

Jake Janda and his store almost seems like a legend now. His was a gathering place for kids, as well as grownups. I can remember going to Jakes with some of my friends almost every Sun. afternoon when we were ten or twelve. He had the most inviting looking candy showcase; Just shelves and shelves of nigger babies,, licorice sticks and pipes, stick candy, peppermint and wintergreen lozenges, boston beans, chocolate haystacks, small peanut butter filled sticks, jawbreakers, flat, round butterscotch and even rock candy once in a while. Old Augie Sandow-- Walter Freiburg's father-in-law came in quite often and some of the girls would tease him to buy candy for them; He was quite conservative, but one day he broke down and said, "Chake, geef dees girls for fife cents feffermints." I don't think feffermints were what the girls had in mind, but they ate them anyway.

We would all line up and listen, wide-eyed, to Jake spinning yarns about the 'old country'. I'm sure it must have been Bohemia for he would talk about the nice Bohemians and the Bohunks.

If he happened to be in a good mood he would let us try on rings; Some were I4 K. gold. One especially beautiful little ruby ring, I would have given my eye teeth to have, but I think it was six dollars; Way beyond my reach! He kept the rings and some other things locked in a separate show case. Another thing that I had admired for years was a man's rust and black fountain pen. Years later I bought it for my husband, Geo. Straub.

Jake also stocked canned goods and other staple foods, gloves, men's handkerchiefs, etc. In later years no one would buy the food stuff as it had probably set on the shelves for twenty years or so. I recall my brother Lester (Pike) Wallace coming up from Milw; stopping in at Jakes to shoot the breeze, as he called it, and buying a couple of dollars worth of canned goods, two or three times just to make old Jake feel good, Then bringing it up to our house and putting it in the garbage.

Jake had an old phonograph in the back room that he let us crank up on Sundays and play. He also sold ice cream back there; He kept the scoop in a bowl with a little water. In hot weather, by the time we got there Sun. it had usually turned green. We used to wash it out for him.

He was a pretty good old Jake.