A Variety of Ventures for Beger’s Drug Store

August J. Beger’s name was associated with pharmacy in Nauvoo for 50 years. He had a drug store built at this location in 1895, after having been in business down the street for several years, and remained here for 38 years until his death in 1933. Between 1897-1916 he served as post master at the post office housed on the east side of the building, and received a salary of up to $1,500 a year.

From the mid 1930’s to the early 1940’s, the store became Timmens Drug Store. Then, c.1913, the International Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) built the building adjacent to the drug store to the east (easily identified by the IOOF on the second story), eventually blurring the line where one building ended and a new one began.

Above: The results of a 1903 tornado

Early 1900 street scene, looking east on Mulholland

Notes:

1. 1891 Plat and 1912 Sanborn Maps were used as baselines for building locations. They are available for viewing at the Nauvoo Historical Society’s Weld House Museum, 1380 Mulholland.

2. Addresses in quotation marks indicate no existing structure at this location in 2010.
The Horse Shoe Club

The Horse Shoe Club, c. early 1940's-1960's, was an instant success. It served alcoholic beverages not only to the locals, but it brought in its Missouri and Iowa neighbors, whose states were dry. Many residents still remember the good times that were had by all!

A fire in the early 1960's changed the façade, the business, and Copeland's involvement. Whitaker oversaw remodeling of the fire-ravaged building, which included the elimination of the "Flamingo," upstairs, and the creation of one entrance to the conjoined buildings. This created a bar area on the old drug store side and a dining room in the "IOOF" building. The front windows were covered with ornate brick work, a large planter was added, and the name was changed to "The Icarian Restaurant and Lounge" or, just "The Icarian."

Whitaker left the business in the early 1970's, and several different owners followed him: Harold Swensen and Bob Swanson from mid 1970's-1978; Rich and Jeanne Starr from 1978-81; and Ralph and Lee Durso from __________. It remained empty for ______ years until the present owner restored the IOOF (east) side of the building to its original 1913 flavor and rented both it and the west sides to its present occupants. Ah, sweet memories!

In the latter 1930's, the former drug store and IOOF building became one and the same building, for all intents and purposes, as the Horse Shoe Club, took over the first floor of each building, knocking down much of the wall separating them. The location provided a memorable gathering spot and, in the early 1950's, owners Howard Copeland and Gordon Whitaker, added food to the "Horse Shoe"s" fare when they opened up the "Flamingo Supper Club" on the second floor.