

Chapter 3

Clemons' Businesses

In 1856 the Clemons Corner Store was erected by Willim Clemons and was the only store west of Marietta. This was located near the church at that time in an area known as "Liberty Line". Goods were brought from Iowa City. This was the first of many buildings built by him. The nine buildings he built included the Brackney Elevator, drugstore, meat market, blacksmith shop, corner grocery store and four homes.

The Minerva Valley Creamery started business in the 1880's. It was a thriving business and prospered until 1955. O. L. Lundin operated a meat market in 1880. He had meat available to his patrons through the store in town and summer delivery to the country. He sold meat, poultry, fish, and wild game.

In the early 1900's the town was booming with organizations and businesses. The population was 213. The businesses at this time were numerous: W. A.

Pollack, The Bank of Clemons; Clayton Jackman, Creamery Manager; Dr. Earl Noble, Physician; C. Dixon, Postmaster; E. Jones, Barber; Albert Brackney, Elevator; John Freeze, Restaurant; Al Christensen, Harness & Shoemaker; Willis Kirk, Pool & Billiard; Aaron Brackney, Carpenter; Clemons Bugle; Clemons Tribune; Hambleton & Hathaway General Store; H. E. Butts, General Store; J. C. Armstrong, Hardware; Sandrun Bros., Meat



Calendars of Clemon's Businesses



The Farmers Co-Operative Company
Dealers in Grain, Coal, Building Material, Food, Implements
W. J. DARLAND, Manager — Clemons, Iowa

1931		JANUARY							1931	
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat				
	4	5	6	7	8	9	10			
11	12	13	14	15	16	17				
18	19	20	21	22	23	24				
25	26	27	28	29	30	31				

Market; Al Gandrup, Drugstore and Soda Fountain; Bert Roseborough, Blacksmith; J. C. McCormack, Arlington Hotel; Tom Breckenridge, Pumps, Windmills Implement; Albert Brackney, Hog Buying Station; L. G. Marsh, Jewelry Store & Optician; J. S. McCormack, Real Estate & Insurance (land selling for \$75 - \$175 per acre). Societies at this time were Odd Fellows and the Woodmen Lodges.

There was more travel to Marshalltown with the improved roads and transportation but businesses were still numerous in Clemons. The following were the businesses in the early 1920's. A. A. Arney, The Bank of Clemons; Mrs. Earl Cook, Clemons Mutual Telephone Company; Moore-Eldridge Gravel Contractors; Mr. Monroe, Postmaster; Bert Roseborough, Blacksmith; Tom Ingledue, Plumber; Ludlow Mercantile Co.; E. Ingledue, Harness Shop, later Harry Grewell; Albert Brackney, Elevator; George W. Grinstead, Clemons Auto Co.; Adams Cafe; Glen Bartholomew, Standard Station; Lon Hughes, Minerva Valley Cooperative Creamery Association; Dr. W. W. Boggie, Clemons Drug Co.; Dr. Earl Noble, Physician; Henry Brackney, Brack-



CLEMONS & GRINSTEAD
ALL KINDS OF AUTOMOBILE ACCESSORIES
CLEMONS IOWA

A CALENDAR
FOR THE YEAR

ney Hardware Co.; William Darland, Farmers Co-op Company; H. F. Butts and Son Store; Clemons Booster Newspaper; Fred Stewart & Butch Nielsen, Meat Market; Harley M. Clemons, Repair Shop and Garage; Carl Anderson Painter & Decorator; Benny Dunn, Garage; Glen and Helen Rhodes, Restaurant; Ed and Charley Benson, Produce; Harry Hurley, Shell Gas Station; Henry Hartwick, Stockbuyer; Lewis Jay, Barber.

The following businesses advertized these ads in newspapers found in 1924.

Clemons Drug Co.

Licensed Veterinarian
Had Edison & Brunswick Machines

Dr. W. W. Boggie _____ Manager

Bank of Clemons

Responsible for ½ million
Members of American Bankers Association
Members of Iowa Bankers Association

Frank C. Davis _____ President
O. Z. Burkhead _____ Vice President
August Armbrecht _____ Vice President
A. A. Arney _____ Cashier

Albert Brackney Elevator

Home of ABC Feeds
Lumber, coal, cement, tile, wire fencing, cedar posts and poles, shingles, "Red Top" fence posts, Trojan steel gates. Highest market prices paid for grain at all times.

Minerva Valley Cooperative Creamery Association

Manufacturers - Fancy creamery butter
Theodore Helmecke _____ *Manager*

Clemons Consolidated Schools

State approved for 12 grades
District composed of 16¼ sections

H.H. Armbrecht _____ *Secretary*
A. A. Arney _____ *Treasurer*
Directors
E. H. Noble _____ *President*
F. C. Davis
S. K. Eley
Leo Liston
Fred Nichols

Farmers Cooperative Co.

Dealers in grain, coal, building materials, flour, feed, implements and livestock

J. H. Packers _____ *President*
F. L. Clemons _____ *Secretary*
R. E. Wantz _____ *Treasurer*
H. A. Spiller _____ *Manager*

Businesses in 1934 were as follows: Clemons Service Station; Clemons Produce Co.; Clemons Grain & Lumber Co.; G. L. Bartholomew, Standard Oil; Idso Cash Store; Clark's Store; Bryant Cafe; Minerva Valley Cooperative Creamery Assoc.- S. D. Noble; Shamrock Cafe; Brackney Grocery; H. L. Service Station; O. Z. Burkhead Insurance. Many owners or managers names were unavailable. The fire a few years earlier had destroyed four buildings and were not rebuilt.

There were still several businesses in the 1950's, although many were shopping in Marshalltown more frequently. The following were listed: Bob's Service Station; Harley M. (Hop) Clemons, Garage; Harold Christensen, Clemons Grain & Supply Co.; Filers Grocery Store; Holveck Electric Shop; Jay Hardware, Johnson's Cafe; Lewis King Garage; Minerva Valley Cooperative Creamery Association, Arnold Kaiser; Donald Nichols Service Station, Palmer Grocery; Schaper Feed & Supply; Dr. Hodson, Physician (Dr. E. W. Sheldahl came in 1952); Locker; Glen Bartholomew, Standard Oil; Postmaster, E. T. VanMetre; Clemons Mutual Telephone Co., Bernice Reisinger; Earl Otto, Pool Hall; Gordon Warren, Barber Shop.

The Clemons business district has dwindled in size compared to its booming years. When the "Clemons Bugle" Bicentennial Edition was printed in 1976 these were the businesses present: Dr. E. W. Sheldahl, Physician; Virginia Borton, Postmaster; Tri-County Ins. Co.; Gordon Warren, Barber Shop; Town Hall; Doris & Jerry Votruba, Tavern; Marvin Christensen, Clemons Grain & Supply Co.; Standard Fertilizer Plant; Reece Bros. Ag. Service; and Champlin Gas Station.

Looking back over the past 100 years of businesses, Clemons Grove should be proud of the number,

quality, and variety of businesses. The following are present in 1982: Physician, Dr. E. W. Sheldahl; Postmaster, Virginia Borton; Tri-County Insurance Co.; Town Hall; Doris and Jerry's Tavern; Marvin Christensen, Clemons Grain & Supply Co.; Standard Fertilizer; Reece Bros. Ag. Service; Lon Bryant, Standard Gas Station; Don Spurlin Trucking; Warner's Repair Shop and Hallett Construction are in the country.

History of several businesses of past and present follow.

MINERVA VALLEY COOPERATIVE CREAMERY ASSOCIATION

The creamery business in Clemons was largely responsible for the growth of this village. The successful business had its start in the 1880's when the need was promoted by the farmers and growth of milk production.

G. Clayton Jackman was the first buttermaker. At this time the creamery was a wooden building located northeast of the present building. The offices of the

The officers of the creamery were President, Joseph Eley; Vice-President, George Magee; Secretary-Treasurer and Manager, A. C. McCormack. The directors were William Mooney, Ed Ross, Henry Goecke, and Lew Eckhart.

On February 28, 1890 the Minerva Valley Creamery Company was formed. The new officers elected were President, B. F. Nichols; Vice-President, A. A. Bartine; Secretary, S. M. Gause; Treasurer, George W. Magee. Directors were Louis Hartwig, Joseph Eley, C. S. Andrews, John Johnson, and Nathan Kirk. The buttermaker was O. E. Graffin. The Creamery had an excellent reputation for producing good butter named "American Beauty".



This is the first Minerva Valley Creamery building until 1909, located Northeast of the present building.



The Minerva Valley Creamery Association was a thriving business in 1910.

By 1900 the creamery was well established and was a great financial benefit to the community. It was producing 7,000 pounds of butter per week and in its peak operating years paid \$35,000 to \$50,000 to its members.

On March 7, 1905, Articles of Incorporation were filed for Minerva Valley Creamery Association. The new officers were President, C. H. Ross; Vice President, W. R. Moninger; Treasurer, W. A. Pollock. Directors were H. F. Smith, B. S. Hines, Chris Schaper, and H. H. Schaper.

The present building was built in 1909 to better serve the farmers of the area.

Minerva Valley Cooperative Creamery Association's Articles of Incorporation were filed on February 4, 1920. The officers were President, F. C. Davis; Vice President, B. S. Hines; Secretary, W. A. Ambrecht; Treasurer, A. A. Arney. Directors were Edward Mason, M. E. Perry, Chris Schaper, W. A. Ambrecht, J. O. Bissett, and Robert Harper.

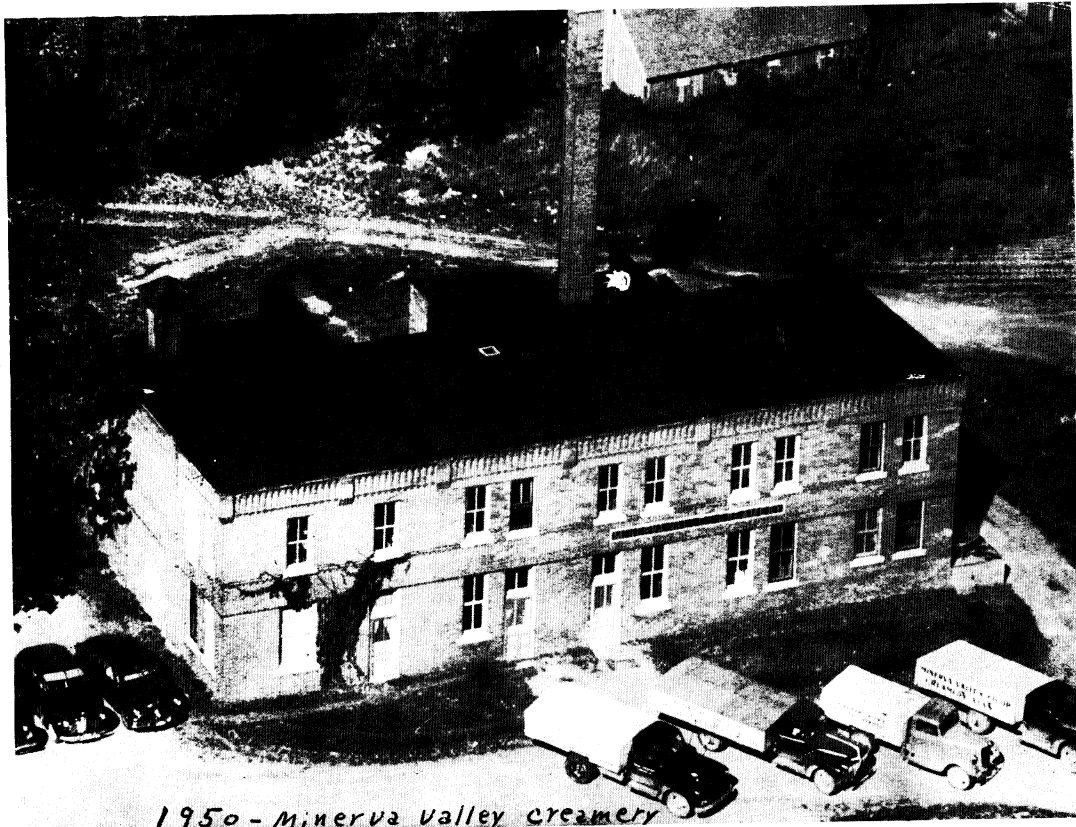
The Articles of Incorporation were renewed June



Henry Bryant and Bill Everist at the Creamery



Arnold Kaiser with his milk truck



1950 - Minerva Valley Creamery

1950 Minerva Valley Creamery
Ice House in background

10, 1940. There were 197 stockholders. Officers were President, W.A. Armbrrecht; Vice President, Frank Lyons; Secretary - Treasurer, Frank B. Goecke. Directors were Earl Allen, J. O. Bissett, W. A. Sommerlot, L. J. Davis, and Leo Luthi.

The creamery was closed July 15, 1955. A July 8th meeting showed a vote to dissolve the organization. The decision was carried 188 - 3. The two major reasons for closing the facility was the loss of producers and difficulty in retaining a buttermaker. At closing, Arnold Kaiser was acting manager for 25 years. Frank Lyons was President; Louis Nichols, Vice President; and Randall Davis, Secretary-Treasurer.

The creamery building is still standing and is owned by Jerry Votruba, Clemons.

The Minerva Valley Creamery building is featured on the centennial plate. The illustration is taken from an actual photograph from the early 1900's.

Minerva Valley Creamery

February 1920

C. C. Schindle, Manager
Lon Hughes, Buttermaker
L. W. Ross, Asst.

July 1920

C. C. Schindle, resigns.
Theodore Helmecke became manager.

March 1921

L. E. Mooney hired as Asst. helper.

February 1922

Frank Clemons hired as Asst. helper.

December 1927

Chris Jensen was hired as Buttermaker.

June 1931

Theodore Helmecke resigns as Manager.
S. D. Noble was hired as Manager.

January 1932

Bill Everist hired as Asst. helper.

September 1932

Vern O'Connor was hired as Buttermaker.

February 1935

S. D. Noble and Bill Everist taken over the duties.

February 1938

S. D. Noble resigns as Buttermaker and Manager.
Glen Gillette was hired as Buttermaker and Manager.

February 1942

Glen Gillette enters service.
Bill Everist and Henry Bryant were Manager and Helper.

January 1945

Lloyd Binkert was hired as Buttermaker and Manager.

February 1955

G. T. Armstrong was hired as Manager.

July 1955

Meeting to dissolve the Creamery.

NEWSPAPERS

Clemons has had four newspapers published since the late 1800's. The "Clemons Bugle" was a weekly newspaper published from March, 1898 - 1902. It was the town's only main newspaper. A souvenir edition was published in 1901. The editor was A. W. Lewis, and the paper was published in the basement of the Arlington Hotel. Lewis was previously a teacher in the Clemons School.

There is evidence of a paper "The Clemons Tribune" published in 1905. No other information is available. Apparently it was shortlived.

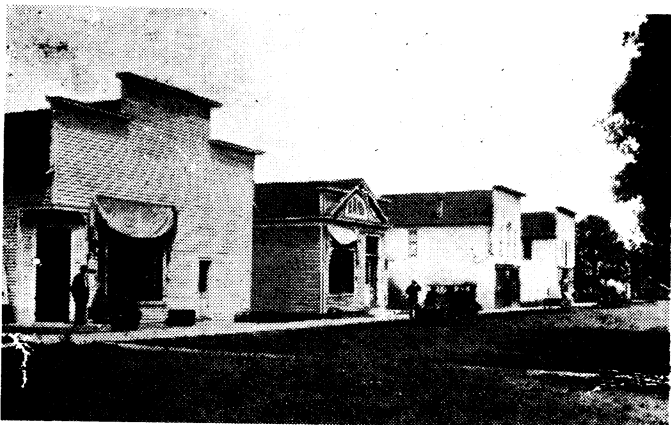
"The Clemons Community Booster" was a community paper published in 1923, once a month. Its goal was to promote the welfare of the Church School, business interests, and community happenings that are of such a nature which will be an uplift to the neighborhood. The paper was made possible by the advertisements of members of the Commercial Club. Levi J. Carter was editor.

"The Courier" which was shortlived was published in 1934. L. W. Clark was editor and business manager. Six hundred copies were sent to the community each Monday.

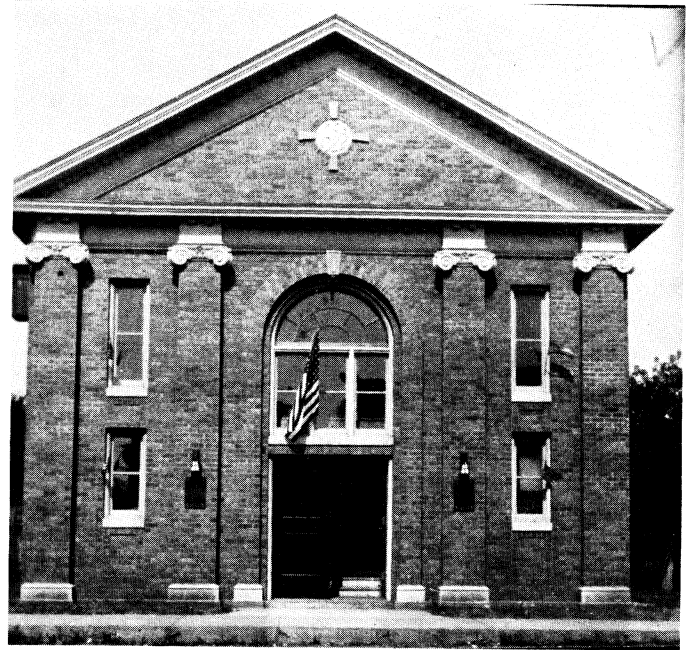
The basement of the telephone office was also used as a printing office for a time.

THE BANK OF CLEMONS

The Bank of Clemons appears to have started in 1901 as that is the first reference to its existence that we have been able to find. The bank was probably started by W. A. Pollock who served as president and T. E. Pollock was vice president. In 1901 the stated capital of the bank was \$10,000.00 and was a correspondent bank with First National Bank of Chicago and Marshalltown State Bank of Marshalltown.



**Original Wooden Bank Building
1901-1922**



**The Bank of Clemons
1922**

The first bank building was an old wooden structure on Lot 8, Block 3 of the Original Town of Clemons Grove, and was used until about 1922 when a new bank building was built next to the old one, Lot 9, Block 3 of the Original Town of Clemons Grove. This building still stands today and is presently Dr. Sheldahl's office. After the new building was built, it is believed that the old bank building was moved to Lot 8, Block 2 of Clemons Third Addition and was used in the construction of a house that is presently occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Muschick.

The Pollocks ran the bank until about 1921 when it was sold to a group of residents. The Bank of Clemons was always a private bank. It was not chartered by the state, but was a private business that engaged in banking. One of the difficulties we have had in tracing the history of the bank was that it was a private bank and also never incorporated. As such, there were no articles of incorporation nor bank charter we could trace to its beginning.

We do not know who all the parties were that purchased the bank from the Pollocks in 1921, but on July 31, 1925, a trade name of The Bank of Clemons was filed indicating that it was operated as a partnership or joint stock association composed of A. A. Arney, H. H. Armbricht, F. C. Davis, E. H. Noble, E. T. VanMetre, Fred VanMetre, and W. E. Ross. These men were probably the same ones that purchased the bank in about 1921.

A 1923 advertisement lists 33 year farm loans at 5½% with no commission, no stock subscription, and no delay. The bank was also a member of the American Bankers Assoc. and the Iowa Bankers Assoc. The advertisement says the bank is "responsible for over one-half million".

In 1923 the following bank officers were listed: Frank C. Davis, President; O. Z. Burkhead and August Armbrecht, Vice President; and A. A. Arney, Cashier.

In 1927 the bank capital was listed as \$20,000 and was composed of the following officers: F. C. Davis, President; H. H. Armbrecht and A. A. Arney, Vice Presidents; H. H. Armbrecht, Cashier; and E. T. VanMetre, Assistant Cashier. Deposits were listed at \$340,000.00.

Before the crash in 1929 and the Depression, there were 2,400 banks in Iowa. Today there are only 657. The Bank of Clemons closed and crased business on August 17, 1931. W. H. Arney was appointed receiver on August 22, 1931, and served until he resigned and Harry W. Jennings was appointed to succeed him on February 20, 1933.

During the next two or three years, it is believed that the Security Savings Bank provided some banking services through a Clemons office. On November 23, 1935, the receiver transferred the bank building to the Union-Whitten State Savings Bank and they operated an

office of their bank at Clemons until about 1945, with Frank Reynolds as office manager. Since that time there has not been a bank or bank office in town.

On August 28, 1974, the Union-Whitten State Savings Bank gave the bank building to the Town of Clemons. In about 1943 to 1946 there was a restaurant operated in the building. Since about 1947 the building has been used as a doctor's office.

TELEPHONE

The telephone was the earliest utility brought to town. There are reports of telephones in use as early as the late 1890's. Oscar Lundin was said to have the first telephone in his meat market. There was much excitement over this "new box" hanging on the wall. In the country the telephone lines were on poles. A neighborhood line covered several miles and were sometimes known by a family name. Some families even had private lines in the early 1900's.



Clemons Mutual Telephone Co.
Stock Share - Started March 15, 1916

The telephones were wooden boxes with batteries in the bottom and mechanisms in the top of the box. The batteries were replaced as needed. Long distance calls were made by calling the central office in Clemons.

The Marshall County Farmer's Mutual Telephone Association was incorporated March 19, 1910, the purpose to coordinate local phone systems in the county. The directors for the county organization were representatives from the county areas with phone service. Those filing incorporation papers from this area were Frank Davis, Robert Harper, and W. H. Jones.

On March 15, 1916, the Clemons Mutual Telephone Co. was incorporated.

The annual meeting of the Clemons Mutual Telephone Co. in March 1934 shows the following slate of officers and directors: President, Theodore Helmcke; Vice President, R. R. Ridgeway; Secretary-Treasurer, Wanda Ross, S. K. Eley, William Ward, and Frank Tucker. Mr. and Mrs. Dolph Pickering were the lineman and operator.

Reincorporation papers were filed on March 3, 1938. The directors were: President, Fritz Meier; Vice President, Frank Tucker; Secretary-Treasurer, Wanda Ross, W. C. Ward, R. R. Ridgeway, S. K. Eley, and L. F. Davis. This was a non-profit organization with 101 stockholders.

The Clemons - St. Anthony Telephone Co. was incorporated March 22, 1955. The directors were: President, Leo Dunn; Vice President, A. T. Heil; Secretary-Treasurer, Janet Paterson, Virginia Borton, Harold Weuve, E. W. Shives, Vinton Davis, Ralph Pfantz, Arnold Riese, Donald Bartine, Gene Griffiths, and E. T. VanMetre.

In 1956, the company voted to sell their stocks for a sum of \$75 per share to the Tri-County Telephone Company of Zearing with agreement to purchase stock in Tri-County Telephone Co. at a par value of \$25 per share. At this time Leo Dunn was President and Wanda Ross Secretary-Treasurer.

In August of 1957 the Minerva Valley Telephone Co., Inc. was formed serving Clemons, St. Anthony and Zearing. This brought changes of handcrank phones to dial, credit cards and seven digit numbers. Clemons' telephone prefix was Greenfield 7.

In 1982, the Minerva Valley Telephone Co., Inc. main office is located in Zearing and a substation in Clemons. Directors are President, Lawrence Lyons; Vice President, Johnny Lane; Secretary, Vinton Davis; Treasurer, Art Kelespie; Leo Dunn, Everett Johnson, Dale Johnson, Harold Britten, and Merrill Rhodes. Ruth Springer is the manager and lineman are Dave Barden and Virginia Phillips.



Telephone Operator - Bernice Reisinger
1950's

TELEPHONE OPERATORS & LINEMEN

(This is only a partial list.)

Mr. and Mrs. Burt Adamson	
Ethel Tucker	1908 - 1909
Emma Eckhart (helper)	1917
	Mr. White (lineman)
Robert and Minnie Jay	1922 - 1927
Mr. and Mrs. Earl Cooks	1930
Mr. and Mrs. Dolph Pickering	1934
Wallace Chance	
Stella and Henry Bryant	
Avanelle and Pat Rogers	1941 - 1942
Delbert Embree	
Mildred Hughes	
Ruth Dixon Ward	1945 - 1952
Ella Elliott	1948 - 1949
	(while Ruth was ill)
Bernice and Warren Reisinger	1952 - 1957



Arlington Hotel - 1899

Fred, Pluma and Harold Clemons

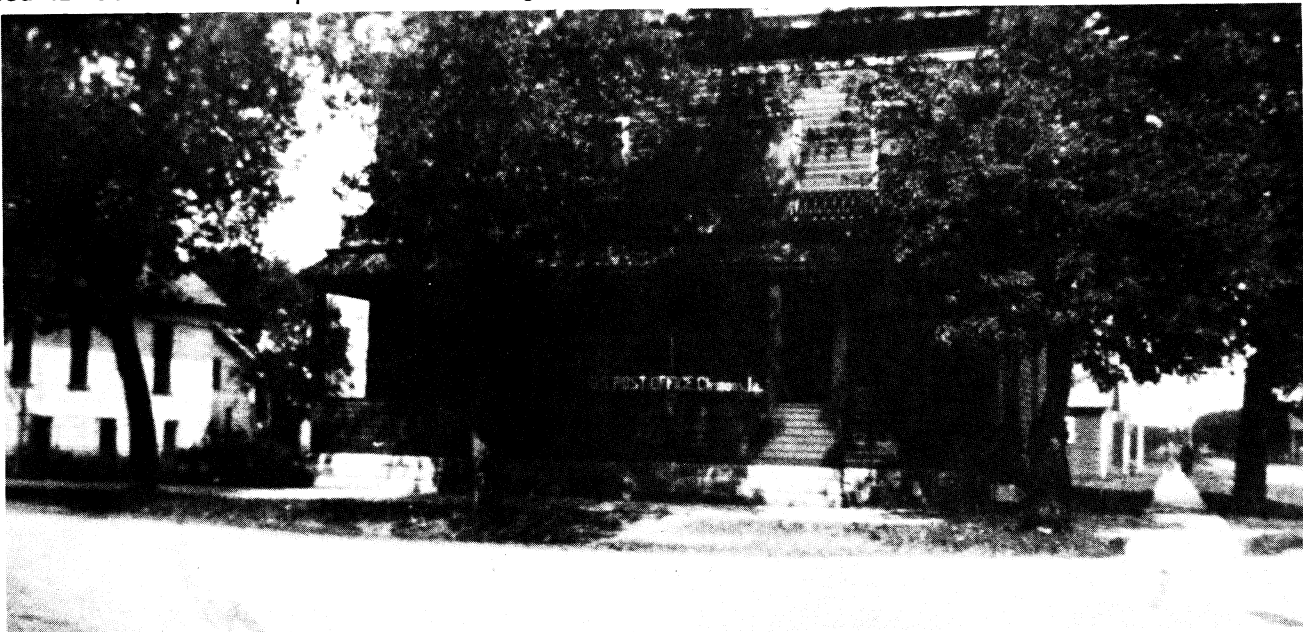
HOTEL ARLINGTON

The Bromley Hotel was located 1½ mile east of Clemons in Bromley. At one time it was quite busy there, but Bromley failed to grow and died out. Many buildings from there were moved to Clemons. The Hotel was one of them. It was moved by horses in 1899 by the new owner, Jim McCormack. It was situated on the original section of main street on the southeast corner. Mr. McCormack fixed it up into a building to be very proud of. It was used as a hotel for many years. It was known as the home of the traveling man and stockbuyer. It housed 12 rooms besides a parlor and a dining room

capable of seating 25 - 30 guests. It also housed the barber shop and the town's first printing office. A. W. Lewis was the editor of the town's first newspaper, "The Clemons Bugle", from 1898 - 1902. Later, it housed the post office for A. W. Monroe.

Mr. and Mrs. E. W. VanMetre bought the building in 1928 and it was used as their home and town Post Office until 1970 when the new Post Office was built across the street.

The VanMetres retired to Grinnell in 1980. The old hotel was sold to Jerry and Shari Bab in 1981. They and their five children reside there.



The Arlington Hotel was known as the home of the "traveling man" and stockbuyer

BRACKNEY ELEVATOR

The Brackney Elevator was the earliest elevator, grain, cement, and lumber business in the area and was located on the railroad across from the Creamery. This business, owned and operated by Albert Brackney, was started in 1898 when the Brackney family moved to the Clemons area. In time the old Bromley Elevator was moved via rail to Clemons and added to his business site. The buildings for the lumber, coal, and cement were to the southwest of the elevator. Cement bricks were made and sold there. Max Proctor, the grandson of Albert Brackney, has a cement brick and lime grinding wheel with grooves used to grind the grain.



Brackney Elevator

Albert Brackney, owner. The elevator was located Southwest of the Creamery. Left to right - Carl Perry and Eva Brackney Proctor with Frisk, the dog.

At one time horses walked a treadmill to provide power to the elevator.

Albert Brackney was in business for 40 years and employed many in the community.

MOORE - ELDRIDGE GRAVEL CONTRACTORS

Harold Eldridge and his family moved to Clemons on the Blackburn property in 1917. Later Harold was using a post-hole digger on the farm when he discovered gravel. In 1923 with mules, horses, and a Fresno scoop, Eldridge entered into the gravel business. From this the partnership of Moore-Eldridge Gravel Contractors was formed. Brub Moore was the Clemons barber at the time. Their office was located in Marshalltown.

The farm equipment was sold in 1924 retaining



Eldridge children on gravel equipment in 1927.

Left to right - front: Eleanor, Doris, Howard. Back: Moore-Eldridge employee, Ethel, Bernice, Cordelia, Marion, Vernon Anderson.

the mules and horses. One super team was "Fan and Zal". They would pull the Fresno Scoop, taking dirt off the gravel. The workers would marvel at the power of the team.

In the spring of 1927, Merle O. Weaver of Iowa Falls, a gravel contractor, sent his large equipment and L. W. Hayes to the Eldridge Gravel Pit. He had made a bid to obtain gravel from the pit to gravel all the streets in State Center city limits, 12,000 cubic yards of gravel. Weaver's large equipment was the first used to take out gravel on the Eldridge farm. All other had been taken out by horses.

As Moore and Eldridge acquired heavy equipment, Cordelia Eldridge Bates remembers men hired that had outstanding personalities and characters. A young man, Robert (Bob) Anderson from Fort Dodge, was hired. Cordelia, 9 years old, remembers riding in the truck with him at 6:00 a.m. to dump gravel at the train cars, now the site near the elevator.

Some of the towns where Moore and Eldridge obtained bids for work were Ames, Jewell, Central City, Muscatine, and others.

Charles Bartine was bookkeeper in the late twenties.

In the thirties, Harold Eldridge went to work in Missouri for L. W. Hayes Construction Co.

(Obtained from Cordelia Eldridge Bates.)

EMPIRE SAND AND MATERIAL CO.

Empire Sand and Material Co. was owned and operated by Sam Keller. His business was first started in the gravel enterprise in Marietta in 1923. He moved to the Bromley area (one mile east of Clemons) in 1931. Keller's sons, Ellis and Alfred, were also active in the business, Ellis as the manager and Alfred as bookkeeper. The plentifulness of gravel in the area prospered the business over the years. In 1959 after Sam Keller's death, the business was sold to E. W. Hallett of Hallett Construction.

In the middle 30's, Lake Kelrod was formed in the Bromley area. The second pit to be dug, on the west of the fence line and road, was established as Lake Kelrod, "Kel" for Sam Keller and "Rod" for Harry Rodgers, a conservationist. Rodgers was concerned with the wild fowl of the area and encouraged Keller to make this pit into a wildlife refuge. Richard Nelson of Clemons received a certificate honoring him for his active interest in raising wild fowl. The lake has now filled in.

HALLETT CONSTRUCTION CO.

E. W. Hallett bought the Empire Sand and Material Co. from the Keller brothers in 1959. Their dad, Sam had owned the business and property since 1931. The Hallett Construction Co. has been very active over the years and still is today. The property runs along the south area of the Minerva Creek for one mile. The business extracts and sells wash concrete sand, pea rock, road gravel, one inch concrete rock, and base material for blacktop. E. W. Hallett, President, is 99 years old and still active in the business. There are several Hallett Construction plants in the United States so he is not a resident of this area.

The office of the company was originally the railroad depot in Bromley. It was located south of the tracks and east of the road. Herb Halladay is the manager of the plant and resides on the premises.

LUCILLE'S DELUXE BEAUTY SHOP

Lucille Jay graduated from Clemons in 1936. Shortly after graduating from beauty school she opened her shop in Clemons in 1937. Lucille conducted a contest to name her shop. Mrs. Ethel Beckwith was the winner submitting the name Lucille's Deluxe Beauty Shop. In 1941 Lucille married Russell Harding and operated a busy shop until 1945.

Lucille's shop was located Lot 7, Block 3, original platt on Main Street. The beauty shop was on the south side of the building and Hof Restaurant on the north side. The building was owned by Harry Buck, the local barber. Previous to the beauty shop, the Boggie Drug Store occupied the building.

Store occupied the building.

Mary Jay, now Mrs. Louis Goecke of Clemons, worked for Lucille from 1942 - 1943.

The shop served many customers from town and country. When Lucille and her family moved to Marshalltown, Glen and Ethel Jay purchased the building and operated Jay's Hardware for many years. Lucille now operates Lucille's House of Beauty in Marshalltown.

Edith Moore Bryant (Duffy) operated the shop after Lucille left.

HISTORY OF THE CLEMONS BARBER SHOP

By Gordon Warren, retired Barber.

Abstracts in my possession date back to 1882 when Wm. M. Clemons had the parcel of land on which the Barber Shop was built, plotted as Lot 13 in Block 2 in Clemons Grove.

In 1891 the lot was deeded to Wm. J. Clemons and until 1900 changed hands approximately every two years. Owners were D. P. La Plant, J. M. Honn, J. W. Everist and M. F. Rash.

Then in 1900, Oris Spence became owner and did not sell until 1911 and for this reason I thought perhaps he was the first barber and possibly the one to build the building used for that purpose. Also a typical western story is told that would fit into this period of time. For is related that one day a man trying to break a horse rode or drove through main street and when he neared the Barber Shop he lost control of the animal which leaped against the large plate glass window of the building. I don't know if the horse was hurt, but the window was later replaced with one from the original old Bank building.

W. T. Spence became the owner in 1911. He sold to Bernard L. Moore in 1914 and there are a number of persons in this community that remember him as he was the Barber until 1928.

In the year 1928, L. W. Jay became the owner and then he sold to Harry Buck in 1931. In 1937 I purchased the shop from Harry Buck and I barbered until the summer of 1977.

I have many memories of those years. One that stands out especially, occurred some 20 years ago. It was a fall day in late October. I was in the shop cleaning and I heard a weird noise and I went outside to investigate and could find nothing. I went back to my cleaning in the shop and every so often I would hear these guttural sounds and every so often I went outside to look. Finally I looked up to the roof of the Shop and what I saw I could hardly believe, for there with its wings spread out and panting for breath was a large turkey. I reasoned Halloween pranksters put it there, but how they got such a

bird up and onto the roof I guess I will never know. My problem was how to get it down. The turkey was afraid to jump to the ground below so I found a man with a gun and he got it with one shot. I took the bird home and dressed it for the freezer. By that time I heard of others who had found turkey's in other buildings in town. I figure the birds came from Easton's Turkey Farm so I made a settlement with them on the price of the turkey I got.

In the fall of 1977 I sold the Barber Shop building to the Tri-County Insurance Agency.

CLEMONS GRAIN & SUPPLY CO.

On September 26, 1917 the Articles of Incorporation of the Farmers Cooperative Company were filed. The following buildings were erected; an office building, scale and sales rooms, round tile storage building, frame salt warehouse and corn crib, a tile feed storage warehouse, a frame coal shed, lumber shed and wagon scales.

The brick building across the street to the south was put up in 1919, and was used to store and display International Harvester machinery. In the early years W. J. Darland was manager and Wanda Helmecke Ross was bookkeeper. Robert E. Wantz was president of the company and A. H. Gerke, treasurer. Three-day meetings were held in the upper story and the Ladies Aid served meals for them. Later it was used as a dance hall, roller skating rink, basketball court and for school activities such as operettas, speech concerts, class plays, graduation exercises, the American Legion Hall and picnics.

On April 5, 1928 a fire was discovered in the tile block elevator at 1:15 a.m. It burned the motor supports in the head house and let the motor fall into the grain bin over the driveway but there was no damage to the storage bins.

August 17, 1931 the Bank of Clemons foreclosed on the mortgage on the assets of the Farmers Cooperative Company. The Clemons Cooperative Assoc. was formed August 15, 1934 with J. R. Howard as president and shares of stock were sold. This corporation shall have power to buy, sell, handle, process and store all agricultural products, all feeds, seeds, equipment and all kinds of merchandise and supplies used in farming or by farmers. Harry Spiller was manager.

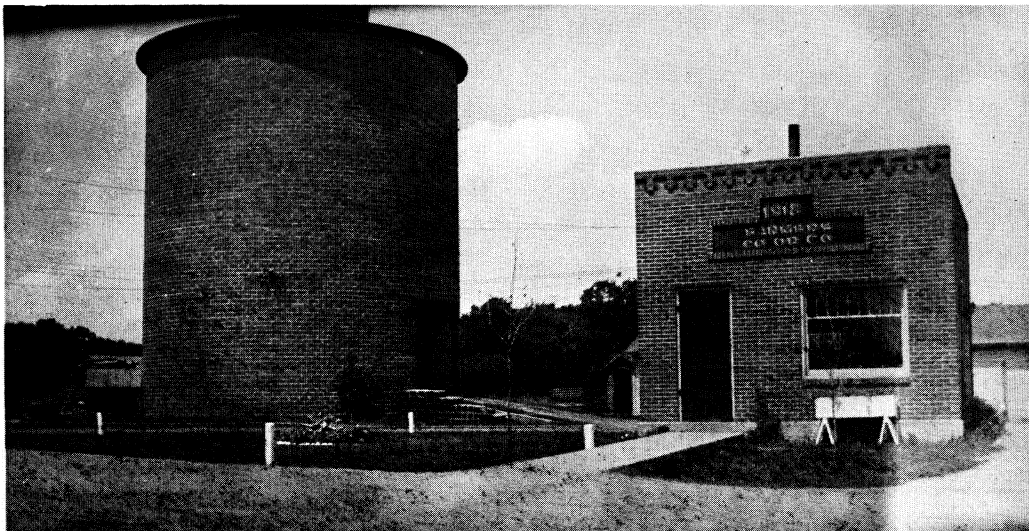
Other officers were: Vice President, H. H. Schaper; Secretary-Treasurer, G. G. Seney, C. B. Hobson S. K. Eley, Frank Lyons, and Fred Muschick.

In October, 1936, the corporation was sold to B. O. Sweet and O. L. Krink, and was known as the Clemons Grain & Lumber Company. In 1941, O. L. Krink bought his partners share and Lyle Perry became manager.

In November, 1950, the company was sold to Harold L. Hubert J. Christensen and in January, 1953, Harold Christensen became sole owner. He was first employed by the Clemons Farmer's Coop Co. in 1933 and moved to Stratford in 1934. Bins for government stored corn were erected and the feed mill in the brick building was put in in 1959.

The company was incorporated in 1962 with Harold L. Christensen president and Marvin H. Christensen as vice president; the name was changed to Clemons Grain & Supply Company. The buildings on the north side of the street had all been built on leased railroad property and in April 1966, this land was purchased by the company.

The original wagon scale built in 1917 was much too small for the longer grain trucks being used in the 1960's and in 1964 a new 10'x60' dial scale was installed south of the office building. The company was in the fertilizer business on a limited basis and with two other competitors in the area, Mackin Grain and R. W. Snider,



The Farmer's Cooperative Co.

formed a new company for the fertilizer and chemical line (also in 1964) known as Minerva Valley Fertilizer Co. It is located at Bangor, Iowa, Post Office Union, Iowa.

The new field corn shelling methods were growing rapidly and in 1965 additional grain storage bins were built and a 500 bushel per hour grain dryer was erected.

By 1967 the corn picker was fast becoming obsolete and additional drying capacity was needed. The dryer was replaced with a 700 bushel per hour unit.

In 1973, as grain harvesting accelerated even further, both in speed and volume, a new receiving facility and additional grain storage was built south of the Minerva Valley Creamery building so corn and soybeans could be received at the same time in separate areas and bins. The Grain dryer capacity was doubled in 1974, with the installation of a 1500 bushel per hour unit.

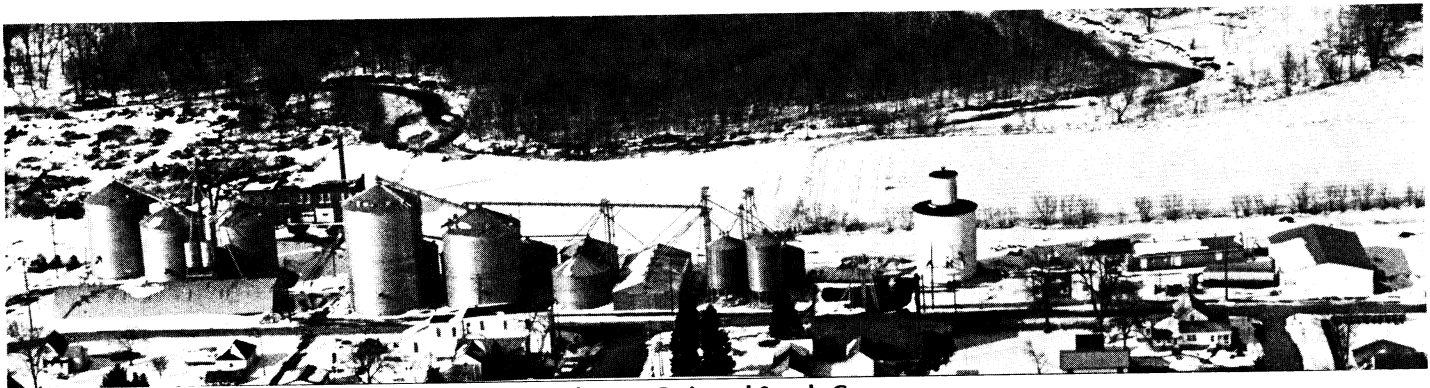
The Chicago Northwestern Railroad rail service had been badly deteriorating over the years at a time when there was increased demand for service and in December, 1974, the C.N.W. illegally stopped running the trains and in January, 1975, filed with the Interstate Commerce Commission for authority to abandon the line. The Zearing Bank and the shippers and receivers along the line formed a group to oppose the abandonment and were represented by Allen Brennecke of Marshalltown. The hearing was held in

April, 1976, and in July, 1976, the ruling came down authorizing the abandonment of the Roland to Zearing section, but ordering the C.N.W. to reopen the Zearing to Marietta section. The C.N.W. appealed to the Seventh Circuit Court in Chicago, and in November, 1977, the original ruling was upheld. The C.N.W. was ordered to repair and reopen the Zearing to Marietta track. Repairs were begun in April, 1978, and in June the trains started running again.

The growing season of 1977 was devastating for the agricultural community of Clemons Grove. The corn yields ranged from 6 to 60 bushel per acre with a local average of 20.22 bushel per acre. The bean yields were half of the normal with an average of 18 to 20 bushel per acre, being caused by the most severe drought since 1934.

The C.N.W. again filed to abandon the Zearing to Marietta track in June, 1980, and this time the shippers lost. The last cars were shipped in January 1981, and ironically 100 years after it was built in 1881, it was dismantled. Clemons Grain & Supply is now transporting 90% of its grain purchases to market with its own trucking equipment and has a warehouse licensed grain storage capacity of 580,000 bushel and the receiving capability to fill its space within 30 days.

The 1980's have begun with record yields in both corn and soybeans in the Clemons Grove area.



Clemons Grain and Supply Co.
Marvin and Dorothy Christensen

DORIS AND JERRY'S

THE MEAT MARKET AND BOARDING HOUSE

Mrs. Earl Bryant ran this place and in 1933 she started selling beer. She sold the business to Jack and Mary Colleran. It was closed for a year and then James and Bonnie Johnson purchased and ran it for the next five years. Doris and Jerry Votruba bought it in 1958 and still run it today.

James Johnson, the previous owner, was Doris Votruba's brother.



Doris and Jerry's Cafe and Tavern
Doris and Jerry Votruba



Tri - County Insurance Agency Inc.

TRI—COUNTY INSURANCE AGENCY

Tri-County Insurance Agency, Inc. is the successor to the W. H. Brown Insurance Agency formed in Zearing, Iowa in 1933. In 1974, Tri-County bought the insurance agency in Clemons from Earl VanMetre which had been in business since 1931. Tri-County Insurance Agency is a full-line general independent agency. The Clemons office is operated on a part-time basis by Lavon Keck. Insurance needs are met on a full-time basis by W. E. (Bill) and Avis Brown from the main office in Zearing.

WARNERS REPAIR SHOP

Ronald Warner, who was farming his fathers farm, took a diesel engineering course in 1936-1937. He still continued to be interested in farm machinery repairing, so April 1947, he filed a trade name and secured his sales tax permit. He continued farming full time and began repairing the neighbors machinery. At times he was working in the field and the men would bring their broken machines in for repair and would go to the field and run the tractor for him while the repairs were done. He continued in a little garage, working many nights until 2 a.m. so he could farm the next day.

In April, 1962, he built a shop building 30'x48' with a pit. He thought this was a big place. His work tripled the first year and the territory expanded to a 15 mile radius. He then started stocking some parts. The expansion was so rapid, he built on the north 12'x48',

where an office and heavy hardware along with parts consisting of filters, hydraulic hoses adapters, pipe fittings, and bearings were put.

In 1974, it became necessary to build on to accommodate the large combine, so another addition was added, 28'x42'! This was then used for LeRon who opened for business as car and truck mechanic. He had taken mechanic training at M.C.C. graduating summer 1970. In 1978, LeRon left to work in Marshalltown. This part of the shop now stocks the mower and combine parts, weed eaters, and iron.

In 1972, Marie quit work in Nevada and began secretarial work. She takes care of the inventory and orders.

Although Ronald and Marie are past retirement age, they still like serving their many friends and customers in repairs and sales.



**Warner's Repair Shop
Marie and Ronald Warner**

LON'S AUTOMOTIVE SERVICE CENTER

Lon's Automotive opened its doors on April 1, 1979. Besides providing the community with gas service, tires, batteries, etc., owner Lonny Bryant offers his expertise in a wide range of repairs from fixing flats to complete engine and transmission overhauls.

Mr. Bryant and his wife, Ruth, moved to the Clemons area in October of 1972. While working in Marshalltown for ten years, he learned his trade and was head mechanic for three years, before opening his own business.

Lonny and Ruth have two children, Lonny (7) and Andrew (5), and are presently residing on the Eldah Bryant farm.



Lon's Automotive and Service Center
Lonny Bryant

REECE BROTHERS OIL COMPANY

Reece Brothers Oil Company was originated in the summer of 1961. LaVern and Larry Reece, born and raised in the Clemons area, leased the Standard Station from Glenn Bartholomew.

At the turn of the century that property was owned by Mari A. Hildenbrand and sold on November 9, 1895 to T. Blackburn. The property changed hands many times until Glen Jay acquired it in 1948. The same year he sold it to G. L. & Florence Bartholomew. In 1967 C. H. Moore purchased the land.

Larry took over the Standard tank wagon in 1963 and LaVern operated the Taloma fertilizer plant which now is Standard Oil. LaVern moved to Zeoring to run the tank wagon there in 1965. The ag-chem. business began in 1964 and their warehouse, located on the west side of

the blacktop in Clemons, was put up in 1969. The brothers purchased farm ground in southern Iowa and Larry and his family moved there in 1978 to oversee the farm end of the partnership. LaVern lives in Zeoring and manages the tank wagons in Clemons, Union, and Zeoring.

HISTORY OF MINERVA VALLEY FERTILIZER COMPANY

On October 7, 1964, Harold Christensen, Clemons, John R. Mackin, St. Anthony, and R. W. Snider, Bangor, joined together to form Minerva Valley Fertilizer Company. By joining together, they could pool their resources and ideas for retailing fertilizer and farm chemicals. In 1967, Cyril Welp joined Minerva Valley Fertilizer Company as a partner.

Minerva Valley Fertilizer sells its products and services to farmers in the Clemons, St. Anthony, Bangor, and Minerva areas.

Minerva Valley has bulk blend facilities in Bangor and a new plant at Minerva. Also at Minerva is an anhydrous ammonia plant and liquid nitrogen storage. There is an anhydrous ammonia plant 1 mile east of Bangor and a liquid fertilizer plant in Bangor. There is also an anhydrous ammonia plant 1 mile north of St. Anthony. The main office and chemical warehouse are located in Bangor.

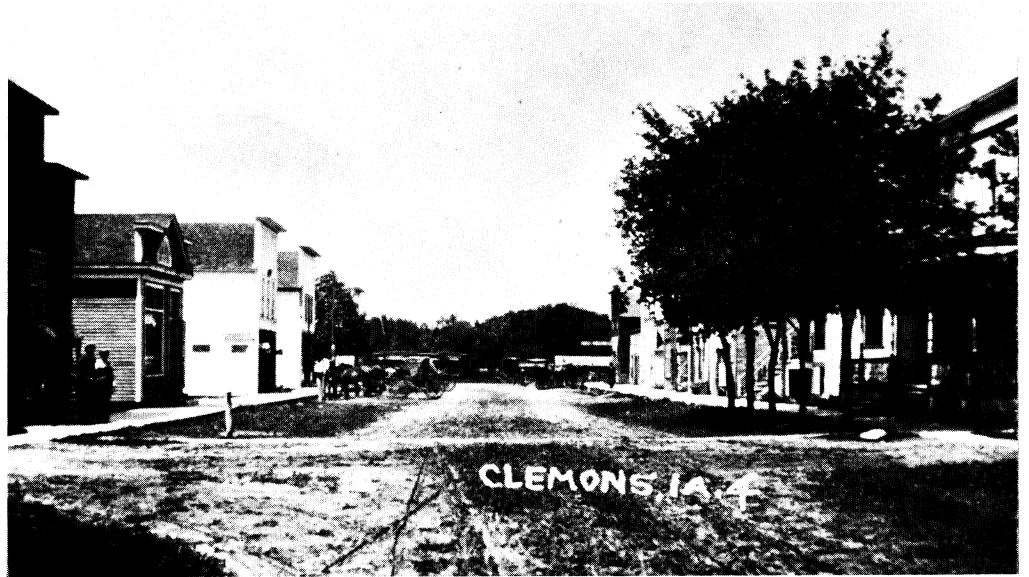
Minerva Valley Fertilizer employs 6 full time and 4 part time employees, during the busy spring and fall seasons.

The Clemons Grain and Supply Co. in Clemons, and Mackin Grain in St. Anthony, both serve as agents for Minerva Valley Fertilizer.

Minerva Valley Fertilizer Co. is proud to be a part of the Clemons and St. Anthony communities.



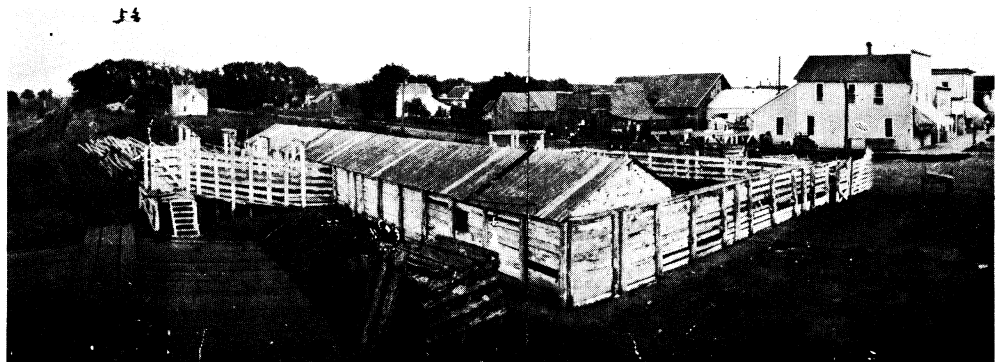
Reece Brother's Standard Oil Jobber
Laverne and Larry Reece



Main Street looking north. The Arlington Hotel is on the right and old bank on the left. Taken approximately 1900.



Clemons Main Street in the early 1900's. There were many thriving businesses.



CLEMONS STOCKYARDS
EARLY 1900's



Port Rosenburrough's Blacksmith Shop in 1910. It was located west of the present Post Office.

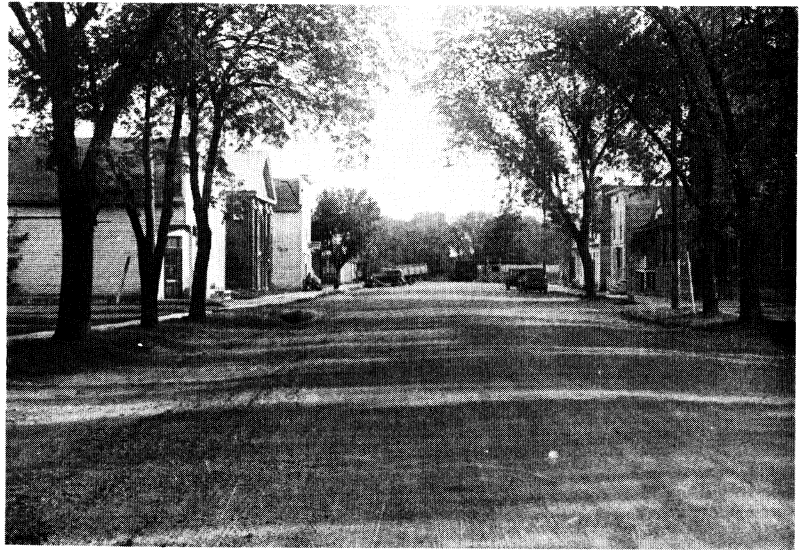


Blacksmith Shop

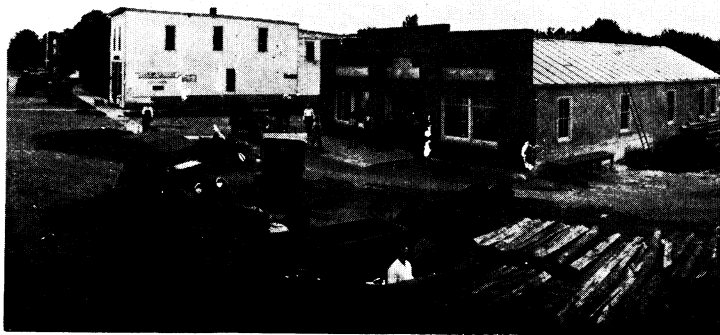
Left to right: Bob Smith and Bert Roseburrough



Main Street at Clemons
1920



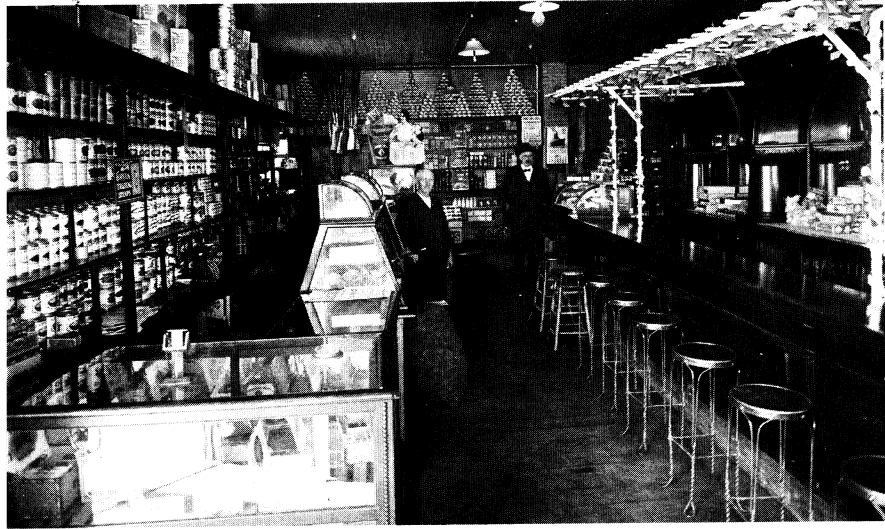
Main Street 1920's



**Grinstead Automobile and Electric Works
1923**



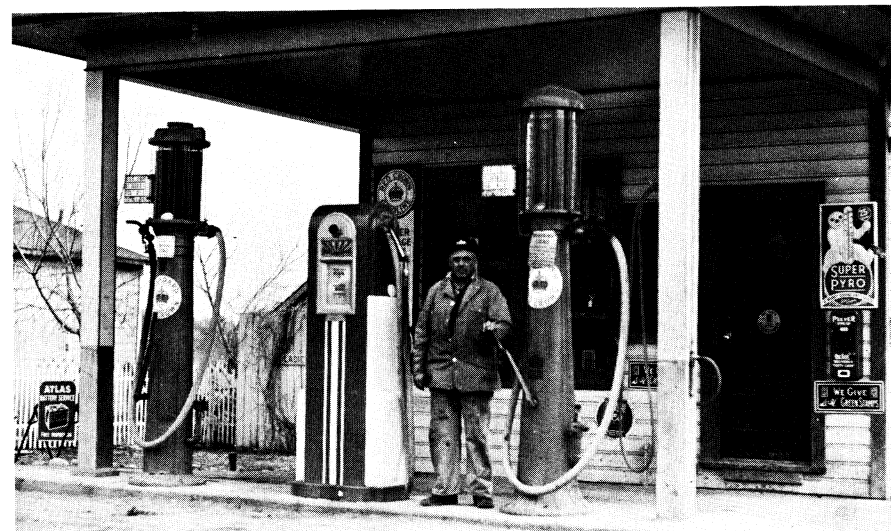
This was the office of Dr. E. H. Noble serving the area from 1904-1944.



A. Brackney and Co. 1920
Aaron Brackney and William J. Clemons



The Clemons Produce
1934



Glen Jay's Standard Oil Station
1936



Jay Hardware closing



Amoco Fertilizer Plant