

The Mitchelar Building

The Mitchelar Building, a large block building on the east side of Livingston Avenue, originally housed an auto repair shop and hardware store. The building and businesses were owned and operated by Louis Mitchelar, Sr. and his sons. Mitchelar's son Louis Jr. operated the hardware store on the north side of the building, and his son Earl operated the repair shop on the south side. Gas pumps also supplied fuel for the community. Mitchelar's business also sold Star Cars as well as tires.

A strange incident occurred in 1955. An abandoned car was reported at the Williamson mine #2 emitting a strong odor. The vehicle was towed to the Mitchelar garage and the trunk pried open revealing a decomposing body. The local coroner Maurice Burgett and his assistant Ed Kline had the job of removing the body from the trunk and transferring it to the morgue. The body was that of Bobby Carr a victim of a kidnapping in Kansas City.

Louis Mitchelar, Jr. later built a large block building on the west side of Livingston Avenue and moved



Authorized Dealer
FOR
**Briggs & Stratton, Clinton
Power Products & Lawson
SMALL ENGINES**
Genuine Parts and Service
Mitchelar Garage
Phone: NE 7-2361
LIVINGSTON, ILLINOIS

his hardware store to that site. The building is now the site of Jim's IGA.

Earl Mitchelar continued to run the auto repair business at the original site until his retirement. The building was purchased and converted into an archery shop and range. The building now houses the Skyriders Motorcycle Club whose symbol (see picture at right) adorns the front entry.



Mikletic's Bakery

Mikletic's bakery opened in 1916 and was owned and operated by Fred "Fritz" Mikletic and his family until 1939 when he retired. It was well known in the area for its home-style Vienna bread, peanut coffee cake, cinnamon covered cheese cake and various Bohemian pastries. The bakery also carried various canned goods and penny candy. Generous ice cream cones were served for a nickel.

Steve Ruzevich, one of Fritz's key employees took over the bakery when Fritz retired. He then purchased the business in 1944 operating it until he retired in 1973. Livingston has since been without a bakery.



Julia (left) and Mary Mikletic in the family bakery.
1926



Standing from left: Leo Sweiger, Fritz and Mary Mikletic.
Seated: John Augustine



From left to right: Stella Knaus,
Mary and Fritz Mikletic,
Joe Hudak, Leo LaBanschnig

The Podesta Building

The building, known as the Podesta Building, originally housed Podesta's Saloon. Many tenants have occupied this building over the years.

- Ray Hutchins had an ice cream shop there. He served hot chili which was a winter favorite using a recipe from Elsie Pacchetti (the wife of a local tavern owner).
- The Steve Komanecky family ran a tavern there called the Gypsy Inn. The business was a popular stop for many local music lovers.
- Sharon and George Slifka owned Slifka's Tavern and their family had living quarters in the rear.
- Ruth and Leo Vertovsek were owners of Ruthie's Tavern for many years.
- Mary and Lamar Urban were tavern owners and you could often hear polka music resonating from the business as patrons enjoyed accordion music compliments of Lamar.

Irene and John Clemens purchased the building from Mary and Lamar Urban January 21, 1980 and renamed their business Bugg's Lounge. Since the death of Mr. Clemens, Irene continues to operate the tavern and has opened an office in the rear of the building for her CPA business.



Bugg's Lounge currently occupies the former Podesta Building.

An ad that appeared in the paper in 1957 advertising music at Komanecky's Gypsy Inn. This was another of the many businesses that operated in the Podesta Building.



Sandrin Standard Station

Joe Sandrin built the station in 1936 when Route 66 was renovated and came just outside of the town. Elmer his son eventually took over the business. It was closed and torn down in the mid 1950s. Elmer built a new station across the street when they were in the process of making two more lanes that would later become Interstate 55. Elmer lost interest in running the station opting to follow the teaching profession. Robert “Doc” Bowles and Richard Meyer took over in April 1956.



Above are from left: Elmer “Beb” Sandrin, Emil Libbra and “Fat” Stanko

At right is the old station with Mac Sandrin pumping gas. There is a grease shed to the right. Gas was gravity fed. Circa early 1940s.



Scheibe's Cafe

Scheibe's Cafe was located on the east side of Livingston Avenue across from the high school and was operated by Ann Scheibe of Edwardsville in the late 1940s and early 1950s. Later, Livingston resident Elmer “Beb” Sandrin operated the business as Sandrin's Cafe . It was the high school students' favorite place for lunch and gathering after basketball games.

Adolph and Shirley Hebenstreit followed Sandrin and operated it as Fud's Cafe. Finally, Kenny and Don Ackerman purchased the property and operated it as Kendon's Restaurant. They expanded it to a finer degree and also added a motel. The business and building was destroyed by fire.

Joe's Auto Repair is now on this site.



Joe's Auto Repair

Joe's Auto Repair and J&K sales has been in business more than 15 years. Previously located off I-55 and Rt. 143. The owner's Joe and Treva Chartrand thought Livingston would be a great place to relocate. In December 2004 they moved to their current site. They repair, buy, sell, and trade, for all your automotive, tractor, and equipment needs.



**BOWLES & MEYER
STANDARD STATION**
RT. U.S. 66 --- LIVINGSTON, ILL.

Carload Atlas TIRE SALE

NO 3RD. LINE TIRES - NOT RECAPS
NO SECONDS - NO 2-PLY TIRES
ALL TIRES ON SALE -- SPECIAL PRICED!

4 - 7.50 X 14 GRIP-SAFE BLACK TUBELESS \$59.95 <small>PLUS TAX & RECAP. TIRE</small>	4 - 6.70 X 15 GRIP-SAFE BLACK TUBE TYPE \$49.95 <small>PLUS TAX & RECAP. TIRE</small>
--	---

4 - 6.00 x 13 Grip-Safe BLACK Tubeless **\$44.95** PLUS TAX AND RECAP. TIRES

Budget Terms -- No Money Down!
12 MONTHS TO PAY

All tires guaranteed by Standard Oil Co.
SALE PRICES GOOD UNTIL MAY 31, 1963
GOOD USED TIRES --- \$2.98 and up

Kendon's Restaurant

Livingston, Illinois

Chicken Every Sunday
Fish (Buffalo & Whiting) every Fri.
All You Can Eat \$2.95

*We also feature a full dinner menu and
3 beautiful dining rooms*

**Call Now For Your Bowling
Banquet Reservations**

TUESDAYS 4:00 to 9:00 P. M.
Half Price to Senior Citizens When Ordering Dinners

Ads for businesses that were located on the site of Scheibe's Café.



Bowles and Meyer Standard Station

Bowles and Meyer Standard Station opened in April, 1956. Richard Meyer and Robert "Doc" Bowles operated the station for nineteen years. Over those years, they employed approximately fifty high school boys including two of Richard's sons and Doc's son. Levi "Red" Bowles, Doc's dad, and his uncle Ira Bowles, Sr. also worked there. The station was on Livingston Avenue directly east of the high school and was a popular hang-out for teenagers.

The "Station" as it appeared in the late 1950s. Pictured above and below.



For the nineteen years of business, the Standard Station was easily accessible from Route 66 and therefore reaped business from both community members as well as highway traffic. When the new Interstate 55 was built the highway entrance to Livingston Avenue was closed and an overpass located approximately ¼ mile east of this station was built with a new entrance from the highway into the town. This change lead directly to the closing of the station.

Meyer Amoco British Petroleum

Richard E. Meyer purchased a parcel of land at the intersection of Interstate-55 and Exit 37 in Livingston from Amoco Oil Company. In the spring of 1976, Richard opened a modern gas station to serve his customers.

Richard and Robert "Doc" Bowles previously operated an Amoco (Standard Oil) Station east of the Livingston High School.

At left are the gas pumps and food-mart.



Richard continued to operate the “new” Amoco Station until 1990 when he sold the business to sons Steve C. and Richard A. Meyer. They remodeled the business adding a canopy, a food-mart and repair shop. They own and operate the business now under the Amoco B.P. logo.



At left is the repair shop.

Meyer's County Inn and Motel

The Country Inn Motel and Cafe' was opened October 1976 under the ownership of Richard E. Meyer and H. Jack Frandsen.

The motel has nineteen rooms; the full-service cafe seats approximately sixty-five diners.

Richard later became the sole owner of the business. In 1992 he leased the Country Inn to his son Robert L. McEnery who subsequently purchased the business and continues to operate.



Schwartz Hotel

This building, originally the Schwartz Hotel was run by the Schwartz family. They lived upstairs and downstairs there was a hall used for special meetings especially by the miners. At one time, Clarence (Peggy) Meyer lived in the top rooms and was custodian of the building. It has been in constant use for many years.



Pictured above from left to right: Armond's sister Mary (Pacchetti) Augustine; Wife Elsie Pacchetti, Daughter Carol Pacchetti, and Armond Pacchetti. The bar area is still as it is pictured above.

Peter Pacchetti first rented the building and ran a tavern. Later his son Armond purchased the building. At that time Armond and his family moved upstairs. He raised canaries there and cut hair at times. In the rear of the building was a bocci ball court. This was a favorite Italian sport.

John “Kop” Kopuster had a pool hall there. There was a diner on the other side. Upstairs were rooms to rent.

Historically – this is probably the best-known building in town. Helen and Bill Slifka had it for many years. They served wild game and fish chowder on many occasions. Helen had a pet raccoon that was quite entertaining for their customers.

A Mr. Hall had it for a while – also Harold and Inez Hatfill, followed by the Brown family. Elmer Gerdes ran it and was noted for his spit-roasted pig. Al Langer and his wife Joan were owners. She made great chili. Tom Eberhardt from Highland was a previous owner. When he left, Bud and Mossie Schneck took over and they were well known for their Friday night fish fries. Robert Townsend was one of the last owners and served fried fish on Fridays also. Townsend sold the business to Kirkwood’s who introduced karaoke to the community. Their menu has specials every day with delightful entrees.

Sievers’ Hotel

Conrad and Anna Sievers owned the Sievers’ Hotel. They lived on a farm west of the Livingston Coal Mine. Coal miners boarded at the hotel on a regular basis. Later the hotel was sold to Ted and Laura Heim who resided there with their children and operated the hotel.

The building is located on the west side of Livingston Avenue. For many years the building housed Fritz Windisch’s Barber Shop on the south side of the lower level and Lefty Masinelli’s Shoe Repair occupied the north side.

Later the building was sold to Ed and Evelyn Kline who used the top floor as their residence until they sold the property to the Ron “Mick” and Kay Burns’ family. The Burns’ family still resides there.



Above, left is Amelio “Lefty” Masinelli’s shoe repair shop in the Sievers’ Hotel



At left is Fritz Windisch’s Barber Shop. Fritz stands near the first chair; Robert Windisch stands to the back. Both customers are unidentified.