

store shelves looked as though they had been there for a long time, and one wondered just how brisk business could've been! I can still see too, the dark old wooden, creaky floors in their store, the same as in most all the other stores along South Ave. at the time.

At the end of the line of stores, now the fruit store, was O'Connor's, another meat store. There worked a tall fellow named Bill, along with Chuck O'Connor. My most vivid recollections are during wartime, when you had to pay for your meat with red "points" (stamps), along with your money, during rationing. Blue points were used for canned goods.

Up farther, and opposite "Sheelen's bridge" (Central or Sheelen's Crossing), which was wooden until the early 60's and made a glorious racket when you drove over it, were Gorsky's Fanwood Tailor shop, and the Elsener's plumbing business. Later, where the tailor shop had been, came Fan Lady Fair, a beauty shop which had been previously located in the former Mac's barber shop. Today it is The Lemon Tree beauty shop.

Across the street from them was a free-standing grocery store/house, known as Sheelen's. It was always kind of "different", and intriguing to go in there, partially, perhaps, because it did stand apart. Some wondered how they were able to compete with the A & P down the street; however, compete they must've, for they did business there for decades! A bridal shop now occupies that building.

Sheelen was another well-known name in Fanwood. Charles Sheelen presided for many years over the Fanwood Board of Health as well as being fire chief for a very long time. The Sheelens lived on Belvidere Ave., and both Charles and his wife, Virginia, have passed away within the past couple of years.

Going back down to the block where the A & P, Butch's, and Ed Aaron's drugstore were, the last door belonged to the Fanwood Post Office. (Ed later expanded his store to take over the Post Office section, and the Post Office moved into a new building, right across the street, where it is now). Few may remember, but prior even to the location next to the Fanwood Pharmacy, the Post Office had been located on the other block, a few doors down from "the corner store". Prior to that, it was housed in the round building where the library was, on the corner of North and Martine, as was also the police department.

For many many years, the Fanwood Post Office was presided over by Mrs. Verona Christie, Postmistress. I believe she passed away not too very long