

Daleville landmark bows to progress

by Dianne Courtney

One of the oldest landmarks in the town named for Campbell Dale will fall to the wrecker's ball next month as Shirey's Grocery Store is taken from the Daleville scene to be replaced by a Convenient Market.

John Shirey, present owner of the building, says like most residents of the area he is not sure when the building was erected, but believes it was around 1875.

"I'm not sure when the building was built, but I think it's at least 100 years old. We think the bricks used to build it were killed right here in Daleville," John Shirey recalls. I do know when they built the building it was one foot over its boundary line. The man who owned the property waited until the building was completed, then took the case to court for damages. The case was heard by Judge Ball, but the damage costs paid were never recorded that I could find. It was around 1880 when the decision was handed down, though," Shirey adds.

"My earliest recollections of the building are

when it was a blacksmith shop. They used to build wagons, big ones used for hauling and such, in the top of the building and bring them down by way of an inside elevator. There isn't anything left of that, but I can remember it was quite a sight to see those big wagons coming down from the ceiling," Shirey adds.

Shirey remembers several other businesses that were housed in the building at various times, including some other groceries.

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LANDMARK

in Daleville for nearly 100 years, the building housing Shirey's Grocery store is set for demolition next month. (NEWS photo by Dianne Courtney)



EARLY PHOTO

of busy Daleville street shows the blacksmith's (Brown?) mortuary, and grocery store. The blacksmith store is what is now known as Shirey's. (Photo courtesy of Martin Davis)

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STILL STANDING is another landmark from early Daleville, now

"There was a restaurant here at one time called Mary's Kitchen, and at another time Bud Fenwick had an insurance agency here. Bill Edgell had the first grocery in the building, and later he went into business with Bill Chandler. Later Dale Cortner had a grocery here, and I purchased it from him. If the building was used for anything else, I can't remember what it would be. I don't think there were any other businesses located here. I'm sure the first business in the building was the blacksmith's," Shirey noted.

While the top part of the building started as part of the blacksmith shop it was later used as a card room, a billiards room and housed the Masonic lodge.

"We haven't used the top part of the building at all. Now it is just vacant, it has been since the Masons built their new home," Shirey said.

"I don't really mind seeing the building go. I think it has served it usefulness. They did know how to build in those days, though. Each of the walls is three bricks thick and the wood for the floor is so tough that you have to use

Stewart's Auction. This photo shows the streets were paved with dirt, not gold, at the turn of the century. (Photo courtesy of Martin Davis)

a drill to make a hole before you can hammer a nail into it. The fuel savings are going to be something I miss, too. You can heat this whole building for half what it costs to heat my modern home," Shirey noted.

Shirey says there are no plans for a major salvage program to save the wood and bricks in the building because it takes too much money to do such a thing.

"I'll save some of the bricks as a memento of the building, but it will be up to the people doing the work to dispose of the rest of the material," Shirey stated.

Something old will be

added to something new, however. Mr. Shirey and his staff will be running the new Convenient Market when it opens.

"The new market will have twice as much space, and we will be open until midnight for our customers' convenience. I don't think people will miss the old store quite so much, and progress is necessary," Shirey noted.

For one of Daleville's oldest landmarks the days are numbered, but the building has served its community well.

MAIN STREET. DALEVILLE APPEARED IN THE EARLY 1900'S AS SHOWN IN THE PHOTO. IF ONE WERE TO STAND ON IND. 32 AND LOOK SOUTHWARD THIS WOULD BE THE VIEW. THE COMMERCIAL HOUSE AT RIGHT WAS A HOTEL. TODAY THE STRUCTURE SERVES AS A AUCTION HOUSE AND FURNITURE STORE. THE BUILDING AT LEFT, SO FAINTLY IDENTIFIED IS A MEAT MARKET. HAS BEEN RAZED AND REPLACED BY THE MODERN BUILDING HOUSING THE JOHNSON DRUG STORE.