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ACROSS THE ISLAND

Block Changes In Half Century

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IT'S INTERESTING to note the changes that can take place in one of our city blocks in the span of 50 years. A modest Charlottetown man who insists I do not reveal his name, describes those changes on the block bordered by Queen, Grafton, Great George and Kent Streets.

Starting at the corner of Queen and Kent, where the Toronto-Dominion Bank is now located, was a grocery store operated by Adrian Peters. Next door on Queen was an ice cream and confectionary store operated by Carters. Next was Riggs and Berrigan's barber shop which is operated now by Ivan Berrigan, a son of the founder of that name.

Then there was Sam Craig's tailor shop which is now occupied by a clothing store. Where Semple's drug store stands now was a gangway to a forge and blacksmith shop operated by Jack Henderson. Next to the gangway was John T. MacKenzie's tailor shop. The next building housed R. K. Bruce's book store. Then there was Fred Mitchell's watch repair shop, and a Chinese laundry.

BOSTON SHOE shine parlor run by Fred Lambros, and Lonergan's restaurant were in the locations occupied now by Wright's shoe store and the Island Grill. Next was D. A. Bruce's tailor shop and men's wear store. Frank Riggs moved from Riggs and Berrigans to a stand alongside Hughes Drug Store. "Ollie" Harper runs this barber shop now.

Earle C. Baker owns Hughes Drug Store, which is on the corner of Queen and Grafton.

Around the corner on Grafton was G. F. Hutcheson, optometrist. Henderson and Cudmore Men's Wear is operated now by Clive and Brian, sons of Roy Cudmore who was one of the founders. Incidentally their store also has a frontage on Queen.

W. W. Wellner's jewellery and watch repair store is now The Card Shop. The Bank of Montreal remains in the old location, though the building has been rebuilt. White's ice cream parlor stood where the Sally Shop is located now. Next was W. N. Tanton's jewellery store. E. A. Foster's drug store is now the Sandwich Shop.

NEXT IS Taylor's Jewellers Ltd. It is operated by Earl and Roland Taylor, grandsons of the founder, G. H. Taylor, but Reg Taylor who was with his father in the store 50 years ago, still comes down to the store daily. Now 84 years of age, he was 34 at the time my informant writes about. That apparently, makes him the only man who was on the block a half century ago, who still comes to it each day.

Next was Jenkins and Son's grocery store. Next to that was C. H. Black's crockery store; then Beer and Weeks. Holman's now occupies all three buildings. Then there was the Maritime Stationers, now Lepage's shoe store – the Maritime Stationers store is on Great George Street now. Next was D. Gordon's shoe store, now a stock brokerage office.

Parson's 5 and 10 cent store is now the Maritime Electric office. Next was Rankin's drug store and Crabbe's hardware store, now the Bank of Nova Scotia building.

Around the corner on Great George Street was Mary Summarah's ladies and children's wear store, now Giggey's drug store. Where Kelly and MacInnis, J.R. Williams Jewellery store and Arnfast Propane are now located was at that time George Carver's oyster bar. Next was a men's clothing store operated by Wadman and Boyce. The Fashion Shoppe is located there now.

PICKARD'S HARNESS repair shop was next. Miller Brothers store is there now. Then there was the two Macs' Drug Store. Burn's Jewellery Store is located there now in a new building erected by the late Alf Pickard. Then there was Toombs grocery store. A. Pickard's uptown coal office and The Gloria ladies wear are located there now. On the corner, the MacKinnon Drug Store is operated now as the Rexall Drug Store by Ralph Jenkins.

The spot occupied by Edgar Whitlock's tire repair shop now was a vacant lot 50 years ago. The Morell Hotel stood where Holman's parking lot is now. It was operated by a Mrs. MacEachern. Crockett and Storey is located where Webster's Steam Laundry operated then. Where the Provincial Bank is now was the Massey Harris Company. Next was Austin Trainor's house in which Wilson's Barber Shop was located. The Easter Hotel was next. It's now the Tweel Building. Where Burke Electric is now was a vacant lot 50 years ago.

Not one person is actually doing business in this block who was there 50 years ago, my informant says. There are three sons and two grandsons still doing business in the same old stands, he adds.

I was talking to Earl Taylor, who with his brother, Roland, operate Taylor's Jewellers, and he told me that their building is the only one that appears now as it did 50 years ago – that is on the outside.`1