

Company Store

The Company Store was located on the southeast corner of First and Main Streets. The building was constructed in 1904 by the Nyquist Brothers who came to this area from the East Coast to assist in the development of the town. The building had fifteen rooms upstairs which housed the office of Dr. C.H. Kring, the first doctor in town, as well as apartments. The store was a large grocery and merchandise store that was owned by the mine company. Miners were able to purchase groceries and supplies and put the cost on "the bill". That amount would then be deducted from their next paycheck. Sam Westwood was the first operator of this store. Later, Alfeld and Healey took over management. That site now houses an apartment building originally built by Gilbert "Gibby" Hebenstreit of Gillespie.

Louis Schuette established a milk route in town from 1907 – 1915. It has been said that this is how he "hardened" his horses for racing. In 1924 or 1925 Mr. Schuette purchased property on the southeast corner of South Second and Main Streets and opened the business as Louis Schuette Feed Store.

In 1933, Schuette purchased the Company Store from the coal mine and relocated his feed store to that site. In the mid 1930s, he added the dealership of International Harvester Farm Equipment to his business. The business was renamed as Louis Schuette and Son until the end of 1953.



Above is the Company Store building after it was purchased by Louis Schuette and converted to Schuette Feed Store.

In January 1954, the store was again renamed as Schuette and Homeier Lumber Company by new owners Raymond Schuette and Clifford Homeier. In April 1969, Raymond Schuette sold out and the business was continued as Homeier Lumber Company and continued as such until December 30, 1995 when Clifford retired.

New Model H tractor and plow sold by Louis Schuette to
Walter DeVries of New Douglas in 1940. Sons
Wallace and Merle on tractor



At left is Louis Schuette and his milk wagon. 1907

The building as it looked in
the late 1950s when it was
owned by Raymond Schuette
and Clifford Homeier. The
building was then a Lumber
Company



Homeier Lumber as it
appeared prior to closing.