

Arterial Scrapbook No. 27



SOON TO BE DEMOLISHED - This service station, corner of West Main and Bridge Sts., owned by Henry and Ellis Jacobson and Samuel Seigal, is among the newer buildings to give way to

arterial. Built ten years ago, it occupies a site rich in Amsterdam memories. In the background is the Rinella & Battaglia building, now fast disappearing.

'New' Service Station, Being Demolished For Arterial, Situated on Nostalgic Site

Removal of the service station at the West Main and Bridge Street intersection is not likely to incite much of a dither among the Old Timers. It has been there for only a decade and no considerable amount of nostalgia can be accumulated within this brief period.

The previous buildings were removed July of 1955 and these brought a flood of recollections and not a few tears. Their going represented passing of an era that extended back to the 1870's when the flats on the north side of the Mohawk west of the river bridge were beginning to be "built up." Short and narrow streets that once went from West Main to the river bank were either eliminated or so enclosed by buildings that they were demoted to alley classification.

First of the major changes in this area came in the Bridge Street widening of 1896 when the west corner building, occupied for a decade or two by the store of W. A. Donnan ("seasonable

groceries") was razed. This elimination of "No. 2" along West Main brought corner distinction to what had been No. 4. The wholesale grocery house of David Straus who catered to the forerunners of the super-markets from 1876 to World War I days. Litchman & Goldmeer were next in this location, in 1920.

And Joe Schedlbauer's!

The West Main and Bridge corner really came into landmark distinction about 1933 when Joe Schedlbauer swung wide the swinging door that continued to swing until the wrecking crew appeared on the scene a little more than 10 years ago. Schedlbauer's bar was an Amsterdam institution that left deep impression. Even to very recently there are old-time customers who pass that corner to sniff and maintain that the hops and malt fragrance has lingered despite competition of the gasoline fumes.

During the early part of the century, the Amsterdam shopping pattern was different. The

customer count on West Main was heavy in the several business places in row between Bridge Street and the W. N. Carpenter building (Pedestrians had a better chance of survival at the busy corner.)

This memory-jogging will be sufficient to cause some to recall at No. 8 Frank Bowhall's Fish Market with Liederkrantz Hall above. Leon B. Hall was the fish market successor, then Casper Jones and after him Martuscello's Amsterdam Fish Market. Aschoff Bros. made cigars, Paul Gregor, too. James P. Smith was selling paints and wall paper at No. 10, and McKeever & DeVoe moved in as the Smiths' retired. Michael J. Donohue was in the plumbing business at No. 12. E. B. Rozelle supplied fruits from the same area for many years, also Dominick Thompson distributed from this point.

Frederick Blanck turned out printing during the 20's and 30's, at the second story on the corner.