



Long Community Heritage--

OTTERTAIL'S OLDEST BUSINESS, known since 1882 as M&J's Market, will be closing in the near future. The building dates back to 1904 and was owned for almost half a century by three generations of the Brutlag family. Here, it's shown in the early part of this century when it was owned by Herman Brutlag. It was basically a grocery store, but as the signs show, he had other aspects to his business, including the sale of shoes and doing undertaking.

M&J's Market Closing...

Store has Long Ottertail Heritage

By Jerry Barney

Not every grocery store posts the birthdays of community residents in their front windows. But then, not every grocery store has become a community information central location like M&J's Market in Ottertail.

The store now known as M&J's has a long community heritage. Under a variety of names, it has been Ottertail's oldest continuously-operated business.

But that will end soon. M&J's is going out of business. Owners Jeff and Merry Van Horn said the business's last days will be Saturday and Sunday. The building and equipment will be sold, they said.

An abstract shows that the M&J's building was built in 1904. The original grocers in the building were Henry and Gus Schultz.

Ken Brutlag, now of Henning, said his grandfather, Herman Brutlag, began business there in

1905. Brutlag's Store was a grocery store, but it also handled other things like clothing, shoes and cream separators.

Herman apparently was quite an entrepreneur. He also had a Model-T dealership and was an undertaker. "He was a wheeler-dealer," said Ken. But he died of a heart attack at age 57.

Herman's son Walter took over about 1936. When he retired on January 1, 1949, Ken, purchased