

## *Mansion House*

*Are you looking for furniture. If you are, Mrs. E. C. Derby is looking for you. If you want to buy or think of buying a visit to her store before making your purchase will be to your interest.*

*She carries a complete stock which she is offering at prices that will astonish you learning them. A call at her store, opposite the Mansion house, will convince you to give her your trade—Mrs. E. C. Derby  
(The Marshfield Times, Marshfield, Wisconsin, June 14, 1895, p. 5)*

*The painter's brush, the carpenter's hammer and the mason's trowel have made a great change in the Mansion House since Mr. R. H. McMullen assumed management of the place. Right after arriving here McMullen started the improvement ball rolling, and up to the present time there has been no let up and the change of appearance is a marked one.*

*The Mansion House is no longer its former self. It is now supported by a stone foundation and will soon have underneath it a fine large cellar. All the rooms have been re-papered and carpeted and the house throughout renovated from cellar to garret. A new coat of paint covers the entire outer building and all in all it has an inviting appearance to the public. Mrs. McMullen is an experienced landlady and together they are bound to make the Mansion House a popular place.  
(The Marshfield Times, Marshfield, Wisconsin, June 25, 1897, p. 1)*

### *RAVAGES OF THE STORM FIEND.*

*Mansion House Suffers and the Residence of Frank Wadak is struck by lightning.*

*The rain, hail and electric storm Tuesday night was one of the severest storms this vicinity has experienced during the present season, and had it occurred a few weeks earlier would have done untold damage to standing crops. Hail stones of unusual size fell with great force, and a number of windows were broken in different parts of the city.*

*The greatest damage was done at the Mansion House which was in process of repair, the roof being partially removed and a portion of the building protected by a temporary covering of tar paper only. A majority of the occupants were compelled to leave their comfortable couches at the unseemly hour of 2 a.m. and seek shelter from the deluge of rain and ice in the better protected parts of the hotel, greatly disturbing the nights rest. The paper on the walls in the second story was completely ruined, and the storm will entail a loss upon Proprietor McMullen of between \$200 and \$300 in addition to the great discomfort and inconvenience.*



*The Mansion House, located on the northwest corner of South Chestnut Avenue and West Second Street as it appeared when it was first built shortly after Marshfield's Great Fire of 1887. (North Wood County Historical Society)*

*The repairs on the building were continued Wednesday with a large crew of workmen and the improvements will be completed with all haste. The roof has been; raised, adding another story fitted with gable and dormer windows, and when finished Mr. McMullen will have a large and commodious hotel building, which he has raised from one story to three.*

*At about the same time that the Mansion House was flooded, lightning struck the dwelling house of Frank Wadak in the third ward doing considerable damage to the rear portion of the building but not disturbing the occupants who were in the front of the house and felt no shock.*

*(The Marshfield Times, Marshfield, Wisconsin, September 8, 1899, p. 1)*

*R.O Ray of Lake Mills has just concluded the purchase of the Mansion House from R.H. McMullen for \$10,000 and has taken possession.*

*(The Marshfield Times, November 2, 1900)*

### ***Mansion House***

*In the estimation of the traveling public, to say nothing of that of the domestic population, there is nothing which add so much to the prestige and attraction of a city as first-class hotel accommodations. Marshfield is in nowise behind her sister cities in this respect. Here are found cozy, comfortable hotels that afford all the*



*The Mansion House about 1930. Jim Varney, the proprietor, is on the left, the other individual is unknown. (photo supplied by Tom Varney)*

*conveniences of a home at reasonable rates. One of the most popular of these hotels is the mansion House, conducted by F. O. Ray. It is a three-story building, located on Second street, one block from Central avenue and tow blocks from the post office. It is neatly furnished throughout, and has thirty-two light, airy sleeping apartments. It is well heated and lighted and equipped with city water. The dining room is spacious, a well provisioned table is kept, the service is prompt and courteous and everything possible is done to promote the comfort of guests. The rates are*

*\$1.00 per day and a free bus*

*meets all incoming and outgoing trains; there is a good sample room for commercial men, and stabling in connection. In fact there is nothing lacking usually found in a first-class hotel. Mr. Ray is an agreeable and pleasant landlord and his house is well spoken of by citizens and traveling men alike.*

*(from the Marshfield Times, July 25, 1902)*

*Robert Schroeder is back at his old stand opposite the Mansion House, and always gives perfect satisfaction in horseshoeing and all kinds of blacksmith work. He wants to see his old customers.*

*(The Marshfield Times, Marshfield, Wisconsin, October 6, 1905, p. 7)*

*On Wednesday F. O. Ray exchanged the Mansion house property for the eighty acre farm of F. J. Deckert on Richfield street, the value of the property involved being \$24,000. Mr. Deckert will take possession of the hotel November. He is an experienced hotel man and will make the business a success. Mr. Ray may occupy the farm, which is one of the finest in the state.*

*J. J. Varney of the Park Hotel last week closed a deal whereby he becomes the proprietor of the Mansion House, and he expects to take possession of the same about October 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Varney bought the hotel from E. F. Mertz of Milwaukee. Who recently traded Jos. F. Deckert 800 acres of southern land for the same. The purchase price was \$10,500 and the proprietor intends to spend several hundred dollars in improvements on the building and furnishings.*



*The Mansion House, located on the northwest corner of South Chestnut Avenue and West Second Street. A third floor was added sometime prior to this picture taken in the 1890's. (photo from the North Wood County Historical Society)*

*the barn, which is a concrete and stone building, and work on the improvements was started at once. An up-to-date heating plant is being installed.*

*J. P. O'Connell, agent for the Overland, will make his headquarters at the new location and will have the management of the garage. He has twenty-two cars for storage, eleven to overhaul and has a shipment of new cars on the way.*

*(The Marshfield Times, Marshfield, Wisconsin, January 19, 1916, p. 1)*

*A general employment office for the use of all who are seeking work will be opened tomorrow morning in the county welfare office in the old Mansion House...*

*The Marshfield News Herald, July 1, 1937)*

*Mr. Varney is a capable hotel man, but has been handicapped for room at the Park Hotel, and on account of his large trade he was compelled to secure a place with more room.*

*(The Marshfield Times, Marshfield, Wisconsin, September 19, 1906, p. 1)*

*Announcement was made yesterday that the Hub City Auto garage would be removed soon from its present location in the McMillan building, opposite the city hall, to the former Mansion House barn on West Second Street. Landlord J. J. Varney of the Mansion House let a contract yesterday to Krasin Brothers for the complete remodeling of*

*The Mansion House, a Marshfield landmark for the past half century, will soon join the list of Marshfield buildings that are no longer more than memories.*

*Workmen this week began the task of razing the ancient structure which was erected more than 50 years ago on the site of the Traveler's Home, operated by the late Felix LaPointe, pioneer Marshfield hotel man, prior to the fire of 1887.*

*Shortly after the Traveler's Home was destroyed by the blaze which consumed a large portion of the city in June, 1887, LaPointe built the Mansion House to replace it.*

*It was operated as a hotel until about five years ago, and was later used as headquarters for the local welfare office. During recent months it has been unoccupied.*

*The property on which the old building stands has been purchased by Lloyd L. Felker, who said today that he has no definite plans for the use of the site at present, but will have the old building razed and will then erect a small service station on the property.*

*The remainder of the large lot, he said, will merely be used as a parking lot and will be graveled for that purpose.*

*A service station formerly located on the property, north of the Mansion House itself, has been moved across Chestnut Street. The Mansion House is located on the corner of Chestnut and W. Second Street. (The Marshfield News Herald, October 21, 1939)*

*The Mansion House, an early-day Marshfield hotel stood at the corner of South Chestnut and West Second Streets for more than a half a century. It was one of the scores of buildings, which rose quickly in the new Marshfield after the great fire of 1887.*

*The Mansion House was the successor of the Traveler's Home, which occupied the same corner and burned in the great fire of 1887. The Traveler's Home was a smaller hotel, which had been erected by Mr. and Mrs. Abraham Allie on land purchased shortly after the Wisconsin Central Railroad was put through the area.*

*Abraham Allie died in January 1883, and in May 1885 Mrs. Allie was married to Felix LaPoint, and they continued to operate the Traveler's Home until its destruction by fire June 27, 1887. Their new hotel, also named the Traveler's Home, continued to be operated by the LaPoints for a decade or more. Future owners probably changed the name from Traveler's Home to Mansion House.*

*A Marshfield News, Special Edition, dated October 2, 1890, described the "Travelers' Home" and its proprietor, Felix LaPoint, this way:*

*"The owner and proprietor of the house that bears the above name ranks among the first settlers of this section and is honored with the distinction of being the pioneer landlord and also among the most genial, liberal, enterprising and popular businessmen. He came to the United States from Montreal, Canada, where he was born, and to Marshfield 12 years ago, soon afterwards engaging in the hotel business. His hotel is well located and does a good paying business with traveling men and first-class boarders. It is a large substantial frame building 34x60 feet, and contains about 22 rooms all comfortably furnished, while rates per day or week are made very low considering the accommodations and fare secured. The Traveler's Home also has a large farmers' trade, which may be accounted for in the fact that the landlord furnishes them excellent stabling and team privileges, but may be aside from the fact that he has become so well known during his residence here also accounts for the patronage. The stable is 28x85 feet and presided over by a competent hostler. Mr. La-*

*Point makes a popular and obliging landlord and no man has ought but good to say of him."*

*The LaPoints sold the hotel to Robert McMullen, probably about the turn of the century. McMullen kept the hotel only a few years before selling to Fred Ray of Lake Mills. A few years later the hotel became the possession of James J. Varney. Mr. Varney was proprietor of the Mansion House until his death. A short time later the hotel was closed.*

*During the depression, the building was used as headquarters for the Marshfield office of the Wood County Welfare Department for two years. When the department moved to another location, the hotel stood vacant. In 1939, the property was purchased by Lloyd Felker, torn down and replaced by a filling station.*

*(Marshfield News-Herald, October 28, 1939)*



*The old Mansion House shortly before being razed in 1939. (Donald Schnitzler Collection)*

*Editorial: An Old Landmark is razed. The Old Mansion House has disappeared--torn down to make way for a much smaller building but one much more modern and purposeful. It was a landmark and there is the usual amount of resentment at its removal...*

*(The Marshfield News Herald, November 24, 1939)*

*The Lloyd L. Felker Co., this week announced the opening of its new central parking and service station on the site of the old Mansion House, across Second Street from the Post Office...*

*(The Marshfield News Herald, December 16, 1939)*

## *MANSION HOUSE*

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*Also see stories on:*

*\*The Traveler's Home (coming soon)*

*\*Felker Company Story (coming soon)*

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*If you have any additional information (including pictures) regarding this business or location, we would really appreciate you contacting us and sharing. We will add information whenever possible.*

*For questions, or for sharing additional information, please contact us at [schnitz1@charter.net](mailto:schnitz1@charter.net). Please include what story the information relates to. Attach your text information in the form of a word document, please no PDF's. Photos should preferably be in jpeg format.*

*For additional stories on the historical sights and businesses of Marshfield, visit our website at: <http://www.marshfieldgenealogy.com/QR-Codes-of-Historical-Marshfield.html>.*