

Do you remember these?

(As published in *The Oak Ridger's Historically Speaking* column on September 20, 2011)

Often readers send items of interest to them that they feel might be of interest to other readers and suggest a *Historically Speaking* column might help spread the word. While I certainly do appreciate the help, not everything I am sent can be included in a column. The material for this column is an example of research material that was shared with me well over a year ago and maybe more.

I do not have a record of who sent it. I came as a typewritten list in alphabet order, without a name or date. A pet peeve of mine is that I believe ALL documents should have a date originated and the name of the person creating the information. If you created this list of businesses in Oak Ridge that are no more, please let me know so I can properly credit your work.

With the interest generated by the Facebook group, "I remember when in Oak Ridge, TN ... Favorite Memories created by Gayla Bailey, now up to over 2,000 members, the spin off group from "I remember when..." named "Secret City Kids" with over 500 members and growing and the group, "You know you're from Oak Ridge when..." I have decided to publish this list. I think it will generate even more memories to share.

Do you remember these?

5 & 10 stores, 7-11 stores, 84 Lumber, A & P, Abbott Laboratories, Adroit Office Supply, Alexander Motor Inn, Anderson's Hilltop Market, Arcade Shoe Repair, Ark Lanes, Atomic City Auto Parts (Belgrade), Atomic City café (on Illinois), Atomic tool & Die, Atomic Pawn (old Edwards), Atomic Printing, Azteca Mexican (old Edwards), Back Yard Burgers, Backstage, Baldy's BBQ, Balloff's, Bank of Oak Ridge, Barber Buick, Batting Cages/Par 3 Golf, Ben's TV Repair, Big Orange game room, Bleu Hound, Blue Circle, Boeing, Bojangles, Bonanza steak house, Bridge's Nursery, Brown Cow Drive In, Bruner's, Buck Stove of Oak Ridge, Burger Chef, Burlington Coats, C&S Cleaners, Camera's Eye, Carriage Fashions, Carrie-Hilliards, Center Theatre, Central Bowling Alley, Central Park Hamburgers, Central Service Station (Brown's Pure Station), Charter Member, Chat-Chop BBQ, Chemseps, Charlotte Hall and Cheyenne Hall, City – County Bank, Clark Jones Music, Clinch TV, Cloth Shop, Community Stores (supermarket), Craft Cottage, Crossroads Tavern, Dairy Queens (three of them), Danver's Restaurant, Davis Brothers Cafeteria, Dawabitt, Dean Stallings Motors, Dean's Beauty Salon (behind Grove Center), Dillard's, Direct Gas (Illinois at Tuskegee), Don's Meat Market, Down Under Pool Hall, Dunk n' Donuts, E.A.T. Grocery Store (Jefferson Shopping Center), East end Package Store, East Village Grocery, East Village Shell, Echards, Eddie's Malt Shop, Edwards Steakhouse, Elm Grove Barber Shop, Elm Grove market, Elza Drive-In Theatre, ESSO Station (at Midtown), ESSO at Turnpike near Illinois Ave., Spur Station on South Illinois, Ethel Howell Dance studio, Faulkner's Buick, Fiesta Cantina, Fincher's Pharmacy, Firestone Store, Flextronics, Fowler's Furniture, Fox Buick, Fox Chevrolet, Fox Chrysler-Plymouth-Dodge, Fox GMC Truck, Fox Oldsmobile, Fox Nissan, Fox Pontiac, Frank's Donuts, French's, GAP Store, Footlocker, Gateway Bookstore, Gibson's (where Big Lot's is now), Gleason's furniture, Godfathers Pizza, Goodyear Store, Green's Cycle shop, Green's IGA, Greer's Furniture, Gregory's Restaurant (where Flatwater is now), Greyhound Bus Station, Griffin's TV, Grove Center Barber Shop, Grove Pool Hall, Grove Theatre, H. R. White Jewelers, Hall's shoe Shop, Hamilton National Bank, Hammonds Welding, Handshaker's Federal Bake Shop, Harry's Aquarium, Harvey's furniture Store (Grove center), Beck's Pharmacy, Helig-Meyer, Herron Texaco Auto Station, Hess Department store, Holiday Inn, Hoskins Drug Store, Hot Wheels (skating rink), Howard's Discount Store (where Big Lot's is now), Hunan Chinese Restaurant, Hyder's Shoes, Ingle's Food Store, Jacket, Jackson Hardware, Jackson Square Barber Shop, Jackson Square Pharmacy, Jefferson Bowling Lanes, Jefferson Restaurant (at the Jefferson Bus Terminal), Jefferson theatre, Jerry's Auto Repair, Jokers Arcade, Joy Super Market, Kay's Jewelry, KB Toys, Kimball's, King's

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Department Store, Kinney's shoes, Knitting Nook, Kramer's, Lakeside Grille (where Flatwater is now), Laughing Monkey, Little Caesar's Pizza, Lizz's Grocery, Longhorn Lounge, Lovemans, Lubby's Cafeteria, Lucky's Market, Marie Wilde decorator, Mayflower Restaurant, McCarty Electric Supply, McCrory's, Midtown Boling Alley, Midtown Theatre, Mike's downtowner, Miller's, Miller's Hardware, Mills Camera & Flowers, Mini-Mart, Min-it check, Mitchell's Shoe Repair, Moby Dick's Restaurant, Mrs Winner chicken, Munfords, Mustard Seed, Myers Skating Rink, Nash Copeland's Auto Parts, Nationwide Auto Parts, Nettie Lee Shop, New York Dry Cleaners, Nick Orlando's Phillips 66 (New York Ave.), Nick Orlando's Texaco (Elza), Nicki's Tires, Oak Ridge Auto Parts (Bill Robinson), Oak Ridge Coins, (Grove Center), Oak Ridge Discount Store, Oak Ridge Feed and Grain (on Tulsa), Oak Ridge Hardwoods (Oak Ridge operation), Oak Ridge Journal, Oak Ridge Marina (boat dock/sales and service), Oak Ridge Motors (Ford), Oak Ridge Racquet Club, Oak Ridge Sporting Goods, Oak Terrace Bowling Lanes, Oak Terrace Restaurant, Paragon Tavern, Paris Archers Glass & Frame Shop, Parthenon Restaurant, Pat Peck Nissan (Melton Lake Dr.), Pathway Bellows Corp., Pearle Vision Center, Peebles, Pete Moore Appliances, Peters – Starr Insurance, Philpot's Dry Cleaners, Pic & Pay Shoes, Pic-Air, Pick-A-Flick, Piggly Wiggly, Pine Valley Barber shop, Pine Valley market, Pine Valley Pharmacy, Pinkston vacuum, Pittsburgh Plate Glass, Pizza Hut, Pizza Inn, Po Folks, Prime sirloin, Putt-Putt, Quincy's, R & R Body Shop, Randy's Burgers, Ray Adcock Chevrolet, Ray's Gulf, Red Food store (Manhattan Place), Redson's, Reeder Chevrolet, Rexall Drug (where Big Ed's is now), Rich's, Ridge Battery, Ridge Handicraft, Ridge Glass, Ridge GunCraft, Ridge Theatre, Rite-Aide, Rivera Greek-Italian Restaurant (old Sambo's), Rockhouse Tavern, Ronnie Williams Mazda, Rusty Pelican (where Flatwater is now), Rutherford Chrysler, Plymouth (Melton Lake Drive), Sambo's, Samuel's, Schuberts Lumber, Sealtest Milk Man, Security Trust, Service Drug Store (Jackson Square), Shay's Food and Spirits (old Danver's), Skyway Drive In Theater, Snow White Restaurant, Sovereign Bank, Sport Stop, Sportsman (Jefferson Circle), Sterchi's Furniture, Sturm's Youth World, Taft-Moody Ice cream Parlor (Jackson Square), Taylor's Department Store (Jackson Square), Tennelec, Terry's Suzuki, Texaco at Jackson Square, The Backdoor (pizza), The City club, The Daily Grind (coffee shop at Jackson Square), The Fixit-Shop, the gas station where Jackson Square Bistro is now (old Bleu Hound Restaurant), The Igloo (soft serve ice cream), The Levy, The Lifter's Club, The Music Box, The Pantry, The Parts Place, The Smokehouse (Robertsville Road), Thompson's Nursery, Tommy clay's Car Lot, Townsite Shell, Trailways Bus Station, Treasury Drug Store, Trico Motor Company (Oldsmobile before Fox), Tulip Town Super Market (Grove Center), Union Carbide, Union Prescription Shop, United Bakery, Valley Pontiac, Value Mart, Vermont Shell, Video Hut, Village Honda, Village Restaurant, Wagner Machine Shop, Walker's Car Wash, Watson's, Wayne Theatre (formerly the Jefferson Theater), West End Package Store, Western Auto, Western Sizzling Steak House, White Stores, William's Drug Store, Winn Dixie, WOKI Studios, Woodland Pharmacy, Woodsons Grocery, Woolworth's, Y&M Entertainment, Y-12 Shell, Zales Jewelry.

Whew, and I am sure the author of that list and I missed a whole bunch more. Comment the online version of this article with additional Oak Ridge businesses that are no more. Or send me an email at draysmith@comcast.net.

Now, what do you make of all these names of businesses that are no more? What does it say for our future as a community? What do we have to look forward to? Are we doomed to be the metro market for rural communities in surrounding counties (not Knox)? Do we have to continue to be the location where Knoxville stores place their merchandise that is not selling or last year's inventory...or do you even think that happens?

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Do we just live with the fact that “Pellissippi Parkway runs both ways” as Eugene Joyce is quoted as stating after the failed attempt to bring an airport to Oak Ridge resulted in a push by Oak Ridge political entities to get an improved roadway to McGee Tyson Airport? What do you think?

Give Mark Watson, our City Manager, your thoughts. He is looking for input on how to set the proper direction for our city. He knows the Manhattan Project National Historical Park has identified Oak Ridge as one of the elements of that park to be located at Hanford, WA, Los Alamos, NM, and Oak Ridge and he is seeking input on how we might best take advantage of that. I think he realizes our future may well be in our past...to a large degree. We can market our history in ways we have never considered before. If we are destined to do our shopping in Turkey Creek, maybe we should look at some other revenue streams for our retail businesses.

Heritage Tourism may be a welcome contributor! We have a tremendous heritage, let's take full advantage of it! If we could get some upscale restaurants to co-locate with the historical sites, such as the Guest House/Alexander Inn and Jackson Square, would that be a possible source of retail? Have you seen the study done by UT students regarding what Jackson Square might do to attract young professionals? Can you imagine a large group of people living there and working there? It is not too farfetched, when you think about it. High rise apartments might just be the answer.

The key is for us to think together and NOT PULL AGAINST ONE ANOTHER with regard to our future. Let's engage in the discussion Mark is seeking, let's help shape our future. We can do great things in Oak Ridge...we have in the past. Be a part of the solution, not a part of the problem and engage in productive dialog. Let's formulate a path forward in which we can all take pride.

Let's create a list of NEW BUSINESSES that have been created and still exist! And, let's keep that list in front of us as we move forward.



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AT&T store being constructed where car wash was and previously were an Exxon gas station once stood. Change resulting from evolving retail market. Do you recall what was on this corner of the Oak Ridge Turnpike and East Main Street before the Exxon Station?



Eddie Hair's new building, an excellent expansion of that retail site



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Workout Anytime...a recent replacement for a video store, again the evolving retail market, as video rentals are online now and customers want to exercise at odd hours



Snappy Tomato, a modern pizza experience and more with game room and buffet



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Papa Murphy, an unusually good take-home pizza, responding to the market