

## *Museum Musings: Central Avenue Walking Tour 13<sup>th</sup> Street to 10<sup>th</sup> Street*

Welcome once again to our tour of 1960 Central Avenue. Today we are going to walk from 13<sup>th</sup> Street to 10<sup>th</sup> Street. I'm glad to see that most of you have brought your umbrellas, as rain showers are forecast for today.

This time we will walk along the west side of Central, starting here at Kresge's, which opened in the autumn of 1952. I really enjoy their candy counter, and I know some of you have bought birds from their pet counter. Across Central Avenue is the Post Office, and the PO Café, so named because of its proximity to the Post Office. The latter is managed by Kum Jong Mah.

Just to the north of Kresge's is Dayton's, a women's wear store managed by Mrs.

Rosalie Binsky. In the same building is the Grotto Billiard Academy, and the Grotto Barber Shop, both owned by James Brown. On the east side of Central, beside the PO Café, is J. Alex MacKenzie, diamond merchants and jewellers. This store is managed by Alfred W. Burt.

Beside the vacant store front on the west side of Central is Nu-Trend Furniture, managed by Bev Hadley. Between Nu-Trend Furniture and the Bank of Nova Scotia is Sobie's Limited, another women's wear store, managed by Mrs. Emelda Kopera.

Over on the east side is the Princess Building. The restaurant on the main floor is the Princess Café, owned and operated by six businessmen including Jack Mah and Bing Chow. Also in this building is Doug Olver, optometrist, and Albert Fournier of J.A. Fournier Agencies. The newly rebuilt Bank of Montreal, managed by Duncan Black, is on the corner.

Across 12<sup>th</sup> Street is located the Royal Bank, currently managed by William McFaull. Across Central Avenue is the Canadian Bank of Commerce, managed by Arthur Binns. Beside the Royal Bank is Harradence Hardware, owned by Herb Harradence. McKim's Barber Shop is in the back of Frank Hickey's Amos Cigar Store. Next to it is Yaeger's Furs, where you will find its manager, Tom Lockwood. Wendell Howard of Howard's Shoes is next, one of three shoe stores located on this block.

Next to the Canadian Bank of Commerce is the Aaron Building. Alex Aaron's Ladies' Apparel is front and centre, with Aaron Renfrew Furs managed by Cec Corrigan. The oldest business building in the area is Adams Book Store, owned and operated by Fred and Hugh Adams. In the Imperial Optical Building is the Imperial Optical Company, and Bieber-Sooke Travel Agency. Max Bieber is the manager of the travel agency, and Jerry Mahoney is the Sales Manager.



Next to Howard's Shoe Store is Household Finance (managed by D.E.A. Malfair), and then Bata Shoes (Eric Raque, manager), and the CP Telegraph office. Ted Matheson Men's Wear is next to a vacant store front, and beside Agnew-Surpass Shoes (managed by Armand Talarico) is Strohan Credit Jewellers, owned by Jean Gaudet.

Across Central in the Electric Building is John (Ian) Gray and Fred Hadley, who own the Electric Shop. Culligan Soft Water Service, managed by Stanley Desormeau, is next to the Airways Cafe (Kim and Wing Mah), and then the Pin-up Beauty Salon, owned by Alexandra Minter, and the Toronto Dominion Bank, managed by James Roney. Max Carment's jewellery shop, with Peter Kripki's watch repair, is next, followed by Robert Young's optometrist shop in the Mitchell Block, along with Duncan's Drug Store, owned and operated by John Tarves and Ned Pickering.



Before we get to 11<sup>th</sup> Street, on the west side of Central are premises for the Prince Albert Concert orchestra, and Musical Supply, with a piano and accordion school run by Michael Humenick. As well, there is Science Wave Shoppe, owned by Allan King. On the corner, in the McDonald Block, is Rowe's Drug Store #2, owned by James McArter and Cyril Rawlinson. Upstairs is the Harradence -Longworth law office, and Investors Syndicate presided over by Hal Tucker, the Divisional Manager.

As we cross 11<sup>th</sup> Street, we can see the Police Station on Avenue B, alongside the First Baptist Church. On Central Avenue is City Hall Park, and nearer 10<sup>th</sup> Street is City Hall. Note the bandstand in City Hall Park. The first band concert was held in it in May, 1910.



I notice that the fountain in City Hall Park is not running today. The City Engineer, Maurice Pardoe, is on the steps of City Hall. If he weren't in consultation with the Mayor and City Commissioner, we could ask him about the fountain.

On the west side of the Avenue, we first encounter Woolworth's. Their lunch counter is considered one of the best in the city, especially for strawberry shortcake. Next to Woolworth's is Sally Shops, managed by Mrs. Theresa Klimek. Beside her shop is a vacant store (formerly Tadman's), and then there is the Avenue Barber Shop, operated by George Mirka and Oscar Black. Next to it is the Avenue Hotel, advertised as having "90 modern rooms, with or without bath". Beside the Avenue Hotel is the Metropolitan Department Store, managed by Arthur Evans. On the corner is the Imperial Bank of Canada which is managed by Jim Anderson.

I hope that you have enjoyed this portion of the Central Avenue walking tour. Next time we will finish off Central Avenue from 10<sup>th</sup> Street to River Street. I look forward to meeting you that day in front of the CB Department Store.

Now let's all hurry home before it rains!