

VOGEL'S & FOSTER'S

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S STORES REUNITED

In 1932 Vogel's and Foster's celebrated their 60th anniversary. At this time interior and exterior renovations were completed. An alley window opening on the north side of the building was replaced with solid brick. The following year, Ed Vogel died and his daughter Helen Vogel took over the partnership. This arrangement lasted until 1945 when Dallas Wurster took in Bob Foster as his new partner.



Friedelle Winans

Jack Winans & Bob Foster



Helen E. Vogel



Helen Vogel remained in the north store selling women's clothing by Vogel's store, and the south store selling men's clothing by Wurster-Foster Co. Both stores, although separate, maintained the open interior archway with a vintage 1911 water fountain shared in the passageway. Another feature on the main floor

was a brass cage office used for more than thirty years by Ella Barber the store's bookkeeper, and correspondent to *The Chelsea Standard* newspaper. Foster changed the men's store name to Foster's Men's Wear after Wurster's death in 1950.

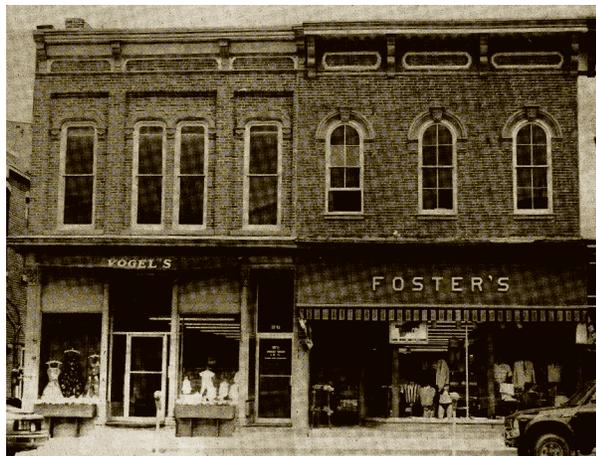
Helen Vogel and Bob Foster are to this day remembered by many Chelsea residents. Helen displayed her merchandise and dry goods on tables, and in old wood and glass display cases. Helen also served her customers from stacks of individual clothing boxes. She had a keen eye for selecting correct sizes and suggesting matching accessories. Bob Foster was known for his kind personality. In the 1970s he allowed utilization of the basement for horseshoe game tournaments with Jackson and surrounding small town clubs. A painted sign once hung at the back basement entrance: "Chelsea Horseshoe Pits."

Jack and Friedelle Winans bought the Vogel's store when Helen Vogel died in 1973. Bob Foster retired in 1977 and sold the Foster's store to the Winans's who reunited the two stores into one business as it was when owned by Dallas Wurster and Ed Vogel forty-four years earlier. During Winans's extensive renovation, cast iron pillars were exposed under the aluminum panels. Architects discovered the original entrance to Foster's was in the center of the building. To keep the store historic, interior changes were minimal. Jack and Friedelle Winans added a line of children's and infant clothing, and continued to offer fine apparel for the entire family under the name of Vogel's & Foster's, Inc.

Mike Jackson purchased the business in 1994, and later the two buildings. Jackson inherited the old creaky hardwood floors, and has kept the atmosphere of an old-fashioned clothing store. An antique Holmes Mercantile safe, and ceiling fans give an added ambience to the store. Jackson brought in new popular name brand clothing and sportswear, accessories, shoes and jewelry.

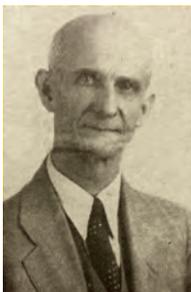


Southeast view of Vogels and Fosters during a late 1940s summer street parade. Note Wurster & Foster Co. as a separate business name on the south storefront.



In the 1980s the exteriors of the buildings still appeared as separate entities.

McMANUS STUDIO



James McManus

Ernest E. Shaver ran this photographic gallery from 1877 to 1918. Many portraits of Chelsea's residents, from infants to old age, were taken there. Shaver carried all types of cards and sizes from Cabinet, Opera, Victoria, Yale and Forum. In the early 1900s, Shaver leased a few more rooms that were occupied by Nellie Maroney's millinery "hat" shop. In 1918 James D. McManus bought the Shaver studio and operated it for the next 30 years. McManus served on the village council, and was noted for raising silver black foxes on his ranch as a side industry. McManus put in new hardwood floors and installed camera equipment that easily allowed any photograph to be enlarged, reduced, or color tinted. The studio was later purchased by local photographer Vern Otto.



Shaver - McManus studio in the early 1900s. A Victorian-era camera, which used glass negatives, can be seen in the lower right corner of the studio photograph.

MCKUNE BLOCK

A HOTEL THAT NEVER WAS

Historically the building located on the northeast corner of Main and Middle streets was known as the McKune Block. The block was called McKune after its owner and builder Timothy McKune built this late Commercial Italianate building in the late 1870s. McKune himself was a dry goods merchant, Civil War veteran and Sylvan Township supervisor. Construction began a year after the 1876 fire that consumed his prior wood frame hotel in the same location. The new brick building took three years to build and had five chimneys toward its rear. Commercial Italianate buildings are typically characterized with flat roofs, large overhanging eaves with elaborate bracketing, and narrow round or square-hooded windows.



An early twentieth century view of the McKune block with a prominent event poster on the Middle St. side.

The Main St. side of the building originally had two pilastered bay storefronts with a central stair entry. Numerous businesses resided here throughout the rest of the 19th century, but the most notable were the meat markets of Drunser & Eisele and the drug store of Rolla Armstrong. Phoebe Hooker and her daughter ran an upstairs Millinery shop. A post Civil War fraternal organization, the Knights of Pythias, also occupied the second story in the early 20th century. William Schatz's tobacco and barber shop occupied the corner unit on Main St. from 1897 until the mid-1960s.

McKune had previously bought a brick homestead on South Main St. built by Chelsea Founder Elisha Congdon and turned it into a hotel in the late 1860s. The McKune Block may have been constructed as a new replacement hotel after the fire. His plans changed when new businesses began to lease the building in early 1880 which included the Tuomey Brothers Dry Goods, Gilbert and Crowell's Dry Goods, the Post Office and U. L. Townsend's Boot and Shoe shop.



The drugstore and office of Rolla S. Armstrong, local druggist, was located in the north end of the building in the mid 1880s. R.S. is third from left in the picture.



The Panaritis family worked in the ice cream, soda and candy works. John Panaritis, father and owner, is standing to the extreme right.

Special Saturday and Sunday
Sultana Jelly, per pound, 10c

| | |
|----------------------------------------|--------|
| Two 1/2 Pint Ice Cream Bars, each..... | 10c |
| Home-Made Ice Cream, per gallon..... | \$1.25 |
| Five gallons or more, per gallon..... | \$1.00 |

ALL KINDS OF DELICIOUS HOME-MADE CANDY

Chelsea Candy Works.

In the early 20th century, J. E. Weber's Saloon occupied the north end of the building on Main St. Right after prohibition started in Michigan in 1918, John Coin's Sugar Bowl confectionary moved in, lunches were also served there. Later Greek immigrant John Panaritis's Chelsea Candy Works opened, giving Chelsea home-made confections until the late 1950s. Two subsequent businesses served dairy treats and lunches – Louie's Dairy Bar, then F&M restaurant which opened in 1964.

McKune block looking south on Main St. during WW1 with Sugar Bowl Lunches sign.



By the late 1970s the building was suffering from neglect and in need of extensive repairs and upgrading. By 1986 the village council threatened to condemn it, which forced a sale to Joyce Johnson. Her husband, Sam, had been part owner and operator of the adjacent building that housed the Gambles hardware store. Johnson immediately began work to restore the first floor level to an early historic appearance attracting new tenants. The East Middle St. side had not been used for separate businesses in decades. By the end of the 1990s, The Village Shoppe occupied most of the building through the next decade.

A public telephone booth was located on the Middle St. side for many years starting in the 1950s.

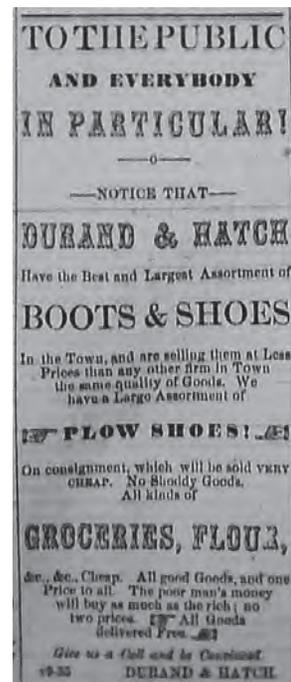


The McKune block during street festivities in the mid 1970s. Note the public telephone booth located on the Middle St. side of the building.

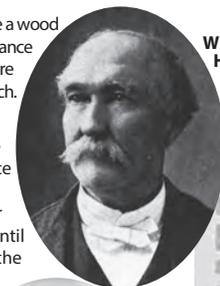
THE DURAND HATCH BLOCK



Southeast corner of Main and Middle St. in the early 19th century. Courtesy of Chelsea Area Historical Society



Fronting both Middle and Main streets, this fine example of Commercial Victorian architecture was constructed in 1882 to replace a wood framed structure destroyed by fire. It features narrow second story windows, cast iron columns with iron moldings at the front entrance and decorated metal cornices near the roofline. The front façade on the Middle St. side used to have coal grate openings which were later covered up in the 20th century. The building construction was financed by local produce dealers Aaron Durand and W. F. Hatch. Frank Staffan, local undertaker, carpenter and mason, was the contractor. For decades it was known as the Durand-Hatch Block.

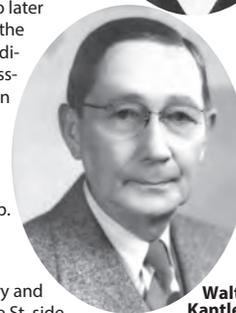


W. F. Hatch



W. P. Schenk's first department store in the early 1890s. Local druggist H. Fenn is standing to the left.

When the building opened, the first tenants were the Chelsea Herald on the second floor and the Post Office on the first floor. Later in the decade William Schenk opened his first department store as a sole proprietor on the first floor of the building fronting Middle St. until 1893. He was followed by the three sisters known as the Miller Sisters, millinery (hat) merchants who later bought the building in 1911 and occupied the Main St. side. Starting in the 1930s they subdivided its interior to share with other businesses including the unrelated merchants known as the Miller Brothers barber shop. Entry to the basement was once from both Main St. and Middle St. On the Main St. side, in the basement was C. L. Bryan's phonograph shop and for many years H. Lyons shoe shop. Red Eder, one of Chelsea's familiar barbers, opened a shop on the Main St. side in 1951.



Walter Kantlehner

In 1914 Walter Kantlehner moved his jewelry and optician shop to this location on the Middle St. side, sharing space with local plumbers G. H. Foster and Son, and later H. E. Snyder. Kantlehner had exceptional mechanical abilities and was called on to work on the clock in the clocktower before it was electrified in the 1950s. During this time the building became known as the Kantlehner Building and a large street clock with his name on it stood at the corner for many years until the late 1960s. Chelsea's first Secretary of State and credit union was operated out of the Main St. side in the 1950s by Wallace Wood. After Kantlehner died in 1964, a ceramics store, then a music store occupied the location until representatives from State Farm Insurance bought the building in the early 1980s.



The "Kantlehner Clock" was a familiar landmark on the corner of Main and Middle streets for many years until the late 1960s.



Downtown businessmen gathered in front of Kantlehner's store in 1925. Standing out in the front row are Milliner merchants Lena and Anna Miller, long time grocer and novelties merchant John Farrell and confectionery merchant John Panaritis at the far right.

NORTH SIDE OF PARK STREET

ONCE THE SITE OF A LIVERY, A BLACKSMITH SHOP, DAIRY BARS AND A GARAGE



Courtesy of Chelsea Area Historical Society

A typical day on Main Street ca. 1912 near the corner of Park Street. Note the car and horse drawn carriage, and the lady entering the shop below the sign for Mary Haab's Millinery. A boy is leaning on a metal hitching post while a man is carrying a basket of food from Freeman & Cummings grocery store.



A map ca. 1918 showing the buildings that line the east side of Main Street and the north side of Park Street.



Courtesy of Chelsea Area Historical Society

Charles Martin rented buggies and surreys off the street level next to the grocery store, and boarded horses in the lower level. Dr. Chandler C. Lane, who started as a veterinarian in 1905, was in the Martin Livery by 1909.

Park Street was created when Elisha Congdon's third addition was added to the village in 1868. It was the first of three streets on the 1868 plat, east of Main Street, that was graded and developed. It replaced the east section of South Street, which ran parallel to the railroad tracks, and became an alley, that today, leads from the municipal parking lot to Harrison Street. Grading was completed in the area during the mid- to late-1870s by M. J. Noyes, a Civil War engineer and surveyor, as well as the banking partner of George Glazier.

By the first decade of the 20th century, Charles Martin was running a horse livery on Park Street next to Freeman & Cummings grocery. By the early 1920s, Martin removed the gable roof and remodeled the livery building to handle taxi cabs and horse drawn carriages. Later, the building was sold to A. B. Clark and converted, as well as expanded along the east side, to house a grocery, produce shop, and warehouse.

During WWII, the building became the Tower Café where dancing was popular amongst the locals. By the late 1940s, a series of ice cream and sandwich shops filled the west portion of the building starting with Ely's Dairy Bar. During the 1950s and 60s, Onie's and Weber's were two of the many dairy bars which featured tableside juke boxes. Since the 1950s, A. D. Mayer, and later Springer, insurance offices have occupied the east side of the building. Ralph Guenther's photograph studio was located at the parking lot level of the livery building for 50 years.

Jacob Schumacher moved the blacksmith shop (shown in photo) from its Main Street location to the middle of the Park Street block in 1889. His son, Henry, used handmade tools at the worn anvil and box forge; and learned the craft alongside his father before he was in his teens. Henry Schumacher retired as Chelsea's last downtown blacksmith in 1953. The blacksmith shop, a dwelling and a garage were demolished in 1957 after being purchased by the village.

A Depression-era state ruling changed angled parking to parallel parking on Main Street. This resulted in a local ordinance leaving fewer downtown parking spaces, and led to the creation of Chelsea's first municipal parking lot in 1940 with enough spaces for 100 cars. But first, the area behind the Park Street stores had to be cleared of the existing ice houses, butcher shops, the Klingler barn, agricultural implements and a multitude of rats claimed to have numbered from 60 to 1,000.

Further east of the livery and blacksmith, local businessmen William Schenk and Ezra Tisch had built a dealership showroom and garage during World War I. David Mohrlock first used the building for his garage in 1928, followed by Wally Grossman, Rowe's Plumbing and other businesses. In 1989 it was remodeled and opened as the Garage Theatre, and under the leadership of actor and musician Jeff Daniels developed into the acclaimed Purple Rose Theatre.



Courtesy of John Keusch

Photograph at left shows horses waiting to be shod at Schumacher's Blacksmith Shop in the early 1900s. Photograph in center shows the garage during its use as Morloch's Garage, a repair shop with gas pumps, now the site of the Purple Rose Theatre.



Courtesy of Chelsea Area Historical Society

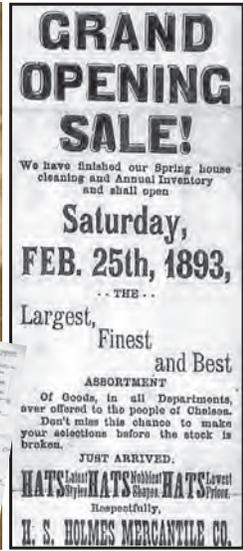


Courtesy of Alton Grau

Many Chelsea area people remember stopping at the open door of the shop to watch Henry Schumacher at his craft.

VOGEL'S & FOSTER'S

A 19TH CENTURY DEPARTMENT STORE FOUNDED BY HARMON S. HOLMES



Courtesy of Clements Library, Ann Arbor

H. S. Holmes and Co. in the late 1880s. The department store occupied two buildings on the east side of Main Street with impressive window displays on the ground floors. Left to right are Belle Chandler, Dallas Wurster, William Begole, Ernest Dancer, Harmon Holmes and a traveling salesman.

The legacy of Vogel's & Foster's began 130 years ago with the successful entrepreneurship of Harmon S. Holmes. He arrived in Chelsea in 1872 at age 17 to work for and eventually partner with Thomas Wilkinson in his dry goods store. Throughout his active career, 1872 to 1914, Holmes was involved with many prosperous local businesses in Chelsea. He sold general merchandise, clothing, hardware, furniture, farm implements, lumber and produce. He later became involved in what was to become Chelsea Milling Co., a lasting venture handed down through four generations.

Holmes, along with his partners, were the first tenants of these two Commercial Victorian style buildings. The first building at 109, was built by local builders Maroney and Monroe in 1876 for local business merchant David Thomas. A year later 107 was built on the site of a previous wood structure destroyed by fire. Orange Stone did the masonry work and the firm of Negus and White furnished the lumber and did the joiner work. L. D. Grosvenor of Jackson was the architect.

By 1887 Holmes owned both structures, and remodeled them to function as one store by removing two front interior staircases, and adding an interior archway. In 1911 a water fountain was added at the archway which is in use today. He installed an 1880's state of the art "Lamson Cash Carrier" system ensuring proper accounting at the registers. It utilized a basket on a

cable pulley to take cash from the sales counters to the book-keeping offices in the back of the building. In the late 1890s, Holmes installed acetylene gas lighting for the interior which provided as much as 15 times more light than ordinary gas lights at the time.



Originally, the north building housed dry goods and groceries, while the south building had men's and women's apparel for sale with tailoring services offered in a separate department. Cloaks, carpets and shoes were sold upstairs on the second floor sharing space with various millinery establishments and doctor's offices through the years. Renowned Chelsea photographer, E.E. Shaver, had his photograph gallery towards the rear of the building on the second floor.

In 1885, Holmes took in a new partner, W. J. Dancer, to form H. S. Holmes & Co., and expanded his operations to other towns including Stockbridge and Northville. In 1893 he promoted E. R. Dancer, Ed Vogel, and Dallas Wurster as officers to operate H. S. Holmes Mercantile Co. Holmes retired in 1914 and sold the business to Dallas Wurster and Ed Vogel in 1915 who renamed the store Vogel and Wurster. About that time the all-purpose department store was converted to specialize mainly in yard goods and clothing.



Courtesy of Chelsea Area Historical Society

Holmes Mercantile Co buildings amidst the crowd in 1908.



Courtesy of Chelsea Area Historical Society

South building under construction in 1876. Doctor G. A. Robertson owned the wooden structure that had a barbershop and shoe store before it burned in 1876.

**LANDMARK SITE OF THE FORMER B&B GLAZIER STOVE CO. OFFICES
FINISHED IN 1902**



Frank P. Glazier



Courtesy of Chelsea Historical Society

**NORTHWEST SIDE OF MAIN STREET LOOKING SOUTH
C. 1908**



Courtesy of Chelsea Historical Society

**A birdseye view of North Main Street,
early 20th century**

On the northwest corner of Main Street and the railroad corridor was a distinctive 50 x 70 foot cut fieldstone structure to house the short-lived offices of the Glazier Stove Co. which went bankrupt in 1907. Frank P. Glazier was the main owner of the oil stove company started in 1891. Glazier was village president from 1901-1907.

The lot was previously occupied by the James Hudler Store which later housed the first steam laundry in Chelsea run by undertaker Samuel Mapes.

For many years this massive Classical-style building designed by Jackson architect Claire Allen, greeted travelers from the north. It was remodeled in the 1910's as a multiple office building bought by attorney Archie Wilkinson. It was later called the Wilkinsonia Building. For a few years it saw use as a hotel and then a garment factory.

In the mid-1920's Central Fibre Products Co. moved their offices into the building and stayed there until the late 1930's before moving their industry and offices into the Clocktower Complex on the north side of the railroad tracks.

Lloyd Heydlauff, who had been in the appliance business since 1930, purchased the building in 1943 from Archie Wilkinson. In addition to his appliance business, he added a frozen food locker service and the business was named Frigid Products. Lloyd's son George joined the business in 1955.

In 1946, the store boasted one of the largest most-lettered signs in town. Over the years Frigid Products sold appliances, adding radios, music, and television sales and service.

On August 7th, 1970, a five-alarm fire destroyed the fieldstone building. George Heydlauff moved the business into the brick structure you see today in 1971. The frozen food division was closed and the appliance and television business was renamed. Currently, Heydlauff's Appliances & Electronics is a third generation family owned and operated business.



Lloyd Heydlauff



Courtesy of Chelsea Historical Society

Heydlauff's large appliance sign in 1946. Across the tracks to the north, Chelsea Lumber Co. is visible. It was located there until 1983



Courtesy of Chelsea Historical Society

The Frigid Products building fire of 1970 on Main Street