

## **Soener-Buhler Block [No. 208 & No. 210]**

*1874 – Louis Soener, merchant & owner*

After rebuilding, Louis Soener re-opened his harness making business on the west side of the block and rented out office space on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. In 1881, he sold both the building and business to **H. Pfozter's Saddle & Harness** which continued to function through 1886. P. A. Sutkamp, one of Soener's former employees, bought out Pfozter and established **Sutkamp's Saddle & Harness** shop. He carried on the tradition of providing for horses and carriages until shortly before his death in 1919. Sutkamp also served two terms as mayor from 1901 to 1904 and was chief of the fire department at one time.

Buehler built with the intention of leasing

his new property. No. 210's first occupant was the **Ames & Sprague Variety** store in conjunction with the post office. This was followed by several grocery stores. In 1880, Thomas Edwards, of **Edwards & Co. Grocery**, in partnership with his nephew, Alexander T. McDonald, purchased the building and moved to this location. They ran a prosperous grocery that was known as the "Canada Grocery" since both men had been born in that country. In 1893, Edwards retired, selling his interest to James M. Romig who was a successful merchant from Brandon. The **McDonald & Romig** grocery continued until 1901. Romig bought out his partner and changed the business name to the **New Idea Department Store** and later to the **Pure Food Grocery**. He decided only two years

later to close the store and move to Colorado in hopes that the climate might improve his hay fever. The **May-Parker Drug Co.** owned by John A. May and George L. Parker moved to this location in 1904. Parker became full owner in 1914 and, in 1919, purchased the building from McDonald.

In 1885, H.W. Oliver and Albert Leytze opened a cigar making factory on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. Leytze shortly assumed full ownership and remained here until 1891.