

S. Pomatto and Sons Grocery

Simon Pomatto opened a fruit and grocery market in the Skamenka Building on Livingston Avenue in 1920. The family moved their business to Wilson Street in 1922. The store featured Italian-style delicacies, sausage, and salami. They also sold material by the yard and clothing. Later Simon's three sons Martin, Mario and Elmo formed a partnership. In 1938 the family opened a second store in Wilsonville, which was operated by Martin and Mario. The Pomatto's also had a daughter Mary who married Andy Rehlek.

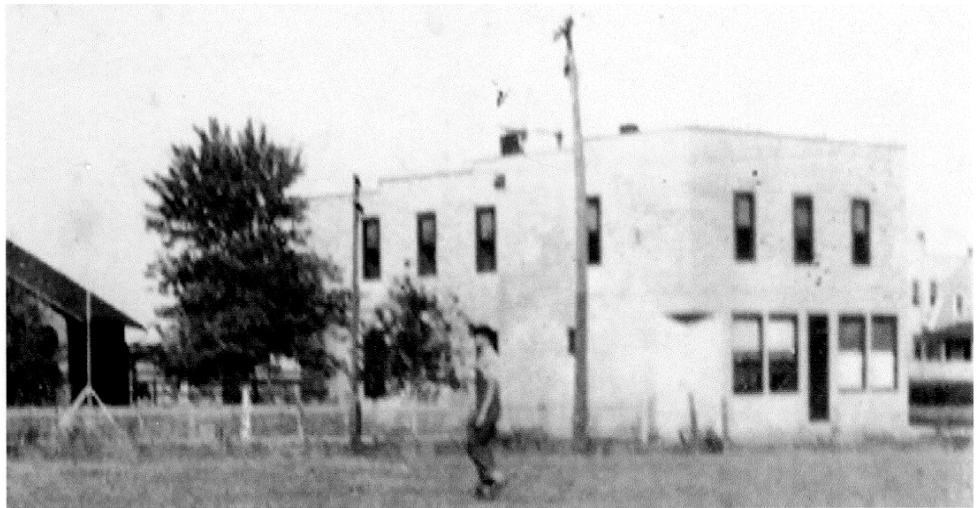
Elmo and his wife Elizabeth remained in Livingston to operate that store. Both the Livingston and Wilsonville stores were closed in 1983.

WE ARE GOING OUT
OF BUSINESS
BEGINNING APRIL 25
ALL ITEMS ARE ON
SALE 20%-30%-50% OFF
WE WILL TAKE ORDERS FOR SIDES OF
BEEF AND OUR 11 FAMILY PACK UNTIL
MAY 7 TH TO BE FILLED THE
FOLLOWING WEEK

S. POMATTO & SONS
LIVINGSTON WILSONVILLE

The Thiel Hotel

The Thiel Hotel, owned by Ignatz Thiel was built in the early 1900s to accommodate the rapidly growing population of miners moving into Livingston. It was located north of the railroad tracks on the northeast side of Livingston Avenue and North First Street. It housed



bachelor coal miners. Later, Anton Sornig ran the hotel. Eventually the hotel fell into disrepair and was abandoned. By the middle of the 20th century it was gone.



At right is a newspaper ad that appeared in 1917.

Attention!
I have again re-opened my
Barber Shop
at the old location
**OPPOSITE THE LIVINGSTON
GARAGE.**
where I will be glad to
serve my former patrons
and friends.
Thos. Otwirk
Livingston, Ill.

Thomas Otwirk's Barber Shop

Hungarian born Thomas Otwirk came to Livingston and opened his barber shop in 1918.

The building in which his business was housed had the family's living quarters in the rear. Mr. Otwirk died in 1943 at the age of 67. His wife continued to occupy the house until her death.

A shoe repair shop operated by Frank Huhsman was in a building directly north of Otwirk's and closed in the early 1940s.

The building above has since been remodeled and converted to two apartments.

Skamenca Building

The Skamenca Building is on Livingston Avenue the current site of Bob's Auto Service. The building was built about 1906. Simon Pomatto first opened his fruit and grocery business there in 1920. In 1923 George Skamenka and Charlie Rausch opened a hardware store there.

The south side of the building has housed a drug and sundries business operated by Walter Dzurus, Mary Karnosky and Emma Dzurus, the John Jurek Family, John and Mary Svetlik, Betty and Chuck Svetlik, and Howard and Betty Jean Salter. The drug store was a favorite "hangout" for local youth.

The north side of the building housed Andy Grega's Tavern, Joseph Healey, Sr.'s Grocery Store, a Laundromat, and now Bob's Auto Service.

Livingston Maytag Laundromat

**GRAND
OPENING**
NEW MAYTAG
COIN OPERATED LAUNDRY
Sunday, Jan. 21st.
— Beginning at 9:00 o'clock a.m. —
LOOK! - 1 FREE WASH
FREE ATTENDANCE PRIZES:
Steam Iron, Laundry Basket, Ironing Pad & Cover
Free Coffee & Doughnuts - Free Balloons
Coming Soon! Coin Operated
100% Soft Water **LIVINGSTON** DRY CLEANING UNIT
Maytag Launderette
Livingston, Livingston Illinois
Avenue

The laundromat was located on Livingston Avenue on the north side of the Skamenca Building. It was originally operated by Louis and Joy Wray, Robert "Doc" and Janice Bowles, and Bill and Fran Augustine. It was open for business from 7:00 a. m. to 11:00 p.m., seven days a week from January 21, 1963 until ownership was transferred to Gerry and Marie Deininger in 1970. Later Robert and Judy Whitlock became owners.



Bob's Auto Service

Bob's Auto Service is owned and operated by Bob Martintoni. It was opened for business on June 1, 1975 as an auto repair shop.

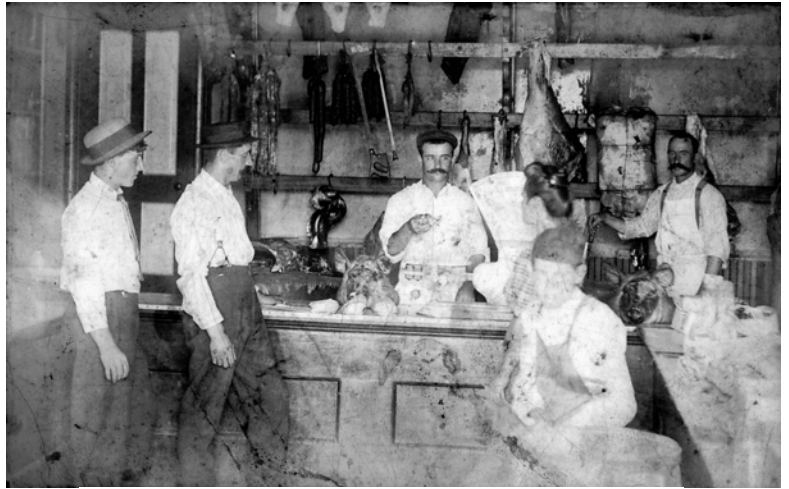


Bononi Brothers Grocery Store / Wray's Store

Prior to 1916 brothers Alfred and David Bononi built a large brick store on the east side of Livingston Avenue. Bononi Brothers' Grocery Store operated for many years. Steve and Marie Bononi ran a grocery store directly across the street from his father David's store.

Sometime after 1939, Frank "Kize" Wray, who was in business with his brothers Henry, Jim and Bob in Williamson, purchased the Bononi Brothers' Store in Livingston. The name was changed to Wray's Store. The staff included "Kize", his son Louis, his son-in-law Norrigan Buffington and Norrigan's sister Marge Kuketz. Kize purchased the building which formerly housed Louis Mitchelar, Jr.'s Hardware Store which is now the current location of Jim's IGA, and he moved his grocery store to that location. The old brick building was razed and is now the site of two, one-story apartment buildings.

After Kize's retirement, his son Louis and son-in-law Norrigan continued to run the business. Eventually Norrigan moved to Girard and worked as a meat cutter for Cherry's Market. When Louis retired, he transferred the business to his son-in-law Jim Johnson husband of his daughter Lisa.



The above picture is Bononi's Meat Market as it appeared while in the family home..



The above picture taken sometime during the 1960s shows the front of Wray's Market formerly Bononi Brothers' Grocery.



Pictured is Kize Wray (left) and Tom Maskey inside Wray's Market.

Bononi Brothers' Grocery Store at right. Pictured are customer Pietro "Dove" Bononi, owner Dave Bononi (younger brother), unidentified clerk and Alfred Bononi (older brother).



This picture shows Alfred Bononi and Mrs. Pacchetti standing behind the counter of Bononi's Grocery Store.

The Livingston Lumber Company

The Livingston Lumber Company was owned by David G. Livingston. The office was located in a small wooden building on Livingston Avenue at the current site of Jim's IGA. The building also served as the first post office. The post office continued to operate there while Mr. Livingston served as postmaster.

Behind the office was a large building used to store lumber and directly behind that building was the "lime house" where lime used on fields was stored.

Tom Tsupros's Barber Shop

Tom Tsupros came to Livingston in the 1920s and opened his barbershop on Livingston Avenue in a two-story building owned by the bank. Tom's barbershop was on the ground floor, and a hall used for various purposes was on the top floor. Before the building was repossessed by the bank in the 20s, it is believed to have been owned by Harvey Atwell. Tom operated his business in the building until 1943 when the bank decided to raze the building. He then moved next door to a building that housed a tavern run by Joe Larcker. This building had a room on the north side that he remodeled for his barbershop. Today this building houses Gasperoni's Italian Food Store.

He remained in that building until 1952 when he moved to a new location in a building built for him by his sons. That building is located on the lot where the bank tore down the two-story building where Tom's first barbershop was located. The building later housed a video store and tanning salon.

Tom continued to work at this location until 1970 when he retired and moved to a nursing home due to failing health. He died in 1975.

When Mr. Tsupros opened his barbershop, haircuts and shaves were offered for 25 cents and 15 cents respectively. Some of the wealthier, prominent customers had their own personally marked shaving mugs which were kept in their own cubicle. Spittoons were a common necessity in the barbershop for tobacco-chewing customers.

Tom and his wife Mary raised seven children – Bessie, James, Marion (Grit), Irene, Virginia (Ginny), Helen, and Patricia.

Gasperoni's

The building was built by Highland Brewing Company in 1905. The original owner was Louis Cadona. There were living quarters on the north end of the building. For most of the time, the building was used as a tavern. Owners included Joe Larker and family in 1938, John Ottino and family, Bill and Helen O'dell, Bill Hay and his wife, Vern Stearns and Barbara Spudich. Barbara Spudich's son Lee and his family lived there for many years.

Tom Tsupros had his barbershop on the north end of the building for many years.

Dave Gasper purchased the building about ten years ago. He completely remodeled the inside and converted the tavern area to an Italian grocery store. Later he also served meals and pizzas. When Dave decided to retire and move, Sherry Looser of Staunton purchased the business. She added beer and wine to the menu. On May 28, 2005 she sold the business to Amy Costa. She plans to continue specializing in Italian foods, pastas, and pizza.