

A&P Store - Medina

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Bethinking of Olde Orleans

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The information written on the back of this picture indicates:

"A&P Store - Main St. Medina 1934 Chester B. Eaton - Manager on the right. Clerk behind the counter, Wilford "Bill" Lake, Customer, Mrs. Raymondjack."

The Niagara-Orleans County directory published in 1930 lists, "Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Co., 140 E. Center, Kenneth L. McKee, Mgr.; 539 Main, Ralph B. Willis, Mgr.; 410 Main Richard S. Woodside, Mgr." This meant there were three A&P stores in different locations in downtown Medina ll operating at the same time.

The Medina Directory of 1936 however lists just two, "Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Co. 410 & 500 Main St." It would be my guess that the A&P store which is pictured is



probably the one at 410 Main St. This would have been located on the west side of the street, I think near what is today the Zambistro Restautant.

At any rate, grocery shopping was a lot different eighty years ago. Before the days of supermarkets a clerk like Bill Lake assisted you in getting what you needed. And there were things in the store you could take to the counter to purchase.

In this picture we see to the right apples and potatoes in bushel baskets. There are also canned goods in baskets in the aisles.

But stuff behind the counter the clerk brought down to you.

Often stores like this had a long handle tool for grabbing things

off top shelves.

We note here a number of banners advertising products including bacon for 29 cents per pound; soup 5 - 25 cents; beans 3 - 25 cents; and canned tomatoes 3 - 25 cents.

The general appearance of the store appears to be eery narrow and cluttered.

As to which Mrs. Raymondjack is in the picture is only a guess. There are three listed in the 1936 Medina Directory - Amelia, wife of Leon; Veronica, wife of Stephen; and Mary, wife of Vincent.

As to Chester Eaton, the directory notes him simply as Manager, A&P Tea Co. and as living at 516 S. Academy, his wife's name is listed as Sybil.

There appears to be no listing for Mr. Lake.