

## The Town Begins A Walk Down Main Street

By Allen Miller

This week, let's step back in time about 65 or 70 years and take a walk down Duvall's Main Street and see the many businesses that made up the new town in the heart of Cherry Valley.

At the north end of town on the east side of the street was the Duvall Pharmacy, opened in June 1912 by Emil Clausen. Billed as the "Home of the Big Soda Fountain," it was a favorite place to stop and have a Coca-Cola or Hires Root Beer after the movie at the Duvall Theatre. The building was located about where the liquor store now stands and it also served as the office of Woodmark the Tailor, who had a shop and salesroom in a portion of the drug store for a time. The pharmacy became a branch of Camp-Riley Drug Company of Monroe in January 1915, and was nicknamed "the twig," which probably reflected that it didn't generate enough business to deserve the title of branch. George Erickson bought it from Camp-Riley in July 1916 and operated it for several years.

Just up the street, near the present Day-N-Nite Market, was J.B. Martel's grocery store and hotel building. This building in later years became the Valley Restaurant, and was torn down several years ago when Clint Hansen built his present store.

Adjacent to the Martel building was John Allen's garage, and where the recently razed auto repair shop stood was the location of Dean's Hardware.

Across the street, where the present bridge begins, was the location of the beautiful, rustic Forest Inn. Built under the partnership of James L. Wallace and Louis Speaker, the inn was opened for business June 22, 1912 and contained three stories and basement. Part of the basement area was rented out to the local Moose Lodge. Here also were the offices of the Townsite Company and the Cherry Valley Shingle Mill, with Roy Comegys

and associates and Miss Muzall, the secretary, busy inside.

On the main floor was a spacious lobby and dining room. The saloon, located on the south side of the building, had a huge bar that was kept busy until prohibition, then near beer and soda pop were sold with less than enthusiastic response. The second floor contained a balcony on the rear of the building that gave a good view of the Snoqualmie River and the Valley beyond. The second floor also contained 18 rooms, all comfortably furnished and each equipped with electric light and running water. School teachers, logging superintendents, railroad officials and hunting and fishing parties were some of the usual guests who occupied those rooms.

The upper floor contained three apartments, two were occupied by the owners and their families, the third was rented to Mr. and Mrs. Sherman Moody, who owned the dry good store.

The Forest Inn maintained a high standard of excellence for its accommodations and personal service, but in 1916, with the arrival of Prohibition, the first signs of its downfall was apparent. Mr. Wallace sold out his partnership to Mr. Speaker that year and turned to a life of farming. Mr. Speaker continued to run the hotel for several years, but in the early 1920s, improved roads began to claim more and more of the inn's business. No longer did passing motorists stop to spend the night at the Forest Inn on their way to Seattle or Everett. It was now too convenient to just drive on through to their destination.

Finally, Mr. Speaker sold out and the once elegant hotel became run down under a series of disinterested owners. In the year 1930, the sleeping town was awakened by the fire alarm. "It's the Forest Inn!" was the cry, but with the fire fighting equipment of the day, it was impossible to save the building. Now the bridge marks the site of Duvall's pride of almost 70 years ago.

More, next week.



THE FOREST INN on Duvall's main street about 1912. The east end of the present bridge now marks the site.



THE LOBBY of the Forest Inn. Shown are Mrs. Wallace, Louis Speaker and James Wallace (seated).

