TAILOR SHOPS

When was the last time (if ever) you had a suit made or altered in a Tailor shop? There have been several Taylor shops in Northville. Two of them were Herman Werner’s and Laurent Beltzer’s.

Beltzer’s French Tailor Shop
Circa 1890

Laurent and Emma Gifford Beltzer’s home on First Street. The Baptist Church tore it down for a parking lot in 1968.

Margaret Beltzer Cook, Laurent Beltzer, Eva Beltzer Scribner
On the left of this picture is the Foote House, Barbara Foote Draffen and her husband now live in the old Foote House.

Background is the Tailor shop and Van Arnam/Willard Grocery Store. This building was built in 1888, many years later was Hollerans Grocery Store. Torn down to built RiteAid.
Standing: Mr. and Mrs. Herman Werner.

Seated: Mr. and Mrs. Herman Werner, Wm. Werner, Lena Olmstead. Lib Olmstead worked in the Tailoring shop.

Herman Werner, born in Germany in 1828, was well known for making suits, coats, and vests for men. He was also known for making uniforms for railroad personnel.

The Werner's House was next to where the firehouse is today. Their shop was on the north side of the house. The house was torn down in 1977 to make way for the new Stewart's Store. The Werner family continued his father's business for many years.

Herman's wife, Lena, and Lena's sister, Lib, worked in the Tailoring shop.

The Werner family was active in the community. Herman and his wife were active in the community and taught Sunday School in the Baptist Church.

Herman died in 1920, and his son, Wm. Werner, continued his father's business for many years.
**Bits and Pieces of Interesting Facts**  
*(from village records)*

1902 Village Corner lot (Bridge and Main) was purchased for $3,000. from the Baptist Church. The lot had formerly held the Baptist church until it was hit by lightning and burned.

1902 A franchise to operate a steam powered electric generator to furnish electricity for the village and street lighting was granted to Wm. H. Harris. Street lights to be not less than 25 candlepower and at cost of not more than $12.00 per light per year. The plant was situated on the bank of the Sacandaga river about 1000 ft south of the old river bridge. (When the water is low in the lake you can see part of the foundation.)

1903 A nine o’clock curfew law was passed.

1907 A steel cage for the village lock up was purchased from the Stuart Iron Works of Cincinnati, Ohio for $95.00. (The door can be seen in the Northville Northampton Historical Museum.)

1918 A strip of land was purchased from George E Van Arnam to become a street connecting South Main Street with South Third Street at a price of $200.00. The street is now known as Van Arnam Avenue.

1934 An ordinance was passed to eliminate all outside toilets in the village limits.

1937 A special election was held following a public hearing at the Central School, relative to granting Sunday motion pictures in the village. Proposition defeated by a vote of 185 to 43.

1940 A resolution adopted that all streets in the village not paved be graded and oiled thus creating a semi permanent paving.
THE HARD PAN STORE

For many years preceding the first World War, L. Nathan Johnson operated a general store known as THE HARD PAN STORE. “Uncle Nate” was a bachelor and a man of enormous girth. It is said that he weighed upwards of 300 lbs. He seemed to have been a sort of Scattergood Baines of his day, a man of considerable influence in the community.

His advertisements in the local paper were frequently accompanied by poems of his own composition. They had little literary value, but people looked forward to “Nate’s latest”.

I have often found these little poems as I’ve done research in old newspapers. A Mr. Strobel took it upon himself to record a few of them in a small booklet.

Why “Hard Pan Store”? He claimed that his prices were so low it was like hitting hardpan, which is the hard dirt you hit when you can’t dig any deeper. Today we often say, “hit rock bottom”

Some die of too much leisure
Some die of over work,
Some people work for pleasure,
While other always shirk;
Some blow in all their money, some
save for rainy days;
But all trade at the HARD PAN
Because they know it pays.

Some samples of his poems

I bought me a pair of shoes one day
And they wore and wore and wore;
And the neighbors said, when they
heard me tell,
It was nothing strange that they
wore so well
If they came from the HARDPAN STORE

She told me to buy some coffee,
She mentioned the HARD PAN STORE
I thought some others would do as well.
I don’t think so any more,
For when I again became conscious,
I found myself on the floor
While the club in her hand
Made me understand

When I was a little fella
Often Grandma use to say;
Do not put off ‘til tomorrow
What you ought to do today.
When in need of hats or stockings,
Shoes or rubbers, let me say,
Do not wait until tomorrow
Seek the HARD PAN STORE today.

A gift from a friend at Christmas,
How happy it makes the day.
It comes like a ray of sunshine
To gladden us on life’s way
It need not be very expensive,
A trifle if nothing more,
It’s certain to give satisfaction
If it’s bought in the HARD PAN STORE.

Come in the evening or come in the morning,
Come when you’re looked for or come without warning;
You will find a kind welcome at the old HARD PAN STORE
And the oftener you come, we’ll adore you the more.