

THE PEOPLES JOURNAL



BY ALVIN DAHLENE
FROM THE LAWRENCE WRITERS CLUB

The Corner Grocery

When you entered the store, the obvious thing was the pot-bellied stove, a piece of heating equipment every store had in those days of no furnaces. You could call the store the 4 "D"--Dingy, Dark, Dusty, but a Desirable place too, for the hospitality one always received. The ceiling was very low and lit with gas. On the west side of the store was the bread counter furnished by Gillhams or Gerhardt bakeries. The bread was in metal trays and unwrapped and so the clerk had to wrap it when you bought it. Next

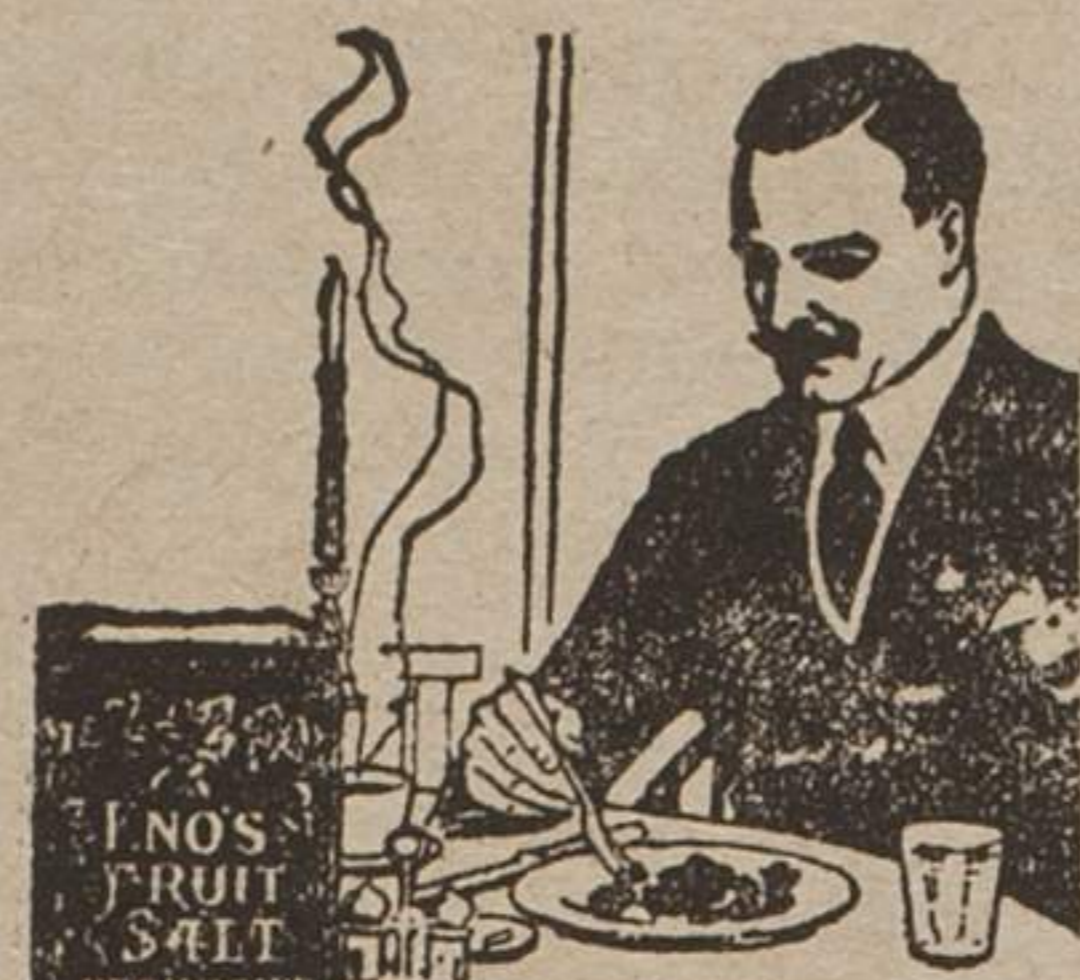
the clerk for peanut butter, he would put a small box shaped like a boat in front of the machine and find out what you wanted. Right in the middle of the store was the little open office with all its books, etc. Mr. Klock was a small jovial Dutchman with a distinct stutter but such a nice congenial fellow.

In some ways they were the good old days. There was a feeling of friendship at the corner store that you can't get from the Super Markets of today. With the advent of the big stores I recall was Piggly Wiggly and the A&P--then Safeway, Krogers, and Dillons. In the larger cities you could have some companies with dozens of the stores scattered out through the area. The super stores are a far cry



The corner grocery store, once a commonplace establishment 40 to 50 years ago has slowly but surely had its day and has gone by the wayside.

When I was a youngster playing out in the backyard with my pals, I would hear a voice from inside the house--Alvin my son, I want you to go to the store and get some meat for dinner or supper--whatever the occasion. "Alright", I would say, and "What kind of meat do you want?" "Get 15 cents worth of round steak." In those days around 1916 that was more than a pound of steak and enough for two meals the way we ate. Down I would run to the 9th Street store known as the Windmill Grocery and the proprietor was F. H. Klock. It was known as the Windmill Store since 9th Street led to the Old Windmill up near Michigan Street and burned to the ground in 1905.



Now You Can
Eat What
You Like

to it was the cookie containers--large square tin boxes--12x12x12. It was the chief bakery these days and the goodies were vanilla wafers, ginger snaps, and coconut bars which we called washboard cookies. There would also be a few coconut cookies with white frosting. Then there was the cracker barrel and the peanut butter dispenser. When you asked

On the west side of the store you had the candy counter and varied canned goods and coffees. The candies were Redhots--little hearts with verses on them and all day suckers, and of course, the ever-popular licorice strings. We used to chew the licorice and pretend we were chewing tobacco--perish the thought! If you needed coffee the following were available--Golden Wedding, Wedding Breakfast and Blankes. There was tobacco of all kinds but most popular was Prince Albert and Velvet and Bull Durham for rolling your own cigarettes. Kerosene was also to be had for your lamps.



from the DIMLY LIT corner store but the one thing missing is the OLD TIME HOSPITALITY.

In 1903, according to Polk's Directory for Lawrence, we had 43 small stores. We now have one that I know of.

--EPILOGUE--

I never pass the corner store at 9th and Mississippi, but I recall the little store there. Its roof and walls were dust stained and weather-beaten. I almost have an impulse to enter the place--but there is a coin laundry there now. I miss the tinkling of the bell and the pot-bellied stove and the old store keeper. I can recall when I would enter the store as a lad with maybe 3 or 4 pennies in my pocket and debating what I might buy--redhots, licorice or an all day sucker.



Do you know

BY BETSY SCHENK
FOOD STAMP OUTREACH WORKER

Based on the 1970 census statistics, approximately 10,000 people in Douglas County are eligible for Food Stamps. As of June, 1977 approximately 1,370 people were taking part in this USDA program. This means 13.3% of those that could receive benefits from the Food Stamp program are actually taking advantage of the program.



If this participation rate reached 100%, the bonus coupons received in this county would total approximately \$227,750,000 per month. This would result in an increase of \$2,369,500.00 in the economy of Douglas County in a year. About 1/2 of this money would be from Federal funds. This would cause a noticeable change in the general economy of this community and would benefit many more people than just those receiving the food coupons through the program.

FOOD STAMP PROGRAM CHANGES

The food stamp program has been undergoing some changes recently. As of July 1, 1977 the monthly cou-

About Food Stamps?



pon allotment was raised for all households. The increase was slight however; with a two dollar increase for one and two person households, a four dollar increase for three, four and five person households, and six dollar increase for six and seven person households. In addition, some people will be paying more for their stamps, however the increase is slight in direct proportion to the monthly coupon allotment increase. For all households the maximum allowable income was increase also. In other words, a household will be allowed a higher monthly income and still be eligible for food stamps.

FOOD STAMP ELIGIBILITY

If one feels that he/she might be eligible for Food Stamps, these steps should be followed to apply for the program. (This applies only if the individual applies for Food Stamps and no cash grants).

1. Contact the SRS office at 319 Perry, either in person or by phone and request an application and appointment. Phone number is 843-6511.
2. Complete the application and bring it as well as verification of your earnings or income to your interview at the given appointment time.
3. Provide any additional information or verification as requested by the worker interviewing you.

It should be noted that there are certain guidelines to be followed and the worker's role is to determine your eligibility by assisting and advising you as to how to complete your application and prove your eligibility.

The level of eligibility is based on the size and income of a household (the people that buy, prepare, and eat their food together). For more information as to the income guidelines contact the SRS office at 319 Perry. There are handout materials available as well as workers to answer your questions.

