

Leytze Block [No. 200 - 206]

1874 – Adolph Leytze

At the time of the 1873 fire, A.F. **Williams & Son Grocery** occupied No. 200 with **Leytze's Beer Hall** in the basement. Soon after Leytze rebuilt, this prominent corner began a long history as a men's clothing store. First known as the **Chicago Clothing Store** owned by Mose Reitler, it became the home of **Sherwood & Stocking**, owned by Charles A. Sherwood & L.D. Stocking, in 1886. Stocking was the sole proprietor from 1900 to 1909. Peter J. & John F. Sheehan took over from 1912 to 1920, opening **Sheehan Bros. Clothing**. Various professionals occupied the 2nd floor office space while the basement hosted two hide houses where leather and furs were processed in the late 1800s.

William Few, Merchant Tailor, was the first to lease No. 202. He emigrated from England in his youth, learned the tailoring trade in New York, and moved to Independence in 1870. He worked from this location from 1874 through 1879. **J.W. Johnston's Grocery** then leased the building in 1880 remaining until 1885 when the site was chosen as a location for the local **post office**. **H.W. Oliver** ran a **news stand** in conjunction with the post office and, for a time, sold cigars that he made in collaboration with Albert Leytze, one of Adolf's sons. In 1892, **S.R. Chappell** opened **The Fair Store**, a variety store that survived only a few years. The **C.A. McEwen Drug Store**, a well established business, then moved here in 1897 continuing through 1932.

No. 204 was a one-story wooden building that functioned as **Lafferty's Saloon** before the 1873 fire. After being rebuilt as part of the Leytze Block, the newly formed **People's National Bank** used this building as temporary quarters until the Ikel Building at No. 118 became available in 1876. It was then leased to a series of grocery stores for 23 years from 1878 through 1901, the most significant of these being the **McDonnell Bros. Grocery**, owned by Edward McDonnell.

Following the 1873 fire, a variety of concerns took up residence at No. 206 on the east end of the Leytze Block. Among them was **Caffall & Roszell's Grocery** that by 1877 had become Charles **Roszell's City Tea House**. In 1881, **Coghlin & Co. Furniture**, owned by Thomas Coghlin,

moved to this site establishing a trend for future businesses. Coghlin briefly partnered with Richard G. Swan before selling and moving to the Dakota Territories. P.C. Heege bought his interest, forming **Swan & Heege Furniture & Undertaking**. When this partnership ended in 1891, Swan partnered with Werner Strippel forming **Swan & Strippel** for two years before becoming independent. All the while the business continued to grow and expand. In 1900, Swan formed a new partnership with Rudolph Leytze, Sr., one of Adolph's sons, creating **Swan & Leytze Furniture & Undertaking**. It became a longstanding enterprise of downtown Independence, later owned by Leytze and his son.

In the late 1800s, the 2nd floor of No. 204 and No. 206 was the home of **Leytze Hall**, a

venue for banquets, dances, meetings, and small entertainments for community members.

Judy Olsen – May 2021