

In 1910 the Ditter Building was constructed. The first floor was for a business and living quarters, at which time Mr. J. A. Boyer opened Moxee City's first drug store, with the family living in the rear. Mr. Boyer operated this store until he had a new grey stone building constructed on the South East corner of Seattle and Iler, at which time he moved his drug store and living quarters there, in 1912. The second floor of the Ditter hall was used as a community gathering place and dance hall. Philip Gamache and Alexinie Houle were married on the first day of July, 1915 and had the first wedding dance in this hall.

The Ditter Brother's sold the hall when the City of Moxee was incorporated in 1921, with Arthur J. Toupin as the first Mayor. The City Of Moxee held their council meetings in a portion of the building and built a two cell jail in it also. In another portion of the building, which they leased to Mr. Poirier, a shoe shop was operated. On April Second, 1923 Isidore Sauve and Celestine La Bissoniere were married and had their wedding dance in the upper story and many other couples had their dances there too. In 1929, the City of Moxee found that the building was too large for their use, and in the same year leased it to Henry Gaudette to be operated as a garage. After leasing the building Mr. Gaudette took out the east portion of the floor, in the lower level of the building, and poured a new concrete floor.

Then in 1931, the City of Moxee sold the hall to Wilfred and Isidore Sauve. During hop harvests they held dances on Wednesday and Saturday nights, with as many a 400 persons attending.

Louis and Eva Patnode bought the building in 1935, establishing a grocery store and meat lockers, also having living quarters on the main floor. The Moxee Rifle club was started in late 1942, with about twenty five members. The shooting gallery was in the upstairs portion of the building. The club lasted about four years.

Also, in 1942 the Louis Patnode's sold the building to the Eli Patnode's. Then in 1945 Ralf Whitehead bought the building. With another transaction Mr. Whitehead sold the buiding to Mr. Mose Lamoureux. Mr. Lamoureux then leased the building to Mr. Jack Bledsoe in 1948 up intill 1955. Mr. Bledsoe left the building in 1955 to set up a grocery store in the former grey stone building which housed the drug store. Mose Lamoureux's son, Morrie, operated a grocery store and lived in the back apartment for a year.

In 1956, Jack and Dixie Bledsoe bought the building.

On July, 1960, the top half of the hall was destroyed by fire and in 1962, Jack and Dixie Bledsoe set up the front part of the building as the K. P. Restaurant. After having purchased Les and Jane's Cafe in 1965, it was also destroyed by fire, on May First. In order to keep their business operating, they moved temporarily to the former K. P. Cafe. Les and Jane's Cafe was rebuilt and the Bledsoe's moved their business back to the new building on October First, 1965.

In December 1965, Ditter Building was sold to Mr. Roy Longton and Louis Kelley, they operated it for a year, as a machine shop. Then on April twenty Seventh, 1967 Mr. Longton bought out Mr. Kelley and continued the machine shop until he was killed in an automobile accident one mile west of Moxee City, in 1973. The machine shop was closed for quite some time, with Mrs. Norma Longton remaining as its owner.

On November 8th, 1976, Art and Vi Aaron leased the building, doing extensive remodeling and interior decorating to be used as a gathering place for the community. Their place was known as the "Briar Patch", Due to a name duplication, the popular place is now known as the "Barn Door".

This is what I know of this building to date:

Dixie Lamoureux
Moxee City
Wn

Dated April 27, 1977