

Ungerer Block [No. 108 & No. 110]

1874 – Martin Michael Ungerer

Mike Ungerer re-opened his business in No. 108 after rebuilding and continued to run what was considered to be a respectable business. He retired in 1885, possibly due to temperance laws restricting the sale of beer and liquor. He functioned as a landlord until 1907 when he sold his property to the Wapsie Company.

Following his retirement, **J.W. Lamb Agricultural Implements, Flour & Feed** opened at No. 108. In the early 1900s, **Brooks & Courtnage Plumbing, Heating & Gas Fitting** moved in to be followed by **H.R. Marinus Plumbing** in 1905. In 1910, No. 108 became the home of the ***Independence Conservative***, the first city newspaper founded in 1854 as the

Independence Civilian and renamed in 1864. It was owned by Warren F. Miller who also ran the **Miller Printerie** from this location through 1958.

Ungerer rented No. 110 to a variety of merchants. Most significant in the early years were Charles F. **Strohmeier's Harness Shop** (1880-1892) and **Mrs. F.D. Rockwell's Ladies' Hattery**. With the interest in horse racing during these years, both were essential businesses in the community – harnesses for the racing horses and hats for the ladies attending. In 1909, Samuel A. Williamson, a butcher, opened **The Queen's Market**. Every year, Williamson welcomed high school students into his shop to teach them about the various cuts of meat. He remained in business until 1920.

The **Ensminger Bros.** **Riverside**

Photography Gallery occupied the entire 2nd floor of the Ungerer block soon after it was rebuilt. Proprietors J.C. and J.M. Ensminger established their business in 1870 and took many photographs of both the town and its citizens. They later became nationally known for their photographs of the Spanish-American War of 1898 taken while living in Sanford, Florida. In 1901, they closed their studio and moved to Florida permanently.