

Dibble Store among first to adopt Alpine theme

GAYLORD — Dibble Stores opened in August 1964 as one of the first downtown businesses to adopt Alpine theme architecture.

In fact, the chain owners liked the motif so much they had their established Dibble Stores at Bad Axe, Caro and Big Rapids also construct Alpine fronts.

Downtown Gaylord's variety department store doubled its floor space in November 1969, when expansion into the adjacent former site of an auto dealership was completed. Today at its location at 319 W. Main Street, Dibble's has 15,000 square feet of

sales floor space.

Don Jacobs, store manager since June 1965, heads a staff of 11 employees.

Handling family items ranging from clothing to toys, Dibble's also is a franchise dealer for Radio Shack electronics equipment.

Dibble Stores Inc. is headed by Thomas Dibble, based in Bad Axe. He represents the third generation in the chain founded by his grandfather Oates Dibble in 1921. Bob Dibble, the founder's son, started the Gaylord store.

Dunn's moves to new site

GAYLORD — Dunn's Office Supply & Machines has moved into one of the city's oldest structures.

First located at 833 South Otsego Avenue, Dunn's recently moved to 519 South Otsego, renovating an 85-year-old home at that address.

According to Scott Dunn, co-owner with his father George Dunn, the Alpine-style renovation is nearly complete and the business is open.

Dunn's purchased the structure and a neighboring home at 513 South Otsego, with an eventual goal in mind of constructing an office plaza.

In the renovated building which includes a 20 by 30 foot addition, a separate showroom is provided for office machines, furniture, supplies, and a service department.

A grand opening is being planned for later this fall.

George Magsig is employed in the service department, and Russ Bresser works in sales and service.

Sears recalls some memories

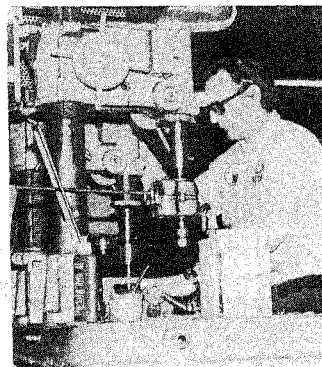
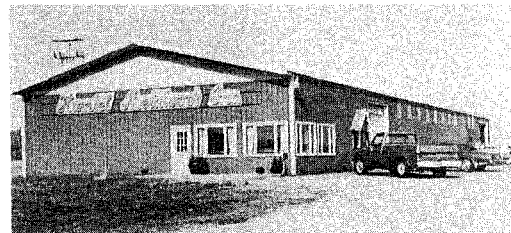
GAYLORD — Since its opening in 1967, the Sears Roebuck and Co. store in Gaylord has inherited some memories of the city's past.

Gladys Solokis owned the first catalog merchant franchise at 334 W. Main Street, former site of Fochtman Motor Co. Mrs. Solokis sold the franchise to Herb Russell, who in turn sold it to present owner Dave Ballantyne in 1971.

In 1973, the store was moved to 407 W. Main St., in the rear of a building that once served as a potato warehouse for rail transportation of the county's crop.

In December 1980, the franchise moved into the former Otsego County Fire Hall at 220 S. Otsego Avenue. The building was renovated, to include an Alpine exterior. In earlier days, the building was a dealership for Kaiser Fraser automobiles. Earlier yet, there was a service station on the site.

Today, four full-time and three part-time persons are employed in addition to Ballantyne and his wife Sue.



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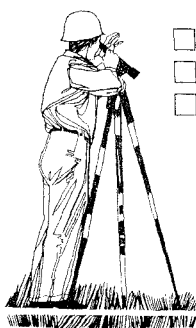
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