

Museum Musings: Central Avenue Walking Tour

15th Street to 13th Street

Thank you for joining me today for the commencement of a walking tour of Central Avenue in the year 1960. Since we are unable to physically gather for this tour, due to the ban on public gatherings, we are going to do what might be termed a virtual walking tour. So, sit back in your favourite easy chair, and let's begin.

We are starting our tour here at the foot of the Central Avenue viaduct, just across 15th Street on the northeast corner. Some of you might be aware that 15th Street was once called Broadway Street. And that could explain the name of the hotel and restaurant which stands just to the east of us, across the back alley from the Central Service Station, owned by Frank Medve.

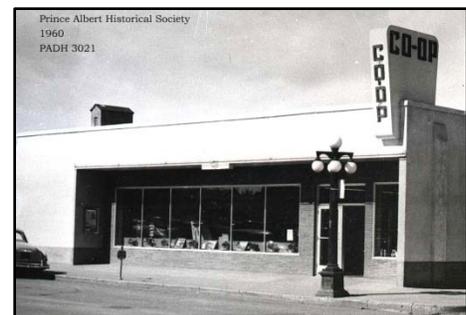


Across Central Avenue the Lincoln Hotel has stood proudly since 1914. At that time, it was known as the Tourist Hotel. By 1919, the name had been changed to the New Windsor Hotel. It has been known as the Lincoln Hotel since the mid-40s, and is currently managed by Ralph Naish. You may find it difficult to believe their motto "Specialists in Rest" when you take into account all the foot traffic back and forth between their beverage room and the beverage room in the Broadway Hotel.

As we head north, we encounter the OK Economy Building. On the upper floors of this building are the offices for two finance companies, the Industrial Acceptance Corporation and Niagara Finance. The North Central Regional Hospital Council, and the Prince Albert Mental Health Clinic also have their offices upstairs. On the main floor, of course is one of the two OK Economy grocery stores to be found on Central Avenue. This one is managed by Don Wood.

Across Central Avenue from this building is the Prince Albert Co-operative Association. Don Orr, the Association's General Manager, has his office there as well as their various businesses, including hardware, groceries and a pharmacy.

I'll ask you to walk carefully as we cross 14th Street. Remember, unlike today, in 1960 this is a through street and traffic travels both ways, east and west.



The first building on the north side of the street is the Ultra Building. It houses the Saskatchewan Power Corporation. Vince Elmer is the District Electrical Superintendent, and John Howarth is the Gas Superintendent. Frank Moore, a locally born architect, now has his office in this building. Immediately north of this building is Tadman's Ltd., a complete home furnishings store owned and operated by Sam Tadman. Next to it is Campbell's Drugs, owned by Frank Campbell. And beside it is the Orpheum Theatre, managed by Jack Mahon.

Before we go too far along Central, let's have a quick look across the street. On the corner is the New Medical Building, which houses the Medical Pharmacy and its two pharmacists, John Tarves and Ned Pickering. Immediately beside the Medical Pharmacy is Simpson-Sears, which provides some merchandise on their limited floor space, but a vast variety of available products through their catalogue order counter. William Brown is currently the store manager.



J.A. Williamson Jewellers is next. John Williamson just recently bought out Bruce Adamson, who had long owned a jeweller's business in the City. This shop has as its neighbour a number of management companies on the main floor of the Canada Building. This building, owned by the Mahon family, is home to the Pines Drive-in Theatre office, the Strand Theatre Limited office, Mahon Agencies Limited and Bradshaw-Holroyde, managed by Edward Bradshaw, an insurance and rental agency, specialising in farm lands. In the basement of the Canada Building are offices for the provincial and federal Liberal

associations, as well as the Women's Liberal association. A variety of businesses are housed on the upper floors.

Back on the east side of Central, we pass the Central Fruit and Candy Kitchen, owned by James McConnell, and the Lotus Café, owned by Cecil Mar and Denis Wong. You might want to take a coffee break here, as the Lotus is reputed to have the best tea cakes in Prince Albert.

Next to the Lotus you will find Les Emmons and Clay Dawson, new owners of the Stag Shop, and then Alan King, who recently bought the Manor Beauty Salon. Next to the beauty parlor is the new Kernaghan Block, built in 1952 and home to Lorne Kernaghan and his business Kernaghan Hardware.

Back across Central is the American Fur Company. Leon Roth is the president of that firm. Beside the fur store is Romanowich Yard Goods, just before the T. Eaton Company department store.



Back on the east side, at the corner, is the Rowe Block. Nancy Kent, the principal of The Prince Albert Business College is on the upper floor, along with Beneficial Finance, and its manager, Larry McLean. Cyril Rawlinson has Rowe's Rexall Drugs No. 1 on the main floor of the block.

We have just started our Central Avenue walking tour, but it is time to take a break. Next time, our reminiscences will take us between 13th Street and 10th Street. I look forward to you joining me then. Let's hope we get good weather for our walk!

Fred Payton
 Prince Albert Historical Society
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