

*Note? Page missing? This meeting  
was held in the Court House  
E. Sloan*

Mr. Clinton Israel, Chairman of the Program Committee, introduced Mr. Edgar Hood as "an orator" and gave his subject as "Clarksburg About 1898." Mr. Hood gave the relatively small population of the town in 1898; described the relatively simple form of government, the water supply, gas supply, police department, condition of the streets, large number of shade trees, etc. Then, in a remarkable display of memory, he named and made humorous comments on forty business establishments in the city block bounded by Main, Third, Pike, and Fourth Streets. Mr. Hood's familiarity with the businesses on the block, their "back" and "upstairs" rooms, was explained - it was his paper route. Some of Mr. Hood's comments are attached.

Respectfully submitted,

*Elizabeth Sloan*

Secretary.

CLARKSBURG ABOUT 1898: some comments by Mr. Edgar Hood.

Water supply: chiefly private wells - some of them were available to the public; a few public wells.

Gas supply: Mr. Lowndes manufactured artificial gas; natural gas not yet available.

Streets: one block of paving - that bounded by Main, Third, Pike, and Fourth Streets.

B. and O. Stations: at the East end of town, a mile from the Court House. Jitney service to the station \$.05. Separate waiting rooms for men and women. Wholesale houses grew up around the station. With the development of oil and gas in the area, Clarksburg "began to wake up." Judge Goff pressured the B. and O. to move the stations to the present location, the necessary bridge across Elk Creek was built, and the wholesale and ware houses grew up in the new location.

Sewage: limited.

Business establishments in the block bounded by Main, Third, Pike, and Fourth Streets:

John Irvine Store: always cold, "help" wore overcoats.

Kane residence: Mrs. Kane was a dressmaker.

Mountain State Gas Company.

Lowndes China and Glass Store.

Mrs. Huchs: a bakery.

Joe Latstetter: saloon.

Feed and Livery Stable.

Manhattan Restaurant and Saloon: there was gambling over the restaurant.

Stewart Brothers Livery Stable: horses boarded at \$16 a month.

Oak Saloon: first terrazzo floor in town; several silver dollars were embedded in the floor.

Knickle Saloon: included a gaming room.

Restaurant run by Pat Clancey.

Glancey's Saloon: a door in the rear led to a supply room called the "grocery". This was used by ladies, who emerged with their purchases in paper bags.

Grady Building.

Dan Almilbi's Restaurant.

Restaurant: issued meal tickets - 21 meals for \$3.00.

St. Charles Hotel.

Beeson Brown: "Guinea Pig" Brown; was a note shaver and ticket scalper. A confirmed bachelor until an illness late in life, after which he drove groups of nurses around town in one of the early automobiles.

Billy Burke's Saloon.

Bon Ton.

Bland's Drug Store.

Restaurant.

Davisson's Store: shoes and "gents ready to wear."

Ben Robinson's Jewelry Store.

Gandy Meat Market.

Wells Haymaker Drug Store: only druggists who could read Dr. Ramsey's prescriptions.

E. R. Davis Hardware.

Nusbaum's Book Store: ~~Mr.~~ Mr. Nusbaum was an opportunist. He had a little cut flower agency; contacts with a dry cleaning establishment in Cumberland, Maryland; and arranged for the first "store bread" from a Wheeling bakery.

Nusbaum's Clothing Store: run by Manny Nusbaum.

Philip Adler Clothing Store.

Merchant's Bank.

Note: The town owes a debt to Mr. Lowndes which it sometimes forgets. He was the "payroll" of early Clarksburg for many years. His businesses included

- Sawmill
- Planing Mill
- Woolen Mill
- Flour Mill
- Ice Storage Plant
- Electric Power Plant
- Gas Plant
- General Store
- Shoe Store
- Banks (3)
- Investments in gas and oil; strangely, perhaps, he did not invest in coal.

Bill Osborn Shoe Store.

Despard Building: the second floor served as the Town Hall for many years.

Meat Shop.

Cunningham Drug Store: had a generator and supplied one side of the block with electricity; had a powered ice cream freezer; had the local Western Union agency.

Keys Store: sold comic Valentines.

Merriman Shoe Store.

Grocery Store.

Stone Drug Store.

Note: There is some reason to suspect that Mr. Hood occasionally wandered outside the block in listing the establishments above. Some of them seem to have been on the other sides of Main, Third, Pike, and Fourth Streets.