



February 9, 2017, Our Old Bookcase,

PHOTO # 1 OF 2 PHOTOGRAPHS.

Photo caption: These buildings were located at the site of the Celina Cinemas, 116 North Main, Celina, today. This photograph is dated after 1946.

OUR OLD BOOK CASE

By Joyce L. Alig, President, Mercer County Historical Society

The first building on the left side of this photograph was the Texaco Service Station, at 126 North Main, Celina. [The old Ellis Hotel had been located at this site.] After the old Ellis Hotel was torn down, Dale Hileman owned the Texaco Service Station at 126 North Main, from 1946 until 1979, when he moved to 303 South Main and began Hileman Marathon Station. Dale operated that Station until 1984 when his son John managed that station.

The building south of the Texaco Station served as the Courthouse Restaurant, owned by Kenneth “Butch” Jamieson and his brother Dale Jamieson, from about 1940 until they closed the business about 1945-46. As I recall, Charlie Ayers wrote about the Courthouse Restaurant in his book, *“Memories are Made of This,”* in 1986. Later the building became a Refrigeration and Appliance business. The last chapter of this building’s story was that the top was removed and the building was moved to 116 East Market, and became Hale Insurance Agency by 1957. If you look closely at the window of the building, you will see a washing machine on the right side of the door, and a refrigerator on the left side. The wooden staircase ascended to the apartment above. Were there three chimneys on that building?

The building to the right of the appliance store contained two businesses. Both businesses had an awning in front of the window, for protection from the sunlight. See the broken decoration on the partial verge board, at the peak of the gable end of the roof; the verge board was handmade by the building’s skilled carpenter. You can see the old Barber’s Pole in front of Kingsley’s Barbershop. [That would be a good Trivia Question for Local History Teachers: *“How many of today’s Barber Shops have the historic Barber’s Pole in front?”* Another question would be, *“What is history of the Barber’s Pole?”*] Note the bench for customers’ fellowship, in front of the Barber Shop.

The Borger and Mendenhall Ladies had a Millinery Shop, 116 North Main, on the south side of the Kingsley’s Barber Shop. Look closely at the front window to see the hats on display.

Local historians look at the background of old photographs. Look down the alley. Does anyone recall anything about those old buildings? Celina’s Main Street was a brick Street in the 1940’s. Does anyone remember when the bricks were paved over? In the foreground of the photograph, the sidewalk in front of the Mercer County Courthouse can be seen.

Have you looked at your own “old” photographs in an effort to preserve local history?

PHOTO # 2 OF 2 PHOTOGRAPHS.

Second photograph: Interior of Courthouse Restaurant, which stood at site of Celina Cinemas, North Main, Celina. Dale Jamieson and his sister Ruth Jamieson were behind the counter. Zoyd Slaler was the gentleman, wearing the hat, seated with the customers.

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