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Meadowdale Shopping Center 15 Years Ago

History Of Meadowdale Shopping Center

A WELL-KNOWN LANDMARK which can be seen from miles around is the Meadowdale Water Tower which welcomes visitors to the popular Meadowdale Shopping Center in Carpentersville.

Progress Is Our Business

A vital force that has contributed to the growth of this area is the multi-faceted Meadowdale Shopping Center on Rte 25 in Carpentersville. For 15 years Meadowdale has attracted people from miles around with the multiplicity of goods and services it offers with convenience and ease of free parking.

In December, 1955, ground was broken for the Meadowdale Shopping Center. The first plans for this $10,000,000 Center began in November, 1954. L. W. Besinger, pioneer builder of Meadowdale was also the Shopping Center builder.

The grand opening of the first 14 stores in the Shopping Center was held on May 18, 1957. The first stores to come to Meadowdale included Frank's Shoe Repair, Cole's Camera Shop, Urban Cleaners, Don's Barber Shop, Hobbyland, Besdek's Men's Wear, Dr. Oral Optometrist, King's and Queen's Restaurant, Western Hardware and Supply Co., Piggly Wiggly, Carpentersville Post Office, Currency Exchange, Mrs. Steven's Candy, and Leonard Besinger & Associates office.

In October, 1957 construction was underway for 40 additional stores. The first of these to open was Grant's on Oct. 17, 1957. R & S also opened in October and in November Richman Bros. opened their doors. New stores continued to open throughout 1958.

On Nov. 1, 1958, a gala grand opening was held for the Wintergarden Arcade. This was a fabulous enclosed arcade that featured a department store, Block and Kuhl, an indoor ice rink, a restaurant and snack bar. The Michael Kirby Ice Rink was an unusual addition to a shopping center and people came from near and far to enjoy the skaters while they dined in the beautiful Wintergarden Restaurant.

In 1960, the year Block and Kuhl closed, Weboldt's held their official grand opening.

The Meadowdale Shopping Center continued to grow and prosper until Nov. 19, 1963, when a $3 million fire destroyed 25 shops in the Wintergarden Arcade. The blaze was discovered shortly before midnight, and was believed to have started in Mr. Marvin's Shoe Store. Area firemen fought the blaze throughout the night. As the fire was finally brought under control, the Meadowdale Businessmen's Association made an announcement followed that rebuilding would begin immediately.

Approximately one year later on Nov. 5, 1964, the new $1 million Meadowdale Mall was opened. Some of the old merchants returned and new stores were opened in this beautiful shopping area.

The Michael Kirby Ice Rink did not return, nor did Carson's which had occupied the former Block and Kuhl location, subsequently occupied by Clarks Discount Store and now Cooks United Department Store.

Discount King became Wintergarden Pharmacy and moved to a new and smaller shopping center on Rte. 25 and Kings Rd., in Carpentersville.

In March, 1970, an outstanding entertainment facility was added to the Meadowdale complex with the opening of the unique Meadowdale Cinema I and II.

Fine restaurant service was brought to the area in January, 1971, with the opening of the Bonanza Steak House in the Million-Dollar enclosed mall.

NEARLY 50 STORES AND SERVICES

In the vast Meadowdale complex are: Andrea's Jewelers, Bonanza Steak House, Cooks United, Dairy Chain Ltd., Father & Son Shoes, Mr. Jerry's, Aloha Nail, Lenny's Store for Men, Maling Brothers Shoes, Martin's Barber Shop, Hoppy's, Mary Lester Fabric Shop, Norton & Hines Magnavox, Murry's Rover's Candy Island, Skippers Music Unlimited, Three Bees Juvenile Shoes, Three Sisters Inc., Wintergarden Card & Gift Shop and The Candle Shop.

Other stores in the center are: Ace Hardware, American Girl Beauty Salon, Armanetti's, Charles Bakery, Chicago Furniture Mart, Compton's Cleaners, Eagle Discount Supermarket, Econowash Laundromat, Fotomat, Drs. Fox & Risch, General Finance Corporation, W.T. Grant Company, Jack's Shoe Repair, Job Brokers, Inc., Kinney Shoes, Kroger Company, Meadowdale Barber Shop, Meadowdale Car Wash, Meadowdale Cinema I & II, Meadowdale Currency Exchange, Papa John's Pizza, Paul's Sausage Shop, Ruchman Brothers, Schill Shoe Store, Sherwin Williams, Spencer's, Meadowdale Lanes Sun Drug Company, Wieboldt's and F.W. Woolworth Company.

Women's Division Of Elgin A of C Sets Goal

The Women's Division of the Elgin Association of Commerce was formed in 1971 with the assistance of the Association of Commerce. Offices are located at 310 E. Chicago Ave. Officers of this organization include: Mrs. Silva Reams, vice-president; Mrs. Ernest Conrad, assistant vice-president, and Mrs. John Rauschenberger, secretary.

The Women's Division of the Elgin Association of Commerce will operate as a catalyst representing all Elgin area women. It will assist in education directed at the correction of community problems and will determine its own projects, inform the Association of Commerce of its choice of project and advise costs involved.

The internal structure of the Women's Division include the vice-president, assistant vice-president and secretary. The vice-president also represents the Women's Division of the Elgin Association of Commerce Board of Directors.

The Women's Division of the Association of Commerce has just voted to undertake an educational project in the community. They will work to familiarize the taxpayer on where tax money goes in relation to the school district, continuing educational programs and additional educational needs resulting from anticipated growth of the area.

THIS PANORAMIC VIEW OF OLD CARPENTERSVILLE, taken about 1890 by photographer William F. Kobs, merited joint first place honors for Edwin Nolte of 311 Liberty St. and Dorothy Starr of 132 Wisconsin St., Carpentersville, in the Cardinal Savings & Loan Association "Old Photo Contest." Judges combined the first and second awards of $50 and $25 respectively and split the total between the two contestants, both of whom submitted copies of the scene. The view shows Carpentersville from the top of a hill, now Rte. 31, looking east towards the Fox River.

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We now publish 5 weekly and bi-weekly newspapers: Cardunal Free Press; Elgin Free Press; Tri-County Free Press; Crystal Lake Herald; Marengo Republican News; Genoa, Kingston, Kirkland News; Hampshire Register; River Valley Citizen and Sycamore News.

We constructed our present location 4 years ago, and already we are increasing our building space by one third!

We owe our progress to our readers and to the merchants of the Cardunal-Elgin Area whom you have equally supported.

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The Free Press Newspapers

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