

Register of Old Buildings  
Macon County Historical Coordinating Council

Address: 201-211 North Main (New Suffern Building)  
(Van Law Building)

Legal description:  
Town of Decatur Lot 1 Blk 8

Date of original construction: c 1915  
(Listed in 1914 city directory as  
(David Fribourg, cigars)  
(Listed in 1915 city directory as follows:  
(201-211 N. Main - Unoccupied (new).

Name of original owner: Wm. H. Suffern.

History:

1. Data from available city directories:

1909-1914 Louis Fribourg - cigars, tobacco, day desk police  
sergeant. (Also David A. Fribourg)  
1915- Unoccupied (new building)  
1916-1938 New Suffern Building.  
1939-1953 Suffern Arcade (included Carol's Individual Fashions).  
1954- Carol's Individual Fashions, Wm. C. Van Law, President.

2. Data from office of Decatur Township Assessor:

Size of lot 56'x152'.  
Building class - 1st floor - stores.  
2nd floor - offices.  
New balcony added.  
New store front and stairway added for  
Carol Shop.  
Floors - terrazzo on reinforced concrete.  
Exterior - white glazed brick.  
Foundation - brick and concrete.  
Full basement, 2-story building.  
2nd floor in original condition (tile floor in halls  
(wood floors in all rooms  
Steam heat.  
Built-up roof.

3. a. Bradley Cantrell describes the building as follows:  
The Suffern Building, later the Van Law Building, is a commercial structure which adopted several characteristics from the Chicago School of Architecture. One characteristic is its window arrangement. Called Chicago windows because of its place of origin, they were identified by one large window flanked by two narrower windows. The windows served to maximize the light and air entering the structure. The building also displays terra cotta used as a fireproofing material as well as ornamentation.

Present owner: Van Law Bldg. Corporation.

History Cont'd.:

3. a. The blank terra cotta shields having no symbolic meaning were used widely.
- b. March 16, 1910 Daily Review, "W. H. Suffern Buys Shaffer Corner".
- c. April 8, 1910 Daily Review, "Deeds passed etc."
- d. April 11, 1914 Review, "New Store Building for North Main."
- e. April 12, 1914, Decatur Herald, sketch and story about proposed new building.
- f. Print-out of pp 355 and 385 from Mabel Richmond's Centennial History of Decatur and Macon County.
- g. April 25, 1925, Review, obit W. H. Suffern.
- h. February 21, 1926, Review, Suffern will.
- i. March 29, 1938 Herald, Carol's Women's Apparel Shop opens.
- j. February 16, 1957 Herald, Van Law, president and manager of Carol's Individual Fashions, Inc., heads United Fund drive again.
- k. October 20, 1968 Sunday Herald & Review, Carol's Plans New Store.



*Photo - Decatur Herald and Review*

*Feb. 22, 1965*



# LY REVIEW

WEDNESDAY EVENING, MARCH 16, 1910.

## W. H. SUFFERN BUYS SHAFFER CORNER

Also Gets 20 Feet From J. C. Sumerfield,  
Who Buys John R. Miller Building—  
Means Two Large Buildings.

*Des Moines Review*

*March 16, 1910*



W. H. SUFFERN

Who has bought the Shaffer corner at Main and Prairie, and who will erect a large building there.

A real estate deal was closed yesterday afternoon that means much for North Main street. W. H. Suffern bought the property at the northwest corner of Main street and Prairie avenue. He got a frontage of 36 feet on Main and a depth of 152 feet on Prairie avenue. For all of this he paid the sum of \$21,600.

**SHAFFER CORNER, \$22,600.**  
Mr. Suffern got the corner property from Mrs. Eric M. Shaffer. That includes the Fribourg cigar store and part of the building next door in which there is now a shoe shop. The total frontage got from Mrs. Shaffer is 36 feet and of course all the property runs to the alley in the rear, taking in the building in which Mr. Ehrman now has a laundry. For the piece got from Mrs. Shaffer Mr. Suffern paid \$22,600.

**GETS SUMMERFIELD LOT.**  
Mr. Suffern also got 20 feet Main street frontage from J. C. Summerfield. It is just north of the Shaffer property and includes part of the shoe repairing shop and all of the little building there as a sewing machine office. All of this runs to the alley in the rear and is 152 feet deep.

**MEANS GOOD BUILDING.**  
The present rental on all the property bought by Mr. Suffern is \$5,192 a year. If necessary he can let the property stand as it is for a while and secure a fair return on his money. However, it is Mr. Suffern's intention to put up a good building to cover the entire property just as soon as he can secure a tenant. He announces his willingness to proceed with the erection of such a building at once. The leases of tenants now on the property are such that possession can be got by Mr. Suffern after giving thirty days' notice. The fact is that Mr. Suffern confidently expects to close a contract with a tenant for a lease of the new building and to proceed with its erection this year.

**MILLER CORNER TO SUMMERFIELD.**  
Connected with this same deal was the purchase by J. C. Summerfield of the property at the northeast corner of Main street and Prairie avenue, the place now occupied by the Muzzy music house. Mr. Summerfield would not sell his property on the West side of North Main street until given a chance to invest in other property in that neighborhood, so to close the deal between Mr. Suffern and Mrs. Shaffer it was necessary to find this other property for Mr. Summerfield.

**PAYS \$16,000 FOR IT.**  
Mr. Summerfield buys from the John R. Miller estate. The building has a frontage of 18 feet on Prairie and a depth of 82 feet on North Main street. The price paid for this property is \$16,000. Mr. Summerfield has announced that in a short time he will invest \$2,000 in the improvement of this property. This will put in a new front and probably some show windows on the North Main street side.  
It is a larger investment than Mr. Summerfield formerly had in that section. The property across the street that he sold to Mr. Suffern went for \$3,000.

**LONG IN SHAFFER FAMILY.**  
The property bought by W. H. Suffern has been in the Shaffer family for a long time. It was bought by Samuel A. Shaffer over forty years ago. He at first owned all the lot as platted in the original town, making 54 feet frontage on North Main street. The frame building on the property and now occupied by a shoe repairing shop is thought by some to be the oldest business building now standing on a prominent street. Before the days of this generation it was occupied by a Mr. Barrett who ran a marble shop there. Later it was occupied by John Strohm and J. E. Strohm, father and son, who also conducted a marble shop. The Strohm's gave up the business in 1885, when the father died.

It is remarked that this corner was the only one left in the city with as much east and south frontage. The Walt building on North Water street is the only other business here that has good frontage.

**MOREHOUSE & WELLS DEAL.**  
J. E. Strohm did most of the work in carrying through this deal. He gave all his time to it for several days. Lately he has become much interested in the development of North Main street business property. He had a deal almost worked up by which the Morehouse & Wells people were to get the corner now bought by Mr. Suffern. That deal fell through at the last minute

and immediately J. E. Strohm got active in making some other disposition of the property.

**BACHMAN TO BUILD TOO.**  
Charles F. Bachman was also interested in having a good business building go up on the northwest corner of that street intersection, and he took an active part in pulling the strings touching on the deal. Mr. Bachman owns the old tabernacle property just across the street on Prairie avenue and he announces that he will start a new building just as soon as W. H. Suffern can make arrangements to build. Both men expect to build this year. On the old tabernacle property Mr. Bachman will put up a building at least four stories high and it may be made five stories.

**POOR RESIDENCE ENTRANCE.**  
This is something that North Main street has needed for some time. The structures at Prairie avenue were poor and it was necessary to get something good in their place to help along the development of the entire street. It is also mentioned that the intersection of Main street and Prairie avenue was the opening into West Prairie avenue, regarded as the best residence street in the city. The entrance to this fine residence district was anything but charming.

The building up of the two places on the corners will be noticed by all who come to the city as well as by all who are here, for everybody who spends anytime in the city takes particular notice of that corner, because it is the entrance way to prominent places. Dr. E. J. Brown is building a good structure further down on Prairie avenue and it is likely that within a year all of that place will be changed so much that a resident of this city would not be able to recognize it.

**YEARLY RENTAL \$1,450.**  
The yearly rental of the property bought by J. C. Summerfield at the northeast corner of Main street and Prairie avenue, is now \$1,450.



Decatur Herald  
March 17, 1910

## SUFFERN BUYS VALUABLE LOT IN MAIN STREET

W. H. Suffern yesterday purchased property 56 by 152 feet at the northwest corner of North Main street and Prairie avenue for a consideration of \$31,000. It is probable that the new owner will erect a building on the site providing a suitable tenant enters into contract.

The deal was closed through the offices of J. E. Strohm, a real estate dealer. The property was purchased from Mrs. Erie M. Shaffer and from J. C. Summerfield, the latter having owned 20 feet to the 25 comprising the corner lot. Mr. Summerfield received \$2000 for his property. With the consummation of the deal whereby Mr. Summerfield agreed to give a deed to Mr. Suffern, the grantor contracted for the property belonging to the John R. Miller estate at the northeast corner of Prairie avenue and North Main streets, for a consideration of \$16,000.

This building is now occupied by the Muzzy Music house, and has a frontage of 18 feet in Prairie avenue and 83 feet in Main street. Mr. Summerfield has abundant faith in North Main street and would not sell his property to Mr. Suffern until he had the security that he could purchase other real estate there.

Mr. Summerfield has announced that he will spend \$2500 in improving the building which is now two stories high. It is probable that these improvements will include show windows on the Main street front which is now blank wall.

### Pays Good Interest.

The rental on the property purchased by Mr. Summerfield is \$2400 annually. The new owner last night said that considering that this is interest on the investment that he had not definitely made up his mind about erecting a new structure on the site. However, he said that he had great faith in North Main street, and did not doubt but that there would be plenty of opportunities for profitable leases in case he decided to build.

That there is demand for space at that corner was evinced by the calls received by Mr. Suffern last night, from men asking in regard to plans for a new building and as to what sort of a proposition there would be to the person who wanted to lease the rooms.

"Probably I will build this year and probably I will not," said Mr. Suffern. "There is no particular reason why I would have to build. The property is paying interest now, but of course, I do not doubt that a larger building on that corner would be profitable. I have not made a decision."

With the probability that Mr. Suffern will erect a new building on that corner and the announcement that Bachman Bros. & Martin Co. contemplates erecting a new building at the southwest corner of the same street, Main street bids fair, according to the real estate dealers, to be as important as North Water street.

The property purchase by Mr. Suffern now has three small buildings, occupied by a barber store, a shoe repairing shop and a sewing machine agency office.

THE DECATUR REVIEW

March 18, 1910

## SUFFERN BUYS SHAFFER CORNER

(Continued from Page One.)

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### BACHMAN TO BUILD TOO.

Charles F. Bachman was also interested in having a good business building go up on the northwest corner of that street intersection, and he took an active part in putting the finishing touches on the deal. Mr. Bachman owns the old tabernacle property just across the street on Prairie avenue and he announces that he will start a new building just as soon as W. H. Suffern can make arrangements to build. Both men expect to build this year. On the old tabernacle property Mr. Bachman will put up a building at least four stories high, and it may be made five stories.

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### YEARLY RENTAL \$1,460

The yearly rental of the property bought by J. C. Summerfield, at the northeast corner of Main street and Prairie avenue, is now \$1,460.

April 8, 1910  
Review

## DEEDS PASSED FOR SHAFFER PROPERTY

### W. H. Suffern Offered \$10,000 Rental For Five Story Hotel.

W. H. Suffern this morning received from the Shaffers warranty deeds for the property recently purchased by him at the northwest corner of Main street and Prairie avenue. There was a report about the city that this deal had fallen through owing to some complications in the matter of title to the property. It was necessary to wait for a time in order to get the title matter straightened out, but that was done and now Mr. Suffern is owner of record of the property.

### OFFERED \$10,000 A YEAR.

It is not yet known what kind of building will be put up on that corner. Mr. Suffern received an offer of a rental of \$10,000 a year for ten years if he would build a \$100,000 fire-proof hotel on the property. This offer was not accepted. Then Mr. Suffern was asked by the proposed hotel syndicate, headed by H. D. Greider, what price he would take for the ground. Mr. Suffern has not fixed a price as yet. The fact is he prefers to put a business house on that corner for some good tenant and likely this is what he will do.

# NEW STORE BUILDING FOR NORTH MAIN

## W. H. Suffern to Put up Structure at Prairie Street Corner is Report.

That W. H. Suffern is planning to erect a store and office building, possibly one of five or six stories, at the northwest corner of North Main and Prairie streets became known Saturday. There will be a large store room on the ground floor, it is understood.

### GIVEN 30-DAY NOTICE

Occupants of the buildings on that corner owned by Mr. Suffern, were given a thirty-day notice Friday afternoon to move. This means that definite action will be taken in a short time.

The building will cover the entire property owned by Mr. Suffern, which has a frontage of fifty-six feet on North Main and 152 feet on Prairie avenue.

### TENANTS NOT SECURED

Tenants for the building have not yet been secured although several have been offered. Mr. Suffern is building there with a foundation and frame.

others will probably ask for it. Owing to conditions brought about by recent events including the fire, it is practically certain that many people would be glad to get this corner and for this reason Mr. Suffern goes ahead without a definite occupant in view, something he usually requires before he builds.

### MORE OLD BUILDINGS GO

This means the removing of some more ancient buildings from the business district. The old Ehrman laundry building was razed some time ago. There is still a brick building on the corner, occupied by Laribour's cigar store, which has been there for years. Harr's fish market, a shoe-shining shop and a restaurant, the last two conducted by colored people, last north of the brick building is a frame structure, partly two stories high, occupied by Louis Wells as a shoe shop and C. W. Davidson, a window business agent.



*Sun., April 12, 1914*

HANDSOME NEW BUILDING PLANNED BY W. H. SUFFERN TO BE ERECTED SOON



*april 12, 1914*  
**New Office Building Going**  
*Decatur Herald*  
**Up at Main and Prairie**

**W. H. Suffern Announces Tentative Plans for Structure to Be From Two to Six Stories High According to Demands Made for Space—For Offices and Stores.**

W. H. Suffern announces that he will soon begin the erection of a business block, corner of Main and Prairie streets, and all of the tenants in his property have been given notice to vacate within thirty days.

Mr. Suffern is positive that he will raise a new building to be erected on that corner. Beyond that his plans are indefinite. Certain he is that it will be two stories and that it will be a fire-proof structure, steel and concrete. If the demands for office space justify the structure will be six stories. In fact there is no limit up to ten stories if the demand for space justifies a building of that height. Even though there are only two stores erected during the current season, the walls will be of such strength that hereafter four or more stories may be added.

**Dimensions 50 by 150.**  
 The ground dimensions will be 56 feet on Main street and will extend back to the alley 150 feet, so that there will be a stretch of over 200 of show windows. The plans Mr. Suffern considers contemplate the floors in the lower corridors, with marble waincot-

ing and copper set show windows. It is likely that the first floor will follow the street grade, incline gently to the west, so that the entrance to the hallway or side door near the rear will be practically at the sidewalk grade.

The exterior walls will be brick with stone trimmings and there will be stationary glass awnings on both the Song, "Fair Lilies"—Primary.

**Can Rent Quickly.**  
 Mr. Suffern has now had applications for the business rooms, but has not closed with would-be tenants. He declares that he has no worry on the score of tenants for the first floor, nor for enough to fill one floor of office space.

He expects to be his own contractor, as he was in the erection of the building farther north in Main street. He declines to venture any estimate of the cost of the improvement, but says that it will be as nearly fireproof as it can be made, have the best possible elevator service, and be just as many stories as the demand for office space warrants. He will divide the floor space to suit the tenants.



All desirable grades, sizes and prices  
in **HOSIERY, UNDERWEAR, COR-  
SETS, WAISTS AND GIRDLES,** for  
**Women and Children**

**LINN & SCRUGGS  
DRY GOODS & CARPET  
COMPANY**

1907 — **DECATUR CITY DIRECTORY** — 1907

785

Main, East—Continued.

Main, North—Continued

- 52 Frank and Henrietta Krause\*
- 59 Edward and Frances Reining
- John H. and Anna Geisler
- 93 Samuel A. and Mary E. Noble\*
- 14 Mrs. Mary Griffin\*
- 21 Wm. and Bertha Schollenbruch\*
- 24 Robert W. and Mattie Rucker
- 28 Walter A. and Annabelle Drew
- 31 Perry A. and Rose Bryner\*
- 31 Unoccupied
- 30 Unoccupied Sept. 10, 1907
- 30 Mrs. Emma G. Myers\*
- 32 Mrs. Emma Frederick
- Leslie and Ella Frederick
- s. 1 e. of 9th
- Mrs. Ella V. Crow
- s. 1 e. of 9th
- Unoccupied Sept. 10, 1907

- 162 ~~Printings & Hawkins\*\*~~ ←
- 201 ~~Printings & Hawkins\*\*~~ ←
- 203 Mrs. Lina M. Bowman\*\*
- 209 Busy Bee Bakery\*\*
- Harry W. McHose\*\*
- 211 George W. Davidson\*\*
- 213 Ryland B. Shaw\*\*
- 215 Peter H. Brueck\*\*
- Marshall L. Howe\*\*
- Marshall L. and Pearl E. Howe
- (3rd floor) Mrs. H. Mary Hawker\*\*
- 217 Pacific Express Co\*\*
- Wells, Fargo & Co\*\*
- 221-223 Decatur Home Telephone Co.
- 222 J. P. Eckels & Co.\*\*
- 224 Pasfield Building
- (rms 1-2) George W. Drury & Co\*\*
- Dr. George W. Drury\*\*
- Home Chemical Co\*\*
- (rms 3-4-5) Mrs. Kathryn Deke\*\*
- (rms 6-7) Philip J. Keller\*\*
- Alfred E. Boyd\*\*
- (rms 8-10) J. R. Edmonds & Co\*\*
- (3d floor) Mrs. Anna A. Denz
- 226 C. M. Brodess & Co\*\*
- 227 David Kizer\*\*
- 229 David and Anna Kizer
- 230 Adams Express Co\*\*
- Southern Express Co\*\*
- Thomas F. Mulready\*\*
- 231 (3d floor) Masonic Lodge Rooms
- (colored)
- 233 James M. Dodd\*\*
- 234 Fred Norman\*\*
- 237-239 Herald Building\*\*
- Decatur Herald\*\*
- Herald Dispatch Co\*\*
- Herald Printing & Stationery
- Co\*\*
- Herald Engraving Co\*\*
- 238 Sherman Struss\*\*
- 241 Hart & Smith\*\*
- Robert J. Flint\*\*
- 242 Decatur Market\*\*
- Charles H. Pierce\*\*
- 243 Daniel B. Culp\*\*
- 245 James C. and Sarah McGrigory
- 246 Logan Camp\*\*
- 248 Syndicate Block
- (rms. 1-2) John L. and Ollie Cana-

**MAIN—NORTH.**

- North from Lincoln Square, Dividing
- City East and West
- 1 Loop Cars, 100 to 400; Edward
- Cars, 100 to 700; Condit Cars, 100 to
- 100; Water Cars, 100 to End)
- Frank N. Goodman\*\*
- Parlor Market\*\*
- (over) Miss May Wilkerson
- (basement) Joshua J. Jacobs\*\*
- Zach Melhorn\*\*
- Houston and Laura E. Singleton
- Houston Singleton\*\*
- Jonathan S. Felter\*\*
- Decatur Dairy\*\*
- Jonathan S. and Tillie B. Felter
- Decatur Hotel\*\*
- Decatur Hotel Co\*\*
- Frank B. and Mary J. Stearns\*\*
- John Spotts\*\*
- C. H. & D. Trav. Pass. Agt\*\*
- John S. Ferris\*\*
- (basement) John B. Rinehart\*\*
- Edward F. Hegarty\*\*
- Phineas E. Shutt\*\*
- Charles C. H. Cowen\*\*
- Collection Co\*\*
- Joseph E. McMorris\*\*
- Stine Building
- Arcade Building
- (rms. 20-21) F. S. Bell Land

PROMPT ATTENTION TO ALL CALLS 1004 N. MAIN



Decatur City Directory - 1916

**MAIN-NORTH**

North from Lincoln Square, Dividing City  
East and West

(All Loop Cars 100 to 600; Edward Cars 100  
to 700; Condit Cars 100 to 1100; Water  
Cars 100 to end)

320 N. WATER St.

Complete E  
Funeral Motor Cars.

**FUNERAL DIRECTOR**

- 103 Parlor Market\*\*  
Frank N Goodman\*\*  
(over) Vacant  
(bsmt) O O Hofer\*\*
- 105 Ralph W Linder\*\*  
Decatur Window & House Cleaning  
Co\*\*
- 107 Vacant
- 109 Houston Singleton\*
- 111 Houston Singleton\*\*
- 113 Decatur Dairy Co\*\*  
Joseph A Bishop\*
- 128 Stine Building
- 136 Edward A Denz\*\*
- 138 Denz Building
- 140 A C Brown\*\*
- 144 Conklin Block
- 146 Spineas E Shutt\*\*
- 147-161 Bachman Bros & Martin Co\*\*
- 148 Rodgers & Thornton\*\*
- 201-211 New Suffern Building
- 202 Bartlett Frazier Co\*\*
- 206 Frank P Smith & Co\*\*
- 213 Spence & Pease\*\*
- 215 rms 1-2-5-6 George W Davidson  
3-4 Elmer E Gibson  
7-8 Leslie C Price  
15-16 Mrs Rose Bryan
- 217 Wells Fargo & Co Express\*\*
- 219 W T Delahunty & Co\*\*
- 222 Needham Hardware Co\*\*
- 223 Decatur Home Telephone Co\*\*  
Macon County Telephone Co\*\*
- 224 Pasfield Bulding  
1 George W Lehman\*\*  
2 Mrs Bonnie B Patterson  
3 Home Chemical Co\*\*  
4-6 Miss Janet White\*\*  
7 A H Barndt  
8-14 Douglas Telephone Co\*\*  
13 Wm H Muzzy  
3d fl Mrs Anna E Denz
- 225 Home Telephone Building  
1-4 U S Brokerage Co\*\*  
5 Lloyd Harrington\*\*  
7 George H Tinkey  
8-9 Leslie W Taylor  
10 Sherman Scott
- 226 Pierce & Caldwell\*\*

- A Corrington
- Ella J Bahn
- 6 Florence E Walker
- 11 Roy E Forkner
- 12 A E Haldeman
- 14 Archie Biggs
- 237-239 Herald-Despatch Co\*  
Decatur Herald\*\*  
Herald Printing & Stati  
Herald Engraving Co\*\*
- 238 Sherman Strouse\*\*
- 241 Illinois Cleaning & Dye
- 242 Vacant
- 243 Frank T Fletcher\*\*  
George P Hart\*\*
- 245 George P Hart  
Mrs Alice Boob
- 246 Harry H Sackriter\*\*
- 248 Syndicate Block  
5 Miss O B Swank  
12-13 Wm T Martin  
14 Troy M Smith  
15 James E Day  
16 Harry B Daniel  
22 Hollis A Milem  
23 John A Henry  
25 Grover Bowerman  
32 Mrs Lizzie Tinkler  
Mrs Clarice Mullikin
- 34 Alex Mason
- 35 Charles E Dehart
- 42 Mrs Mary Huddleston
- 249 Linxweiler Printing Co\*\*  
Fox & Hound\*\*
- 250 Ten-Pinnet Parlors\*\*
- 253 Vacant
- 255 C R Willis\*\*
- 256 Schall Photo Supply Hous
- 257-259 Lyon Block  
1-2-3 E B Conover Grain  
4-5 Mrs Goldie Jones  
6-7 Mrs Mary I Eaton  
8 John McAllister  
3d fl I O O F Hall
- 258 Chenoweth Block  
2 Walter Garver\*\*  
3 Harry McEuen\*\*  
4-5 Charles W Montgomery  
3d fl Miss Mary A Bender
- 259 Lloyd W Snerby\*\*
- 262 Great Eastern Tea & Coffe
- 263 First English Lutheran Chh
- 313 E L Harris & Co\*\*
- 314 Pease & Kinnaman\*\*  
Rembrandt Studio\*\*
- 315 Mrs Margaret S Howard  
3d fl E C Pickard  
H M Rader



in Cerro Gordo, Shell-  
 . Oakland and Warren  
 Illinois Central stations,  
 ries factory, Library  
 ck (first and second),  
 hon block, Guards Arm-  
 . Temple block, Win-  
 te block, Mueller Plumb-  
 g and Heating company  
 ilding, new St. Nicholas  
 tel, Parke and Sons ware-  
 use and court house.  
 w churches included the  
 ngregational, St. Johan-  
 theran, Cumberland  
 ysterian, Christian  
 ernaacle, East Park Bap-  
 t, First Presbyterian and  
 John's Episcopal.

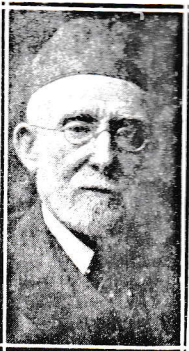
In 1895 occurred the  
 which destroyed the  
 wers block on South  
 iter street, and the re-  
 lding of that block and  
 Powers Opera house.

STORES AND INDUSTRIES

Some of the big stores  
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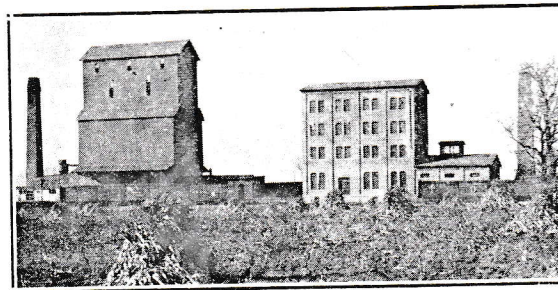
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ROBERT FARIES

became the president, W. E. Surface vice-president and superinten-  
 dent, and E. P. Irving secretary-treasurer. Many of the articles manu-  
 factured by this company were inventions of Mr. Faries.

Fixtures of various kinds, lamp holders, boiler tube cleaners,  
 gun cleaning rods, check power wire, and various other articles were  
 made by the firm.



PRATT CEREAL MILL  
 (Later site of Staley plant.)

The Decatur  
 Cereal mill, which  
 in later years be-  
 came the nucleus of  
 the Staley Manu-  
 facturing com-  
 pany's plant, was  
 erected in 1895. It  
 had a capacity of  
 grinding ten ear  
 loads of corn a day.  
 The mill was built

by the Pratts. F. M. Pratt and R. E. Pratt had been in the grain  
 business in Decatur since 1880. In 1891 they organized the Decatur  
 Union Elevator company, the name being changed later to the Decatur  
 Cereal Mill company. The Pratts had branch offices in a number of  
 cities in the middle west.

W. H. Suffern moved his grain business from Pierson to Decatur  
 in 1891, and was joined in 1892 by Robert I. Hunt. The company,  
 incorporated as Suffern, Hunt & Co., erected a mill later at Union  
 street and the Wabash. The same men in 1907 built a cereal mill at  
 Eldorado and Van Dyke. It burned in 1909.

The U. S. Wire Mat company was incorporated in 1892. Frank  
 P. Wells was general manager and treasurer, and C. M. Hurst secre-  
 tary. It developed a business which has extended all over the world.  
 It now is the U. S. Manufacturing corporation, with J. L. Bennett  
 as president.

The Decatur Trunk factory was started in 1890.

The Home Manufacturing company, garment makers, was organ-  
 ized about 1896 by C. M. Allison and Fred H. Benham. The latter  
 did not remain in the business long. It is now run by Allison's son-  
 in-law, John H. McEvoy.

The Macon County Farmers' institute was started in 1895.

The present transfer house was built in 1895, costing \$2,700. It  
 was paid for by subscriptions from merchants and property owners



crossed from  
 efit of traffic  
 l subways on  
 ur and West  
 e the Becker  
 nd the Brush  
 main exten-  
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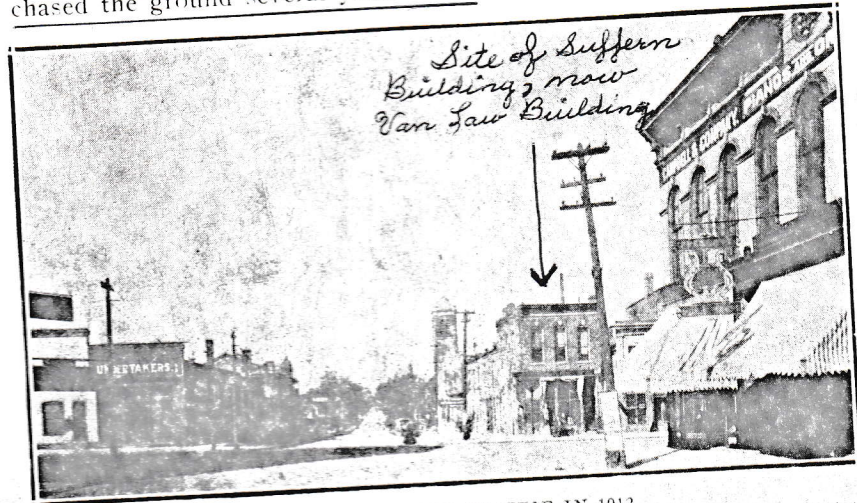
tures adjoining it on the west and east, the fire extending to buildings on Merchant street and on Water street. It was one of the worst fires Decatur had suffered, yet it meant the rebuilding of the business houses of those streets, resulting in larger and better structures.

In that year a number of other big building enterprises were carried out. The Knights of Pythias orphans' home was completed, the Y. W. C. A. building was finished, and the Citizens bank building was erected at the corner of North Park and Water streets.

That year the Decatur Railway and Light company spent \$100,000 in improvements on gas plant, gas mains, electric power station and other properties. That year saw the beginning of the new high school project which was completed the following year. It was the time work was starting on the I. T. S. belt line, built at a cost of \$300,000, the I. T. S. shops were being erected at a cost of \$100,000, and the waterworks and light plant was being rebuilt at a cost of \$300,000.

An important real estate transaction in 1909 was the sale of the Hill property at Pine and William streets, which resulted eventually in one of Decatur's most attractive residence sections, that of Millikin place and the 800 block West William.

In 1912 Decatur lost its old tabernacle at North Main and Prairie streets, which was torn down to make way for the Bachman building. Not long afterwards the building across the street on the Shaffer property, one of the oldest structures in the city, gave way to the new store and office building erected by W. H. Suffern, who had purchased the ground several years before.



NORTH MAIN AND PRAIRIE IN 1912

*From Richmond, Mabel E., Centennial History of Decatur and Macon County, Decatur Review, 1930*



# W. H. SUFFERN DIES IN LOS ANGELES

Has Been Slowly Dying for  
Some Time.

TO BRING BODY HERE

Attained Prominence in  
Local Business.

William H. Suffern, president of the Polar company and for many years prominent in Decatur business circles, died at



5:30 o'clock Tuesday morning, western time, in the Good Samaritan hospital in Los Angeles, Cal. The news came in a message to J. Henry Warncke, manager of the Polar company, shortly before

noon.

Mr. Suffern was sixty-two years old, having been born May 6, 1863. He had been ill since last fall, and for some time his condition had been serious. His death was caused by pernicious anemia. His wife and son, William H., Jr., who is attending Leland Stanford university, were with him. They will leave Los Angeles this evening, bringing the body to Decatur.

No arrangements will be made for the funeral until further word is received from them.

#### NEWS NOT A SHOCK.

Mr. Suffern's Decatur friends and relatives have known that he was slowly but surely dying for some time.

A brother, F. L. Suffern, returned from California last Thursday, where he was with his brother. He left him in a steadily sinking condition. He was so weak that he could not raise his head. He was unconscious much of the time, slept a great deal, and when he was awake it was only at rare intervals that he could talk intelligently. He had lost about 75 pounds since he left Decatur, and his case was hopeless.

#### SEVERAL YEARS IN WEST.

The Sufferns have been making their home in Los Angeles for five or six years, though never giving up Decatur as their permanent residence. They were back here last summer. Mr. Suffern became ill soon after his return to Los Angeles last fall and had never been a well man since.

The survivors are his wife, formerly Miss Carrie Weaver, and one son, William H. Suffern, Jr. One son died in infancy and a daughter, Mrs. Beatrice Kenney, died about five years ago. He leaves four brothers, Frank L. Suffern of Decatur, Edward Suffern of Atwood, John and James Suffern, whose addresses are not known to friends in Decatur. He was a nephew of Mrs. Mary W. James of 341 West Wood street.

#### A SUCCESSFUL MAN.

William H. Suffern was one of Decatur's most successful business men. He and his cousin, Robert J. Hunt, started the Suffern-Hunt mill Dec. 5, 1892. It was a success from the start, and thirteen years later, on Nov. 5, 1905, when they sold to the American Hosiery company, their stock brought \$400,000.

It was the largest independent corn mill in the country and was then grinding 11,000 bushels of corn every twenty-four hours. They started with a capital of only \$5,000. The sale included the mill at Decatur and the elevators at Turpin, Hammond, Cisco, Garber and Sadorus.

The plant was destroyed by fire on the night of June 7, 1909.

#### ANOTHER CORPORATION.

In December, 1909, Mr. Suffern, Robert L. Hunt and Fred M. Ives organized the Progressive Light and Power company of Decatur and received a charter from the state. The corporation was to furnish electric light and power to the people of Decatur and vicinity, and the charter also gave them the privilege of engaging in the steam heating business and in general merchandising. The capital stock was \$100,000.

Solicitors were started out at once to secure frontage from property owners for the light poles and wires, and a month later the company petitioned the city council for a forty-year franchise.

#### SOLD TO POLAR.

In March, 1910, while the franchise matter was hanging fire in the city council, the company sold to the Polar Ice company all the property that had been occupied by the cereal mill. The price paid was said to have been \$40,000.

Later the Polar Ice company sold to the Illinois Traction system three acres of the land, including the power plant, for a consideration said to have been between \$25,000 and \$30,000.

#### SUFFERN BUILDING.

Shortly after this sale and during March, 1910, Mr. Suffern purchased the property at the northwest corner of Main street and Prairie avenue for \$31,500 and at once began the erection of the handsome building that bears his name.

Mr. Suffern was for many years prominent in public affairs and served as a member of the city council. In 1914 he led the movement to secure lower freight rates from the railroad companies. He was a member of the First Presbyterian church. He was also a member of Ionic lodge No. 312, A. F. and A. M., Macon chapter No. 21, R. A. M., Bekeanoir commandery No. 9, Knights Templar, and Nobles of the Mystic Shrine.

#### KEEN INTELLECT.

William H. Suffern was known as a man of keen intellect and great

business acumen. His ability was shown in his business successes in the community where he was widely known and where his opinions were eagerly sought. There was never any question about what Mr. Suffern thought. He had a quick brain, reached his conclusions swiftly and expressed himself clearly.



# W. H. Suffern, Long Active in Community Affairs Here, Dies

## Was Known as Man of Boundless Energy, Had Indulged in Many Lines of Business Activity, Making Own Means



WILLIAM H. SUFFERN

William H. Suffern, long active in business and community affairs in Decatur, died Tuesday morning at 8:30 a'clock (Pacific time) in Good Samaritan hospital, Los Angeles. His wife and only son, William H. Suffern, Jr., were with him when he died. Today Mrs. Suffern and her son will be on their journey to Decatur with the body where funeral services will be conducted.

W. H. Suffern had been in ill health for several years. In recent months his condition has been such that the announcement of his death at any moment would have been expected to surprise none. None of his friends fancy, however, as to the condition of his health. It had been in the hospital several days since his visit to Decatur last summer, the first time for a month.

### Acquired Own Means

The immediate cause of his death was pernicious anemia. He had suffered of heart disease for a number of years and when several years ago he retired from active business his friends then knew that his physical condition warned against active business. His life had been passed to commercial affairs. The means he enjoyed were acquired by his own efforts guided by his own good business sense. He was loath to retire from business activities. After a brief period of inactivity to some friends with whose business sympathies he was familiar, he suggested new ventures. Twice such overtures were declined, not because there was any fear of financial loss but because the men approached then knew that W. H. Suffern was not in robust health.

They knew that when W. H. Suffern went into a business venture there was no end to the energy that he gave to it. They knew that if they threw in with him he would make the business go. They feared that if he ventured into any business which required his personal attention day after day, soon his heart would fail. They feared that some day soon he would collapse. They believed that business routine would hasten the end. They were his warm personal friends. When his overtures were declined in two instances frankly he was told that his friends loved him more than money, but they would not be associated with any enterprise, however profitable. If in so doing there was a remote possibility of shortening his span of life, they urged him to forget business, to take a real vacation.

### Boundless Energy

He had large interests. How much of his thought they required,

even though he was not associated with the management of any business enterprise, only his intimates have knowledge.

Men who knew him in a casual way, however, also were aware of his presence and interest in many lines of business activity.

No one regarded him as infallible in business affairs because success had followed all of his efforts. Not a few knew his rule was to study the situation thoroughly, to get the best information available, to encounter any hard places. About the time he started anything, affairs moved just as he moved, always full steam ahead.

The habits of business life were one of the results of his early life on a farm. Labor saving devices then were not so numerous as in this day. He had learned to work before he ventured into commercial life in cities. Once his right to speak before a luncheon club as a real dirt farmer was challenged, he was dubbed a real agriculturalist. Then he was at his best. His position had been challenged and he was equal to the occasion. His claim to being a real farmer he said was based on the fact that he had left the home farm he had inherited to his father and son, that he had actually put a few crops in the soil in his own behalf. He was accepted as one qualified to speak.

### Active in Youth

Work, physical effort had no terror for him. He studied telegraphy and became local agent for I. D. & W. T. Pierson. There he did all of the freight hustling, sold tickets, did the telegraphing and managed a country grain elevator. No one in his employ in later years ever did more work in a day than he had done in the same length of time.

With his cousin Robert I. Hunt he came to Decatur in 1887 and under the firm name Suffern & Hunt engaged in buying and selling grain, acquiring grain elevators at several country stations. In 1898 they began business as corn millers, their plant being on Union street at the Wabash railroad. Their success there was something phenomenal. They competed with what was ranked as the best organized corn milling consolidation in the country had ever known but they were undaunted. W. H. Suffern went to Europe and there established connections for an export trade which were maintained while he continued in business as a miller. The milling business of Suffern & Hunt had been solidly established and in 1905 the milling consolidation — American Hominy Co., found it easier to buy out the Decatur mill, rather than fight it. Suffern & Hunt were out of the milling business for two years when they erected a big milling plant north of Eldorado street and west of the Wabash at VanDyke street. That establishment was profitably operated until 1909 when it was destroyed by fire. A part of the site and the tower house was sold to the Illinois Traction company.

After Paper Ice Co. was organized and the plant of the new organization erected on the old mill site, that was an incorporated company and when the business was under way Mr. Suffern serving in an advisory capacity there, gave his time an energy to other interests.

### Interested in City

In 1910 W. H. Suffern erected the building northwest corner of Main and Pacific streets. For several years he maintained offices there and continued in the grain business. His first business was in a country grain elevator. He could quit all other lines but ever there was a pull to be buying and selling grain.

When he had in large measure retired from active business W. H. Suffern always was interested in Decatur. His many years as a buyer and shipper of grain had inspired a study of the freight rate question until his fund of knowledge on that intricate problem was amazing. Always he contended that Decatur was discriminated against in the matter of freight rates. For years after he had quit buying and selling grain he gave much of his time to the effort to get more equitable grain rates for Decatur shippers. In such crusades he encountered sharks on freight rate questions. It was ever battle of wits and W. H. Suffern carried on the fight for the very love of controversy, always insisting that Decatur shippers were entitled to all of the concessions for which he contended.

In spite of his extensive private interests W. H. Suffern served as an alderman. In those days aldermen were paid only for council meetings they attended. Few men ever gave more of his time to city affairs than did W. H. Suffern. The wonder was how it was possible for him to get away from his own business and work without pay for the city. Under the aldermanic form of municipal administration red tape handicapped much of the detail that should have been hastened. How it vexed Alderman Suffern that the entire city must sit idly by and with folded hands wait and dally according to statute. Many times did he declare that if any man conducted his business affairs in such fashion he would go broke. He was an efficient alderman.

### Later Years in West

W. H. Suffern was 62 years of age in May last. He leaves his wife and one son, a student in Leland Stanford university. Also he leaves four brothers, Frank L. Suffern of Decatur, Edward Suffern of Atwood and John and James Suffern whose present address is unknown to Decatur relatives.

He was a member of First Presbyterian church, Ionic lodge 312 A. F. & A. M., Macon chapter, Beamanoid commandery and Mystic Shrine.

In recent years much of his time has been passed in California but always he insisted that Decatur was his home, that the major portion of his interests were in Illinois, the presence on the coast chiefly was due to the fact that his son was attending school there. He wished to be with his son as much as possible for him to be. The question of a permanent home he said would be determined after his son had been graduated from Leland Stanford university.



# Suffern-Hunt Mill Success From Start

By Sally Burcham

William H. Suffern and his cousin, Robert I. Hunt, started the Suffern-Hunt mill on Dec. 5, 1892 with capital of \$8,000.

The mill was a success from the start.

Before embarking on the Decatur business venture, Suffern operated three country elevators buying and selling corn for Illinois mills and merchants.

Then, in 1892, he and his cousin started the mill on a site at Union Street and the Wabash Railroad.

Due to the high price of wheat and the low price of corn at that

## Decatur Diary

time, the Suffern-Hunt company manufactured a large amount of white corn flour.

The mill began with a grinding capacity of 2,200 bushels of corn a day, but ran night and day so it always crowded its capacity.

Among the products manufactured at the mill were corn meal and corn flour, pearl and flake hominy, corn grits for brewers and corn flake manufacturers, corn oil and a by-product known as hominy feed, which was used primarily as stock feed.

The chief market for corn table goods at that time was in the southern and eastern half of the United States, and considerable corn meal and corn flour was sold for export. About 75 per cent of the total business done by the Suffern-Hunt mill, aside from its byproducts, was with brewers.

From the time of its founding, the Suffern-Hunt mill grew steadily in output and prosperity. In 1905 it was sold to the American Hominy Company of Indianapolis for \$400,000.

Suffern and Hunt would not accept stock payment for their

mill so were paid in cash, with the agreement that they would stay out of the white corn milling business for ten years unless a payment of \$60,000 was made to the American Hominy company.

But Suffern and Hunt wanted to re-enter the business, so they paid the amount required and built a mill of 15,000 bushel capacity on the present site of the Polar Ice Company in 1909.

The previous mill still carried the Suffern-Hunt name, so the new one was called the Decatur Cereal Company.

The new mill made flakes of corn and then shipped them to Battle Creek, Mich. factories to be toasted there.

They also manufactured grits, meal, flakes, corn flour, baker's cones and hominy feed.

The grain elevator at the Decatur Cereal company had a capacity of 100,000 bushels. It was equipped with a grain cleaner, oats clipper and a corn dryer.

William Suffern looked after the buying and selling, Robert Hunt ran the mill, hired the men and bought supplies, and then looked after the finances.

The two reportedly made a strong team, for Suffern was a grain man and most of Hunt's training had been in finance.

The company grew quickly,

and seven more milling machines were installed and more were ordered. More than 75 men were employed in the mill, along with 10 or 12 girls who worked as sack seamstresses.

A 150-foot smoke stack marked the site of the mill, one of the highest in the city at the time it was completed.

On June 7, 1909, the Decatur Cereal Company was destroyed by fire, and a Decatur fireman was killed battling the blaze.

The mill was not rebuilt. Suffern and Hunt believed they saw prohibition coming and since about two-thirds of their trade was with brewers, they decided to retire permanently from the corn milling business.

So they sold all the property that had been occupied by the cereal mill to the Polar Ice Company.

The price paid was said to have been \$40,000.

Shortly after this sale and during March of 1910, Suffern purchased the property at the northwest corner of Main Street and Prairie Ave. for \$31,000 and built the building that bears his name.

Suffern was for many years prominent in public affairs and served as a member of the city council. In 1914 he led the movement to secure lower freight rates from the railroad companies.



# DAY REVIEW

FEBRUARY 21, 1926.

Pages 25 to 32

## W. H. Suffern Left \$289,145

Prairie and Main Building  
Valued At \$80,000.

\$242,898 IN BONDS

Widow Must Pay \$9,092  
Inheritance Tax.

The late William H. Suffern left an estate the net value of which is \$289,145.16, according to the report of John W. Evans, inheritance tax appraiser.

The real estate consists of lot 1, block 8, original town of Decatur, at Prairie and Main which is valued at \$80,000 and five-sixths interest in the northeast quarter of section 17, 18, 8 east, in Piatt county, valued at \$23,233.33.

Mr. Suffern had stocks, bonds, notes, etc., valued at \$242,898.78; real estate valued at \$103,233.33; chattel property valued at \$445 and cash on hand amounting to \$7,050.70.

He owned 600 shares of common stock in the Polar company, valued at \$63,000; 110 shares common stock in the People's Gas, Light and Coke company of Chicago, valued at \$12,760; five \$10,000 4½ per cent. fourth issue liberty bonds valued at \$51,255; six \$1,000 4½ per cent. fourth issue liberty bonds valued at \$6,242.40.

Mrs. Carrie A. Suffern the widow will receive \$238,205.60 and will pay \$9,092.33 inheritance tax.

William H. Suffern, the son will receive \$42,161.71, and will pay \$463.23 tax.

Harold B. and Carolyn C. Kenny, grandchildren, will each receive \$2,538.58 and will pay no tax.

## WOMEN'S APPAREL SHOP OPENS TODAY

Modernistic Interior For New  
~~Store~~ Store: No Displays 3/27/35

Carol's, a distinctive women's dress shop, will open today in the Suffern Arcade building with Mrs. Marian Keller Suffern, formerly of Burchett's studio as manager.

Decorating has been completed with pastel colors throughout. Custom-built Swedish modern furniture has been made especially for the store and no conventional shop fixtures are being used.

Presenting the appearance of a lounge-parlor, the shop has no counters or other standard display cases, the merchandise being stored in concealed rooms.

Furniture in the air-conditioned room is modeled after that of a living room. Three dressing rooms, separately air-conditioned, are finished in individual colors. A powder room is provided at one end.

Display windows on the ground and second floors were lighted for the first time last night. 3/29/35

*Decatur Herald*  
Feb. 16, 1957



William C. Van Law

## Van Law Heads Fund Again

William C. Van Law yesterday was re-elected president of the United Fund by the board of directors.

Van Law, president and manager of Carol's Individual Fashions Inc., has served one term as president.

Two vice presidents and the treasurer were also elected.

The United Fund officers are:

William C. Van Law, president

B. T. Andrix, first vice president

Ira R. Abbott, second vice president

Merrill Lindsay, treasurer.

Abbott is a new officer. All the others were re-elected.

Andrix is vice president of employe relations at the Marvel-Schebler Products Division of the Borg-Warner Corp.

Abbott is treasurer of the Wagner Malleable Iron Co.

Lindsay is vice president of operations, Lindsay-Schaub Newspapers Inc.

Van Law has been a member of the board of directors since 1954. He has served in community projects since 1932. Included among those are the general chairmanship of the 1952 Red Cross campaign and chairman of the 1944 United War Fund drive. Van Law lives in Moweaqua.

## New Officials

William C. Van Law, seated, is the new president of the Decatur and Macon County Hospital Association Board of

Directors. New directors, from left, are Carl R. Dick Jr., David F. Meek and F. W. Schaub.

## 3 New Directors

*Decatur Herald*  
Nov. 20, 1963

# Van Law New Head Of Board at D&MC

William C. Van Law, president of Carol's Individual Fashions yesterday was elected president of the board of directors of the Decatur and Macon County Hospital Association.

He succeeds Merrill Lindsay, general manager of the Herald and Review, who has held the position the past two years.

Three new members were elected to the board and three others were re-elected.

New members are:

Carl R. Dick Jr., contracting manager, Mississippi Valley Structural Steel Co.

David F. Meek, secretary-treasurer, Illinois Power Co.

F. W. Schaub, executive vice president, Lindsay-Schaub Newspapers, Inc.

Re-elected were:

Mrs. Fraser W. Bassett

Joe I. Gates

Dr. Paul L. McKay

Retiring after nine years on the board are Merrill Lindsay, E. K. Scheiter and W. G. Traver.

Officers are:

William C. Van Law, president

William C. Beall, first vice president

A. G. Webber Jr., second vice president

T. Douglas Johnson, treasurer  
Mrs. Fraser W. Bassett, secretary

In the annual president's report, Lindsay cited the following hospital facility improvements for the past year:

Completion of air conditioning with the exception of the kitchen area, which is being planned

Installation of a second electroencephalograph (EEG) in the

remodeled EEG room

Purchase of a fluorescent microscope

Investment of more than \$11,000 in a Magna-scanner for use in neurological surgery

Remodeling of the special care unit with the aid of funds provided by the hospital auxiliary

Installation of a new kitchen and partial remodeling in the nurses' residency

New lighting for the parking lot

Installation of a 175-kilowatt standby generator for use in emergencies

Construction and completion of a new parking lot at the corner of Edward and Hay streets, with the aid of funds provided by the hospital auxiliary.

Installation of new, more efficient laundry equipment at a cost of \$30,000.

Herald and Review Photo



Stockholders Meet

*Decatur Herald*  
*Jan. 12, 1965*

# Colburn, Van Law Citizens Directors

Ralph M. Colburn and William C. Van Law were elected to the board of directors of the Citizens National Bank yesterday at the annual meeting of the bank's stockholders.

The directors also voted to increase the surplus fund by a transfer of \$300,000 from undivided profits, putting the surplus at \$2 million.

"The increase in surplus continues to strengthen the capital structure of the bank and better enables management to serve the credit requirements of the growing number of substantial customers," John H. Crocker, chairman of the board, said.

The two new directors fill vacancies of Arthur B. Pulliam and the late Arthur Wait, and leaves the number of board members at 11.

Pulliam, former president and general manager of Marvel-Schebler Products Division, Borg Warner Corp., was transferred to Rockford.

All other directors and all officers were re-elected.

The increased capital structure keeps pace with the growth of the bank in deposits, which have increased \$3.8 million or 7.8 per cent in the past year, Crocker said.

This action also is in line with the bank's policy of substantial retention of earnings with frequent transfers of these earnings to capital accounts, he said.

### Addition Made

On Jan. 14, 1964, the directors made a similar addition of \$500,000 to surplus, raising the surplus fund from \$1 million to \$1.5 million, and the new addition increases the account to \$2 million, double the capital fund.

This addition gives the bank a total capital structure of approximately \$4.7 million, the highest in the history of the bank.

During the past two-year period, total deposits of the bank have increased in excess of \$11.5 million, or 27.9 per cent, which establishes an all-time high in deposits.

The year-end annual statement also shows record highs in other categories including invested capital, surplus reserves and total capital structure: demand commercial accounts of corporations, firms and individuals; savings and time money; total commercial, individual installment and real estate loans; investment in bonds and securities; trust volume and farm management operations, and in total resources.

Colburn is a partner and man-



Ralph M. Colburn



William C. Van Law

ager of the Standard Hatchery Feed & Seed Co. He served on the first City Council under the council manager form of government in 1959.

He is chairman of the Salvation Army Advisory Board.

Van Law is president and owner of Carroll Investment Cash-

### D&MC Board

He is president of Decatur and Macon County Hospital Board of Directors. He has been a member of that board since 1959.

Van Law has been active in community affairs many years. He served as chairman of the War Man Power Committee from 1943 to 1945 and as vice president and board member of the Association of Commerce. He served on the United Fund board from 1954 to 1957 and from 1961 to 1964.

Board members are:

William Barnes III, president, Citizens National Bank

John H. Crocker, Board chairman, Citizens

Sun., Oct. 20, 1968

## Carol's Plans New Store

William C. Van Law, president of Carol's Individual Fashions, Inc. 211 N. Main St. in Decatur, has announced plans to open a new store in Champaign.

Van Law said that for a number of years the firm has been interested in another Central Illinois location. He said the choice of Champaign was based on "its fine economic climate, and the fact that Van Law Carol's have hundreds of customers in the area."

Plans and specifications are now being formulated "to create and furnish a beautiful and outstanding women's specialty shop."

Van Law said plans now call for the new shop to open by early spring.



building and most of the essential forms of modern architecture. "Here is where it all began," as the editors of *Architectural Forum* recently wrote. (Chicago)

From the beginning this movement divided into two major streams whose leading figures were William Le Baron Jenney and Louis H. Sullivan. Jenney was a strict utilitarian, an empiricist who sought the most economical forms of building to satisfy the functional requirements. His aims were maximum efficiency and economy of construction, open interior space, and the maximum admission of natural light. The external form that grew out of this program is distinguished mainly by the articulated or cellular wall of "Chicago windows," a basic rectangular pattern corresponding in its geometry to the underlying frame of iron or steel and surmounting an open base of glass like a continuous transparent screen. Sullivan, on the other hand, was a self-conscious romantic who treated a building as a plastic object molded to give expression to the strong feeling that the new technology aroused in him.

In spite of Jenney's narrow approach, his influence led to a great diversity of forms derived organically from the underlying skeletal structure. It is best revealed by the work of Holabird and Roche, the most prolific of the Chicago architects during the heroic age. Sullivan's work tended to be subjective, somewhat at odds with the impersonal commercial spirit, and his legacy was passed on chiefly to Frank Lloyd Wright, his greatest and most famous protégé.

If we look carefully at a few of the more famous buildings of the original Chicago School, we can readily see in them the spiritual ancestry of the best contemporary designs. The articulated wall of rectangular cells became the primary visual feature of these first representatives of a new architectural style. Even the exposed steelwork of such recent buildings as the Continental Center and the Civic Center was anticipated long ago in the iron spandrel plates in the facade of the old Brunswick (originally Studebaker) Building, designed by Solon S. Beman and erected at 629 South Wabash Avenue in 1895. The same feature appears in the spandrel plates at the first story of Jenney's Sears Roebuck Store, at

State and Van Buren streets, and in his Manhattan Building, at 431 South Dearborn Street, both completed by 1891.

Sullivan's Carson Pirie Scott Store, the masterpiece of the Chicago School and America's greatest work of commercial architecture, represents a formal elaboration of the principle of structural form. Here the neutral cage of iron and steel is transformed into fine architecture through Sullivan's unerring sense of proportion, his ornamental skill, and his exact calculation of the depth of the window reveals to give maximum power to the elevation.

The horizontal elongation of wide-bayed framing appears most strikingly in the huge concrete warehouse of Montgomery Ward and Company, designed by Schmidt, Garden and Martin. The architects of this building deliberately intensified the natural horizontality of the long bands of concrete girders. The same motif distinguishes Wright's Robie House, although here it is developed into a complex pattern of intersecting planes. The Carson Store was completed in 1906, the warehouse in 1908. Fifty years later these features of what was once known as the "Chicago style" were again becoming prominent in the city's buildings.

The opening of the masonry-bearing wall in a way that anticipates the contemporary load-bearing truss of concrete is most apparent in Burnham and Root's classic Monadnock Building (1889-91), an austere geometric refinement of the rich dress of their earlier Rookery (1885-86). The projecting bay of the Monadnock was first adapted to the multistory commercial block by Holabird and Roche, but it was given its purest expression by Clinton J. Warren in the Congress Hotel. (Warren designed the original north block, completed in 1893, but Holabird and Roche followed his program in the later south wing, opened, as it now is, in 1907.) The Congress, recently renovated, remains one of the finest works of hotel design in the United States.

Europe could offer no parallel to the Chicago movement at its height. When the leading pioneers—Le Corbusier, Gropius, Mies van der Rohe—began to win attention, even their best designs seemed coldly abstract beside the great



## Glossary

CAISSON—An air chamber, resembling a well, driven down to firm foundation material and filled with concrete.

CANTILEVERED—Built with beams projected horizontally, supported by a downward force behind a fulcrum.

CAPITAL—The element at the top of a column or of any other vertical support in a building.

CHAMFERED—With the edge where two surfaces meet in an exterior angle, reduced or rounded; beveled.

CHICAGO WINDOW—A window occupying the full width of the bay and divided into a large fixed sash flanked by a narrow movable sash at each side.

COLONNETTE—A small column, often used decoratively rather than functionally for support.

CORBEL—A supporting form for a wall, consisting of layers or levels of masonry or wood, beyond the wall surface.

CORBEL-TABLES—Successive corbels supporting a superstructure or upper moldings, beneath a spire or parapet, or below the eaves.

CORNICE—The projecting member at the top of a wall; often a decorative development of the eaves of the roof.

CUPOLA—A terminal structure, rising above a main roof.

DENTILS—A series of blocklike projections forming a molding, borrowed from the Greek Ionic style.

FACADE—The face or front of a building.