

# Business Began with Fur Trading



## Doing Business

Doing business in Green Bay began in the 1700's with the trading of furs for goods needed to survive the wilderness. Trading later gave way to the more conventional type of business we know today. The advent of the automobile produced businesses related to that commodity. Green Bay was mobile and on the move!



**French Bakery**  
This building was located at 212 N. Adams. The first thing of interest about this building is the brickwork, the windows, the pediment, and great craftsmanship. The French Bakery was operated from about 1883 to 1901 by August Daems. They delivered fresh bakery to restaurants, hotels and homes. The Willaert Bakery followed the French Bakery at this same site in 1903. Also to note are the posters in the windows announce 'Jon Yonson' performance at the Opera House on Wednesday August 10, 1892. The last item to note is the shawl on the horse that was used to keep the flies away in the summer.

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## David W Britton Cooperage

A large and necessary company of the day. Much perishable food was transported and packed in barrels. In fact, most retail and wholesale products were shipped either in barrels or wood boxes. In 1895, D.W. Britton employed 130 men. The factory's final location was just off Monroe Ave adjacent to the East River. The Britton Cooperage ran from 1850 to the company's last appearance in the city directory in 1925.

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## Number Please!

A switchboard job was very necessary for the first 75 years of the telephone. Remember the days when someone actually answered the phone? Along this switchboard bank are at least 25 women handling phone calls. Automated switching eliminated most of these jobs.

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## Don Hutson Motors

Don Hutson Motors featured Kaiser and Frazer automobiles. After his career in football ended, Don tried the auto business, unfortunately the Kaiser didn't last too long. The dealership was located at 420 North Adams Street and operated between 1949 and 1951 according to the city directory of that time.

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## Portland / Huron Cement

These are concrete elevators at the foot of Ninth Street, house cement for the construction business. This company has been supplying cement since 1941. It presently occupies Cleveland Cliffs coal dock site and is now known as LaFarge.

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## Saturday Matinee

August 1, 1921, life was simple. Ride a bicycle downtown to watch a nine-reel "thriller" at the Bijou. Parking of cars on this block was prohibited during the movies; the parking places were reserved for bicycles. In fact, streetcars were carrying the bulk of city traffic. The Bijou was located in the 300 block of north Washington Street.

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## Gas Station

Love those gas prices, typical of the era. Most gas stations of this time were neighborhood stations that had two pumps, regular and ethyl. A full service station washed the windows, checked the oil, and checked the tire pressure. In addition, premium items were often given away, drinking glasses or company advertising items, an ice scraper. These neighborhood stations did primarily oil, lube, repair of flat tires and dispensed gas.

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From the design of the truck grills, these pictures are prior to WWII. This building still stands at the corner of Doty and Washington. At this time all the automobile dealerships were downtown.

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