court interpreter in Germany and heard of many opportunities in America.

Being interested in medicine, he apprenticed to a doctor in 1874 at Princeton.

In the year of 1877 he established his own business on the site now occupied by Yahr's Supermarket. Fire destroyed this frame building in 1881. A new site was selected on the corner of Water and Washington Streets. It was a large frame building having an upstairs and basement.

Dr. Warner, Dr. Natie Radall, Dr. Lonergen, and Dr. Ziegmund had offices upstairs. The basement stored large barrels of alcohol. Beside the building was a large scale for weighing cattle and grain.

The store was attractive. A large ivy plant ran along the cornice of the wall. A huge umbrella plant stood at the end of the long rectangular room. Several pull down kerosene hanging lamps furnished the light during the early 80's.

The store was heated by a base burner in the front part and wood stove in the rear.

Several large bins on the side wall kept different size bottles for prescription orders. The wooden corks were used for stoppers.

The shelves held "belly bottles" of powder for preparing medicines. The windows were four pane which were replaced in the early 1900s with plate glass.

At Christmas time a large rack stood in the middle of the store in the shape of a Christmas tree. Each shelf held a variety of articles for Christmas shoppers. Smokers' supplies of all kinds, books, wallpaper, and pharmaceutical preparations.

Mr. Lichtenberg specialized in making medicines such as peppermint drops, stomach drops and many others. Pills were also made by hand. The ingredients were all placed on a slab and mixed. The mass was cut into squares and later rounded into shape. A supply of bear and skunk oils was kept. Quinine was sold like our common aspirin and cold tablets are today. Mace, cassia buds and cardamom were just a few of the seasonings sold.

Many housewives purchased tissue paper which came in a variety of colors for making flowers. The French tissue sold for two cents a sheet and the American for one cent.

Ida Zabel, sister-in-law of Mr. Lichtenberg, also a licensed druggist helped clerk in the store.

Besides his daily tasks, Mr. Lichtenberg found time to play the violin and the accordion.

He also held the agency for Hamburg American Steamboat line. This boat carried immigrants from Hamburg to New York and assisted people in coming to this country. Oscar Lichtenberg, son of Otto, succeeded to the ownership of the business in 1916. Oscar Lichtenberg is noted for his accuracy in following out the instructions of prescribing physicians. Continuing in business until 1942 and 1943 he sold his drug store building to Mr. Hiestand. Due to a fire, the present building was taken down and the new Princeton Hardware Store stands on its site.

Oscar Lichtenberg still helps in the pharmacy department in various drug stores today.

V.A YAHR GROCERY

In 1914, V. F. Yahr opened a dime store in the eastern half of what is now Swed's Store on Water and Pearl Streets. Several years later he added groceries to his store and in 1923, he moved across the street to what is now Kenyon's Klothes and opened a grocery store. This is when his son, V. A. (Vic) Yahr began helping in the business.

In 1931, the son bought the grocery business from his father and continued in the same location until 1955. In the meantime, he purchased the adjoining Buckhorn Tavern building in 1944, in which he started a clothing store. A doorway was made between the two businesses so shoppers could go from one store into the other. Continuing in this location for ten years, Yahr felt a need to expand the grocery line to better serve the people. It was at this time that he purchased the former Ford Garage building, where he is now located at the corner of Washington and Water Streets, and after extensive remodeling, moved the grocery part of his business to the new location.

Yahr's Grocery has been remodeled several times and today is a modern supermarket in a convenient location.

It was in 1955 that Yahr sold the Buckhorn building to Edmund (Eddie) Bartol and moved the clothing department into the former grocery store, which today is known as Keyon's Klothes, operated by Mrs. And Mrs. Kenyon Kruger.

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