

## Did You Know?

The soda fountain and prescription case you see inside were part of the **Mooney-Barker Drug Store** in Pettigrew, Arkansas. Many of the medicine bottles and prescriptions hanging on the case also came from this drug store.

Pettigrew was once a bustling little city known as the hardwood capital of the world. The boom days started when the Frisco rail line came to town to bring raw lumber and products like barrel staves back to Fayetteville. In 1928, a new highway made the town accessible to truck travel. That and the decline of the timber business caused the train to pull out in 1937.

In 1916, **Dr. Mooney** and **Mr. Barker** bought a drugstore in Pettigrew, Arkansas. The addition they built onto the back served as the pharmacy and Dr. Mooney's office.

Trained in pharmacy, Arthur Barker became the store's druggist and also served as jeweler and pawnbroker. Helen Barker ("Granny") often tended the store's soda fountain.

*I remember many things about the store. They had a good-sized cookie jar full of oatmeal raisin cookies. Each cookie had a great big raisin in the center. Also, bananas came on a whole stalk, packed in crates. They were green, of course, and the stalk was hung from a hook suspended from the ceiling. If somebody wanted bananas, the hook was lowered, and the person got what he or she wanted.*

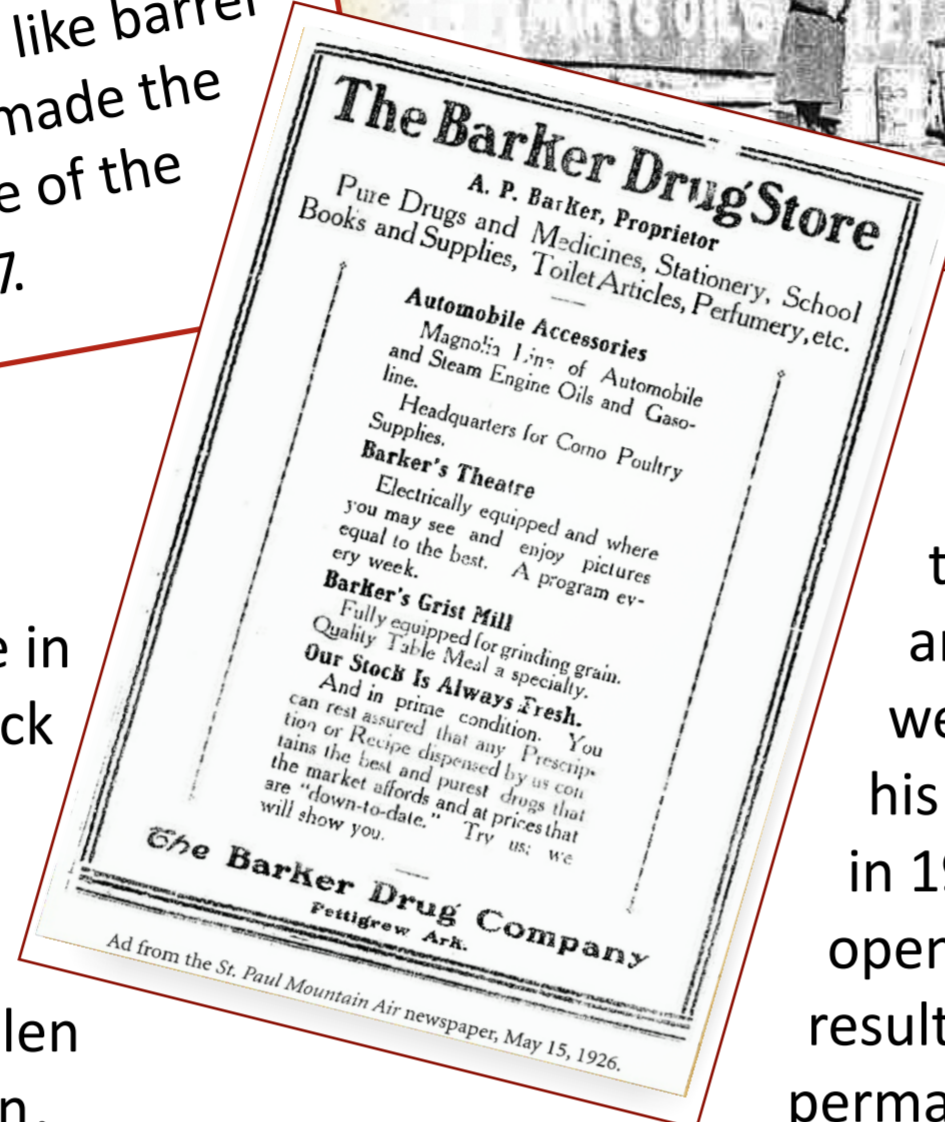
Wayne Martin, Pettigrew, Arkansas

The soda fountain was located on the right as you entered the store building. There was a big plate-glass mirror at the back of the soda fountain, and wire-framed chairs at the bar. The 20-foot long countertop was marble, and would seat six to eight people at a time. You could have banana splits, sundaes, whatever any drugstore would make. Several flavors of cold drinks were sold, chilled with ice either shaved with a hand-held scraper or chipped with a multipronged pick from blocks of ice that weighed up to one hundred pounds.

*We had our different flavors to make your drinks. I called them little boxes with a faucet on them. The ice and flavors were mixed with a cupful of carbonated water to produce the final product. Perishable items such as ice cream and the ice for the sodas came in on the train. You'd buy ten gallons of ice cream, and you couldn't very well carry it that far. Packed in ice, it weighed four or five hundred pounds. The ice cream was kept in a nearby icehouse. We bought ice by the carload and stored it in sawdust. Sawdust will keep your ice.*

Granny Barker

1923 Pettigrew street scene



Business remained good for the store until the Depression. In the early 1930s, Dr. Mooney turned the business over to the Barkers, and he moved to a farm near Stilwell, Oklahoma, where he lived until his death in 1948. Arthur Barker died in 1953. Helen Barker kept the doors open until March 1980, when a fall resulted in a broken hip and the permanent closing of the store.

In 1986, the building was torn down to make way for a new post office building. The side rooms and storage areas were crammed with a variety of material related to Pettigrew's past which was donated to the Shiloh Museum of Ozark History in Springdale. The drugstore fixtures went to Harvey and Bernice Jones's Har-Ber Village in Grove, Oklahoma.

One day, the Martins took Helen Barker over to Har-Ber Village to see the drugstore. When they arrived, Harvey Jones himself was standing on the porch in front of the drugstore telling people where he got it. Martin tapped him on the shoulder and told him that here was the Mrs. Barker he was talking about. Jones treated Granny like a queen!

After his return from WWI, **Earl Rhodes** became a pharmacist and operated **Rhodes Drug Store** in Grove until his retirement. **Mr. Claude Fowler** bought the Rhodes Drug Store when Rhodes retired, and later sold it to **Kay and Eugene Beauchamp**, both pharmacists. The Beauchamps also bought Sanders Drug and after operating both stores for several years, combined the two stores into one at 9 East Third. Eugene Beauchamp, b. 1936, graduated from pharmacy school, and was the grandson of E.H. Beauchamp, a pre-statehood Grove attorney.

## Plop, Plop, Fizz, Fizz!

John Elmo Pace recalled the following description of **Dr. A.J. Butts City Drug Store** located on Third Street:

*As you entered, the soda fountain was on the left. About one-fourth of the rear of the building was walled off and this was where the drugs were stored and prescriptions filled. On the right, immediately after you went in, were wall display cases of various toilet articles, lotions, powders, and boxes of candy. This extended clear back to the partition. Patent medicines were on display on the right. Down the middle of the building was a row of round Coca Cola tables and the Coca Cola chairs at each table. This was a very popular gathering place for the youngsters, especially for some of us high school kids. There was an old pot-bellied stove at the rear near the pharmaceutical part, and Dr. Butts loved to come to that back table and spin yarns and tell jokes, and a number of us boys would be gathered there to listen. Up front one of the most important appurtenances in the store was the Victrola and a whole pile of records. You had to wind it up to run and we'd play those records for literally hours on end, especially in the evening.*



**I.J. Trolinger** moved to Jay, Oklahoma, in 1946.

He was a registered pharmacist who had been living on a farm in Pittsburg County when he decided to get back to the business he knew best. **Trolinger Drug Store** remained open from 7 a.m. to 10 or 11 p.m. every day, seven days a week, with the possible exception of Thanksgiving and Christmas, when he might close for half a day. Even then, people knew that in case of sickness or emergency, "Trolly" would come down and open up. The young people grew to love him and depend on him. They would spend many an hour in the drug store, often with their dates, and since he stayed open until eleven on Saturday night, they loved to listen to music and talk with him. He gave them advice and counseling when they needed it. Several parent said that Trolly helped to "raise" their children. In 1969, he was presented a certificate in recognition of fifty years as an active member of the pharmacy profession.



interior of Turner Drug Store, Grove, 1915



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