

## The American National Bank & Headwaters Heritage Museum

The solid sandstone and thick masonry walls of the Headwaters Heritage Museum have seen a lot of changes since it was built in 1910. The building first housed the Three Valleys State Bank and the door into the building was on the left side (instead of where it is now, in the center). It was purchased in 1917 by American National Bank, but by that time farmers were beginning to feel effects of the drought and the American National failed in 1923.

The upstairs of the building housed many professionals, including Dr. Reed & Dr Stephans, dentist J. T. Symonds, and Dr. Larson. The back of the building was the home of the Montana Land and Livestock Co.

The building next to the bank, now housing the Plaza Bar, originally imitated the architecture of the bank building and housed the Ruby Theatre before the Ruby Theatre building was built down the block. In the early days of the bank, the area behind the bank had two other businesses, the OK Vulcanizing



Photo courtesy of Headwaters Heritage Museum

Shop. and Mestad's Bakery.

J. Q. Adams' son, Benjamin, used the building for his real estate office until 1942 and a variety of businesses were housed there until 1960, when Security Bank of Three Forks moved in after over thirty years without a bank in town. The building was purchased by the Three Forks Area Historical Society in 1982.

The building is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places and a brief plaque unveiling ceremony was held Saturday, July 16, 2005 after the Rodeo Parade.

## The Herald and the Higman Building

The building next to the Masonic Temple was the Higman building. Frank Brabec moved his harness shop from its location at 118 S. Main Street to there in 1916. Brabec ran his shop out of there for a while then purchased a shoe repair business from Paul Rudock and moved in 1918.

In the thirties, a garage was running out of the building. But, according to some sources, the business was not completely legit. It is alleged that the proprietors

ran what today would be called a chop shop. Cars would be stolen and brought to the building to be dismantled and sold as parts.

The Three Forks Herald's first solid office was located next door to the Higman building. Prior to the building, Paul Dorsey had been running the Herald out of a tent.

Frank Brabec sold out to Logan business man John King in June 1922. Paul Dorsey sold the Herald to Lyle Williams in 1927. It is interesting to note, according to the *Headwaters Heritage History*, that both the Brabec and Dorsey families moved to Gig Harbor, Washington.

Some of the people that have owned these lots include; Ann P. Martin, James Kolokotronis, who built the house, Bill and Clare Kolokotronis, David and Bernice Schott and Shirley and Catherine Walbert.

The photo (below) is taken from a vintage postcard provided to the Headwaters Heritage Museum by Vera Wilcox. It shows the Herald office, Higman building and First National Bank.

Photo courtesy of Headwaters Heritage Museum

