

The Changing Face of Downtown Boones Ferry Rd.

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The strip of Boones Ferry Road from its intersection with Tualatin Road to the Tualatin-Sherwood intersection has changed drastically through the years. On the east side, the Robinson's brick store, erected in 1912, still stands, but was moved about 30 feet east a few years ago, and now serves as a restaurant with the Veterans of Foreign Wars using the upstairs.

A pumice stone post office stood between the brick store and the little building that had served as a variety store, restaurant and TV repair shop. Next was a service station that had many owners. Seneca Street housed what was called the "white store," then a meat market, a shake shop, and Hanegan's gas station. Across Nyberg Herman and Mary Silvey started a lumber company where Clark Lumber Company now does business. The Silvey sons, Vincent "Vint" and Don expanded the business and built a large building fronting Boones Ferry. The Silveys were all members of the Methodist Church next door, and the building's clipped

roof matched the church's similar design.

The old city hall was next to the church, then the Saarinen house, where McDonald's is now, and finally the Zeke Eddy house, which has been moved up to Avery Road.

While the east side of Boones Ferry Road has changed over the years, on the west side, behind the railroad tracks, stands Tualatin's jewel, the Sweek House. Built in 1858 by Oregon Trail pioneers John and Maria Sweek, the house stands, dignified and regal still, a testament to good design and good care. Jack and Althea Pratt Broome are the second family to live in the house, Althea having purchased the place when Lillian Sweek Harding passed away in the 1950s.

The Sweek house is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places, the only one listed in Tualatin. It is important that we all realize the significance of the Sweek House, and do whatever we can to see that it remains "Tualatin's Jewel."

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This little building was between the post office and the service station. It housed a variety store, Mae's Cafe, and a TV repair shop.



Tualatin's jewel, the 1858 Sweek House



The marching band from McClaren's boys school livened up the parade. The Shake Shop was next to the "white store".



The Tualatin Methodist Church when it was next to Clark Lumber Company. Built in 1926, the church was moved to Sweek Drive a few years ago and now serves as the Tualatin Heritage Center.



Hanegan's Service station was on the corner of Boones Ferry and Nyberg Road. Vic Hanegan checks a tire on parade day.



Probably taken in the 1937 flood, Hanegan's station would have been the next building.



Ed Robinson's store was on the corner of Seneca Street.



Starting out as a grocery and dry goods store, the brick building later housed a rental and plumbing supply business, then Rich's Kitchen, a fine restaurant before being moved to its present location.



Waiting for the Crawfish Festival parade to wind down Boones Ferry Road from the old brick grade school in 1951. Clark Lumber Company building is on the left.