Northern Kentucky Views Presents:

The Marshall Hotel in Corinth

By
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THE MARSHALL HOTEL IN CORINTH

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The town of Corinth was first settled in 1825 and by 1876 the population was around 100. Located on the old Lexington-Covington Turnpike (Now US. route 25) stagecoaches enroute to Cincinnati and Lexington passed through the town. Thus, like so many towns on the Turnpike, Corinth had taverns, inns and several hotels for the travelers. Even with the coming of the railroad through town, several hotels continued to serve the needs of travelers and temporary residents.

Sadly, Corinth experienced several devastating fires. The Cottage Hotel, the Exchange Hotel, and the Childers Hotel were all lost to fires early in the twentieth century. The Lancaster, which stood near the railroad, on the site of the present Baptist Church, was described in a 1901 news article as "a mecca for the traveling public for many years". Later known as the Fairview Hotel, it was run by **Goley Alexander**. It too was lost to a fire in the 1920's

The first building to house the Marshall Hotel was located on Cordova Road - (route 330). on the right just beyond the turn from US 25. A newspaper article said, "In 1879 **Mr. J.T. Hutcherson**, a widower, built a new home for his new bride, later known as The Old Marshall Hotel".

Walter Marshall was the son of **George and Eliza Marshall**. He received his education at the Corinth Academy and became a school teacher. He taught in a one-room school at Cordova. He also taught school at Oxford, near Paris, KY. His first wife died, leaving three children. He later met and married **Addie Hoover** from High Bridge.

We don't know exactly when **Walter and Addie Marshall** started their business, possibly in 1924. We do know that in the late 1930's they moved to a large white house that sits on a knoll between Main Street and US 25 in Corinth. This was the **W.B. Robinson** house. The 1901 Williamstown Courier described Dr. Robinson as "a physician with a big practice in Corinth. A public spirited and progressive man; owns one of the most beautiful lots in Corinth and is now laying the foundation of a dwelling, to be built on the most modern style, which will add much to Corinth in the way of improving the town".

For the next several decades, The Marshall Hotel was a landmark in Grant County, known for its fine food and warm hospitality. After Walter passed away in 1943, Addie continued to operate it for a number of years.

The hotel was a magnificent building, with architecture of the Queen Ann style. It has an almost wrap around porch that runs for 112 feet. The ceilings are high, the parlor doors are 8 feet tall. In her talk to the Historical Society, Walter Marshall's niece, **Ruth Odor**, took us on a verbal tour of the hotel:

"Entering the front door, a short hall runs back toward the dining room. On the right was the parlor. It was so elegant that Aunt Addie would only let us children peep into it. The short hall intersects with a long hall that runs horizontally. This hall was sort of a lobby; furnished with sofas and chairs where guests sat and chatted or read while waiting to enter the dining room. An oak stairway at the left of the front door leads to the upstairs hall and bedrooms. A double arch, trimmed with acorns, decorated the hall The bedrooms were elegantly furnished."

"The kitchen was large. Aunt Addie cooked on a huge black, wood burning stove. It was always hot in the kitchen. Aunt Addie was a stylish lady. She wouldn't think of going to church - or anywhere else- without wearing her hat, high heels and gloves. Her hats were large and flowered. It always amazed me that this lady I saw wearing an apron and perspiring over that huge cook stove could turn into the fashionable lady that showed up in church."

"The hotel became famous for its two "lazy susan" tables. The dinner places were set on the lower level of the of the round tables. The upper level, or lazy susan part was loaded down with food - fried chicken, country ham, pork chops, mashed potatoes, hot yeast rolls, and all kinds of vegetables. As the table was turned, you took out a portion from each dish and put it on your plate. All went smoothy until someone on the other side turned the table for a second helping at the same time you were reaching for yours."

"Each Sunday, Uncle Walter made ice cream in an old fashioned crank freezer. The ice cream was served in stemmed desert dishes. In later years, after Uncle Walter was gone, Aunt Addie served elegant desserts such as blanc mange and charlote russe. (Desserts I had never heard of) Uncle Walter always asked a blessing before the meal, or asked one of the guests to give a prayer."

THE MARSHALL HOTEL, continued

"As the hotel become known for its fine food and elegance, people came from all over the county and from Lexington and Cincinnati; and they especially came on Sundays. During the school year, teachers from out of town boarded at the hotel. Salesmen, or drummers as they were called, stayed there too. When there was road construction in the area, the hotel was a busy place."

In 1973, Addie Marshall closed the hotel and moved to a nursing home in Louisville. Addie died in 1977 at the age of 97. **Irwin and Iona Gaines** bought the building at an auction in 1975. An article appearing in the Grant County News in 1978 told how the Gaines restored the building. They had it rewired and painted. They installed modern plumbing and a new kitchen. Old wallpaper was replaced and the gold molding that borders the ceiling in the first floor hall was restored. The house contained six fireplaces with embossed Italian tile, but the hearths were made of concrete. **Mrs. Louise Rogers**, of the Rogers Funeral Home, donated tile from the funeral home to refurbish two of the hearths. The Gaines also added closets and then furnished their home with many antiques. They received many visitors to the house. Some come to renew old memories and others were just curious about an old landmark. Mrs. Gaines said, "Of course we just love to show it because we are so proud of it and because we loved Mrs. Marshall."

After Mr. Gaines died, Iona sold the house in 1986. In 2001 Iona also passed away.

The house has had several owners since then. No longer a landmark, it is now occupied by renters.

When I saw it last month, on a dim and misty winter day, it appeared a bit drab and forlorn.

Additional information for this article was obtained from an article about Corinth, written by Zelma McCord McMurtry, which appeared in THE HISTORY OF GRANT COUNTY, edited by John B. Conrad