TROESTER'S CLOTHING STORE

On September 15, 1982, employees at Troester's Clothing Business celebrated their 60th year of business. There are few businesses today in the Kirksville area that have had the honor of such a long operation.

Carl A. Troester was born on October 18, 1884, and raised in Kirksville. While in his late twenties he opened the Carl A. Troester's Clothing Store on September 1, 1922. It was located at 118 South Franklin Street which is now Alexander's Studio. When his son Adelbert "Del" M. Troester was in junior high, he began to work part-time after school for his father. When asked what jobs he did, Del replied, "I used to wash windows, clean spittoons, run errands and do odd jobs." Troester's Clothing sold men's and boy's clothing, which included Knickerbocker Clothes for boys and Dutchess Trousers for men and boys.

In August of 1930 a fire began next door at the Princess Drug Store. Carl's son Del remembers, "The fire department called my dad at 3 o'clock in the morning. Dad rushed up to the store and tried to open the door, and the fire chief told him not to." The fire was so hot, the fire chief was afraid opening the door would burn him. The cause of the fire was never determined.

The fire forced the relocation of the Troester's Store. Its new location was at 117 South Franklin, which is now the northern half of Baldwins Biz-Mart. Troester's then had a fire sale; Del remembered taking the boxes of merchandise and putting them on big boards and going back and forth across the street.

Meanwhile, Mr. Leonard Poehlman, who owned the Princess Drug Store and Troester's building, tore down the charred remains of the two stores. He then started new construction of the present two-story Troester's building. It was completed in one year.

Carl A. Troester then moved his clothing store back to 120 South Franklin, which has served as its present location since late 1931.

During the 60 years of business, Troester's has had many new remodeling projects. The latest remodeling changes include new hanging of light fixtures, beams across the ceiling and rearrangement of merchandise inside the store. The latest complete remodeling was in 1972, their 50th year, when the Top Shop next door to Troester's opened.

Mr. Troester remained active in his store until his death on March 1, 1967, at the age of 85. The year after the fire, Del started working full-time, and when his father died, he took over the business. Adelbert Troester has managed Troester's Clothing for 50 years. When asked about the store, now that he is retired, he said, "I still enjoy working and be-
ing around the store, and as long as I'm in good health I will keep busy working there."

In July, 1981, the third generation of Troesters, Terry A., John G. and Kent A., Carl's grandsons, took over the clothing store. His granddaughter, Ann Troester Riley, is also involved in the store as a tailor. John A. Troester commented, "I enjoy working at the store, and I hope to see it stay on for generations."

Now a fourth generation of Troesters work in the store. Susan Troester, Scott Troester and Alicia Troester, who are Carl's great-grandchildren, work after school and on weekends.

Throughout the years, Troester's Clothing has supported Kirksville, Adair County and the northeast area in many ways. They have had stock in a Kirksville baseball team in the old Illinois-Missouri League, have stock in the Kirksville Industrial Development Corporation and have contributed to many KCOM drives and to the United Way. They belong to the Kirksville Chamber of Commerce, the Adair County Credit Bureau, the NMSU Quarterback Club, Purple Pride, and support many other college organizations.

The Troester family will continue to serve the Kirksville area with the finest in men's and boy's clothing. Their motto continues to be "Always quality clothing and the most up-to-date styles and colors... at fair prices."

*Top photo: This picture was taken in 1925 during an AOA National Convention parade. Troester's, as you can see, is in the background. Photo at right: Troester's Clothing Store, which is located at 120 South Franklin, in Kirksville.*

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