

The Old Aldie Drug Store



Old Aldie Drug Store, Today

Since 2005, this building from the late 1800's has been the home of Diamonds and Rust, a popular local establishment known for vintage jewelry and clothing. Each year in October, proprietor Marcia Hall features a famous sale on classic costumes from earlier eras.

From the 1890's to World War II, the building housed the Aldie Drug Store. Residents recall Dr. Charles Goettling, a physician as well as the drug store proprietor from 1918 through the 30's. The store featured not only a soda fountain where today there are jewelry cases; but also various potions and medications including a legendary hair tonic of which the doctor was a great proponent. Charles's oldest child, Hattie Goettling Jackson, was the last remaining direct descendent of the family. She resided in Lenah, near Aldie, until her passing in September 2010 at age 92. She drove a school bus, worked in the cafeteria, and was active in her husband's milk transport business.

In the picture at right, the store is on the left behind the big tree. Past the store is the Aldie United Methodist Church, which was built in 1882. In between the two buildings was another, now gone, which from 1918 housed facilities of the Loudoun Telephone and Telegraph Company. The phone company – later Piedmont Telephone – actually owned the drug store building from 1918 to 1954, leasing out the drug store and providing lodging upstairs for various boarders. Visible across the street is a toll booth and Narrowgate, the home of the Withers family, owners and operators of Aldie's historic Little River Inn.

Phone company operators, in addition to managing the party lines serving residents, also were known to double as toll gate operators, and purveyors of late-breaking news to interested parties.



Main St, Aldie, VA (published by Aldie Drug Store, approx 1907)



Kay Pitts and Margaret Hawes

Operation as a drug store ended during World War II. In 1954, Piedmont Telephone sold the building to E.V. Marshall, who rented out apartments on each floor. Among the notable residents in the 1960's were Lawrence and Margaret Hawes and their daughter Kay. Margaret and Kay (now Kay Pitts) are the current proprietors of the nearby Little Apple Pastry Shop. They keep nearby residents well fed with their award-winning homemade pies and other baked delights, as well as delicious breakfast and lunch menus.

No longer called Main Street or Little River Turnpike, the road is now US Rt 50, or John Mosby Highway, named for the famed Confederate cavalry commander who roamed the area with his Mosby's Raiders, harassing Union troops during the Civil War.



Rt. 50, John Mosby Highway