

Hopkins & Walker: The Garage on the Corner

by Frank M. Van Epps, Editor of Bay Leaves

Elmer H. Hopkins and Frank W. Walker formed a partnership in 1923 to buy out the business of George Van Velzer. At that time there was only a small brick garage on the corner. Hopkins was an experienced mechanic, having served in France as an air service mechanic. Before coming to Williams Bay he worked in Hebron and Sharon. Walker had the business experience.

As Williams Bay kept on growing it became necessary to expand by rebuilding and enlarging the garage to its present size. The lot was purchased and the boat storage part was added. It is a garage any resident can point to with pride. The bright lights extend a welcome to all who enter the village.



*Hopkins and Walker Garage corner of Walworth Avenue and Geneva Street.
(Photo from "Grassroots Lake Geneva" by Phil Fogle.)*

That brings up the public service the garage renders. One need only to stand in front of the garage, a few moments on a busy evening, to see how important a place it fills. Now one stops to inquire how to get to this place or that; then one asks where Mr. Blank lives; another to ask where he can buy this or that. Thus the evening goes on. Every effort is made to give pleasing service even at the cost of considerable time. Through the garage service station Elmer and Frank get to know nearly every one personally. But often inquiries are made for newcomers in the Bay. Thus, if you are expecting visitors, it will be well to stop in and tell the garage owners where you live so they can direct your friends quickly.

From this you see that the Garage on the Corner is not open just to fill your tank with good gas, your engine with oil, your radiators with water and your tires with air, or to start a balky engine or take out a knock or squeak here and there, but to be of real service as good citizens in a friendly town.

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