

# J. R. Harvey Co. Located Here For 48 Years

What has been familiarly known as the J. R. Harvey Agency here for the past 48 years, had its start in Patten four years before

that time, in 1905, when the proprietor of the company made his start in the insurance business soon after his graduation from Patten Academy.

He built up a considerable business in the ensuing four years in his home community before transferring his activities to Houlton.

His first offices were in what is now the Houlton Trust Company

... IN THE DAYS OF THE



## PIONEER...

GETTING LOGS  
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THIS WORK HAS BEEN  
MADE MUCH EASIER.

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**McCULLOCH  
CHAIN SAWS**

CONGRATULATIONS  
HOULTON

ON THIS YOUR  
150th BIRTHDAY

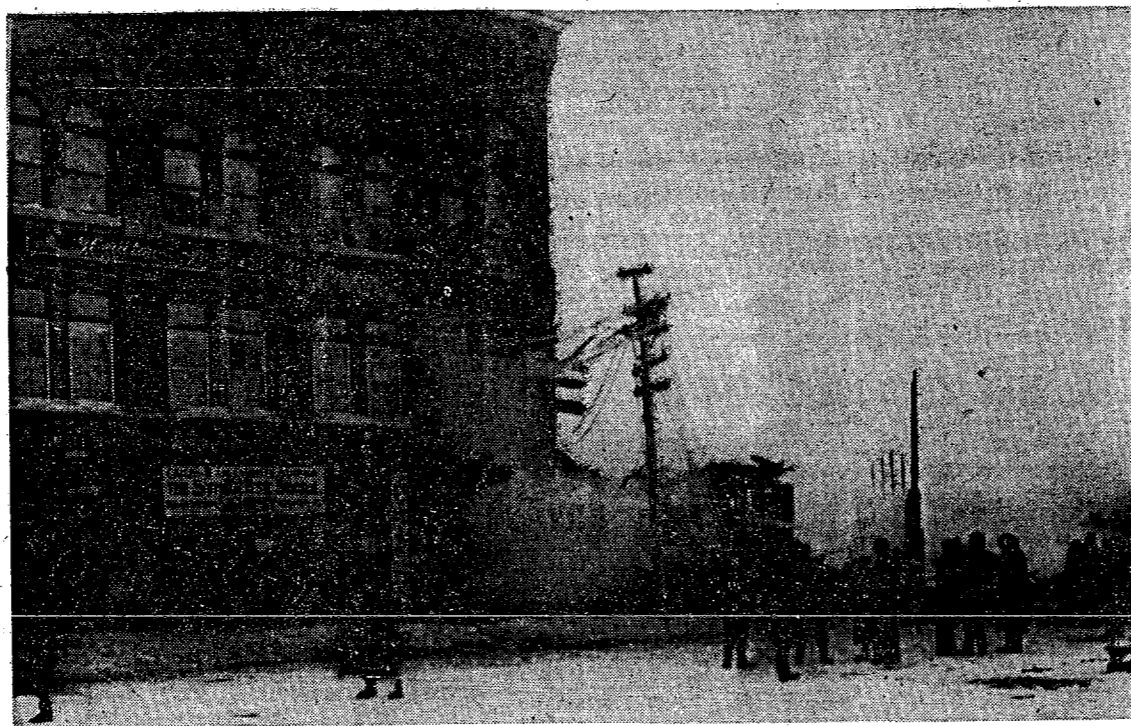
and to the

PIONEER TIMES  
ON YOUR 100 YEARS  
OF SERVICE IN  
AROOSTOOK COUNTY

### HOLLIS R. TIDD

HORTH STREET - HOULTON

## An Old Familiar Landmark Disappears



One cold winter morning in early 1905, flames got such a start on the old Music Hall that firemen were powerless to stop them. In a short time the three story wooden building that had been built in Civil War days, was a smoldering mass of ashes. Those put out of business included Amazeen's barber shop, the R. L. Turney hardware store and Charles P. Tenney's dry goods store.

block but was then called the Mansur block, soon after it was first completed. Mrs. Harvey was a prominent member of the agency's office staff for several years after the office was opened here.

The offices were maintained in that location for the ensuing quarter of a century as the bus-

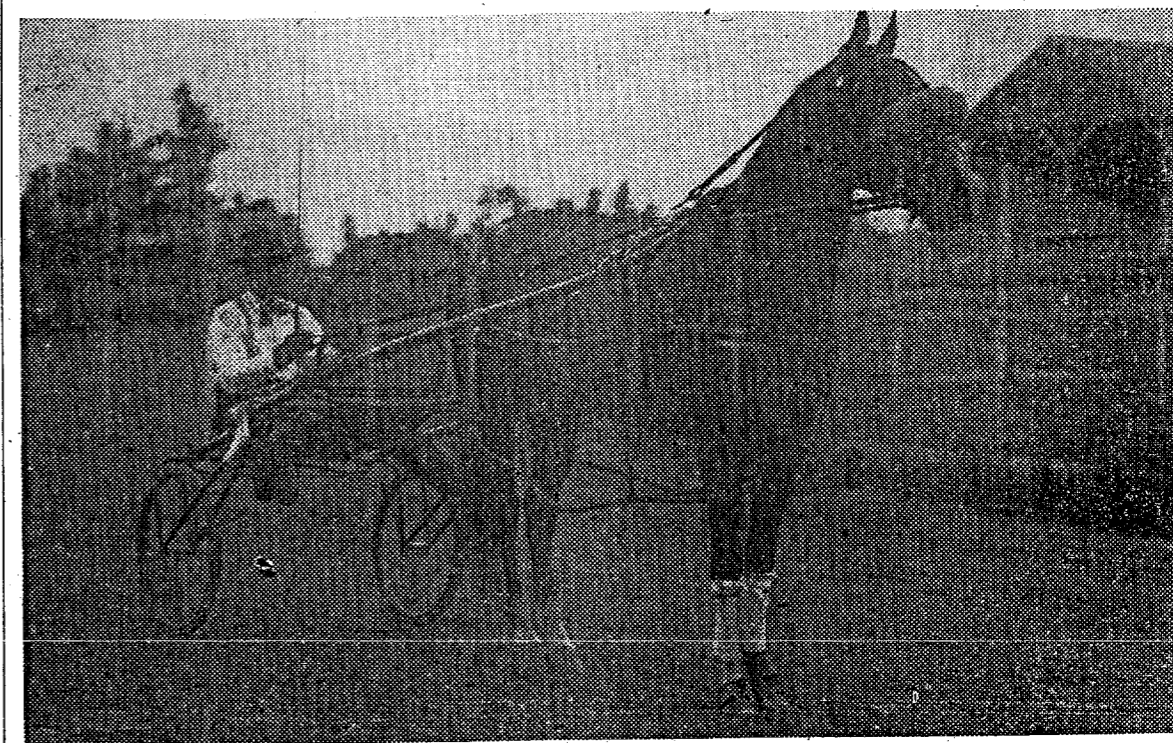
ness of the agency gradually expanded throughout Aroostook County.

In 1935 the firm was incorporated and since that time has been known as the J. R. Harvey Co. In that same year the second move in the agency's history in Houlton, was made to the quarters that had been occupied by the closed

Farmers National Bank. The agency purchased the building and has operated from this address at 64 Main street ever since.

In 1934 J. R. Harvey organized the Allied Mutual Insurance Company and became its first president. In the intervening 23 years this company has grown

## The Pride of Houlton Trotting Fans



This is the renowned Jackson Grattan (1.59) with Ralph Burrill, his driver, at the reins. The horse was purchased for \$12,500 by local subscription to do battle with John R. Braden and other fast trotters during the twenties. He was bought in 1921 and raced for the next seven years until he was accidentally killed in a runaway at the Skowhegan Fair.

steadily and soundly. Its records show it has paid \$555,077.46 in claims and has returned to its policy holders \$162,984.27 in dividends during that time.

Like so many other local companies, the J. R. Harvey Co. also has several employees with long years of service, in addition to the proprietor. Mrs. Vera Lancaster has been with the agency for 31 years. Mrs. Roy Jarvis first joined the company in 1921 and, with the exception of a six year absence in the forties, has been steadily employed there ever since.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey, Mrs. K. H. Lincoln started in the company's office in 1939. Ralph Tidd came in 1948 and Earl Lincoln and Mrs. Galen Grant in 1953. The other two members of the staff are Miss Sally Butler, a veteran of one year, and Mrs. Ina Clifford whose service started three months ago.

### Moving Pictures

(Continued from Page Three)

Opera House and this gave Manager French an opportunity to get into the moving picture business in

theatres could be operated on Sunday had become a matter of local option in the late thirties and the question was approved by the voters of Houlton at their town meeting on March 18, 1940. The vote was 782 in favor and 680, opposed.

### ANOTHER CHANGE

The local motion picture scene underwent another change in May, 1949, when color came to both of the local screens and the last change yet to be recorded on this historical story is the arrival of drive-in movies here in 1948 when Lewis Webber and Harold Peabody started the Borderland outdoor theatre on the North Road.

Through the past 40 years Mrs. G. Beecher Churchill has continued to keep an active interest in the local theatre situation and the following men have been active in the operation of the local theatres: Ted MacGuiggan, John H. Hassett, Ralph W. Pinkham, Francis J. Gooch, Elvin H. Hatfield, Harry McGee, Lewis Webber and Harold Peabody in the management field

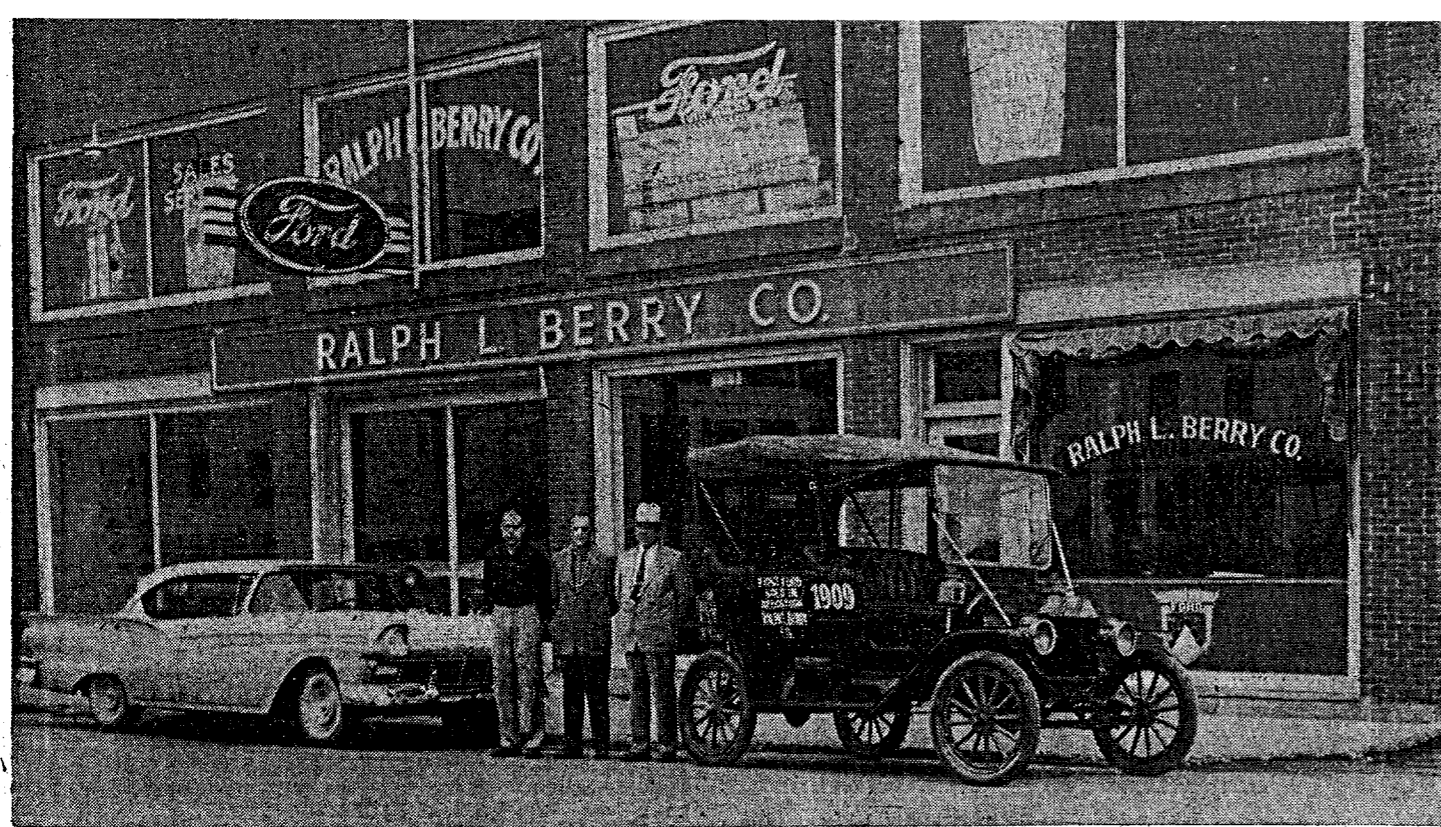
and in the mechanical departments Clarence Shields, Ralph Bickford, Cedric Osgood, Arthur McElwee and Merland Carson.

Mrs. Caroline Burpee of Houlton, a former president and charter member of the Houlton Womans Club was elected president of the Maine Federation of Women's Clubs at the annual state meeting held this week. She is the first member of the Houlton club ever to achieve state wide honors. — Aroostook Pioneer, October 18, 1905.

The surveyors of the proposed railroad route between here and Presque Isle, left Houlton on Monday morning last. They started up the north branch of the Meduxnekeag, and will meet the surveyors on the other end of the route, at Bridgewater. No serious obstacles are anticipated on the way, the whole distance being about fifty miles.—Aroostook Times, Dec. 15, 1881.

# Almost Half a Century Selling Ford Cars





The old and the new pass in review at the Ralph L. Berry Company Ford salesroom. At the left is the sleek new 1957 hardtop; at the right the dashing 1909 model, the first Ford ever sold in Aroostook by Ralph L. Berry, right. At the left is Harold "Bud" Berry, secretary of the company, and Burpee Berry, center, associated with the agency since 1928 and its treasurer since 1945.

This "past and present" picture graphically illustrates the progress of this agency and the Ford Motor Company since we signed our first contract together in 1909, opened a salesroom in the Charles H. Berry Company sales stables on Bangor street and sold our first car, shown above, to the late J. A. Browne.

In those days, "clean" sales were almost as rare as they are today. But the commodities of exchange were different . . . horses, harnesses and buggies, hay, grain and oats, firewood and lumber, were but a few of the items proffered as a down payment . . . and a driving lesson went with every sale.

In the intervening 48 years, Houlton has grown and prospered and we have endeavored to keep pace, distributing the same Ford products, increasingly better in quality and style, on the same street, though not the same location, where we started in business almost half a century ago.

During this long association with the Ford Company, we have earned some distinctions of which we are proud . . . for ourselves as well as for Houlton. This agency is the oldest Ford dealership in New England and one of the ten in the country with the longest association with the Ford Motor Company.

BEST WISHES TO HOULTON FROM



ON YOUR SESQUICENTENNIAL

# RALPH L. BERRY COMPANY

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BANGOR STREET

HOULTON

earnest. He built the Dream Theatre there which had a long career before it was taken over by G. B. Churchill in 1921 and operated only on Saturday and holidays. It was this same year that saw the return of the Bijou Theatre location to its former use. It was leased in 1921 by G. B. Churchill for a period of five years but was never operated for movies, being used solely for parties and dances until it was made over into offices.

No mention of Houlton Theatres would be complete without a reference to J. Dal Luther whose golden voice enthralled audiences in Houlton for two score years and whose many home talent plays were outstanding events for many years.

Or Tommie Towle, who was drummer at the Dream for so many years and later joined Dal Luther in a short-lived vaudeville skit; or Lucy Grant whose piano playing was so much a part of local movie houses for so many years. And Mrs. Fern Churchill who officiated at the piano for many an hour in the early days of the Temple Theatre.

The Temple Theatre started its career as a movie house here in 1918. There were several applicants for the lease to operate the theatre but the trustees of the Masonic building looked with favor on that from G. B. Churchill and he took over the lease. For a short time there were two theatres in town again as the Churchills managed the Temple and also for a time, the Dream in the Heywood opera house on a part time basis.

#### TEMPLE SOLE THEATRE

Then the Temple became the only motion picture theatre to serve the Houlton area and maintained its solitary reign for many years until the new Houlton was opened in January, 1941, by the Black and Churchill interests, of which Mrs. G. B. Churchill is a partner. The company had previously purchased the Snell House property and erected their new theatre building on the site in 1940.

In the meantime the nature of moving pictures had changed here with the advent of talking pictures in 1928.

The Black and Churchill interests conducted both the Temple and Houlton theatres here from 1941 until 1951 when a dissolution was ordered and the Temple lease was disposed of to the Brigham interests of Dover, N. H.

The controversial question of whether or not moving picture

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*has been our principal  
 BUSINESS*  
*since*  
**1922**

*This*  
**SESQUICENTENNIAL  
 BUSINESS**  
*has become Houlton's principal  
 BUSINESS*  
*in*  
**1957**

We are glad to have been around for this one - - - we probably won't be here for the next one - - - but in the meantime we will continue to give our best to all our customers.

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