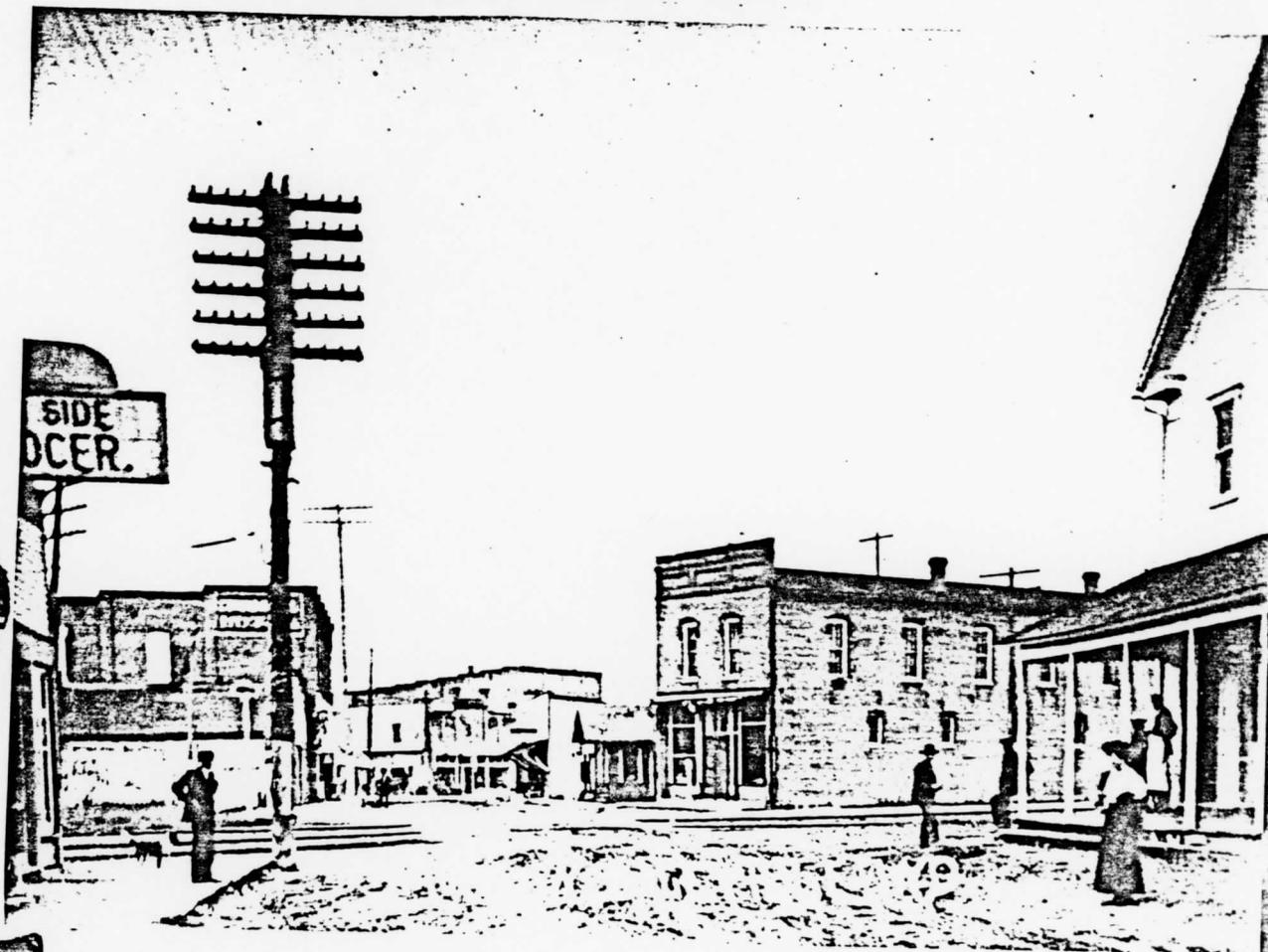


# DALEVILLE LONG AGO



ON WALNUT STREET IN 1900—This was the scene on Daleville's main street seven decades ago, looking north to the stop-light intersection from near the site of the present post office. The large white frame building on the right, the "Opera House," had a grocery on the first floor, but the second floor was used for

community gatherings such as eighth grade commencement exercises. Just beyond the railroad tracks were the interurban tracks which connected Muncie, Anderson and Indianapolis. The light brick hotel at the end of the street on the left side still stands regally and now houses a furniture auction. Many of the other buildings

Daleville



Part of the Town

# Daleville Industry

If a stranger would arrive in Salem Township today, he would find little evidence that there had ever been any industry in this area. The neighborhoods, other than the farming country, serve as suburban areas for the cities of Muncie and Anderson. In the town of Daleville, there are a few service businesses which supply the needs of the residents and a grain elevator which supplies the farmers.

However, there have been several industries, small in scale, of course, that have helped to promote the growth of the community.

In 1838, Abraham Deploye came here from Rockingham County, Virginia, and started a store and post office. Next to the post office was the first blacksmith shop run by James Skinner.

In 1845, Abraham Pugsley built the first tavern on the corner of Main Street and the State Road. In the same year, John Thomas built a tannery on the banks of Bell Creek which he ran with success for several years.

What is known as the Big Four Railroad was completed in 1852 and the main event of the day was "to go see the train come in."

A water-driven mill was erected in 1864 by James Turner, a mile or so northeast of Daleville on White River. It was operated in connection with a saw mill and both got their power from the stream.

In 1866 the first grain market opened in Daleville. The building was located next to the railroad.

The first session of the Delaware County Normal School was held at Daleville in the summer of 1875. The attendance was sixty-five. The sessions included hard study during the day and lectures and social activities in the evening.

In 1886, Delaware County had its famous "gas boom." Many gas wells operated in Salem Township. Gas was used for heating, cooking, and lighting in homes. Industry began to locate in Daleville and the town grew rapidly. In twenty years the gas supply began to dwindle. By 1910, there was