



Joe Malechek Sr. in front of Joe's Place.

Joe's Place

During World War II, Joe Malechek honored all the servicemen from the Rhodes area. He displayed their pictures in the window of Joe's Place. Before leaving for the service each man was given a free dinner and drinks. Joe received many letters and pictures from the servicemen which were posted on the bulletin board in the tavern for everyone to enjoy.



Sue Malloy's Beauty Shop in 40's.

Sprecher Businesses

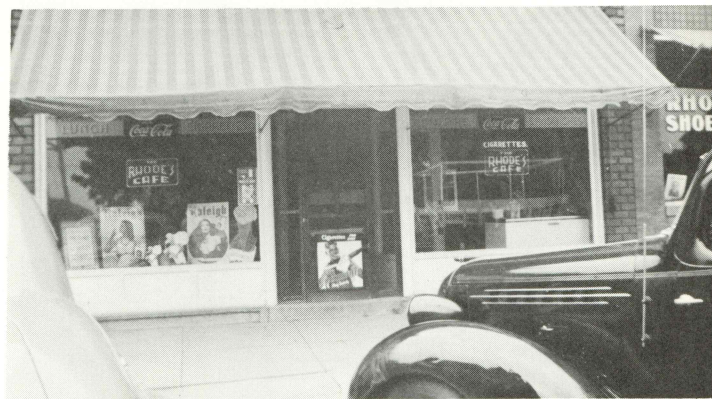
In 1940, Fred and Laura (Sally) Sprecher rented a building on the west side of Main Street that was to be known as the Rhodes Cafe.

To the south, next door, was a grocery store operated by LeRoy (Pink) Mallicoat. At a much later

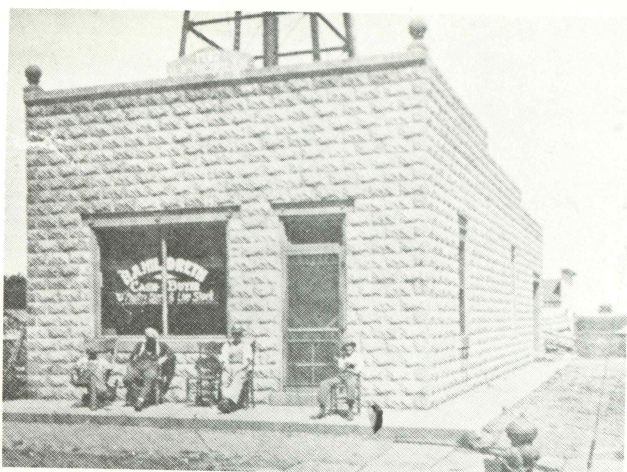
date, to the north, a feed store opened and was owned by Maynard Good.

In 1943 Fred bought the hotel building across the street owned by Ollie Luttikin and occupied by Kate Filer and Pearl Beye. He then moved the cafe fixtures into the front rooms, and discontinued the business on the west side of the street. The upstairs apartments were rented to Dutch and Esther Wilson and Aquilla and Helen Triplett.

In 1943, Pink was drafted and he closed the store. In a few weeks Fred Sprecher remodeled the room and carried a full line of Jack Spratt groceries with a shoe department. Later, the store was sold to George Cole, also the home was sold and the Sprechers bought a residential grocery store in Mason City in 1946. Fred died in 1951, Sally a dental assistant is now retired.



Rhodes Cafe in 1942.



Hildreth Produce

Hildreth Produce

Charles (Brush) Hildreth started a butchering operation in the 1880's. His operation was on the Elsworth Harmon farm where he butchered cattle, dressed and cut them up by hand. The carcasses were hung in a horse drawn cart and delivered to customers in the Rhodes area.

Later he was joined by his brother Harry and they dressed poultry in the old brick kiln.

His two sons, Wayne and Harold, joined in partnership later and the first farm pick up of eggs was started. The drivers would leave at 6 a.m., return late in the evening, picking up approximately fifteen cases of eggs. Some of the drivers of the poultry trucks were; Joe Malecheck II, Delmar Wilson, Harold Hildreth, Fred Cheville and James Hale. The firm paid cash, traded and bartered for farm products.

The produce employed local help. Around eight women candled the eggs, with young men making the egg cases. The cases were built by hand and in later



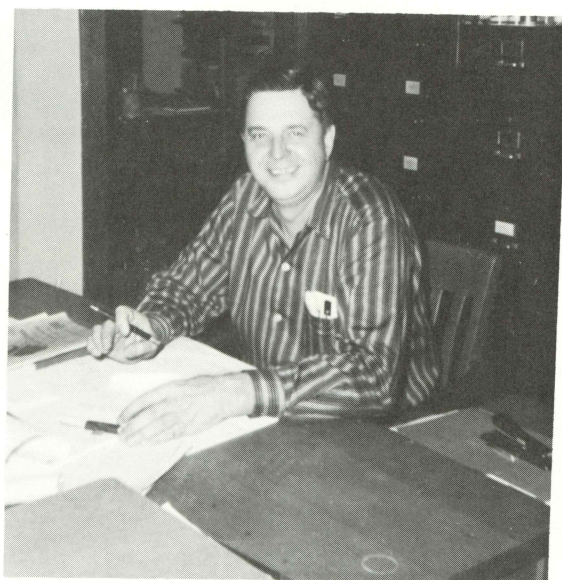
Truck owned by Hildreth Produce.

years a machine was purchased to make the work faster and easier.

Live chickens were purchased, sent to Chicago by train and later by trucks, for processing.

The produce was closed in Rhodes and moved to Marshalltown. The name was changed to Central Iowa Poultry and Egg Company, with Wayne Hildreth, his brother-in-law Cliff Sween and his nephew John Snowgren as owners.

It was a poultry and egg processing operation. It served an area of approximately 50 miles adjacent to Marshalltown and bought more than a half million cases of eggs a year. The business paid between six and seven million dollars for commodities which originated on Central Iowa farms.



John Snowgren, manager of the Central Iowa Produce and Egg Company in Marshalltown.

The processed products had world wide distribution, with some eggs processed at Des Moines for Kraft Foods and Pillsbury cake mixes. Others went to major chain stores in the United States and some went as Army and Navy exports to service men all over the world.

The most interesting fact about both businesses is that it had its roots, years ago, in Rhodes.

Poultry

My dad and uncle had a dressing plant. They dressed poultry as there wasn't any refrigeration in those days. They dressed them in the winter, put them in barrels and shipped them to Chicago. They also butchered and went around with a wagon and sold meat. You could buy a steer for 1¢ a pound back then.

*Memories by
Wayne Hildreth*



Good Feed Store, from the left; Ronald, Dan and Stan Good.

Good Feed Store

Maynard Good began selling Occo Mineral and culling hens while he was still farming at the west edge of Rhodes, now the John Alexander farm.

In 1943 Maynard quit farming and he and Florence moved into town. He purchased the building just south of the present Post Office where he started a store known as "Good Feed Store." He sold feed and farm supplies and in 1948 started buying poultry and eggs in a large area around Rhodes.

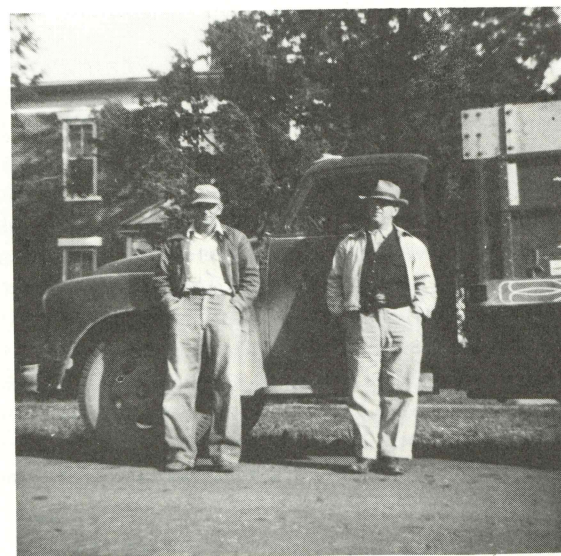
In 1945 his son, Ronald, joined his dad in partnership. Two trucks were kept busy constantly in their fast growing business. Several people were employed as well as their wives and children. Eggs and poultry became their major business.

In 1955 Maynard retired from the store and sold his half of the partnership to his son-in-law, Richard (Dick) Sharer.

In 1963 Dick left the business to become employed at Lennox in Marshalltown.

When feed prices became so high and chicken and egg prices became so low, the farmers quit raising chickens and producing eggs. In 1965 the Good Feed Store closed.

*Submitted by
Mr. & Mrs Ronald Good*



From the left; Ronald and Maynard Good by their truck.

JACK SPRAT STORE

Mr. and Mrs. Keith Mallicoat operated the Grocery Store, known as Keith's Jack Sprat from 1949 until 1961.



1983 Centennial Souvenirs

GROCERY STORE

Mann Everhart operated the grocery store from 1928 to 1938.

Walkers D-X Tank Wagon

On February 8, 1938 Earl Walker became a truck salesman for the D-X Oil Company. His first tank wagon was purchased from Les Gearhart. The petroleum products that he sold were transported from the State Center bulk plant to Walkers' customers in the surrounding areas.

In a few years a second truck was purchased. Operating with two trucks made it easier. His wife, Goldie, would drive to State Center and load a truck with fuel while he made his regular deliveries to customers.

After 19 years his aggressive efforts paid off in increased volume and the D-X Oil Company decided he should have a bulk plant in Rhodes. The company purchased an acre of ground from Russell Buck for the storage facility. On January 1, 1958 the new bulk plant opened having a storage capacity of four - 15,000 gallon tanks. Walker was promoted to an agents' position.

Walkers' son, Phil was interested in the family business. He kept the acreage mowed, took customers orders and in times of illness drove a truck making fuel deliveries.

Because of poor health, after 31 years in business, Earl retired in May 1968.

*Submitted by
Mr. & Mrs. Earl Walker*



Earl Walker at the D.X. Bulk Plant in Rhodes.



The large doll in the middle is a rare 45" Simon-Halbig Doll. The former owner was the King of Egypt.

Klaas Doll Haus Museum

In 1950, James, son of Henry and Frances Gauch Klaas gave his mother a small doll he had won selling magazines for the Rhodes School. Little did he know that this doll would become the first of several thousand that would become a museum and would be built where the school once stood.

Through the years dolls, toys, dishes, figurines, furniture and etc., were collected. In July of 1976 the museum was opened to the public. At that time it was located 1½ miles west of Rhodes. It became evident that the large two story house was not large enough. Another site was going to have to be found. In 1978, Frances purchased the school block in Rhodes and plans were made to build a new building for the museum. An 80' by 90' building was designed and built.

In April and May of 1980 the museum was moved to Rhodes to its new home. The building which houses the museum also serves as the home of Frances, who lives in the front of the building. In January of 1982 a grocery store was added in one corner of the gift shop.

Through the years several thousand people, from over the world have toured the museum which now houses over 5,000 dolls, toys, dishes and assorted antiques.

What I Remember About Rhodes

C.O. Sween and wife, Gladys owned a grocery and dry goods store on the southwest corner of Main Street across from the Produce. Main Street was a full two blocks long, with three grocery stores. Mann Everhart's store was about one-half way up on the west side as were the post office and shoe repair store operated by Vance Smith. Luthur Hix and father owned and operated a grocery and hardware store on the block to the west. The building also housed the "Old Opera House" above the store. School functions were held there; plays, basketball games, oratorical contests, graduation exercises, and Alumni Banquets. Movies and dancing were also enjoyed there.

Carroll Failor operated a pool hall on the west side of that block and later opened a restaurant on the east side. Snowgren's store was on the west side. Earl and Iva sold Maytag washing machines, some run by a gasoline engine underneath because "electricity hadn't yet come to the farmers." Car batteries could also be bought and charged there, and a general line of hardware. Light and water bills were paid there.

On the east side of the block on the corner was Smith Drug Store. Paul Klatt opened a restaurant next door, later moved to the west side. Jacob's owned and operated a furniture store and funeral parlor and Kate Filer had the only hotel in town. Next to that was the Hildreth Produce. South from there was the lumber

yard owned by the Luttiken brothers. Ollie Luttiken ran the bank a few years earlier on the west side of the block, one of the two banks in town before the depression, when most of the banks closed.

The second bank was on the southwest corner of the second block going north. This was operated by Leo Bale. Otto Sanders had a barber shop close by and the Masonic building stood on the corner and has been since torn down. East, across the street, stood a two story store owned by Patty Frances who played the violin. Going south was a garage and next door was the telephone office, complete with switchboard and ran by Dolly Billings and Nina Baker. Those were the days of wall telephones and party lines. A stucco filling station stood where the one now stands, and going east around the corner was another garage and gas station.

Rhodes boasted of four churches, the Catholic, Latter Day Saint, the M.E. and the M.P. The school house housed twelve grades. Mac McCloskey was the janitor and Mr. Johnson was superintendent. Miss Cook was the teacher of the seventh and eighth grades.

Our local doctor was Dr. Noble who had a well equipped office built on one side of their residence north of Main Street.

Charlie Wallace lived east across the street from the doctor's office and sold Ford milking machines, equipment and repairs.

In 1947, Delmar Wilson bought a mounted corn sheller from Lewis (Pooch) Phillips and operated it for twenty years. He also bought a rock truck at the same time and operated it until his death in 1975. Leo Malloy bought the corn sheller in 1973.

*Submitted by
Florence Wilson*



1983 Centennial Souvenirs



Former Rhodes Cafe and Telephone office.

Rhodes Cafe

Roland and Betty Thill purchased the Ace Cafe from Charles and Alice Elliott in 1970, operating it as a family enterprise.

Meals, along with short orders were served at noon with Betty doing the cooking. Nita Gibbs as her faithful waitress. The memory of the second day in business was kinda like a nightmare. Nita asked what time to report to work, "Oh, eleven will be fine." Word had quickly spread that it was under new ownership. Nita was no more than in the door when the place begin to fill with people. Both of them could have walked out the back door. But with a lot of patience and a lot of help from their customers they made it through the day.

It was a place to gather each morning for coffee. You had to have an advance order if you were going to pay for coffee for the gang. Many snowy and rainy afternoons would find a "pepper" game or cribbage game going along with a lot of chit-chat.

Cyril, Rick and Nancy took over after school. So the evening crowd was of the younger generation. As the kids began to graduate and find different jobs, and Betty went to work full time at the Newton Post Office it was sold to Sandra Brown in 1975.

Square Dancing

Nearly every neighborhood had men like "Lon Richmond, Pattie Francis, Henry Buck, Joe Ethington, Andy Nichols, Henry Ritterodt, Ernest Schaper and Jim Filer," who were sufficiently skilled to play the fiddle, which they did for neighborhood gatherings.

Girls would second on the organ for "Turkey in the Straw," "Old Dan Tucker" and "Irish Washerwoman" and many more old tunes.

The callers were also indispensible. Music was made by mouth harps, jew's harps, harmonicas, guitars, banjos and fiddles.

The Way Things Used To Be

We all enjoy visiting
Places we used to know.
To see the well-remembered spots
Where we lived years ago.

The old hill where we used to slide,
The deep, old swimming hole,
The stream where many times we fished
With a crude willow pole.

The meadow and the dusky woods,
The big, old apple trees;
We wonder if these things still are
Still like they used to be.

But things somehow seem to have changed
Since we lived in that place.
The school house is no longer there.
Dry is the old millrace.

The stream where once we swam and fished
Now seems, somehow, quite small.
So many of the old landmarks
Now are not there at all.

Progress of course has passed that way
and changed the things we see,
But, we can still remember well
Just how things used to be.

Author Unknown

Memories of Rhodes

I was born in Rhodes and started to school there. My father ran the Rhodes Lumber Yard at that time. When I was six years old we moved to the farm where Gary Buck now lives. I went to country school through the grades, later going on to high school in Rhodes, graduating in 1910.

As I remember Rhodes in my childhood it was a very prosperous town with many businesses, a Milwaukee Railroad with trains that stopped at all the surrounding towns on the line, a depot where the ticket agent lived above on the second floor. Freight and express came in and was delivered to the many businesses by a dray line.

Transportation getting into town depended on mud roads, but to get to the county seat, Marshalltown, one could take the train to Pickering, a tiny crossroads. The M. & St. L. Railroad crossed the Milwaukee there so one could make connections and return the same way on the same day.

Heating the homes depended on hard coal and wood. At the time of World War I it became impossible to get hard coal so Iowa coal and wood were used. The timber nearby furnished the wood. Neighbors would get together to saw the wood and prepare for the winter weather.

The rural telephone made its appearance during my childhood and many were on the same line. It was possible to call both State Center and Rhodes and when there was trouble the farmers would get together and repair the line. There were no private lines, so one could always listen in and get the latest gossip in the community.

There were several churches, the Methodist Protestant, the Methodist Episcopal, Catholic and Latter Day Saints group, who held services in a home. There were also several lodges, the Masonic, Order of the Eastern Star, Knights of Pythia, Pythian Sisters, Odd Fellows and Woodsmen. One club of the women, "The Klover Klub", was formed and existed for many years.

Celebrations on the Fourth of July were always a big affair, with a parade, a speaker and picnic dinners. One feature of the parade, was a decorated hay rack, covered with patriotic bunting and filled with girls, each wearing a gold paper crown representing a state. It was a great treat to be chosen as a state.

The Fair held at the north end of Main Street was always a great affair, drawing big crowds to see the horse races, ball games, stock, women's canned products, quilts and fancy work of all kinds. The merry-go-round was a popular place for the youngsters.

Rural mail delivery was started by the government and Billy Gilman was the first mail carrier. Several years before the first autos appeared, horse and buggy transportation was the only means of getting from place to place.

I believe the first auto owned in Rhodes, belonged to Charles Dewey. It was a bright red color and made plenty of noise and really frightened the horses when meeting it on the road. Mr. Dewey also owned a big steam engine which took care of the corn shelling, threshing, etc. in the community.

A sales barn, located where the Sammy Clement garage was located, drew crowds where cattle and horses were sold by an auctioneer named John Garis. The groups of women, from the churches and the Cemetery Aide would serve dinners to the crowds as it always was a good money making scheme for the women's groups.

There was a livery barn on the corner now occupied by the Phillips 66 gas station. One could rent a horse and buggy to get from one place to another.

The delight of my childhood was the ice cream parlor owned by Henry Dean, where you could get the best homemade ice cream one ever tasted. It was located on the corner where the Luther Hix store used to be.

I can recall many memories of my childhood, but the passing of years, dims them somewhat, but it is pleasant to remember the good old days when one was young.

*Submitted by
Mrs. David (Helen) Buck*

Olden Days - 1924 or 1925 Finds A Town With Two Names

*Des Moines Register Staff Writer
Discovers Beauty of Edenville
Bob Tour — Sunday Register*

Today's tour leading northwest from Des Moines, routes you thru some of Iowa's most beautiful farming country.

Friday and I took this trip on a cloudy day. It had rained lightly the night before, and the towering dull gray clouds threatened rain as we left the city on primary road No. 1 toward Ankeny. This should have worried us, for some of the roads on this jaunt are of dirt, but we were strangely optimistic. Our unspoken sentiments were, "Let come what may, for there are chains under the back seat."

Four miles north of Ankeny I turned to the right of the Elkhart road. This graveled trail skirts Elkhart on the south passing on the east and north to Maxwell. From here you have gravel east to Collins.

If you care to cut your trip short and, at the same time keep on hard surfaced roads for the entire journey, you may take the primary road No. 64 south from Collins thru Mingo, and Green Castle to Colfax, and from there proceed back to Des Moines on primary No. 7. It makes a better trip, however, if you drive east and north from Collins to Rhodes.

This stretch of road is not graveled. On the contrary it is of dirt. Keep off it if there has been a soaking rain. The day Friday and I drove over it, showers kept peppering down every few minutes, but our progress was not hindered in the least. True, the car twisted around a bit, but some people pay for that sensation when they ride the "Whip" at the amusement park. A few hills bumped themselves under this road, and from their summits the view is choice.

Especially was this true on the damp day of which I have spoken. A thin veil of mist blurred clumps of trees in the valleys, while pastures and meadows, refreshed by the rain were as intensely green as the shamrock.

The town of Rhodes enjoys the distinction of existing under two names. It is incorporated as the town of Edenville. The railroad company, however, insisted on calling this particular station Rhodes. Likewise the postoffice is known by this name, and the town club map designates the place as Rhodes.

But the citizens of the town cling as tightly to the name of Edenville as a leech to the toe of a small boy. A large sign at the edge of town welcomes you to Edenville and warns you against speeding.

This is as confusing as the Einstein theory. When we arrived at that sign, Friday snickered at me for losing the way. After consulting the map and finding no Edenville, I gave up in disgust and drove on into the town. At the corner grocery store I popped a series of questions at the old timers.

"What state is this?" I wanted to get down to bed rock.

"Iowa." was the word an astonished old fellow emitted.

"What county?"

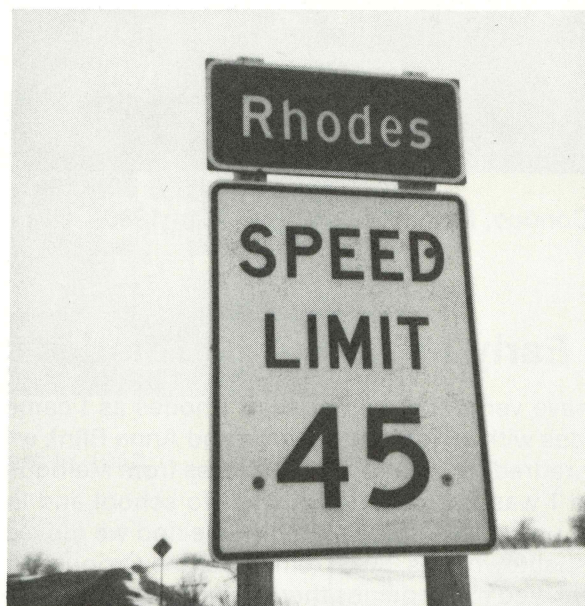
"Marshall"

"Well, then what town?"

He chuckled, "Some call it Edenville . . . and others insist that it's Rhodes . . ."

The enigma was solved.

South of Rhodes there is a heavy growth of timber which you will enjoy seeing. Whether a native wood or not I cannot say; but the road winds charmingly thru the trees, and the air is fragrant with fresh smells of the woodlands.



Memories

Frank "Pete" was an ex-slave Negro who lived in Rhodes. He dug tile ditches and day labor but couldn't make a living so started bootlegging whiskey.

Sheriff Charley Nason (Willis B. Nason's brother) put Frank Pete in jail for thirty days, then he'd go back to Rhodes and bootleg again.

The last time he appeared the Judge said, "Now don't go back to Rhodes - quit bootlegging." Frank Pete said, "If I can't sell whiskey you'd better give me life as it's the only way I can make a living."

So Sheriff Charley gave him a job doing odd jobs, splitting kindling and let him stay at the jail. He eventually died in the county jail and Charley made arrangements for the funeral. Frank Pete is buried in the Rhodes Cemetery.

by Leonard Nason



Al's Conoco, former Clements D.X. in 1980.

Early Memories of Rhodes

I have very fond memories of Rhodes as I came to Rhodes with my parents George and Anna Blink when they retired from their farm 2½ miles from Melbourne, when I was 2½ years old. I went to school and lived there until I was in the eighth grade and we moved to Marshalltown. Yes, I well remember the Croquet court and played many games there. It was located between Jud Miller's grocery and dry goods store and the double brick building. It gave a lot of entertainment to lots of people.

I can recall my father telling me when he was a small child about going through the open country to Marshalltown, 22 miles down the road, to buy what they needed. He heard his father telling his mother that soon the railroad was coming to a location soon to be known as State Center and then they would only have eight miles to go for supplies. By chance my grandfather unloaded the first load of wheat at the elevator which was later built.

As stated I have fond memories of Rhodes as a child, it was a busy town in those days. We had two banks, two grocery stores, blacksmith shop, barber shop, poolhall, post office, hardware store, weekly newspaper, livery stable, restaurant, hotel, Bill Beards meat market, grain elevator, lumber yard, movie theater run by Walter Hix, father of Luther Hix, where I used to pump the player piano to get in free. That was during the days after World War I when the song, "How Are You Going To Keep Them Down On The Farm After They've Seen Patee" was popular. That was my favorite song and I played it several times during the show regardless of what was on the screen at the time. Other firms in Eden at the time I recall were, an auction

barn run by John Garis, a stock yard from which cats were shipped to Chicago, the Bucks and Yorks were big cattle feeders, a telephone office upstairs in the double brick building, a dance hall on the same floor where road shows were held; a shoe repair shop was on the same floor. We also had a great Eden Towns fair each year west of town. I can recall I used to, as a child, take a display of yellow tomatoes to the fair and get fifty cents as I was the only one with tomatoes. I recall one year we had a one ring circus north of town with one elephant and us kids helped put up the tent and get in free. It rained that night and the tent started leak and the elephant got scared and ran out of the tent and tore up a lot on the school grounds. It was four days the next morning over in Collins. We kids had a lot of fun on halloween nights, but I had better not go into that. Those days you had more to be upset than they do now.

*Submitted
Clarence G. Bli*



The Rhodes writer to the Des Moines News is not to be outdone in exaggeration. Here is his contribution to the fish story, literature of the day as it appeared in the news.

"We have noticed for some days the account of the appearance of a singular object in the air, supposed to be an airship. It will probably be seen no more. Last night about eleven o'clock our citizens were startled by the appearance of a very bright light in the heavens rapidly approaching from the southwest. A large crowd was soon on the streets, as the object appeared. It seemed to come closer to the earth. It soon came so near that the sound of the machine could be heard, it soon became as loud as a heavy train of cars.

All at once the aerial monster took a sudden plunge in the reservoir of the C.M. and St. Paul Railway which is almost a lake covering about eight acres of land.

No pen could describe what followed. The boiling lava from Mt. Vesuvius pouring into the sea could not equal it.

The light was so large and had created so much heat that the horrible hissing which occurred when the monster plunged into the lake, could be heard for miles and the water of the reservoir was so hot that the naked hand could not be held in it. As soon as the wreck was raised out of the water a full description of the machine will be made.

Businesses 1983



West side of Main Street in 1980.

The Old Home Town

I'd like to go back to the old home town,
And see all the friends there;
I'd like to grasp all the friendly hands
And say, "How do you fare?"

I'd like to visit the dear old school,
And the church where I often prayed;
And stroll once again down Lover's Lane,
Where, hand in hand, we strayed.

I'd like to recall the tricks we played,
The parties and all the fun;
The sleighing, the skating, the gay hayrides,
"Eer serious life had begun.

Yes, I'd like to go back to the old home town,
T'would be such a joy, I know,
To pause for a while in life's busy whirl
And go back to the long ago.

By Letitia Morse Nash



T & W Trucking in 1983, from the left, Bob Thomae, Jim White and Dewaine Thomae.

T & W Truck Lines

The T & W Truck Lines was formed in a partnership in January of 1982. The owners are Jim White, Dewaine and Robert Thomae. At the present time they are mainly engaged in the hauling of grain.



Jerry Dannen in front of his Phillips "66" Station - 1983.



Mick Malloy Building Company (1983). Mick pictured.



Phil Buck at Rhodes Ag. in 1983.



Ed Hall in 1983



Klaas Doll Museum owned by Francis Klaas on the former school grounds - 1983.

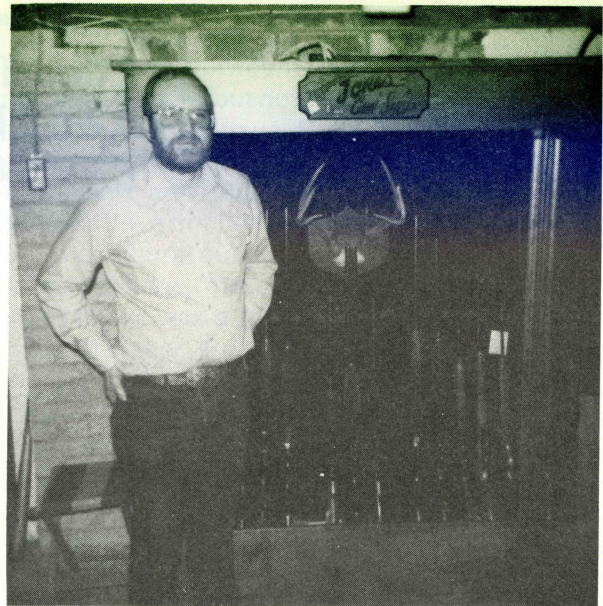
Ed Hall Trucking

Ed originally started his business in Shenandoah, Iowa. In October of 1945 they moved the business and family to Rhodes, in the only truck they owned at that time. During the years that followed the business has grown from one to five trucks. The only hired drivers Ed has ever had is his wife, Doris and sometimes his sons, Mike, Dave and Jeff.

Ed hauls grain and livestock for area farmers, taking them to Marshalltown, Tama, Belle Plaine and Des Moines.



Bev's Beehive in 1983



Dick Jones in his gun shop - 1983.



Mabel Clair in her Beauty Shop in 1983.



Tom Malloy and his Cornsheller - 1983



Pat Malloy in front of Pat's Body Shop - 1983



Six Corner Supply - 1983