

## **Buehler Building [No. 201]**

*1875 – John W. Buehler*

The first to lease Buehler's new building was John **Wiley Boots & Shoes**. Wiley, who had established his business in 1856, continued here until his retirement in 1882. Charley Schwartz assumed ownership of the building in 1882 and ran a saloon in the basement until 1890.

The main floor then became home to a series of millinery shops. The foremost and longest running of these was **Miss DeClaire's Millinery** owned by Anna DeClaire. She came to Independence in 1880, bought up the millinery stock of Stewart & Aiman when they went out of business, and moved to this location in 1885. She served the ladies of Independence for 29 years from 1883 to

1912.

The **Parlor Millinery** under the auspices of Mrs. George Anderson and Mrs. C.B. Soener opened in 1913. This business changed ownership several times while keeping the same name. A fire that occurred in 1918, when the millinery was owned by Miss Bertha Van Sant, forced it to close its doors.

In 1921, **Klotzbach & Heinrich's Variety Store**, owned by George Klotzbach and O.M. Heinrich, set up shop.

The J.W. **McCarthy Cigar Factory** opened on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor in 1877. By 1881, he employed twelve people and was making about 500,000 cigars annually. A fire that started in an oil stove used for sweating tobacco forced him to move in 1883.

In 1890, C.W. Williams briefly rented

office space on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor for ***The American Trotter***, a magazine created in support of harness racing. Williams was the owner of the famed harness racing horses Allerton and Axtel.

From 1904 to 1913, Frank and Rufus Brewer ran **Brewer Bros. Abstracts** from an office located here. This was replaced by **George Nelson's** chiropractic practice that remained through 1917, to be followed by **Dr. B.M. Price** who took over Nelson's practice.