

Fire.

The Jacobs & Toney business has survived three big fires. On May 4, 1930, a 4 a.m. fire woke Jimmy and nephew George Abbott. Louie and Anna were in Boston. Firemen had to work in the dark as electricity in town was off while high tension lines were being worked on. Hoses were run to the roof of the Music Hall to pour water on the fire, and confined it to the upper floor and attic in the rear. The Music Hall was saved from the fire.

## Warrensburgh

WARRENSBURGH, N. Y., THURSDAY, MAY 8, 1930

**Fire Wrecks Toney-Jacobs and Goldsmith Blocks Early Sunday**

The A&P was also in the Jacobs & Toney building. Destroyed by water and smoke, it reopened just 3 days later in the Woodward stone building across the street. Jacobs & Toney also reopened later in the year.

In 1950, the huge Music Hall next door burned, separated from their store only by a nine-foot-wide driveway. Numerous fire departments responded. The business was miraculously saved by hosing water on the south side of the store all night long while the enormous fire burned only nine feet away. Hoses were run up the stairs to the roof of the store to pour water on the fire from above. Susie and Anna made coffee and hundreds of sandwiches to feed the scores of firemen all night (photo page 5). The Music Hall was saved from the Jacobs & Toney fire in 1930, and Jacobs & Toney was saved from the Music Hall fire in 1950.

Oscar Quintal's meat business was in the Music Hall and was destroyed, as were Bertrand's Rexall Pharmacy and Orton & McCloskey's Funeral Home. A coffin containing a corpse in the funeral parlor was rescued and carried across the street to Judy Potter's souvenir shop beside the bandstand, thereby avoiding cremation.

The final fire was in 1986. Nick Jacobs' son was on leave from the navy, visiting his grandmother, Anna Jacobs. He went to bed, but was awakened by smoke at 11:30. The fire department responded quickly, but had Anna's grandson not been there, Anna and Susie would have perished. The fire fighters were almost in control, but in October the reservoir was low, and they ran out of water.



The arrow points to a sign that reads "Adirondack Candy Kitchen," which dates the photo pre-1929. Looks like one could buy gas at the drugstore. The big building is the Music hall.

*Photo : Warrensburgh Heritage Trail Website*



Woodward Block (stone): Masonic Lodge and Post Office. The store is directly behind the McNutt Fountain. Photo is from the Warrensburgh Museum of Local History.



Music Hall, 1940s. Adirondack Fruit Store at far left. *Photo: Warrensburgh Museum of Local History.*

**Toney's business diversifies.**

The population of Warrensburg grew considerably over the years, increasing by 65% from 1920 to 1970, creating a need for land to build new homes. Recognizing this, in 1971

Jack Toney and Bob Sweet bought the Maurice Ashe tract behind Ashe's Hotel by Echo Lake and sold it off as residential lots. This was the old County Fairgrounds with a half-mile race-track and grandstand.

Jack, Butch Middleton, Mike Lawler, and Cal Engle created a similar residential subdivision when they bought the Merrill-Magee property in 1978 as the population continued to grow. This was mostly pine forest and bordered the Maurice Ashe tract. Jack bought the old Wilsey farm north of the cemetery on Hudson Street about 2006 and developed the lots on Cloverleaf Drive. Before that, land he purchased from Bob Pasco on Truesdale Hill was subdivided and sold for building lots on both sides of the road.

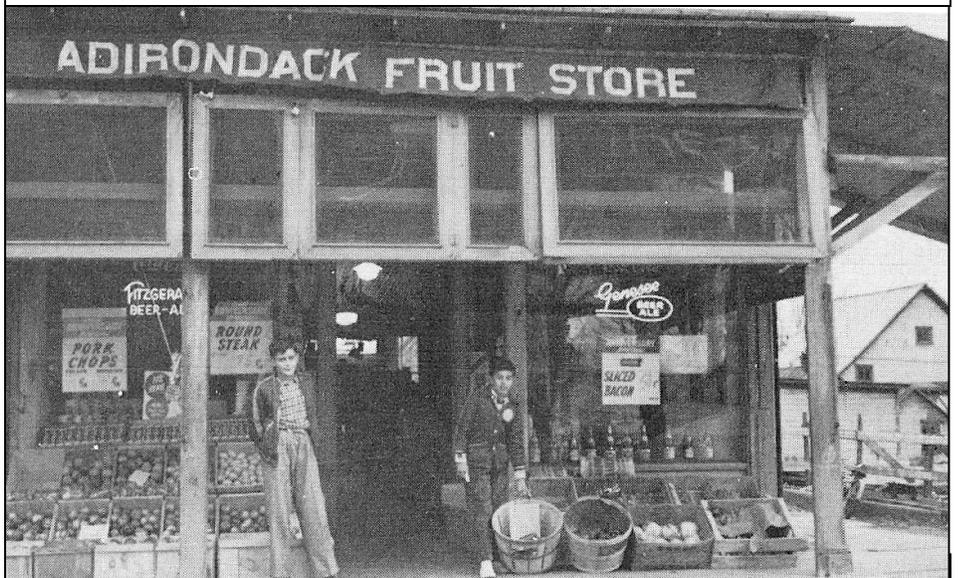
The growing number of residents assures a continuous supply of customers for the Deli and Meat Store of the North, probably for another hundred years.



Jimmy Toney pre-1948. [The sign that says "Woodward's" identifies Woodward's Funeral Home in the Music Hall. That business was sold to Orton & McCloskey in 1948.] Photo: Jennifer  
Ca 1920. The 2 cars are in front of the store when it started out as Jacobs & Co. Photo Warrensburg Museum of Local History collection.



Louie Jacobs and Jimmy Toney, early 1950s. Photo courtesy of Jennifer Toney Nadler.



Jack Toney and Bobbie Jacobs, 1950 or 1951. In the lower right of the photo, across the driveway, note the wooden fencing at the ruins of the Music Hall fire of 1950. Photo courtesy of Jennifer Toney

