DESTINATION LODI

A HISTORICAL JOURNEY

C. M. FETZER AND BRO.

I decided to take time off on houses and concentrate on an early Lodi businesses. Lodi had many needs and at the turn of the century had many businesses that served our community.

Dick Anderson, a local historian and antique dealer just donated to the Lodi-Harrisville Historical Society a wonderful item from C.M.Fetzer and Bro., a wagon jack. I’m still learning about Lodi history, so I began my research. In Dick’s collection of post cards we found a picture of Fetzer’s, so I borrowed and copied. With photo in hand I took a walk down Harris Street to get bearings of the year 1908. The C.M. Fetzer business was located near the corner of Harris and Railroad Street. (I believe) Please correct me if I am wrong. From the Birdseye view you can see the old Methodist Church temple, the Homan house (Christy Roberts Myers house) and the old Gray house (now Deeks). With all the beautiful trees it’s hard to confirm the other houses.

According to the book on the Western Reserve, Calvin Fetzer was senior member of Fetzer and Bro. Lodi, one of the leading dealers in the hardware and agricultural implements in Medina County.

Born February 6, 1874 to Henry and Julie (Shook) Fetzer. Educated in Lodi public schools and Leroy High School, began his business career in 1885 with Brother Elmer. He married Olivia Burry of Friendsville and had two children Harold and Don. Becoming sole proprietor, he then formed a partnership with brother Neuman in operating a store in Friendsville until 1900. After disposing of this business they then established in Lodi a hardware trade under C. M. Fetzer and Bro. until 1908 and then it became the Fetzer Brothers. The business embraced large dealings of shelf hardware, stoves, tin ware and agricultural implements. The business was eventually sold to Leatherman Hardware.

C.M. was a standing leader of the Democrats and an influential member of the Lodi Village Council for two terms. He was a member of Mound Lodge No.845 I.O.O.F. He was also on the Board of Directors of the Lodi Bank.

Son Don eventually became owner of the Ford Dealership in Lodi that started in 1911. It’s stated in the book of our 175th celebration that the Ford Dealer was the 2nd oldest dealership in Ohio and the 5th oldest in the nation. Its states at that time most deals were made around a kitchen table or out in the customers cow barn. The dealership has changed names through the years from Fetzer Bros., Fetzer and Son, Don Fetzer Inc., Cordas Ford Inc., and in 1969 became Turek-Miller Ford.

Son Harold married Agnes then owned and operated the Fetzer Variety Store. I bought a lot of candy in that store. I know Larry would like to add a few of the match box cars that were sold to his collection.

I now have a reorder to start recording the memories of Lodi. We still have a set up at the Library if interested. I will be visiting as many people as I can in the near future.

Lodi Harrisville Historical Society will be starting a Museum Fundraiser. My brother- in- law, Gary, make us a “thermometer” to keep track of our goal. I have permission to place it on the Hower Store. We have looked at several locations. Details to will follow at a later time.