



## Hotel Mongo

by Paul Riddick

In this present era when hotels seem to be out of style, with not a single hotel now operating in LaGrange County, a Mongo resident believes that some fame is due his city for having a hotel of wide note in its day.

"Hotel Mongo," a name we have chosen for it, is still standing as pictured above though, sad to say, it is fast falling into decay and no doubt will disappear from the landscape one of these days. It stands on the second lot east of "The Olde Store" at the main intersection, another pioneer Mongo institution.

Word of mouth history is that in its days of fame the Mongo Hotel was quite a hostelry for traveling salesmen and others who put up their horses in the large barn to the rear and enjoyed the food and hospitality.

The histories fail to give the name of the builder but name Arthur Burrows as the man who started there in the hotel business in 1833, no doubt in the era of Ontario's industrial activity and fame as a college center.

Present Mongoites recall little of the hotel era but speak of its use as a nursing and retirement home, first operated by Mrs. Bennett and later purchased by Douglas Marks and operated by his wife, Mrs. Marie Marks, until she took charge of the Marks Nursing Home at LaGrange. It has been vacant for years.

Old timers remember that at one time there was a building of some size between the hotel and the corner store which had a community auditorium called Keefer Hall. A picture appeared in this paper a few weeks ago of the store adjoining, designated the Shepardson Store, now "The Olde Store." It is believed that it was

built by Otis Shepardson, one of the Mongo pioneers, or his son Edwin Shepardson who operated it for several years. Elisha Keefer and his son Allen M. Keefer, well remembered by many, followed.

Another notable Mongo structure is the former medical center about a block north of the corner maintained by Dr. A. G. Grubb, father of Mrs. Fred Deal of LaGrange. #