

LANCEY BLOCK 4236 PETROLIA LINE

Year Current Building Erected: 1880

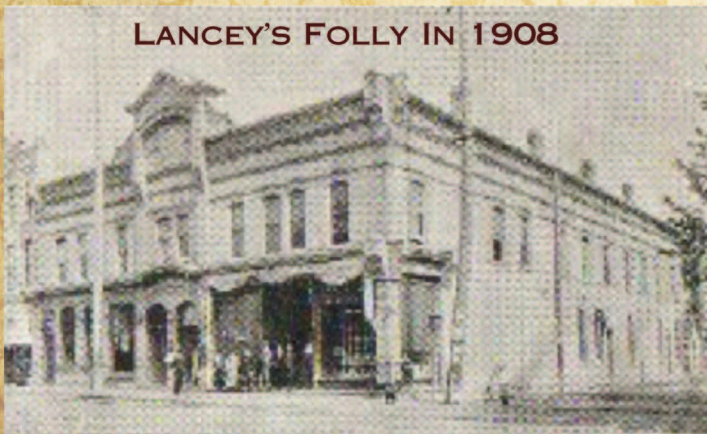
In 1880, H.W. Lancey built a large building across the street from Vaughn's Block. This was the 2nd brick building built in Petrolia. This structure was nicknamed 'Lancey's Folly', named after the original owner. There are a few different stories behind the nickname. One, being that since the block was so far west of the bridge, that H.W. Lancey was crazy (since most businesses were in the east end at the time), and thus the building was a 'folly'. The second rumour has it that Mr. Lancey jokingly named it 'Lancey's Folly' because an oil bust occurred during the building's construction.



HOME TO LAMBTON KENT CREAMERIES IN 1946

Occupants of the building included Scarbrook's grocery, the Grand Theatre- a theatre that featured moving pictures back in the day, and the Lambton Kent Creamery- a very successful dairy production company. Ironically, for ten years back in the 19th century, the town's two newspapers, the Advertiser and the Topic, shared the building, despite a bitter rivalry between them. On a side note, the then Advertiser's publisher, Richard Herring, had absolutely no patience with his debtors and was angered when unpaid subscribers had the nerve to die on him!

Back in the oil boom days, nitro-glycerine production was abundant. However, much to the dismay of several townsfolk, the substance found its way into Lancey's Folly. Albert Scarsbrook once received a complaint that strange fluids were falling out a 2nd story window in the building, and he quickly ran upstairs to find Mrs. Kathleen Stokes (who owned a nitro plant with her late husband on Eureka St.) making nitro-glycerine in her own bedroom!



LANCEY'S FOLLY IN 1908

Lancey's Folly was demolished in 1964 to make room for a Nick's Sunoco Service Station.

Current location occupant(s):

Crabby Joes

Original building occupant(s):

Lancey's Dry Goods, Petrolia Advertiser Office

Original location occupant(s):

George Watson's Tinsmith Shop

Previous occupants:

Lambton-Kent Creameries, Scarsbrook Grocery, The Grand Theatre, apartments upstairs, Law Offices of Moncreif & Wilson, & Nick's Garage, Lambton Dairy Bar, Petrolia Hospitality Group



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