

Participants in the Union enterprise constructed the store that year (1889) at 7200 South and 1000 East. They placed a twenty-foot-long, four-foot-high hitching rail on the east side of the building. Customers could hitch their horses on either side of the pole. David Proctor ran the store as general manager. In 1901, stockholders elected John George Sharp to that position. The management gave the job of store clerk to Sarah Ann Forbush. In later years, Eva Jenson, Millie Mower (Forbush), and Lige Baker served as clerks. John Sharp carried on a brisk trading business with the people of Union. Residents of the town brought their butter and eggs to the store to trade for groceries. After Sharp acquired a surplus of eggs and butter, he delivered them to the ZCMI store in Salt Lake City where he purchased most of his supplies for the store.

At the turn of the century, patrons began to demand a liberal supply of merchandise in the Union Co-op Store. Ira Proctor, a later resident of Union, described the contents of the store as follows:

"There was a counter on the west side of the store where the groceries were kept and on the counter there was a tobacco cutter with a cleaver. When you raised the cleaver and brought it down you cut a plug of chewing tobacco."

The Horse Shoe Chewing Tobacco was packaged in long strips and had to be cut into plugs. It sold for ten cents a plug. Proctor continued:

"The smoking tobacco came in small cloth sacks and smoking papers went with each sack of tobacco sold. The main brand sold was Bull Durham, which cost five cents a sack, and the other brand was Duke's Mixture which sold for ten cents a sack."

"On the further end of the counter was a big round cake of cheese, wrapped in cheesecloth, that was cut with a cheese cutter and sold by the pound, costing about ten to fifteen cents a pound."

They sold Arbuckle Coffee in the bean and you could have it ground at the store or take it home and grind it in your own coffee grinder just before you made your coffee. They also sold tea which was put up in one-pound packages.

"Also on the counter was a big glass container filled with penny apiece candy."

We must not forget the old cracker barrel and the open burlap sack of peanuts placed near the counter. After all, stores in those days functioned as social centers, too. One was expected to stop at the cracker barrel and chat for a while about current events and the weather.



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