

# Building

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building covered this past year with a nauseous, mustard color plywood, reminding one of property in a condemned area, owned by absentee property owners, and we all know what we call them.

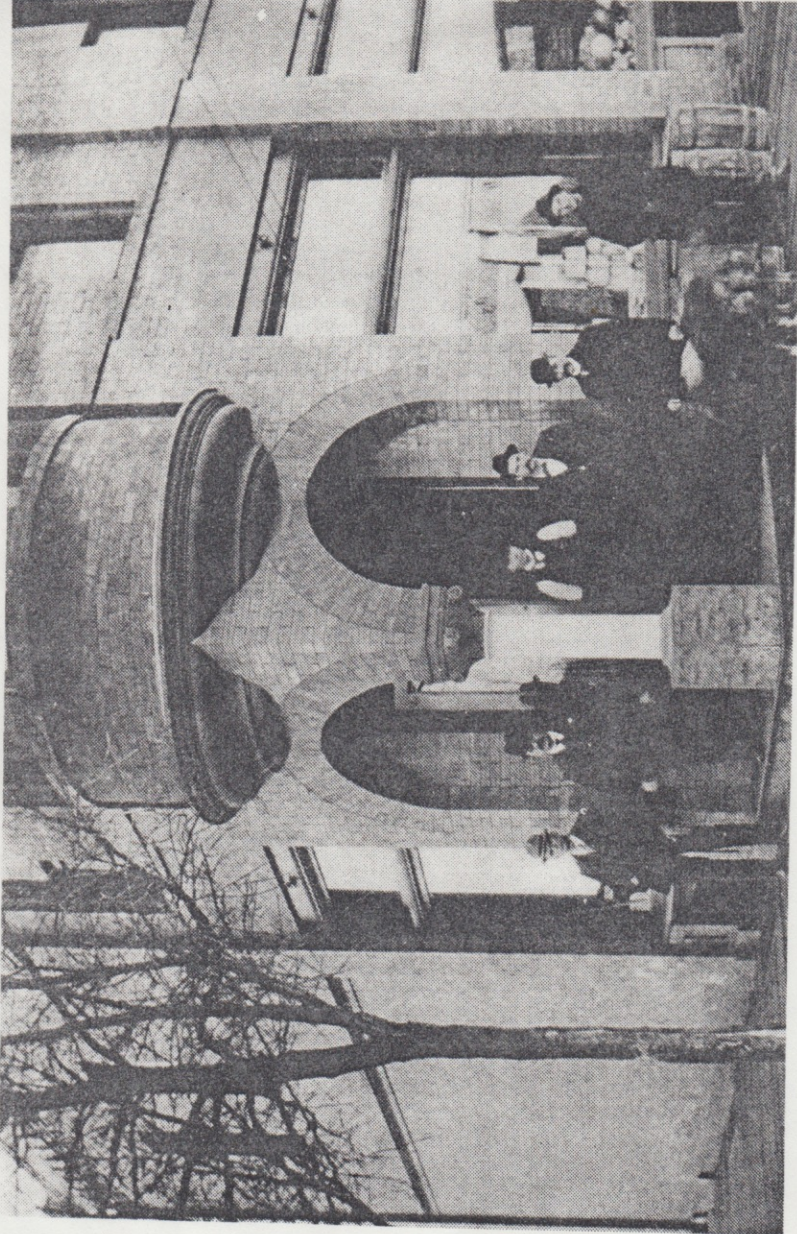
In reference to the second article regarding my grandparents' home, it was disheartening to see junkers on the lawn there this past winter. Again, as I gather, absentee owners.

There was an article in the Pioneer recently about Dr. Romano's efforts in locating artifacts in and around Pine City. Is it not possible to preserve some of the past of Pine City in its present buildings? We already lost the Agnes Hotel to a parking lot for U-Hauls.

My son was visiting me a few weeks ago and in stopping at Hardee's, I was able to point with pride to a picture in the front of the restaurant depicting a scene of the early 5th St. at the end of which was the edifice known as Rybak's Store, telling him his great grandfather had built it. When my daughter and son-in-law and their children stop here on their way to Duluth for a vacation later in the summer I will ask them to stop at Hardee's to see this picture, some tiny bit of history left in Pine City.

I would like to publicly thank Ann Vach for her contributions to me from her collections of the articles used in this letter.

Peg Mulfort,  
Pine City



## Picture the past

THE FRANK RYBAK STORE, on the corner of what is now 3rd Ave. and 5th St. in Pine City, was built in the late 1800s. Rybak is the third man from the right, and his granddaughter, Peg Mulfort, would like help identifying the

other gentlemen. The original of this picture belongs to Col. Frank J. Murray, USMC, Escondido, CA. The Ben Franklin store now occupies the lower level of the building.

## Preserve our old buildings

To the editor:  
"When the building is completed, it will present a fine appearance and is not only a monument to the city, but a monument to the enterprise of Mr. Rybak." Taken from the July 29, 1898 Pioneer.

"Contractor Arden is rapidly pushing work on the new Rybak residence, which when completed will be an ornament to our village." Taken from News of the Week, a column in the Pioneer, circa 1906.

Recently I took some film to the Corner Photo in downtown Pine City. I was appalled, in looking across the street, to see some of the bricks coming loose in one of the cupolas of my grandfather's contribution to the growth of Pine City in 1898.

Why are residents of another town allowed to buy property in Pine City and let it deteriorate? It was a sad thing to see the windows in the upstairs of this

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