



Hallettsville Brick Hotel Part III

By Brenda Lincke Fisseler

Change seemed to be inevitable for the Brick Hotel. In the summer of 1911, the current owner, Dr. H.S. Dew, decided that a change in management was in order.

Phillip F. Reilly was hired by Dew to take charge of the hotel. Reilly, was an experienced hotel man having formerly had charge of the famous Fabacher restaurant in New Orleans and more recently had managed the well known Richelieu café in Houston, Texas. Along with new management, the name of the hotel would revert back to that of the City Hotel instead of the New Park. The former occupant, Mr. and Mrs. B.F. Arnim, have moved their hotel to their building opposite the fire hall and will call it the Old Park hotel.

By Fall of 1911, Reilly had also been hired to become the manager of the new three story brick hotel in Yoakum.

During February 1912, Dr. Dew sold the hotel to Ophelia Eckels and her husband, Frank, of Waco, Texas for 700 acres of land located in Henderson County, Texas and the assumption of a \$6,000.00 debt. The sale included the building, the contents, the sewer system, and two horses with wagon. Reilly and his family moved to Galveston, Texas after the sale.

While Eckels was the proprietor of the hotel, he was known to travel extensively including a two month business tour of the eastern States during April of 1912.

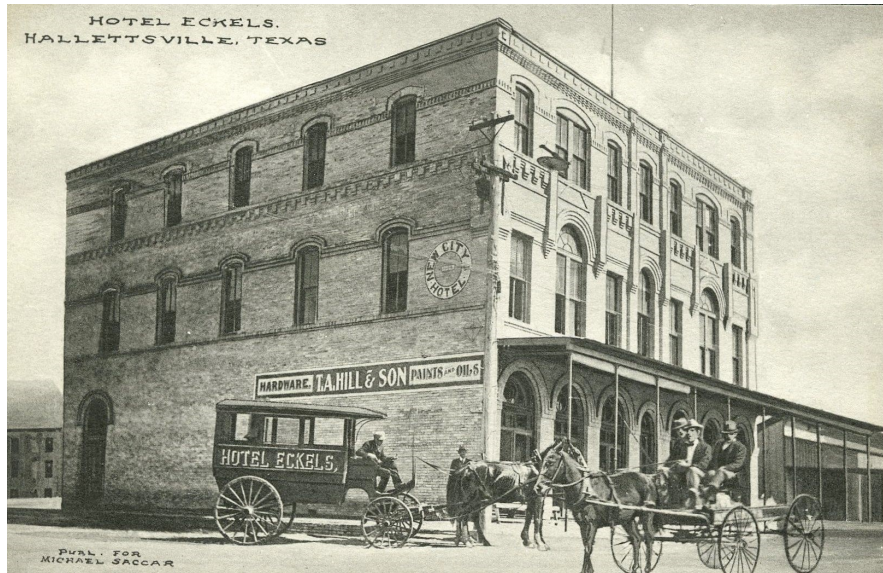
The City Hotel property again changed hands in December of 1912, when the present proprietor, Frank Eckels, sold the property to R.W. Sparks of Skidmore, Texas. Eckels and his family were making arraignments to move to Tyler, Texas.

*“Great minds are related to
the brief span of time
during which they live
as great buildings are to a
little square in which they
stand...”*

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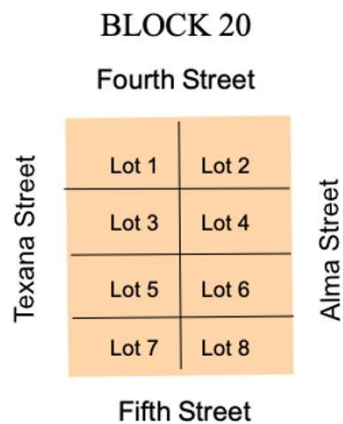
This picture of the three story brick hotel was taken sometime after February of 1912. While the wagon used to transport hotel guests is pictured, remnants of prior owners are visible in the New City Hotel artwork on the second floor and the T.A. Hill & Son Hardware artwork on the first floor. The building seen at the back of the hotel was the old Methodist Church on the NE corner of Block 20.

The Sparks management of the hotel lasted less than two years. Sparks sold the hotel property to A.M and Blanche Avant for \$18,000.00 in September of 1914. Mr. Avant was a uncle of Hallettsville resident, B.C. Avant.

The property would be conducted by Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Downum, experienced hotel people of Alpine, Texas. The name of the hotel has been changed to the Manhattan Hotel.

Next month will be the beginning of the end for the three story brick hotel in Hallettsville that showed so much promise but lacked the owner stability to make it a huge success.

Then eventually, everything went up in smoke!



Note:

As requested by my readers: the location of the three story hotel is currently occupied by a convenience store and a parking lot for Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

Next:
Hallettsville Brick Hotel
Part IV