Everyone was smiles for the groundbreaking of Otsego Memorial Hospital's new building. Among those gathered were (l-r) Nick Enders, Mel Freel, Harley Krause, Bob Audrain, unidentified person, Ed Strolle, C.O. Reed, Doug Nash, Boyd Baird, Jack Allen, and three unidentified persons.

'Time just keeps a-going and you go with it' — Main's 50-year merchant

ware store even before that. In fact, the building has stood for about 125 years said Mrs. Audrain.

When he first purchased the business, Audrain said he had no idea Gaylord would become the hub it has. "I really didn't. It's come along pretty good."

And when he hung his shingle out 50 years ago, he "didn't give it a thought" about whether his name would still be seen on Main Street a half a century later.

"Time just keeps a going and you go with it," said Mrs. Audrain.

Reflecting on the 50th anniversary of the chamber, Audrain commented. "I think the chamber of commerce is very valuable with the right group." He noted he considers visiting with the retailers and business owners is important.

Only twice in its history — and both those occasions were within the last two years — has Audrain's closed its doors because of weather.

Of course that doesn't include the time they boarded shop from 1943-1946 so Audrain could help fight World War II. Audrain recalled he attended a meeting and

questioned Army officials on what he was to do with his business since he was eligible to fight. Their response? "We will put you in the Amry and everybody else if we have to close down the whole damn town."

Needless to say, Audrain's closed and the reopened after the war.

Times have changed over the years. "You knew everybody, where they worked, where they lived," said Mrs. Audrain. Now, "we know very few people." Part of that is an age difference, she said.