

# Survey of Towanda Shows All Businesses Affected by War Except the Postoffice

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Pantagraph Reporter in Towanda.

TOWANDA.—Let's take a walk down Main street and see how the war has affected the business of a small town of 400.

The corner oil station, formerly operated by the Hirst brothers, William and Lewis, (now in service) has been taken over by the village mayor. Percy Miller serves the customers, when they drive in for four gallons, from the A book instead of by those three little words "fill 'er up."

## No Change!

Up the street is the war information center formerly known as the WPA library, where Mrs. Annabel Cary smiles and serves you with a choice of 900 books, a recreation for many during the gas and tire rationing. With the discontinuance of WPA government funds Feb. 1, we wonder what the future holds for this almost indispensable asset.

Next a neat little office formerly that of Dr. S. J. Huerta, recently vacated when he went to serve Uncle Sam. Then the postoffice with Mrs. Amelia Crichton as postmaster.

## There's Been No Change Here!

Yes, we have a pool hall. The former owner, Robert Michael, is now in defense work in Kalamazoo, Mich. Next owner in line was Howard Jorgensen, who was inducted into the army. Now it is being operated by Frank Eastwood.

Now we step into a small grocery store which has been operated by Mrs. Emma Tyler for several years, mecca for school kids where they nibble on a nickel sandwich served by Mrs. Tyler. Mrs. Tyler has a son, Harold, in the service and a son, Gerald, who is employed in defense work in Wilmington.

## Resumes Practice.

Let's open the door to the drug store where life can be happy with the high school pupils milling around the tables drinking cokes and spinning yarns. Harlan Jenkins owned and operated the store for many years. He's now employed as chemist by the government at Gary, Ind., so his wife stepped in. She is assisted by a high school senior, Dorothy Arnette.

Then the Towanda State bank building, once a bank but for several months now a doctor's office, as Dr. S. S. Boulton picks up the reins after 30 years to carry on for the duration. Taking care of the sick and blessed events in a small country home by the light of a kerosene lamp brings back memories.

Now the W. L. Hirst grocery store owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. Hirst for more than a quarter of a century. Since the clerk, Robert Spence, left for the service, the women do the work. Mrs. Lolabell Cary is assisting while it keeps one person busy making out taxes, reports and rationing coupons.

Another few steps and the grocery store of C. O. Miller, who is now working in defense. Mrs. Miller took over with the assistance of Madeline McReynolds, but now Mrs. Miller is closing out the stock to join her husband at Wilmington.

Last in line on Main street is the barber shop owned and operated by William Marsh for more than a quarter of a century. His son, William Jr., is serving his country so his father takes over alone but there are no more barber shop quartets to warble "Sweet Adeline." Instead, the boys sing "Praise the Lord and Pass the Ammunition." In connection with the barber shop is the beauty parlor operated by Mrs. Murry Livingston, and what woman can miss the chance of a fresh hair-do as a lifter upper for morale.

So the survey taken of a small town shows that the war has affected all but one place of business, the postoffice.

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