

EUREKA HARDWARE CO. WAS STARTED IN 1882.

GEO. W. MISKIMMEN HAD A FEED MILL BUILT 50 FEET WIDE AND 60 FEET LONG, FOUR STORIES AND A BASEMENT. IT WAS BUILT ON THE PROPERTY ADJOINING THE TOW PATH OF THE OHIO-ERIE CANAL - PRIMARILY TO SHIP GRAIN ON THE CANAL.

THE MILL WAS QUITE COMPLETE. IT WAS EQUIPPED WITH GRINDING STONES RUN BY A STEAM ENGINE LOCATED IN OUR PRESENT OFFICE. THE OLD SHAFTING, DRIVE WHEEL AND CUPS FOR LIFTING GRAIN UPSTAIRS ARE STILL IN PLACE ON THE THIRD & FOURTH FLOORS. THE GRAIN TUBES ARE STILL IN PLACE IN THE FOURTH FLOOR. THERE WAS A LARGE WINCH ON THE THIRD FLOOR THAT WAS DONATED TO THE ROSCOE VILLAGE MUSEUM. IT WAS USED TO LOAD GRAIN IN CANAL BOATS. A SMALLER WINCH FOR LOADING AND UNLOADING WAGONS WAS ON THE CANAL ST SIDE OF THE BUILDING. IT IS NOW AT THE NEWCOMERSTOWN MUSEUM. THE ARM STILL PROTRUDES FROM THE BUILDING.

IN 1889 MR. MISKIMMEN DECIDED TO EXPAND THE BUSINESS AND HANDLE HARDWARE ALSO. THE STORE WAS SET UP WITH A LADDER, STORAGE DRAWERS, SHOWCASES AND COUNTERS. WE ARE STILL USING MOST OF THEM TODAY AS THEY WERE IN 1889. AT SOME TIME THE RIGHT (NORTH) SECTION OF THE STORE BECAME A FUNERAL PARLOR (NOW OUR HOUSEWARES DEPARTMENT)

IN 1900, AN ADDITION 30 FEET WIDE WAS ADDED TO THE WEST END OF THE BUILDING FOR THE PURPOSE OF HANDLING HORSE HARNESS AND RELATED ITEMS: ~~HE~~

- STATED THE NEW ADDITION WAS <sup>A</sup>NERLY SOLID WITH SUSPENDED HORSE HARNESS.

IN 1908 THE CANAL WENT OUT OF BUSINESS FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES AND THE GRAIN BUSINESS SLOWLY DRIED UP. MR MISKIMMEN THEN MADE A ~~SECOND~~ SECOND ADDITION TO THE WEST END OF THE BUILDING. FOR THE PURPOSE OF HANDLING FARM MACHINERY. THEIR WORKSHOP FOR ASSEMBLING AND REPAIRING BINDERS, MOWING MACHINES <sup>AND</sup> RAKES IS STILL OUR WORKSHOP. WE ARE STILL USING THE ORIGINAL 8 INCH VISE, THE WORKBENCH <sup>AND</sup> THE DRILL PRESS IS STILL ON THE WALL.

SOON AFTER 1900 THE EUREKA STORE CO WAS FORMED AS A CO-OPERATIVE GROCERY CO. IN A LARGE BUILDING ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE STORE ON RIVER STREET. ACCORDING TO MR. GROVER PORTZ THERE WERE SOME EIGHTY FOUR STOCKHOLDERS. BUSINESS WAS GOOD AND THEY WERE DESIROUS FOR EXPANSION.

IN 1917 MR. MISKIMMEN DECIDED TO SELL HIS BUSINESS. THE EUREKA STORE CO PURCHASED IT. ACCORDING TO MR PORTZ THE EUREKA CO. ALWAYS PAID GOOD DIVIDENDS UNTIL THE PURCHASE OF THE HARDWARE STORE. AFTER WHICH THEY PRACTICALLY DIS-APPEARED. AFTER SEVERAL MANAGERS, MR RALPH PORTZ TOOK CONTROL <sup>AND</sup> RAN THE STORE UNTIL HIS DEATH IN 1966. MR EARL COOTS THEN MANAGED THE STORE UNTIL 1968 WHEN IT WAS PURCHASED BY ROBERT CATHAN <sup>AND</sup> FAMILY. WHO STILL OWN IT

- IN 1923 THE EUREKA STORE CO ADDED ANOTHER 50 FOOT ADDITION FOR THE STORAGE OF CEMENT + LIME IN 1947, A TRUCK WAS PURCHASED AND ANOTHER 16 FOOT ADDITION WAS ADDED AS A GARAGE. WE NOW USE IT FOR FENCE STORAGE.

FOR MANY YEARS THE FUNERAL PARLOR SECTION OF THE BUILDING BECAME THE OHIO POWER CO. OFFICE. THE SECOND FLOOR WAS PARTITIONED OFF INTO THREE APARTMENTS UNTIL 1968. IT IS NOW USED FOR STORAGE

WHILE NOT THE OLDEST HARDWARE STORE IN OHIO. IT PROBABLY IS THE OLDEST STILL USING THE ORIGINAL EQUIPMENT AND HAS NOT BEEN MODERNIZED. IT IS A WORKING MUSEUM. AS IT IS <sup>APPROX.</sup> 20 MILES TO THE NEAREST LARGE TOWN, WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO OPERATING IN AN 1800'S FASHION. HOPEFULLY WE WILL NOT HAVE TO CHANGE, AS IT IS A LANDMARK

## ITEMS OF INTEREST

THE BASEMENT IS MADE OF STONES 4 FEET LONG, 20" HIGH AND NEARLY 3 FEET WIDE.

WHILE WITHIN ~~30~~<sup>12</sup> FEET OF THE CANAL, THERE IS NO DRAIN IN THE BASEMENT. AND IT NEVER LEAKS.

THE BUILDING IS OF BARN BEAM CONSTRUCTION,

THE NORTH ROOF IS SHINGLED ~~AND~~ THE SOUTH ROOF IS METAL BECAUSE THE 1955 TORNADO TORE OFF THE SOUTH SIDE. TO GET IT COVERED FAST, THEY USED IRON ROOFING.

THE CUPOLA IS MISSING - IN 1936 SOMEONE NOTICED IT WAS ON FIRE. THE FIRE DEPARTMENT MANAGED TO

PUT IT OUT. THE REMAINS WERE TORN OFF.  
A BIRD BUILT A NEST WITH A CIGARETTE IN IT.

IN 1978 THE OLD CHIMNEY WAS REPLACED BECAUSE IT HAD BROKEN OFF ~~BECAUSE~~ AT THE BASE. THE NAILS IN THE

BUILDING HAD LOOSENED AND THE BUILDING ROCKED IN THE WIND. WE RENAILED THE SIDING AND REINFORCED THE FRONT OF THE BUILDING WITH STEEL BEAMS, AS IT WAS LEANING.

ONE OF OUR SCALES IS A 1860 VINTAGE HOWE SCALE

TWO OTHERS ARE OF 1900 VINTAGE

OUR SAFE IS A LATE 1800'S MODEL

WE STILL HAVE A SALT BARREL + LIME BARREL