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Mooresville's Treasure Trove #10 (July 2008)

Bill Buckley, Indiana Room Librarian

Then . . . and Now

Historic Mooresville, IN Scenes and Places

Taken from the Past and Brought into the Present

Then... G.R. Scruggs Dry Goods Store (1891-1918)

Samuel Moore originally owned the land located at 11 and 9 East Main Street in downtown Mooresville. Samuel Moore sold the property to Asa Bales in 1832 for \$100. Bales then sold it to Samuel Harryman. Henry C. and Allen W. Conduitt bought the property in December, 1870, for \$800, and Henry sold his interest to Allen in 1877. Allen constructed a two-story, Italianate-style building between 1870 and 1871 at 9 East Main Street.

Allen W. Conduitt operated his dry goods business there until selling to George R. Scruggs in 1891 (*see Figure 1*) for \$2,000. Scruggs remodeled the building's exterior in 1904 (*see Figure 2*) and also expanded the business into the neighboring building at 11 East Main Street. Scruggs operated his dry goods store in these two structures until January 1, 1918, when he sold his interest in the business to Ad Sellars and Cal Bellows. Bellows, who was born near Waverly and lived most of his formative years in Mooresville, joined Scruggs' firm in 1904, working there for 14 years until he and Sellars formed their partnership and took over Scruggs' enterprise (*see Figure 4*).

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Figure 1. G.R. Scruggs dry goods store as it looked circa 1891, when Scruggs purchased the building from Allen W. & Sara E. Conduitt. The exterior was remodeled in 1904, as shown in Figure 2. (Photograph donated to the Library by Bonita Marley, 10/23/1968).



Figure 2. G.R. Scruggs dry goods store after the exterior was remodeled in 1904. Scruggs operated out of both buildings (left and right) during 1904-1918.

**We Propose to Sell Goods
Cheaper than Any One.
So Here Goes.**

100 pairs Ladies dongola shoes 94c. 25 Ladies Heavy Capes.....98c. 25 Ladies, Miss and Childrens, Cloaks.....98c. 20 Ladies Jerseys.....19c. 200 Mens Heavy Caps worth 50c 24c 100 fine fur Hats for Men.....98c.	Men's colored Shirts.....28c. Mens Colored Shirts Laundred 34c. Boys Knee Pants Suits.....98c. The Best \$5.00 Black and Blue Cheviot Suit for Men in the world for the money. 100 Men's Hats 18c worth \$1.00
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**G. R. Scruggs,
Mooresville, Ind**

Figure 3. An advertisement for G.R. Scruggs store from the front page of the Mooresville Guide, Dec. 13, 1895.

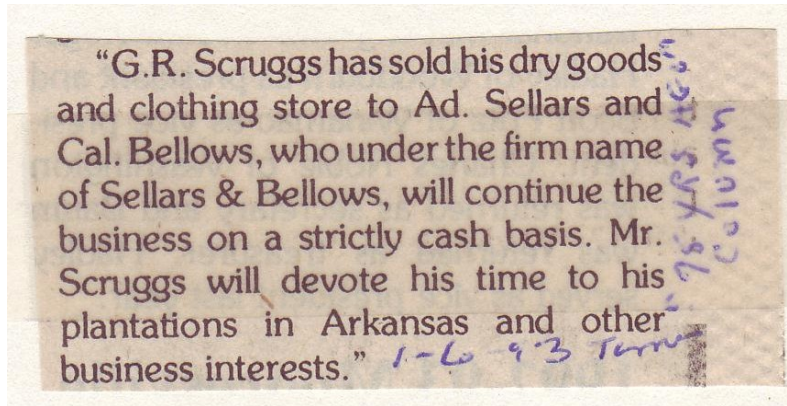


Figure 4. "75 Years Ago" column in the Mooresville Times (Jan. 6, 1993) recounted the sale of the G.R. Scruggs dry goods store, which became Sellars & Bellows, running the business on a "strictly cash basis."

Then... Sellars & Bellows Dry Goods (1918-1929) – Cal Bellows Dry Goods (1929-1937) – Bellows & Jones Department Store (1937-1950) – B.F. Jones Department Store (1950-fl. 1960s)

Sellars & Bellows operated for 11 years when Cal Bellows purchased Ad Sellars' interest in the business in 1929 and was sole proprietor until 1937, when B.F. (Franklin) Jones joined the firm, which became known as Bellows & Jones Department Store (see Figures 5A & 5B).

In 1950 Cal Bellows retired after 45 years in the department store business, and Franklin Jones became sole owner of the enterprise (see Figure 5C). The B.F. Jones Department Store was flourishing when the Mooresville Chamber of Commerce featured it in a 1960s newspaper article (see Figure 5D).

Around 1967, Merle Sears Heating & Plumbing, which later became Hession Heating & Cooling, was located at 9 East Main Street and continued there into the 1990s. Today, the property is home to Spotlight on Stars Dance & Tumbling Academy. Zydeco's 5 Restaurant is now located at 11 East Main Street.

Announcement

FRANKLIN JONES has purchased an interest
in the well known Main Street business

The CAL BELLOWS' DRY GOODS STORE

MOORESVILLE, INDIANA

Mr. Jones needs no introduction to the people
of this community. Recently he has been con-
nected with the General Motors Acceptance
Corporation, South Bend, Ind.

A FULL AND COMPLETE LINE OF

Dry Goods, Ladies' Ready to Wear, Ladies'

GARMENTS, Shoes for Men, Women and Children,

Hats, Caps, Sweaters, Shirts, Underwear,

Draperies, Linoleums and Rugs, Etc.

as has been carried in the past will be continued and enlarged.

From time to time new lines will be added to meet the trade's
demands.

Appreciating the generous patronage our friends and custom-
ers have given us in the past, we solicit a continuance of the
same. Quality goods and fair prices you will find here. Come in.

Cal Bellows Dry Goods Store

MAIN STREET

MOORESVILLE, IND.

Times Times. Sept 23, 1937

Figure 5A. Advertisement in the Mooresville Times Sept. 23, 1937) announcing Franklin Jones' purchase of an interest in Cal Bellows' Dry Goods Store.

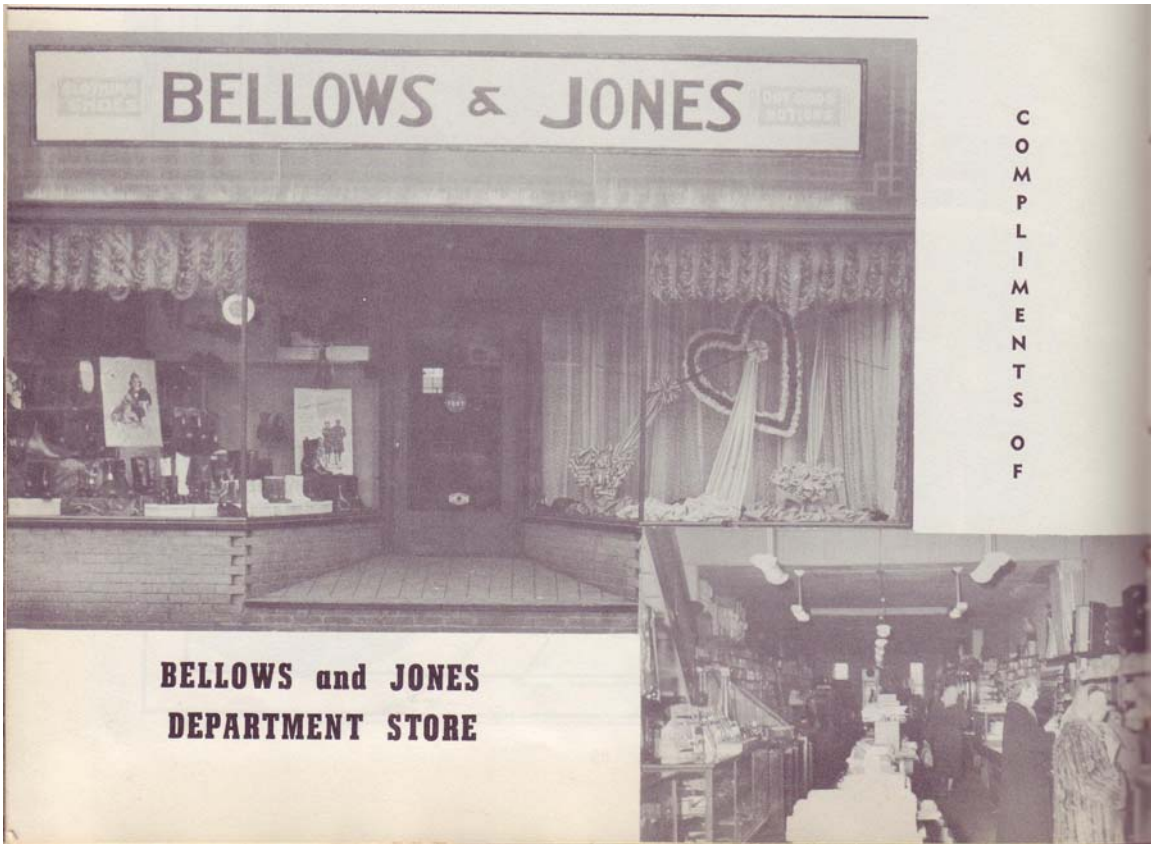


Figure 5B. Bellows & Jones Department Store advertisement in the 1949 Wagon Trails (Mooresville High School yearbook).

GOOD LUCK!

JAN 26, 1950

NEIGHBOR

*We Wish All The Best
To Both of You*

B. F. JONES
The New Owner

and CAL BELLOWS
The Retiring Partner

B. F. JONES

WE KNOW THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY JOINS US IN THIS GREETING

The firm of Bellows and Jones has been one of the splendid business enterprises in Mooresville for more than a decade . . . public spirited . . . cooperative and generous to all in the vicinity. We know that the new owner will continue this high type of business operation.

Figure 5C.
Franklin Jones
assumes command of
the department store
as announced in the
Mooresville Times,
Jan. 26, 1950, p. 1.

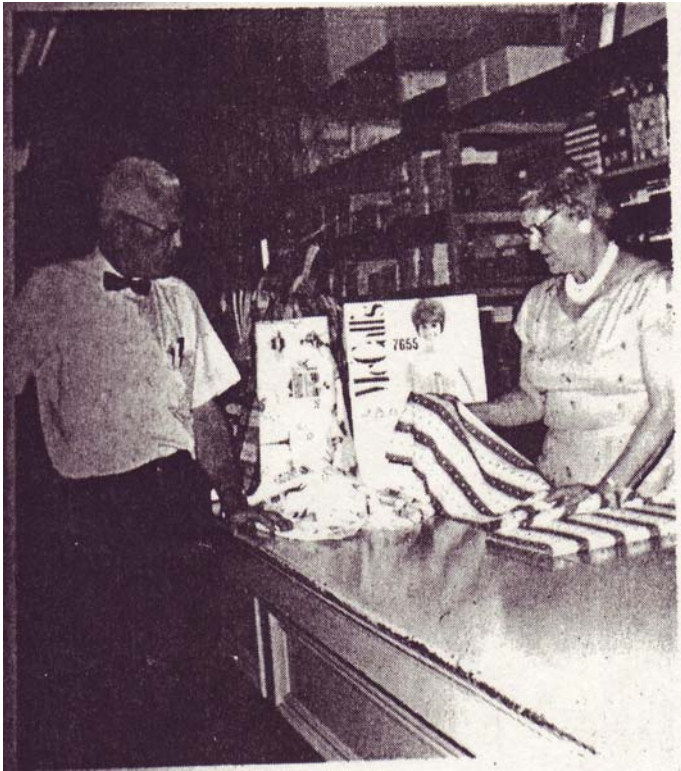


Figure 5D. The B.F. Jones Department Store of the 1960s. Franklin Jones (left) and Mary Pygman (right) look over bolts of fabric for sale.

Now... 11, 9 & 5 East Main Street (May, 2008)



Figure 6. Buildings at 11 (left, now Zydeco's 5 Restaurant) & 9 (center, now Spotlight on Stars Dance & Tumbling Academy) East Main Street in May, 2008. The Keller

Building (right), at 5 East Main Street, constructed between 1907-1910 by G.A. Keller, now houses Mooresville Open Market. Keller operated a hardware store at this site between the 1880s and 1922.