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# Correspondence: Readers recall the cashew splits, and 'record booths' of F.W. Woolworth



(<http://connect.syracuse.com/user/skirst/index.html>) By Sean Kirst | [skirst@syracuse.com](mailto:skirst@syracuse.com)  
(<http://connect.syracuse.com/user/skirst/posts.html>)

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*My column Tuesday ([http://www.syracuse.com/kirst/index.ssf/2013/02/post\\_431.html](http://www.syracuse.com/kirst/index.ssf/2013/02/post_431.html)) on the possibility that Rite Aid might restore the original facade of the old F.W. Woolworth building on South Salina Street brought a passionate - and wonderful - response from many readers. Rite Aid recently completed a renovation and expansion of the interior of the store, including a larger grocery section for downtown residents, and the idea of the building regaining some lost vitality seemed to touch a community nerve.*

*The recollections often centered on shared memories of the old "five and dimes," from the taste and aroma of roasted cashews to the elaborate Christmas displays that used to go up for every yuletide in the store windows.*

*Many readers were also wistful about the days when they could get ice cream at Woolworth's - a memory of particular resonance on the day that Gannon's Isle announced **it will open a year-round ice cream parlor in downtown Syracuse** ([http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2013/02/gannons\\_isle\\_to\\_open\\_year-roun.html](http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2013/02/gannons_isle_to_open_year-roun.html)).*

*Here are some of the notes we received:*

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The downtown F.W. Woolworth store, in its heyday: There is talk of restoring the historic facade. The clock above the main door still exists, beneath a metal cover.

*Courtesy Onondaga Historical Association*

## To Sean Kirst:

In the very early 1960's, starting at the age of 14, I worked on Saturdays at Ebelings Pet and Garden Supply Store on Warren Street, which was owned by my father, Fred Mitchell. After my work day was over, I would walk up to F. W. Woolworth to catch the bus home. If time allowed, and I tried very hard to make it allow, I would go into the Woolworth store and purchase a quarter pound of roasted cashew nuts at the lunch counter. They were glorious -- the warm bag in my

hand, with a wonderful aroma and a nice soft crunch. I would enjoy them while riding home on the bus and later on, if there were any left.

Joyce Wickham

**Sean,**

My first job as a teenager was with Woolworth's in the late 60's. Boy, was it the place to work during those years.

Everyone my age was trying to get a part-time job there as it was so much fun. They had a nice lunch room upstairs and we took advantage of the sights from the window on Salina Street. It was the center of downtown with its colorful displays, Christmas decorations and special sales.

The pet department was especially popular for the children as they had a variety of birds. The candy counter was particularly tempting as they carried different kinds of candies and nuts. I will never forget the fruit slices they had in all flavors. In front, were the delicious baked goods and to the right of that you could stop in and get an ice cream.

It really was a one-stop store for clothes, meals, jewelry, and food. It really helped that Woolworth's was at the main bus stop and everyone would run in to buy a small amount of candy for chance. In those days, the store was actually responsible for decorating their own windows and to do so you would have to crawl through a trap door. I can recall putting up the Christmas tree with the puppets that ran by battery.

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After Christmas, it was fun to do inventory by hand. To run a register was quite an art as you had to literally strike the keys very hard and firm to ring up a sale. They did not run by electricity but were made of wood.

Seeing the old Woolworth's sign brought back a lot of memories of the days gone by when things were simpler and shopping was one-stop on a busy street in downtown Syracuse.

Marie Vertigan

**Sean,**

I was a graduate student at Syracuse University in 1965-66. I did not have a car and lived on James Street. Consequently I had to transfer from an SU area bus to one that went to James. During by wait, I sometimes would buy peanuts from Woolworth's, in bulk. But what fascinated me the most was the automatic doughnut maker just inside the store and, I believe, visible from outside.

Being a library science major at SU, the machine reminded me of one of my favorite children's stories. Would that someone would bring the doughnut maker back.

Don't remember the cost of a doughnut but you could buy just one fresh warm one. Ever since childhood that machine captured my fascination.

Jackie Pavese

**To Sean Kirst:**

I can remember making one last stop before heading home after shopping in downtown Syracuse. We would always go to the bakery counter in the front of the store and get a Banana Cream Cake Roll to take home. A lady in a white dress would put the cake in a white box and then pull string down from a large spool above to tie the box.

Nancy Sagar, Lincklaen Center, NY

**Hi Sean,**

I have memories of taking a taxi into East Syracuse with my best friend and her mother, then the bus downtown to Syracuse on Saturday afternoons when I was a young girl. We'd shop, then have lunch and finally see a movie at Loews State, Paramount or RKO Keith's. One Saturday in December I had money in my pocket to buy my mother a Christmas present. I found the perfect gift in Woolworth's. It was a beautifully wrapped, box of embroidered handkerchiefs. My mother loved them!

I also have a question about the photograph that was published with your Post Standard article about Woolworth's: Do you know the words etched into the first floor

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of Lincoln's department store, next door to Woolworth's? I couldn't make it out, even with a magnifying glass. I do recall that Lincoln's was originally McCarthy's.

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Peg Hogan, East Syracuse

*I don't. Let me ask the folks at the Onondaga Historical Association if they can make out the words. - Sean*

**To Sean (a note from Facebook):**

I think my dad bought me my Christmas stocking there when I was a baby (I still have it). I loved shopping there with my mom ... and then when I was old enough to go downtown with my friends?! Woo hoo! We thought we were so cool and we did shop there. I remember getting our pics taken in a photo booth and we bought blue and green nail polish. Oh, yeah, cool before our time.

Tina

**Sean,**

I do remember Woolworths well. Starting in 1958, my Grandparents gave me a membership to the YMCA (\$8.00 per year). I would leave the house at 7:30 AM on Saturday mornings, walking to James Street to catch the bus downtown. In my pocket: Two bus tokens and fifty cents.

Debarking the bus on Salina Street and walking over to the Y on Montgomery Street for 8:00 AM swimming lessons: Swimming lessons ( a story in itself) over, we would go to woodworking/ craft projects, ending the morning with a 1930s serial movie, Tarzan and the like, one session each week.

Then, walking back to Salina street to Woolworths for a lunch of a hot dog (off the



In 1997, a big wind ripped the metal sign off the Rite Aid building and temporarily revealed the old exterior clock from F.W. Woolworth, frozen at 1:06 p.m. Rite Aid quickly put the sign back up, again hiding the clock.

Dick Case | The Post-Standard

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rolling hot dog grill) and a root beer for a cost of 25 cents. Then, out the front door of Woolworths to catch the bus to Eastwood, last token - to arrive at the Palace Theater for the Saturday matinee and an encounter with Frances, always a joy, last 25 cents gone.

Movie finished, a mile walk back down James Street Home. Saturdays spent in another time, in all weather, for several years. I was 11 years old when this began.

I also remember Woolworths at Christmas. Like everyone else in town, we 'bussed' downtown on Monday and/or Friday nights (even though we had a car, we always took the bus downtown) and sometimes during the day. Buying my Grandmother and Great Aunt felt house slippers for Christmas, as I remember they came in two color combinations, blue and gray or burgundy and gray ... giving each a different color and trying to remember which color they got the year before, the Christmas department filled with shiny bright tree ornaments and the like ... selecting Plaster of Paris painted animals to add to the nativity scene (still put out these 50-plus years later). A day trip often would bring a reward of a Butterscotch Almond Sundae with vanilla ice cream at one of the small tables at Schraffts.

Chick Roeschlaub

**To Sean (a note from Facebook):**

I remember the balloons that you got when you ordered a banana split that determined how much it would cost, from about a penny to a dollar. I got several for a penny. Really loved that! Got a lot of my crafting stuff there. Miss those old stores.

Kathleen

**Sean:**

**Dear Mr. Kirst:**

I have wonderful memories of working at Woolworth's when I was 15 years old. In those days you could get working papers at 14; if your grades were good in school one could get a job.

When one worked at Woolworth's you had to train for 3 weeks to work on the ribbon counter. When you worked in the material area, you also had additional training for measuring and cutting fabric. When I worked on the candy counter, an additional training period was required so you knew how to weigh, package and treat customers.

We were required to wear navy blue skirt, white top and shoes and socks. No jeans, cutoffs or anything else. I never even owned a pair of jeans when I was a teenager. You dressed for school and work. We earned about 30 cents per hour and this was during the middle 40's when most people were not making much more. I worked there until I

graduated from Eastwood High school. I was able to leave school at 1 pm, take a bus downtown and get off right across the street from the store, That is when the city was vibrant with many stores and people.

The buses were always full and there were always people waiting on all the corners to take a bus. Edwards had the overhead tram and all sorts of excitement going on. It was a wonderful time even though times were rough. Everyone was in the same boat and helped each other all the time. Unfortunately those days have been long gone but my memories of Woolworth and downtown remain vivid and enjoyable.

By the way, that was not my first job; the first was at 14 at Unger's in Eastwood where I was paid 20 cents per hour. My sister was faster so she got 29 cents per hour. I am sure many of your older Eastwood readers will remember Unger's. I left Unger's for the great job at Woolworth's.

Thank you.

Irene Oriend, Waterloo

**A phone conversation with Jeff Engler**, a graphic artist, who created the image that you see, just below his note, of a Rite Aid using the classic Woolworth's letters on the facade:

**Sean**, I know Rite Aid is a national company that wants to go with its logo, but I've seen (historic) buildings in other cities where companies go with more appropriate styles. I'd love to see them use the old golden Woolworth's letters, and I'd love to see them restore that clock.

Jeff



How Jeff Engler, a graphic artist, envisions the Rite Aid facade, using the historic F.W. Woolworth style.

*Design by Jeff Engler; photo courtesy Onondaga Historical Association*

**To: Sean Kirst**

I remember when my late mother, Betty Jean Stansbury Piekil, would take me to Woolworth's for lunch. We would have their club sandwiches and it was the biggest treat in the world for me. This was in the 60s.

My most vivid memory, though, is being with my mother in the store at Christmas. Oh, what

one could buy there - it was a child's dream. There was a

woman with a gaggle of children and she was carrying two huge bags (as big as today's large trash bags) apparently full of Christmas decorations. Exhausted by her children, she inadvertently let the bags drop and you could hear what seemed like a million ornaments smash. Both she and my mother (God bless her soul) bemoaned what happened together.

Brian Piekiet, Marcellus

**Mr. Kirst,**

When I was around 10 or 12-years-old, my girlfriend and I would walk downtown from the west side and go to Woolworth's and buy doll clothes for our dolls. When I was in my early-to-mid-teens, I would buy tangee lipstick and Blue Waltz perfume.

I remember my cousin worked there and my mother and I would stop and say 'hi' to her and then do some shopping there. The store had anything that you needed.

Lorraine Daloia, Syracuse

**Hi Sean,**

I worked at F. W. Woolworth 1955; it was my first job and I was so proud.

I worked the card and candy counter at the front of the store, after school and on weekends for 75 cents an hour.

Margaret Hampton was the manager and if she liked you, at holiday time after the store closed, you went to the top floor and filled bags with holiday candy. That was a treat. Also, extra hours meant extra money in the pay envelope. They paid you in cash so you could use it right away. There were no electric cash registers that told you how much change to return to the customer. Everything was manual and it took time to ring up a sale and then the sales tax then count back the change to the customer.

Those were the days when we were all care free with not a care in the world and Rock and Roll was just starting.

The stores had booths with doors on them so you could go into a booth and play your favorite records without buying them.

Thank you for letting me reminisce.

Patricia (Stemmler) Calpeter

**Sean,**

Not really a story, but the one memory that stands out most, to me, about Woolworth's

downtown were the door handles ... they were embossed with the words "deliciously air-conditioned". Even being in middle school at the time (taking the bus downtown with friends was a big deal) I remember thinking this building was built at a time when air conditioning was not the standard, and worth calling attention to! I wonder how many other people remember that?

Thanks  
David Senecal

**Mr. Kirst,**

I read with interest you article about the old Woolworth store on Salina Street in this morning's "Post Standard." My father, Thomas J. McMurray managed that store for about ten years from approximately 1952 until 1962. I certainly have many memories of those years. I attended Cathedral High School for about two years during that time so stopped in to see him often. It warms my heart to see that those terrible metal panels are coming down and that a bit of the former building will be restored.

Regards,

Joan Hagenzieker

**Sean,**

The picture in your column brought back many memories. I worked at the Lincoln Store during high school in the late 50's, frequented Woolworth's and waited for my Syracuse Transit bus in front of Lincoln's for the ride home. Dinner break at Lincoln's was usually a fast trip to the White Tower around the corner on South Warren Street.

Downtown was still bustling in those days with the shopping centers, primarily Shoppingtown as a strip mall just getting revved up.

Richard Sparrow

**Sean,**

Would love to see Rite Aid bring back the original large glass windows that would light up at night with their products. Sad the way the building looks today. Can't believe our city officials let them do that in the 70's.

With all the apartments opening up around Rite Aid, (store officials) could see a pickup in business. Hope the talks continue and they make the commitment to fix-up or restore the building.

I saw a comment online to your story where someone mentioned the Connective Corridor will go down Fayette Street and maybe some of the facade money could come from the \$'s being offered to businesses to improve their storefronts.



Gerard Carroll

- You can leave a comment here **email Sean Kirst.**  
**(mailto:skirst@syracuse.com)**

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**Sean Kirst | skirst@syracuse.com**  
**(<http://connect.syracuse.com/user/skirst/index.html>)**

A note from Mark Farrington, a reader and a longtime downtown historian:

Sean,

Just when I was going to lie low for a while, you HAD to pull me back with these two recent classics of yours.

The prospect of real life coming back to such a very CENTRAL corner of downtown seems almost too good to be true. Not to mention having a top-notch ice cream parlor in that area, again. Think of the foot traffic this would restore to South Salina Street...In fact, in the same building that housed Schrafft's (which was on the "back" or Warren Street side of the building, and to the South) ! Wouldn't it be a hoot if this new Gannon's had an old-style "lunch counter"; ceiling fans; maybe even hardwood floors (Politically Incorrect as that might be, today). The last time I can remember having a ice cream soda, in one of THOSE, was around 1973, in Saratoga Springs, at the old J. J. Newberry's - a chain of department stores which always had those counters.

The great thing about all this is that, even in THIS economy, it is so DO-ABLE.

Last but not least, Gannon's ice cream is as good as, or even greater than, what Shrafft's had in the old days.

Mark E. Farrington  
East Syracuse, NY

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**justsayin (<http://connect.syracuse.com/user/teakchic/index.html>)**

My mother managed the Toy Department from the early 70's until it closed. When I turned 16, I worked at Woolworth's for the Christmas

**://connect.syracuse.com** season. My brother and I spent many days in that store. The lunch counter was the best, especially the BLT's. The break room was up on the top floor with a view like no other. I would be great for Rite Aid to bring back the original facade. That building has so many memories for so many people,

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**WhatMeWorry?** (<http://connect.syracuse.com/user/anscocam/index.html>)

Lots of great names and memories on this page. Also, in the top photo is part of a sign which was probably on the roof of the old Onondaga Hotel on Warren St.

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**funghoul2** (<http://connect.syracuse.com/user/funghoul2/index.html>)

In case anyone remembers. The comment posted by Fungoul2 is Nino Prince.

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**funghoul2** (<http://connect.syracuse.com/user/funghoul2/index.html>)

**://connect.syracuse.com/user/fun**

I also worked at Woolworths at the age of 14 years old. I worked in the food Dept. and did just about everything from scrapng cookie trays to working on the lunch counter and also the hotdog stand. I made the most gigantic banana splits ever and was yelled at by my boss (Joe Rodriguez) many times. When I worked the lunch counter, noone ever left hungry as a growing boy, I would dispense food as if I was going to eat it myself. On the hotdog stand I also ate 26 hotdogs in 1 day and was never so sick in my life after that day.

**ghoul**  
2 Loved those hotdogs on the roller and whenever I come accross a place that sells them and I get that delightful aroma,I can't resist buying one. In conclusion I would like to say the first time I ever saw my wife it was in 1955 when I was waiting for my bus home and she walked by with her friend who I knew. We formally met 5 years later and have been together ever since. We have been married for 52 1/2 years. Woolworths will always be imbedded happily in my mind.

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**107griffin** (<http://connect.syracuse.com/user/107griffin/index.html>)

Reply to sudaytona: That was the Empire Theater (in the Empire Bldg) Also remember the Tid-Bit Shop next to the Paramount with the large soda fountain. P.S. Hey Sean this reminds me of the Elmwood Blog, maybe you are on to something here!

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**Sean Kirst | skirst@syracuse.com**  
(<http://connect.syracuse.com/user/skirst/index.html>)

i was thinking the same thing; some other commenters made similar points. i need to find some way to give readers the chance to do this more routinely; i also had a similar response, for instance, to a piece on suburban park.

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**Sean Kirst | skirst@syracuse.com**  
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... and an equally torrid response to a piece on

**connect**  
**.syra**

the old carroll's restaurants. i still get notes from people in other parts of the country who stumble into it and ask, wistfully: isn't there at least one carroll's still open?

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**Sean Kirst | [skirst@syracuse.com](mailto:skirst@syracuse.com)**  
**(<http://connect.syracuse.com/user/skirst/index.html>)**

a note from a reader:

Sean, I remember my friends and I riding our bikes downtown to buy 45 records at the record shop across the street from Woolworths. We would then go over to Woolworths to the counter and get a hotdog and a coke for 25 cents. just enough to get us back to the far north side. that was the best counter food in town.

John S.

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**Sean Kirst | [skirst@syracuse.com](mailto:skirst@syracuse.com)**  
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Another note from a reader (I especially relate to this one, because, as a 3-or4-year-old, I once 'sprung' a bunch of parakeets at a Grant's in a strip plaza in Dunkirk):

Sean,

I just saw your comments regarding the Woolworth article and wanted to add my memories. In 1960-62 I went to school at Cathedral and took the bus from East Syracuse down town. I was able to get a part time job at Woolworths in the Pet Department. If anyone remembers,



I was the guy running around the store with the net trying to catch the birds that the kids would let out of the cage when no one was looking. Great memories.

Jim Ray, Atlanta, GA

 (<http://syracuse.com/>)

3 Hours Ago ([http://syracuse.com/kirst/index.ssf/2013/02/post\\_433.html/post/2013-02-28/1362061502-609-550.html](http://syracuse.com/kirst/index.ssf/2013/02/post_433.html/post/2013-02-28/1362061502-609-550.html))

· [Reply](#)



**DumpDoug (<http://connect.syracuse.com/user/FatKathy/index.html>)**

After an afternoon of shopping with my mom at Edward's, Lincoln Dept Store, Day Brothers, and Addis Company, we would make our way to Woolworth's to wait for the bus, and enjoy a fresh cinnamon twist donut.

 (<http://syracuse.com/>)

3 Hours Ago ([http://syracuse.com/kirst/index.ssf/2013/02/post\\_433.html/post/2013-02-28/1362060770-335-369.html](http://syracuse.com/kirst/index.ssf/2013/02/post_433.html/post/2013-02-28/1362060770-335-369.html))

· [Reply](#)



**dicksi (<http://connect.syracuse.com/user/dicksi/index.html>)**

Andre's was a strip club. Plenty of female dancers. Another highlight was being served at the bar by Ralph DeJohn, the oldest of the fighting De John's and a Light heavyweight contender in his prime.

 (<http://connect.syracuse.com/user/skirst/index.html>) Sean Kirst | [skirst@syracuse.com](mailto:skirst@syracuse.com) likes this.

 (<http://syracuse.com/>)

4 Hours Ago ([http://syracuse.com/kirst/index.ssf/2013/02/post\\_433.html/post/2013-02-28/1362060313-176-274.html](http://syracuse.com/kirst/index.ssf/2013/02/post_433.html/post/2013-02-28/1362060313-176-274.html))

· [Reply](#)



**Shirley Savlov ([http://connect.syracuse.com/user/shirley\\_savlov/index.html](http://connect.syracuse.com/user/shirley_savlov/index.html))**

Those were the "good old days." I remember them, too. Thanks for the memories!

 (<http://syracuse.com/>)

4 Hours Ago ([http://syracuse.com/kirst/index.ssf/2013/02/post\\_433.html](http://syracuse.com/kirst/index.ssf/2013/02/post_433.html))

(http://connect.syracuse.com)

com /post/2013-02-28/1362059061-113-331.html)

/user · [Reply](#)



**slandercuse (http://connect.syracuse.com/user/slandercuse/index.html)**

Here's a question for Sean: One that I've wondered for years. What is currently in the 2nd and 3rd floors of that building currently? Maybe an opportunity to do an investigation and take some pictures? Is it just storage for Rite Aid?

(http://syracuse.com/)

4 Hours Ago (http://syracuse.com/kirst/index.ssf/2013/02/post\_433.html/post/2013-02-28/1362058500-491-382.html)

· [Reply](#)



**Sean Kirst | skirst@syracuse.com (http://connect.syracuse.com/user/skirst/index.html)**

storage, from what i understand. i know the quiet dream, locally, is to transition those floors into residential; how cool would it be to live at that corner, with those windows? you've probably heard the same legend i've heard, that the old lunch counter is still packed away inside that building. i'll ask, although it may be nothing more than folklore. but i tell you what: like several other commenters on this thread, you've given me some great ideas for a followup on all of downtown. thank you!

(http://syracuse.com/)

4 Hours Ago (http://syracuse.com/kirst/index.ssf/2013/02/post\_433.html/post/2013-02-28/1362058925-726-556.html)

· [Reply](#)



**slandercuse (http://connect.syracuse.com/user/slandercuse/index.html)**

(http://connect.syracuse.com/user/slandercuse/index.html) Thanks for writing back, interesting to know!

(http://syracuse.com/)

2 Hours Ago (http://syracuse.com/kirst/index.ssf/2013/02/post\_433.html/post/2013-02-28/1362066642-335-223.html)

connect.syracuse.com/user/slandercuse/

dercu  
se



**swflguy** (<http://connect.syracuse.com/user/swflguy/index.html>)

Gotta love the Tino's reference. We'd hop on the Avery or Milton bus downtown to a movie. There were several to choose from back in those days and they weren't at cineplexes. After the movie, we'd walk back, but stop in at Tino's for some pizza before heading home. Was a great time to be a teenager.

(<http://syracuse.com/>)

4 Hours Ago ([http://syracuse.com/kirst/index.ssf/2013/02/post\\_433.html/post/2013-02-28/1362057873-789-181.html](http://syracuse.com/kirst/index.ssf/2013/02/post_433.html/post/2013-02-28/1362057873-789-181.html))

· [Reply](#)



**dicksi** (<http://connect.syracuse.com/user/dicksi/index.html>)

The restaurant on south Salina was Lorenzos and the movie north of it was the Paramount.

(<http://syracuse.com/>)

6 Hours Ago ([http://syracuse.com/kirst/index.ssf/2013/02/post\\_433.html/post/2013-02-28/1362053331-149-538.html](http://syracuse.com/kirst/index.ssf/2013/02/post_433.html/post/2013-02-28/1362053331-149-538.html))

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**Danielle Snow** ([http://connect.syracuse.com/user/danielle\\_snow/index.html](http://connect.syracuse.com/user/danielle_snow/index.html))

Andre's Tic Toc Club was at the northwest corner of Adams and S.Salina.The building is still there,across from the Bus Hub.Go around to the back of the building,on the Adams street side,where the small parking lot is.On the back wall you can enjoy spray painted graffiti that has been there since 1967.They painted "1967" on the wall,and it's still there with the kids names(one named Fanny) after 46 years.

(<http://connect.syracuse.com/user/skirst/index.html>) Sean Kirst | [skirst@syracuse.com](mailto:skirst@syracuse.com) likes this.

(<http://syracuse.com/>)

6 Hours Ago ([http://syracuse.com/kirst/index.ssf/2013/02/post\\_433.html/post/2013-02-28/1362052831-366-125.html](http://syracuse.com/kirst/index.ssf/2013/02/post_433.html/post/2013-02-28/1362052831-366-125.html))

· [Reply](#)





**Sean Kirst | skirst@syracuse.com**  
**(<http://connect.syracuse.com/user/skirst/index.html>)**

now i've got to get over and see those names. so let me ask: what kind of club was andre's? rock'n'roll? blues? what they used to call - God, how old does this make me - a 'go go'?

 (<http://syracuse.com/>)

**4 Hours Ago** ([http://syracuse.com/kirst/index.ssf/2013/02/post\\_433.html/post/2013-02-28/1362058323-325-100.html](http://syracuse.com/kirst/index.ssf/2013/02/post_433.html/post/2013-02-28/1362058323-325-100.html))

· [Reply](#)



**WhatMeWorry? (<http://connect.syracuse.com/user/anscocam/index.html>)**

I think Andre's would be in the "adult/shady" category, although I never went there.

 (<http://syracuse.com/>)

**1 Hour Ago** ([http://syracuse.com/kirst/index.ssf/2013/02/post\\_433.html/post/2013-02-28/1362069901-395-794.html](http://syracuse.com/kirst/index.ssf/2013/02/post_433.html/post/2013-02-28/1362069901-395-794.html))



**Sean Kirst | skirst@syracuse.com**  
**(<http://connect.syracuse.com/user/skirst/index.html>)**

a note from a reader:

Hi Sean,

Even though I've lived in Florida for 20 years, I fondly remember F.W. Woolworth very well. My mother worked at City Opticians since I was a little girl, when it was on Fayette Street. Every Saturday during the mid-60's I'd go to work with her and "help" open up the eyeglass cases before opening time. Then the rest of the day was mine! After going swimming at the YWCA, I'd enjoy delicious ice cream at Woolworth's. I think I even made more than one trip each Saturday for ice cream. I wonder if Mom ever knew!

How times have changed. Now City Opticians is in the old Dey Brothers building, if I'm not mistaken. I love keeping up with my Salt City news reading your articles!

Linda Berg


 (<http://syracuse.com/>)  
14 Hours Ago ([http://syracuse.com/kirst/index.ssf/2013/02/post\\_433.html/post/2013-02-27/1362023665-697-270.html](http://syracuse.com/kirst/index.ssf/2013/02/post_433.html/post/2013-02-27/1362023665-697-270.html))  
· [Reply](#)



**swflguy** (<http://connect.syracuse.com/user/swflguy/index.html>)

I've been asking for years to have a nostalgia forum on this site. It would be a great place for folks to chat about the old days and the great times we had. Is anyone listening?


 (<http://connect.syracuse.com/user/sudaytona/index.html>) sudaytona likes this.

 (<http://syracuse.com/>)  
14 Hours Ago ([http://syracuse.com/kirst/index.ssf/2013/02/post\\_433.html/post/2013-02-27/1362022570-459-887.html](http://syracuse.com/kirst/index.ssf/2013/02/post_433.html/post/2013-02-27/1362022570-459-887.html))  
· [Reply](#)




**Sean Kirst** | [skirst@syracuse.com](mailto:skirst@syracuse.com)  
(<http://connect.syracuse.com/user/skirst/index.html>)

it's a great idea. the interesting thing would be if we could somehow break it down by neighborhoods, or districts, and have conversation both about what was and what might be coming. i've been thinking about it for years, since some early forays with elmwood and the near west side and butternut street really exploded with passionbate reader interest. that's a long way of saying: absolutely. we're listening.

 (<http://connect.syracuse.com/user/barefootinfl/index.html>) barefootinfl and

 ([http://connect.syracuse.com/user/joe\\_hennig/index.html](http://connect.syracuse.com/user/joe_hennig/index.html)) Joe Hennig like this.

 (<http://syracuse.com/>)  
14 Hours Ago ([http://syracuse.com/kirst/index.ssf/2013/02/post\\_433.html/post/2013-02-27/1362023203-746-886.html](http://syracuse.com/kirst/index.ssf/2013/02/post_433.html/post/2013-02-27/1362023203-746-886.html))  
· [Reply](#)



**888er** (<http://connect.syracuse.com/user/888er/index.html>)

Chick Roeschlaub letter above reminded of the YMCA swim lessons.



**(http://connect.syracuse.com/post/2013-02-27/1362021561-70-181.html)** Did the same but came from the west side. Off the bus and down to the Y for swim lessons, and he's right, kinda weird back then, not all wore suits. But head up to the woodcrafts, waiting to play on the big pool table, jogging on the upper track that was sloped and looked down over the court, punching bags in the corner.

Walking back to woolworths for the bus walking past the Carmel Corn store, very small but oh did it smell good. After saving enough money, I'd buy models to build. Old cars, WWII planes (even with moving canopies PF47 I think) and after saving a long time, got the aircraft carrier it was huge and long time to build. Wish I had those now.

Downtown was a lot of fun back then.

 (<http://syracuse.com/>)

14 Hours Ago ([http://syracuse.com/kirst/index.ssf/2013/02/post\\_433.html/post/2013-02-27/1362021561-70-181.html](http://syracuse.com/kirst/index.ssf/2013/02/post_433.html/post/2013-02-27/1362021561-70-181.html))

· [Reply](#)



**bunny704** (<http://connect.syracuse.com/user/bootsiebaby621/index.html>)

I live on the North Side in the same house I lived in back in the 40's and 50's when my parents owned it and I worked at Emkay Candle Co. and I remember that on payday on Fridays a co-worker and I would walk to Tino's on Salina St. and buy a pizza for dinner and then we would walk downtown to shop. I remember buying lipstick at Woolworth's for 10 cents a tube. I also worked at Kresge's for a while in the candy department. This was in the early 50's and I sure do miss those days. I wish we could wave a magic wand and bring them back.

 (<http://connect.syracuse.com/user/barefootinfl/index.html>) barefootinfl likes this.

 (<http://syracuse.com/>)

15 Hours Ago ([http://syracuse.com/kirst/index.ssf/2013/02/post\\_433.html/post/2013-02-27/1362020446-799-509.html](http://syracuse.com/kirst/index.ssf/2013/02/post_433.html/post/2013-02-27/1362020446-799-509.html))

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**(http://connect.syracuse.com/post/2013-02-27/1362020446-799-509.html)**

**Sean Kirst | [skirst@syracuse.com](mailto:skirst@syracuse.com)**  
(<http://connect.syracuse.com/user/skirst/index.html>)

a note from a reader, via Facebook:

One of my fondest "downtown" memories: My mum would give my sister and I fare for the bus from our house on

**com**  
**/user**

Westcott Street and a few quarters for Woolworths. What a rite of passage, to go downtown by ourselves like our older siblings!

Audrey

 (<http://syracuse.com/>)

13 Hours Ago ([http://syracuse.com/kirst/index.ssf/2013/02/post\\_433.html/post/2013-02-28/1362027934-18-398.html](http://syracuse.com/kirst/index.ssf/2013/02/post_433.html/post/2013-02-28/1362027934-18-398.html))

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**Jim Caiella** ([http://connect.syracuse.com/user/jim\\_caiella/index.html](http://connect.syracuse.com/user/jim_caiella/index.html))

This is a touch off topic, but wasn't Ed Guth's Hobbies close by? If I remember correctly, you almost had to know it was there to find it. It was a little door on Salina Street and a small narrow stairway opened into the most magical room a 12 year old could imagine. And I still have dozens of books from Economy Bookstore. And I rue the ones I couldn't afford because I didn't have an extra quarter or fifty cents.

 (<http://syracuse.com/>)

15 Hours Ago ([http://syracuse.com/kirst/index.ssf/2013/02/post\\_433.html/post/2013-02-27/1362019378-929-376.html](http://syracuse.com/kirst/index.ssf/2013/02/post_433.html/post/2013-02-27/1362019378-929-376.html))

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**Bill Robinson** ([http://connect.syracuse.com/user/bill\\_robinson\\_3/index.html](http://connect.syracuse.com/user/bill_robinson_3/index.html))

Great memories, just name a few more, WT Grants, Dey Bros, Busy Bee, EW Edwards, Wells & Coverly, Addis's, Lerner's, Mr Peanut, Carmel Corn and there was a Vegas Style Nightclub on Salina St on the same side as the Chimes Building. This has been fun!

 (<http://syracuse.com/>)

16 Hours Ago ([http://syracuse.com/kirst/index.ssf/2013/02/post\\_433.html/post/2013-02-27/1362015638-689-658.html](http://syracuse.com/kirst/index.ssf/2013/02/post_433.html/post/2013-02-27/1362015638-689-658.html))

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**sudaytona** (<http://connect.syracuse.com/user/sudaytona/index.html>)

(<http://connect.syracuse.com>)

I think it was "Andres Tic-Toc Club", just down from the old "Eckel" Theater.

 (<http://syracuse.com/>)

**cuse.com** 16 Hours Ago ([http://syracuse.com/kirst/index.ssf/2013/02/post\\_433.html/post/2013-02-27/1362015987-80-872.html](http://syracuse.com/kirst/index.ssf/2013/02/post_433.html/post/2013-02-27/1362015987-80-872.html))  
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**sudaytona** (<http://connect.syracuse.com/user/sudaytona/index.html>)

Correction, the Eckel Theater was on E. Fayette St. Not sure what the name was, maybe "Astor", just down the street from the Chimes Bldg.

 (<http://syracuse.com/>)

16 Hours Ago ([http://syracuse.com/kirst/index.ssf/2013/02/post\\_433.html/post/2013-02-27/1362017194-56-608.html](http://syracuse.com/kirst/index.ssf/2013/02/post_433.html/post/2013-02-27/1362017194-56-608.html))



**Sean Kirst | skirst@syracuse.com**  
(<http://connect.syracuse.com/user/skirst/index.html>)

you probably saw that gannon's isle, a thriving syracuse ice cream outfit, is coming downtown, into the dey's centennial building. in the old days, where did people get ice cream downtown? i'm guessing woolworth's and schrafft's ... anywhere else?

 (<http://syracuse.com/>)

15 Hours Ago ([http://syracuse.com/kirst/index.ssf/2013/02/post\\_433.html/post/2013-02-27/1362019287-250-423.html](http://syracuse.com/kirst/index.ssf/2013/02/post_433.html/post/2013-02-27/1362019287-250-423.html))

· [Reply](#)



**results** (<http://connect.syracuse.com/user/results/index.html>)

WT Grants also had a nice restaurant (all you could eat fish on Friday) with desserts and ice cream. Don't forget Walt's Records either.

 (<http://syracuse.com/>)

13 Hours Ago ([http://syracuse.com/kirst/index.ssf/2013/02/post\\_433.html/post/2013-02-27/1362024711-742-695.html](http://syracuse.com/kirst/index.ssf/2013/02/post_433.html/post/2013-02-27/1362024711-742-695.html))



**klatubarada** (<http://connect.syracuse.com/user/klatubarada/index.html>)

([http](http://connect.syracuse.com/user/klatubarada/index.html)

E.W. Edwards had the Cherry Valley Room. It was

**://co** a lovely restaurant for lunch with my grandmother.  
**nnect** She always wore a hat and gloves when we went shopping.

 (<http://syracuse.com/>)

4 Hours Ago ([http://syracuse.com/kirst/index.ssf/2013/02/post\\_433.html/post/2013-02-28/1362059007-902-793.html](http://syracuse.com/kirst/index.ssf/2013/02/post_433.html/post/2013-02-28/1362059007-902-793.html))



**PublicHarbr6** (<http://connect.syracuse.com/user/PublicHarbr6/index.html>)

Good one, Sean! This story and the replies are spot on with our extended family and friends.

 (<http://connect.syracuse.com/user/skirst/index.html>) Sean Kirst | [skirst@syracuse.com](mailto:skirst@syracuse.com)  
and

 (<http://connect.syracuse.com/user/freqflyer/index.html>) freqflyer  
like this.

 (<http://syracuse.com/>)

16 Hours Ago ([http://syracuse.com/kirst/index.ssf/2013/02/post\\_433.html/post/2013-02-27/1362014072-347-672.html](http://syracuse.com/kirst/index.ssf/2013/02/post_433.html/post/2013-02-27/1362014072-347-672.html))

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**Sean Kirst | [skirst@syracuse.com](mailto:skirst@syracuse.com)**  
(<http://connect.syracuse.com/user/skirst/index.html>)

i was blown away by the detail of some of these memories ... from the aroma of cashews to the lettering on the door knobs to the color of the lipstick bought by teenagers.

 (<http://syracuse.com/>)

15 Hours Ago ([http://syracuse.com/kirst/index.ssf/2013/02/post\\_433.html/post/2013-02-27/1362019371-997-268.html](http://syracuse.com/kirst/index.ssf/2013/02/post_433.html/post/2013-02-27/1362019371-997-268.html))

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**hfstern** (<http://connect.syracuse.com/user/hfstern/index.html>)

(<http://connect.syracuse.com/user/hfstern/index.html>) Miss those cashews and at Sears, too.

 (<http://syracuse.com/>)

5 Hours Ago ([http://syracuse.com/kirst/index.ssf/2013/02/post\\_433.html/post/2013-02-28/1362056911-809-804.html](http://syracuse.com/kirst/index.ssf/2013/02/post_433.html/post/2013-02-28/1362056911-809-804.html))

**.syracuse.com**

[/user](#)  
[/hfst](#)



**Sean Kirst | [skirst@syracuse.com](mailto:skirst@syracuse.com)**  
**(<http://connect.syracuse.com/user/skirst/index.html>)**

A note from a reader, via Facebook:

When my father was director of the (then) Syracuse Public Library in the 1960s, he would bring home what we called "Woolworth's Bread." It was sort of a dense, white sandwich bread - not real fancy, but fancier than the sandwich bread 7 kids went through on a daily basis! Around St. Patrick's Day, he brought home green bread from Woolworth's. I remember buying Jean Nate and bobby pins there as a gift for my mother, with one of my older sisters -- this would have been in the late 1960s. It was a super bustling store and it had EVERYTHING!

Margaret

 (<http://syracuse.com/>)

17 Hours Ago ([http://syracuse.com/kirst/index.ssf/2013/02/post\\_433.html/post/2013-02-27/1362011648-198-142.html](http://syracuse.com/kirst/index.ssf/2013/02/post_433.html/post/2013-02-27/1362011648-198-142.html))

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**AJK (<http://connect.syracuse.com/user/AJK320/index.html>)**

Too bad the city can't go back 40 years when downtown was a fun, safe and enjoyable place, but that would mean giving up the mall that all our legislators prostituted themselves for.....too bad, can never go back!

 (<http://syracuse.com/>)

17 Hours Ago ([http://syracuse.com/kirst/index.ssf/2013/02/post\\_433.html/post/2013-02-27/1362010964-868-217.html](http://syracuse.com/kirst/index.ssf/2013/02/post_433.html/post/2013-02-27/1362010964-868-217.html))

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New gang violence program promises pain if they shoot...

([#incart\\_hbx#incart\\_be">http://www.syracuse.com/kirst/index.ssf/2013/02/post\\_432.htm](http://www.syracuse.com/kirst/index.ssf/2013/02/post_432.htm) #incart\_hbx#incart\_be)  
AtSt.Baldrick's,hundreds will rally, shave heads...

([http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2013/02/students\\_at\\_syracuse\\_university](http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2013/02/students_at_syracuse_university))  
Ed Smith students...  
Month ([http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2013/02/students\\_at\\_syracuse\\_university](http://www.syracuse.com/news/index.ssf/2013/02/students_at_syracuse_university))