

Southeast Brainerd historical sites:

Compilation for the 2017 Brainerd History Week

Photo, post card about 1910, coming in to SE Brainerd:



Brainerd History Week 2017 is showcasing southeast Brainerd. This little community was almost a town in itself, largely serving the substantial population of NPRR workers. Over the years the area has been affectionately called “Frogtown”, perhaps due to its generally low elevation. Many a basement in the area has been known to flood, and a creek runs along its western border.

SE Brainerd is bounded by the RR tracks on the north, and the now-abandoned RR tracks on the west. A drive heading east on Oak St.

past the old rail bed will reveal many old false-front stores, now mostly converted to housing, and other businesses surviving and flourishing. A look at the main corner, 13th & Oak Streets, will be the largest of the building of the day, the old Bredenberg Grocery. This is a huge red brick building, no doubt the largest in town outside of the greater downtown area. Very little is known of this building, and it is hoped that the focus on SE will reveal some clues as to its beginnings.

Below is a listing of businesses of SE over the years. Incredibly, there were no less than 7 **grocery locations** on Oak St. over the years. The last one closed just in 2016. Businesses listed with a slant following the name means this wording was taken directly from that year’s Brainerd City Directory, and they are typed exactly as printed, often quite abbreviated.

*If we can go back in history far enough, we may see that Oak St. was not only the “way out of town” to Garrison, but to Crosby-Ironton as well, before 210 E. was made. This would have made it a main road to town for sure, and may account for a lot of the early business along “the strip”. A 1914 Bird’s Eye View “map” of “The Cuyuna Range Addition to Brainerd” shows “Oak Street-State Highway to Duluth”. U.S. State Highway 210 did not come on the scene until 1926.

Stores in Frogtown, along Oak St. This could be a fun study...lots of old false-front buildings left. Take look through the business list, and let us know if you remember who owned them, or what came before or after the name listed. Do you have any old photos from this area? Send them along too!

BCD=Brainerd City Directory

Oak St.:

1951 Brainerd City Directory[BCD]: “Oak E—From N P Ry east to limits, 4 south of N P Shops” [Now abandoned RR grade.]

Odd #'s on the north

Even #'s on the south

-1023 Oak St.: Casey, Fred J./1951. [Cathy Swanson](#): My growing up years. I lived at 2023 oak which is on the left of the picture. The dining room window is most visible. Moved in last half of kindergarten until 9th grade. 1965.... my husband and I bought it from my mom after my dad's death in 1971. Les and Marge Britton. They were good friend's of Joyce(Bredenberg) and Dean Gallant.

-1027 Oak St.: Casey Insurance Agency/1951

-1027 Oak St.: grocer?

-1103, 1103 ½ Oak St., **grocer?**

-1107 Oak St.: Cully's/Cully Nelson>Inn Tavern; Hanson Otis J/1959 (Could be called Butches Inn)>Butches Inn/Butch Hanson, 1957-1967?>Hofner's/AKA B & M Tavern/ Bill & Marion Hofner, late 1960's-early 1970's.>John's Tavern/John & Diane Bosch, 1977-Sept.

2012>Sudz/reopened for a short time. [Jer Hanson](#): my dad owned the bar on oak st he bought it from cully nelson,,he named it BUTCHES INN...FROM 1957 to 1967 [Branda Shaw](#): They were also owned by and I'm gonna kill the spelling "Tahouski" it was the G.I. Bar for Gene and Irene. [AngieJoy Bosch Kraipowich](#): Yes my Mom- [Diane Bosch](#) and dad John Bosch owned and operated it from 1977- until Sept. 2012 .

-Slipp's Cycle, just east of John's Tavern, connected

-1111 Oak St.: Bargain Center furn; A-1 Upholstery Shop/1959

-1123 Oak St.: **Lamont Groc.**, now a green house with a false front, entrance on the east side

-1207 Oak St.: Wilson's Gun shop (Sidney F. Wilson)/1951

-1212 Oak St.: East Oak St. Fixit shop

-1220 Oak St.: [Brian Marsh](#): Starting in 1903, the successive businesses, in order, were: a shoe store, a dry goods and ladies furnishing store, a confectionary store, a tire store, a bakery, the Ball Club Restaurant (Carlson, Edw. J.)/1951, the Salvation Army store, Crow Wing Plmb & Htg/1959, Yde's. Interestingly, this location was vacant from about 1923 until about 1938.

-1223 Oak St.: SW corner of 13th & Oak Sts. Erickson's Furniture & appliances/1951.

Now/2017 Lakes Printing. When was this building built?

-1224 Oak St.: Bargain Counter Furn/1951

-1301 Oak St.: Houle Sheet Metal Works/1951

-1302 Oak St.: SE corner of 13th & Oak Sts. **Bredenberg Grocery**/1951, later Al's Meat Market

-1304 Oak St.: Erickson's Furniture & Appliance Whse/1951

-1401 Oak St: **Dandenell's Grocery**., earlier Wasnie Groc.at 1403, later Inward's Groc., closed 2016

-1403 Oak St.: Nicholas Wasnie/1951

-1508 Oak St.: Gallant Dean/1959

-1515 Oak St.: Harrison School/1951

-1601 Oak St.: Southeast Texaco Service gas sta/1951, 1959

-1609 Oak St. Brandt's Garage/1951; Southeast Motor Service/1959; All Phase Auto/2017. Was this the first Toyota dealer, maybe owned by Art Dondelinger? [John Mattson](#) I believe that the Toyota dealership was located at 1609 Oak Street. Was not owned by Dondelinger until moved out to location in Baxter.

-1618 Oak St: **Nordstrom's Groc.**, Mathison Groc.

-1626 Oak St.: **Foss Groc/1951**>John's [Groc]>Leslie Mkt Gro/1959, started in 1950>Southside Auto>Dynamotion in 1985. [Diane Leslie](#) :The Leslie's bought the store in 1950. My husband is Tristan Leslie & he was 10 yrs. Old (born 1940) when his parents, Earl & Leone Leslie bought the grocery store at 1626 Oak St. (1950). [Brian Larson](#): Southside Auto I do believe. [Bill Linnerooth](#): It was Southside. [Barney Young](#): It was Dynamotion in 1985. They sponsored my Hobby Stock. [Kim Carstens Piehl](#): Lyle Sandberg..

-1907 Oak St.: Harold's Pure Oil Service gas sta

-1909 Oak St.: Harold's Pure Oil Serv

-Swartz Fairgrounds (Vic's Garage site - east of 19th Street)-CD

-2322 Oak St.: Rausch Welding Service

-2403 Oak St: **Bill's Cash Groc.**/1951-2422 Oak St.: Auto Parts (Shipman Marvin A, Shipman Esther A Mrs, Sweetster Irving. [Fert Faust](#) Perusing the 1951 LDS Brainerd City Directory, I see a Sears Greenhouse at 2403 E. Oak St. An ad states Snow Plowing and General Tractor Work. This is also the address of "Sears, William, Bill's Cash Grocery, (Elva) Robert, Carol, Kathleen". There is also a Siemers Nursery & Landscaping at E Oak RFD 2. This may have been much farther to the east. [Branda Shaw](#): At 2403 Oak st. Bill's cash groc was owned by Bill and Elva Sears. They also had green houses.

-2422 Oak St.: Oak St. Auto Parts/1966 BCD. (Shipman Marvin A, Shipman Esther A Mrs, Sweetster Irving) See 1966 snip below.*

-2700 KLIZ Radio Station: First BCD entry is 1946, later KLIZ. From 1959 to 1971, it also housed the state school and hospital.Brainerd Broadcasting Co; Hill Gordon C [apparently renting upstairs]/1951; KLIZ & BBC; Tulip Ruth; Brained State School & Hospital/1959 [Was this our first state hospital location? This may be a BCD error.]

SE Brainerd historical sites, not on Oak St.:

-Bang Printing

Bed Factory, E of 13th and Lakes Printing:

Little is known of this factory. In late 2016 a house was torn town on what may have been its location. It was last used as an apartment building, but it was very close to the alley and parking was accessed from that alley, so the factory may have been north of it, closer to the street on the same lot. Possible address may be 1306 Norwood St., or the lot to its east at 1314. 503 is on the corner to 1306's west. It may have been a mattress factory, not a bed factory.

-Bicycle repair shop on 11th St.

Cedar Boat Factory, 13th St. 2 blocks S of Oak:

-Church at 1216 Quince St.-Apostolic Lutheran Church.

-Erickson Greenhouse: One of the oldest-running businesses in Brainerd, perhaps third.

Fairgrounds (new):

Fire Hall, 10th, or 13th St.: (If 10th, it would be in S. Brd.):

-Jen's Anderson & Sons>Faust Bev. Co/1955>Railway Salvage. [Fert Faust](#): 1010 Quince was Jens Anderson & Sons, the Grain Belt distributor, bought by my Dad in 1955. It later became Railway Salvage when Dad built a new warehouse in the mid- 60's across from Lum Park, later Dondelinger Auto Body after about 1976.

-Radmacher Welding & Marine

-Rec, The: A recreation center on 13th St., west side south of Yde's appliance, building still remains but is now an apartment or house. Earlier a meat market and a grocery store.

Rosko Airport (AKA Rosko Field):

NOTE: I don't know if this location was FIRST called Rosko Field because it was a baseball field! Can someone enlighten me???

Proposed marker, 4/30/12017:



-Rosko Airport -



BRAINERD
HISTORIC SITE

From about 1928-1948 this was the site of Brainerd's first airport. Founded by Henry & Peter Rosko, the site was originally called Rosko Field. They built 2 hangars on land converted from part of their father's farm. The Rosko Bros. were innovators, bringing the first automobile to Brainerd in 1906, the first hydroplane and steam shovel, and by 1920 they were dealers for Dodge Brothers Motor Cars. In 1912 iron ore exploration was conducted at this site, although it proved unproductive.

In 1929, this airfield hosted more than 18,000 persons at a summer air meet and in 1930 it hosted 18 airplanes. About 1934 it was leased by the City of Brainerd and they built the third and final hangar, now the round-topped Shipman Auto building, but by 1944 they outgrew the available land and it was operated by Garrett's Flying Service. The airfield remained in use until Brainerd and Crow Wing County opened the airport in 1948 at its present site on Highway 210 East.

-2017 Brainerd History Week Committee, June 2017

- Shipman Auto
- State Hospital, Brainerd
- TCBX
- Tepley Auto Body: 13th St., east side, building still there
- Thelen Heating & Roofing
- (3) Finnish Lutheran Church denominations -C -CD
- former Concrete Block Factory on 14th Street (not WW Thompson)-CD
- brick building on the east side of the RR tracks on Quince Street -CD

*This requires further study. When was 210 E. made to Crosby...in the 1910's during the mining days? How did one get there before then, out on Oak St. then across to the north on Cty. 25?

Ideas for 2017 Brainerd History Week:

- Booklet with the history of SE Brainerd

-A walking tour!

-Open Houses: Kampmann, Curling Club, Lakes Printing, Washington & Harrison School, churches, Industrial Park businesses, Shipman Auto Parts (We need to know if some of these are actually IN SE.)

-Parade in Frogtown, could be from NPC to Oak St., or around the Harrison School to avoid any streets closures or crossings.

-Many historic sites could be marked with a “historic marker”. Part of a successful event might be what lasting impression it left, not only on those that attended, but those that might review it later. A booklet is one physical way, and markers are another. Bredenberg Grocery, or the mines!

2016/1/20:

Mark,

Do you have a map or list of what delineates the sections of town? Case in point is that the 2017 Brainerd History Week Committee is going to feature SE Brd. I know the tracks delineates N from S at least in the main town, and I suppose the river west from the rest. Is it the ravine for NE? SE can be iffy!

2017/2/10: Still guessing, but based on Jeff’s comments below:

N: Anything N. of the E-W RR tracks, E. of the river on its W., ravine on its E.

NE: Ravine on its west, RR tracks on its south

SE: RR track to its north, abandoned RR tracks to its W.

S: River on its west, RR tracks on its north, abandoned RR tracks on it E.

SW: River to its east, RR tracks to its N.

NW: RR tracks to its south, river to its E.

Carl,

The delineation for Southeast Brainerd is **generally** considered to be the railroad grade on the north and the alignment of the abandoned Northern Pacific grade coming into town from the south on the westerly boundary, which would also be the easterly boundary of South Brainerd.

Hope this helps. -Jeff

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