

The Goody Goody Court
Est. 1947



There was an area in Whitehall on the corner of Colby and Division streets known as Goody Goody Court. The buildings located there were built in late 1947 by Martin Seaver. Guess you could say this was the area's first shopping center. At the time, there were not a lot of addresses assigned to a location. Businesses just seemed to put their name on a sign on the door or the building. And when they ran an ad in the newspaper, they might say something like "located next to such and such business" or simply in the Goody Goody Court. Turns out the addresses of the businesses in the Goody Goody Court were 202 through 212 Colby.

Glenn Stockwell was one of the first to open a business in the new Seaver Goody Goody Block. On 27 February 1948 he opened Dresswell Cleaners. By January 1953, Stockwell had a new building built, and Dresswell Cleaners moved to 120 S. Mears, just south of Pitkins. In April 1953 Martin Seaver held a Grand Opening of Town & Country Dry Cleaners at the former Dresswell location, with Edwin Little as Plant Manager. In March 1955, Seaver sold the Town and Country Dry Cleaners business to Raymond and Barbara Cole. Seaver also planned to build a 30x160 addition to the four buildings in the back row of the Goody Goody Court.

In June 1959 an ad appeared for Town and Country Cleaners Self-Serve Laundry located at 210 E. Colby which would be open 24-hours a day. They had 16 huge 10# Whirlpool washers and 6 giant-sized dryers

at a cost of 20 cents for washers and 20 cents for dryer. In May 1961, an ad appeared in the paper announcing the Grand Opening of a coin-operated dry-cleaning service at Town and Country Cleaners.

On 15 December 1965 an electrical fire destroyed much of building and business of the Town and Country Cleaners. They were, however, able to set up temporarily in what was the former Anderson/Jensen Hardware building until they were able to rebuild their shop. Arrangements were made with three cleaning businesses in Muskegon to do their work until they were up and running again. By May 1966, the rebuilding was completed, and they were back at their original location. Over the years, in addition to the dry cleaners and laundromat, they also had a Bed and Bath shop. Ray Cole reportedly retired in 1992. About that time there was a name-change in the business to Coles Cleaners, Inc., which operated at that location through 2001, and perhaps a bit longer.

Helen Morris and Maxine Kroll also opened their business called The Beauty Nook on the 27 February 1948 in one of the other store fronts. They remained there until 1 March 1954. In January 1954, Gladys Nufer, resigned as manager of Pitkin's Gift Shop, with plans to open a women's dress and specialty shop. The store was called Glad's Sportswear & Specialty Shop and it opened on March 1, 1954, in the spot formerly occupied by The Beauty Nook. As late as 1961, Glad's ads still only listed Goody Goody Court as a location.

By April 1948, Martin Seaver had opened the Goody Goody restaurant. Over the years, it would see many different owners and a couple name changes. Some of the previous owners of the Goody Goody restaurant over the years included: George Meyers (1952-66); John Drake (1966-69); Clarence Stuckert (1969-71); Eunice Thrasher-Fenton (1971-73); Richard Mendel (1973-74); and Hobie Thrasher (1974-80).

George Dean bought the Goody-Goody building located at 212 E Colby following the 1980 fire. After renovations were completed, he leased and then sold the building to Lynn & Irving Cryderman in 1983. It then became known as Irving's from 1983-92. In 1993, Cryderman sold the building back to George Dean. In February 1993, Ben Wang opened a Chinese restaurant called "China Garden". Some years later it became Chen's Chinese & Thai restaurant and remains as such today.

In July 1950, Joe Hesse opened Nik-Nak Flower & Gift Shop at 206 Colby. Joe was born and raised in Whitehall, graduating from Whitehall High School in 1946. In March of 1951 he leased the business to Mrs. Arthur Minshall while he was serving in the U.S. Army. The business would later close and in March 1952, Bert Cross moved into the spot and opened Cross Bakery at that location. Mr. & Mrs. Cross came to the Whitehall area from Kalkaska. Cross remained at that location until October 1963 when it changed hands and became Morat's.

In 1970 Morat's moved the retail portion of their business to "The Coffee Shop" at 106 E. Colby Street, where the ACWL-Nuveen Center is now located. For three years they pushed their baked goods on carts from their baking facilities in the Goody-Goody Court. In 1980 they built a building behind "The Coffee Shop" and relocated to where Mylan's Waterfront Grille is now.

From May 1977 until December 1980, Terri Atchison and Carol Nielsen operated The Owl's Nest at 206 E. Colby. The shop featured unique gift items and a complete line of wicker products, including wicker furniture. From April 1981 until January 1987, Tom's Shoe Haus was located at 206 E. Colby. Mary Moore opened Pretty Posies at the spot in March 1987. In addition to flowers and floral arrangements, she also sold balloons, mugs, silk flowers, earrings and candy. She remained at that location until May

1990 when the business moved to the White Lake Plaza at 620 E. Colby. In December 2001, an ad announced the opening of Studio 20.6 at 206 E Colby, as a full-service salon that included haircuts, perms, colors, manicures & pedicures, facials, massages and more. It also mentioned that they were located next door to Thunderbolt Gym.

Back in August 1950, Laurin Anderson opened Anderson Hardware. He remained in business at the site until August 1964 when he sold to Paul Jensen. Paul remained there until 1965 when he moved into what is now Hunt's /Gilroy Hardware. Mike Smith purchased Keith Carpet and Flooring from Keith Boltze in 1970 and in November 1971 announced that the business was moving from 115 E. Hansen to 204 E. Colby where it remained until early 1977. In July 1973 Western Auto Parts was located in this building. Charles Cross started the home-owned store. They carried a full line of merchandise not only automotive and sporting supplies but everything from household items to bicycles. They were in business until September 1981. In February 1984 it was announced that Joe and Dee Panyard were opening a new franchise for Gambles Hardware at 204 E. Colby. It appears, however, they were only in business until the end of April 1985.

In the Spring of 1951, a small ad appeared in the Whitehall Forum about the opening of the Nip-N-Sip Drive-in. That appears to be the first mention of the business up until that time although it could have opened much sooner. It was mentioned in an ad in connection with a Goody-Goody restaurant. In February 1953, Mr. & Mrs. Aubrey Powell purchased the Nip-N-Sip from Martin Seaver. They purchased the business and fixtures but not the Nip-N-Sip building. They planned to open their own business soon.

In 1958 Tom Jones and his daughter Pat purchased the Nip-N-Sip from Aubrey Powell and leased the building from Martin Seaver. Tom opened in the Spring of 1958 and served barbeques, soft drinks, cones and soft ice cream. Some of you may remember that Tom Jones was the manager of the meat department at the Whitehall Kroger. At the time of the opening, he was still with Kroger and was going to be in charge of the meat department at the new Kroger on Giles and US-31. Ads for Nip-N-Sip could be found in the paper thru 1961, but only listed as Goody Goody Court. Over the years there have been several real estate offices that have called 202 E. Colby home. It is currently occupied by Transnation Title Agency.

In July 1985 a news item reported that Jeanne Thiele had opened a 3-bed tanning salon on May 1 at 208 E. Colby next to Cole's Cleaners, where she had created a tropical atmosphere at the salon. By April 1986 she had expanded to 7 beds and moved east on Colby to the former Pizza Plus location.

In May 1989, Jeanne Baldwin opened the Doll Cottage at 208 Colby in the Goody Goody Court. At the time she had 15 years' experience in collecting and repairing dolls and stuffed animals. There was no further word about the business.

From July 6-12, 1992, Mary Jacobs-May held a Grand Opening of Braggadocio's at 208 E Colby, located behind Irving's. Advertising as "a peddler of merriment and mischief" the store offered a large selection of children's gifts and books, board games for all ages, ceramic ware and brass and many other unique items. It appears, however, that it was only open for one season.

The Goody Goody Court looks like it has been a pretty busy area. It's quite possible that there may have been a couple other businesses that were located in there over the years. Now there are just two.