

Sold By \_\_\_\_\_ Date 6-4 1973

Name Red Wood

Address \_\_\_\_\_

REG. NO.	AMT. REC'D	ACCT. FWD.
481 1 3/4 250 yds	1.00	
1 2 3/4 1.00	30	
2 3 3/4 Hwy 13.11 1.60	3.20	
4 4 3/4 1.00	80	
2 5 3/4 8.14 1.75	3.50	
2 6 3/4 1.00 200	25	
1 7 3/4 1.00 200	2.60	
1 8 3/4 1.00	3.50	
1 9 3/4 1.00	25	
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		

MILLER-KIDDER HDWE. GO. 40

True Value 15

120 N. MAIN ST.  
GRESHAM, OR 97030

5A20 Rediform



OUTLOOK April 8, 1982



Louis Kidder proudly stands in front of the Gresham hardware store in 1911.

*He'll miss the nuts and bolts*



The lady looking for a gizmo to fit the widget she needs for her broken homglommer doesn't have Roger Kidder to kid around with anymore.

Gresham's first family of hardware has abdicated, closed the doors of their venerable store and left the inept and the ignorant pitifully wandering up and down Main Avenue — their homglommers unrepaired.

The Miller-Kidder Hardware Store, a fixture in Gresham for 71 years, has gone the way of the buggy whip and the passenger pigeon. Coming soon at its old spot on Main will be a gourmet grocery and restaurant, an adjunct of Cloudfree and Sun.

But upcoming generations may never know that nuts and bolts and nails could be bought one at a time, instead of by the dozen in hygienic plastic packages. They will never crane their necks to watch the clerk push the rolling ladder along the wall, clamber up and pull a fistful of nails from a lofty bin.

They may never know the satisfaction of walking into a hardware store with nothing more than a piece of mangled metal and a puzzled look and having the clerk instantly discern what was needed.

But Roger Kidder could do that. So could his wife, Margaret, and their sons, Tom and Gary. So could Roger's father, Louis Kidder. And Glen "Sport" Miller. They were hardware people who sold knowledge along with nuts and bolts. The kind of folks born knowing that kerosene lantern wicks come in two sizes. It's hard to get that kind of information in a store that also sells panty hose and balloon bread.

"I'm going to miss the people," Kidder said this week retiring after 36 years at the store. "I've bought two fishing poles — one for me and one for my wife.

"I have the living room and dining room to paint," he grimaces, adding that just because he sold paint, it doesn't necessarily follow that he likes to apply it.

"But I'll miss the people who came asking for stuff and expecting me to figure out what the heck they wanted. Some things they asked, I didn't know much about," he confides. "But we got all these pamphlets from the companies which I read and people thought I was really smart."

Kidder grew up in the store. But it started before his time, in 1911. It was called Sterling and Johnson and the firm advertised in the first edi-



Roger Kidder looks at his hardware store's original ad in an 1911 Outlook.

tion of The Outlook offering \$2,000 worth of electrical goods for people wiring their houses and businesses with new-fangled electric lights.

Louis Kidder joined the firm that year, bought into it the following year, moved it across the street and soon became sole owner of L.L. Kidder Hardware. Glen Miller, nicknamed "Sport" because of his interest in athletics, added his name shortly after World War II. Roger, after an apprenticeship with a hardware wholesale house, joined the firm in 1946.

"At the same time, I joined the fire department as a volunteer fireman," adds Kidder. "I was secretary-treasurer of the fire department for more than 20 years. In those days the fire station was out back where the Penney's store is now. When the bell rang, all I had to do was step out the back door."

Kidder is easing into retirement. He and Margaret plan to travel a bit. But for now, he refuses to give up his morning routine of coffee at the M & M Restaurant with "the boys."

"I was offered a job in another hardware store," he says. "But I don't know about that. Seems like all I'd have to do is put up more packages of nuts and bolts on the hooks. It doesn't seem like you'd ever get a chance to talk with the customers."



## "OPAL" HEATER



Here is an Oregon product made especially for this climate. American Ingot Iron is used in the sides. It is cast lined, has cast bottom and top with large swing top which admits a big chunk of wood, also large side door. Nickle Trimmings are plain, making it a handsome, as well as economical Stove. We carry it in

Three Sizes at \$9.50, \$11 and \$12.75

We carry a full line of the Portland Stove Works' Stoves and are always glad to show them.

1914

**STERLING & KIDDER'S**

Hardware Store  
Gresham, Ore.

25% COTTON / 100% RECYCLED



GRE OUT APR 8, 1982



Louis Kidder proudly stands in front of the Sterling & Kidder store in 1911



# He'll miss the nuts and bolts

by SHARON NESBIT  
of The Outlook staff

The lady looking for a gizmo to fit the widget she needs for her broken homglommer doesn't have Roger Kidder to kid around with anymore.

Gresham's first family of hardware has abdicated, closed the doors of their venerable store and left the inept and the ignorant pitifully wandering up and down Main Avenue — their homglommers unrepaired.

The Miller-Kidder Hardware Store, a fixture in Gresham for 71 years, has gone the way of the buggy whip and the passenger pigeon. Coming soon at its old spot on Main will be a gourmet grocery and restaurant, an adjunct of Cloudberry and Sun.

But upcoming generations may never know that nuts and bolts and nails could be bought one at a time, instead of by the dozen in hygienic plastic packages. They will never crane their necks to watch the clerk push the rolling ladder along the wall, clamber up and pull a fistful of nails from a lofty bin.

They may never know the satisfaction of walking into a hardware store with nothing more than a piece of mangled metal and a puzzled look and having the clerk instantly discern what was needed.

But Roger Kidder could do that. So could his wife, Margaret, and their sons, Tom and Gary. So could Roger's father, Louis Kidder. And Glen "Sport" Miller. They were hardware people who sold knowledge along with nuts and bolts. The kind of folks born knowing that kerosene lantern wicks come in two sizes. It's hard to get that kind of information in a store that also sells panty hose and balloon bread.

"I'm going to miss the people," Kidder said this week retiring after 36 years at the store. "I've bought two fishing poles — one for me and one for my wife.

"I have the living room and dining room to paint," he grimaces, adding that just because he sold paint, it doesn't necessarily follow that he likes to apply it.

"But I'll miss the people who came asking for stuff and expecting me to figure out what the heck they wanted. Some things they asked, I didn't know much about," he confides. "But we got all these pamphlets from the companies which I read and people thought I was really smart."

Kidder grew up in the store. But it started before his time, in 1911. It was called Sterling and Johnson and the firm advertised in the first edi-



Roger Kidder looks at his hardware store's original ad in an 1911 Outlook.

tion of The Outlook offering \$2,000 worth of electrical goods for people wiring their houses and businesses with new-fangled electric lights.

Louis Kidder joined the firm that year, bought into it the following year, moved it across the street and soon became sole owner of L.L. Kidder Hardware. Glen Miller, nicknamed "Sport" because of his interest in athletics, added his name shortly after World War II. Roger, after an apprenticeship with a hardware wholesale house, joined the firm in 1946.

"At the same time, I joined the fire department as a volunteer fireman," adds Kidder. "I was secretary-treasurer of the fire department for more than 20 years. In those days the fire station was out back where the Penney's store is now. When the bell rang, all I had to do was step out the back door."

Kidder is easing into retirement. He and Margaret plan to travel a bit. But for now, he refuses to give up his morning routine of coffee at the M & M Restaurant with "the boys."

"I was offered a job in another hardware store," he says. "But I don't know about that. Seems like all I'd have to do is put up more packages of nuts and bolts on the hooks. It doesn't seem like you'd ever get a chance to talk with the customers."



5-25-67



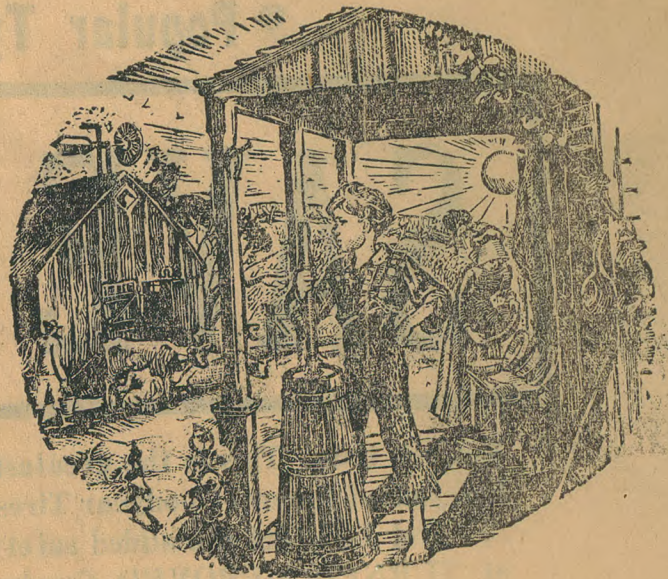
MILLER-KIDDER HARDWARE looked like this in 1915 when it was located where Pauletta's now stands. In 1915, Jim Sterling was co-partner in the business, with L. L. Kidder, (far right). Glen Miller (center) later became a partner with Kidder when Kidder bought

Sterling's interest in the hardware store. Pictured at left is Karl A. Miller. Kidder's son, Roger, now operates the business which is across Main street from its 1915 location. Notice the hitching post in foreground.



# OREGON CENTENNIAL 1859-1959

## What Changes Those 100 Years Have Brought



Barrel churns now are classed as antiques — most of us buy our butter at the Super Market. Methods of doing just about everything else about our homes, farms or businesses have changed.

Naturally, this store has kept pace with the times, bringing you the newest in merchandise and the improved in quality as it came on the market.

Established in 1912 as Sterling-Kidder Hardware, the evolution of this store as your Home Town Hardware has included changes in name, first to Kidder Hardware, then to its present name, Miller-Kidder Hardware. With each change, a new member has been added to the firm who had first served several years of "apprenticeship."

That has made it possible to bring you the "changes" of the times always coupled with the invaluable experience of years of "knowhow" in the hardware business. In the years ahead you can count on the quality and service which only such a combination brings.

**FOR 47 YEARS**

Tools      Nails      Bolts

Kitchenware

Sporting Goods

Paints and Varnishes

Bicycles

Cleaning Supplies

and Dozens of Other Items

## MILLER-KIDDER HARDWARE

HOMETOWN HARDWARE — WE GIVE S&H GREEN STAMPS

MO 5-5611

120 North Main

Gresham, Oregon



## KIDDER HARDWARE STORE (1911-1982)

My father, Louis L. Kidder took Horace Greeley's advice, "Go west young man, go west". My parents had been married two years when they decided to move to Oregon. This was in 1905, the year the World's Fair was on in Portland. My folks attended at least one time.

My Dad had a great desire to farm, so he bought a small farm on Barnes Road across the road from the Simon Lind family and lived there about five years. They finally decided to move into Gresham and rented a house near the Bakery, while they had their house built on 5th Street.

Dad already knew James Sterling who asked him if he would care to go with him to deliver a stove to the Cherry Park farm north of Baseline road (Stark). On the way Mr. Sterling asked if my dad would be interested in buying his partner, Wm. Johnson's share, which he did in 1911. The firm's name was changed from Sterling & Johnson to Sterling & Kidder Hardware Co., In 1916, my dad bought Mr. Sterling's share. The name then became L. L. Kidder Hardware Co., they did business with Marshall-Wells Wholesale Co., in Portland. There were advantages being close to a large city but also a few disadvantages.

In 1919 Lewis Shattuck moved his business to Vancouver, Wa., leaving the middle space of the Ely building vacant. Dad soon decided to rent this space and moved across Main St. to a modern building, at that time, with plenty of room for a general hardware store. *Pauletta's Dress Shop* was where the old store was. ?

The year 1919 must have been an extremely cold winter for I can remember having a picture of Bob Metzger (son of Ed. & Milred Metzger) and I on the top of a huge snow drift in the street in front of Walrads store.

My dad could talk and sing a little in Swedish. When one of the *Sweish* fellows would put his foot inside the front door, Dad would start singing in Swedish and then began talking in Swedish as he walked back to where my father was. Of course this made the Swedes happy. My dad was known to be helpful and the store gave good service.

There were several men who made the store a place to visit their friends: Dr. Frank Peak, Harve Metzger, Frank Hodge Earl Townsend, Bill Ferris and Joe Peak.

My two uncles: Uncle Ern Kidder *Alice Page's father* and Uncle Harve Miller, would be around and there would be times they would wait on customers if needed.

Some of the men who had worked for the store were: Harold (Goofy) Richmond, he was an expert mechanic, Joe Chiodo, worked for his apprenticeship to become a plumber,



(2.)

Gene Davis, Howard Roberts, Clair Gullickson and boys John and Robert Andrew. Mr. Johnston, the accountant, took care of the books.

My brother, Roger, returned from his Military Service in 1946 and began working for the store again. In 1947, our father decided to retire anfter thirty six years of being in business. Glen and Roger then became partners and changed the name once more, this time to Miller-Kidder Hardware and made it a True Value Store. Glen died in 1963. Roger and Margaret, his wife, their older son Tom and a few men who were retired but wanted some extra work.

Roger closed the store out in the spring of 1982. It was time for him to retire.

Our father never regretted coming west and felt the hardware business had been the right business for him.

Roberta Kidder Christenson

wood  
Glen Miller



## MILLER-KIDDER HARDWARE

Once when Gresham was much younger, before Fred Meyer, Pay -n-Pak, and G.I. Joes, the town was blessed with a friendly, comfortable hardware store--Miller-Kidder Hardware. Located on Main Street in the historic Ely Building, Miller-Kidder was the only place in Gresham where a person could buy one nut or bolt at a time, instead of a plastic package of twelve, leaving eleven useless ones.

Upon entering this rustic store house, one was greeted with the warm, acrid odor of motor oil, probably from the bicycle shop in the mysterious dark recesses of the back of the store. A cheerful "Howdy-Do" was heard from somewhere back behind wooden display shelves and gleaming Schwinn bicycles. The doorway was surrounded with red wagons and rows of bikes of all colors and sizes. As the customer's eyes adjusted to the darkness, he could make out neatly arranged rows of fishing tackle to his right. Silver hooks, golden spinners, red and yellow lures, bobbers, reels, and poles all vied for the sportsman's attention. Further to the right along the wall were seemingly endless rows of tiny drawers from ceiling to counter. These housed individual screws, nuts, bolts--anything the fixer-upper needed.

The left was dominated by tables displaying in a casual, haphazard manner any number of new small appliances. The lack of attention to the placement of these gave them an unwarranted second-hand appearance. Pyrex bowl, spatulas, sharp knives, and salt shakers were nestled between Sunbeam toasters and clumsy Mix-Masters in this happy jumble.

At the far left a wall of paint cans and painting supplies again reached to the ceiling. Gliding easily along the length of both walls were attached ladders to enable an energetic clerk to remove even the top-most can or box. A cluttered hominess characterized the variety this compressed department store reduced to a human scale.

As one wound his way through the maze to the scarred, wooden counter at the back of the store, he became aware of a boisterous laugh, a deep chuckle, and a low buzz of conversation around an enormous black and silver cash register. The shaft of light from the ceiling "skylight" spotlighted the clerks and a group of towns people who had stopped by to pass the time of the day with these friendly knowledgeable storekeepers. Always willing to listen, share a joke, or offer a solution to a seemingly inscrutable project, these three men, Sport Miller, Roger Kidder, and Clair Gullikson knew most of Gresham by name--a virtue long since discarded by more modern clerks in our transitory world. The atmosphere was relaxed but busy and efficient; the clerks' desire to please was apparent. People stopped by just to chat, get caught up on local news, or find out the location of the best fishing holes while perhaps purchasing any one of the myriad of treasures this fine old store offered. It was the growing town's answer to the general store, but more than that--it was an institution.



KIDDER HARDWARE STORE (1911 - 1982) .....  
Roberta (Kidder) Christenson

Keep by  
before Jan. N.

My father, Louis L. Kidder, took Horace Greeley's advice, "Go west, young man; go west." He had been married just two years when he and my mother decided to move to Oregon. It was 1905, the year of the World's Fair in Portland [also called Lewis and Clark Exposition], and they were able to attend.

My dad had a great desire to farm, so he bought a small farm on Barnes Road across from the Simon Lind family and my parents lived there about five years. They finally moved into Gresham and rented a house near the bakery while they had their permanent house built on 5th Street.

James Sterling asked Dad if he would care to go with him to deliver a stove to the Cherry Park farm north of Baseline (Stark) Road and, on the way, asked my dad if he would be interested in buying his partner's (William Johnson) share of his store. Sterling and Kidder Hardware soon replaced Sterling and Johnson, and in 1916, my dad bought it all and it became L. L. Kidder Hardware Company doing business with Marshall-Wells Wholesale Company on Portland, Oregon. In 1919 Lewis Shattuck moved his business to Vancouver, Washington, leaving the middle space of the Ely Building vacant and my Dad moved in to this modern building with plenty of room for general hardware.

I have some fond memories of this store and the people that used it during the sixty years that it was a part of downtown Gresham. I have a picture of Bob Metzger (son of Edward and Mildred Metzger) and me on top of a huge snow drift in the street in front of the store; it must have been a cold winter in 1919.

My dad could talk and sing a little in Swedish and when one of the Swedish fellows would put his foot inside the front door, Dad would start singing and talking Swedish. Of course this made the Swedes happy. Besides being friendly, my dad had a good reputation for giving good service.