

# The History of 1005 Fourth Street

By Barbara Mask

## BUSINESS HISTORY: CHICAGO BAKERY AT 1005-4TH STREET.

In 1890, 1005 was built. The first business in the building was a bakery/restaurant named the Chicago Bakery. Gottlieb Utz, the builder, was the first proprietor and his son, Fred, was the manager. It was a full-service café serving lunches, oysters, a fine variety of confectionery and ice cream; large and small orders.



**Paul Zimmer**

In 1895, Paul Zimmer assumed ownership of the Chicago Bakery and operated a successful bakery business in the building for 25 years. He and his wife, Maria, lived in the upper apartment and two of their five children, Martin and John, were born there. Zimmer added home-made chocolates and offered “everything in the bakery line fine and fresh daily.”

The New Life Café was located at 1005 in 1917. *See related article below.* It was a full-service restaurant with meals served all day.

The American Railway Express Company was the next business located in 1005-4th Street. It was operated by Thaddeus Jones, for 37 years, during the 1920-1940s. The company was the nation’s largest ground and air express service, transporting parcels, money and goods, with pick-up and delivery.

----CONTNUED----

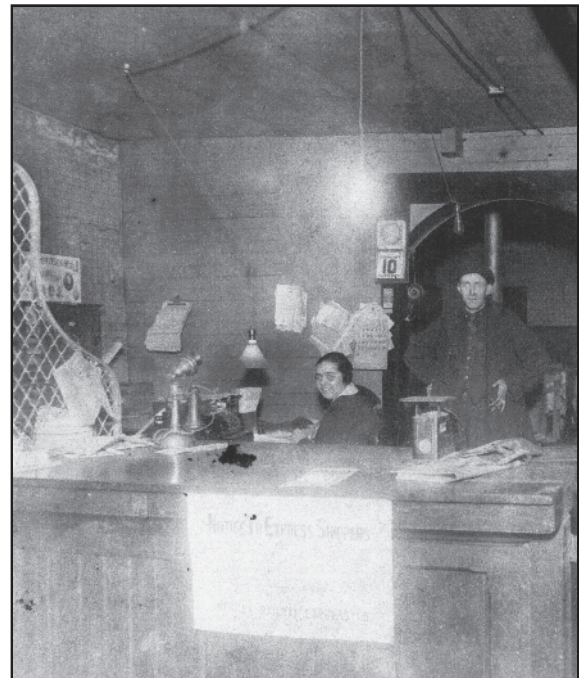


Pictured is the east side of the 1000 block of Fourth Street. 1005 is the third building on the left. 1003 and 1005 have the same outward appearance at the time of this photo. Photo circa early 1900s.



Pictured are the front windows of 1005. Unknown golfer is seated on “The 19th Hole” bench in front of 1007, which was Considine’s.

Note the spiral trim along the window. This trim has been recently recaptured and restored by Mike Knot.



Shown in the photo are Dorothy Walters, employee, and Thaddeus Jones, American Railway Express agent. This business was at 1005 for thirty-seven years.

Originally, owned and operated by the U. S. government, the express business came under private ownership. Thaddeus Jones married Florence Utz on June 2, 1923 who was the owner of 1005. They were the parents of one daughter, Marilyn, who married John L. Newendyke in 1945. The young couple moved to California. Mr. Jones died on March 20, 1958.

Following her husband's death, Florence Jones operated the Fulton Deluxe Cleaners in the building for many years. She was the granddaughter of Gottlieb and Margaret Utz, the original owners, daughter of Fred and Mary Utz, who operated the first restaurant/bakery here. She graduated from Fulton High School in 1916. Mrs. Jones sold the building to Winifred and Donald Murray in 1981. They resided in the upper apartment and remodeled the lower level into a store-front apartment.

A hiatus of business activity existed for thirty years until Mike Knott purchased the building in 2012 and restored the structure to resemble its former image (in an attractive and historical style). The site now houses the Neese Insurance Agency; a first for this type of business.

Other owners were Grace Whitten, who purchased the building from Don Murray and sold it to her daughter, Penny Whitten Ven Huizen. Penny sold it to the current owner, Mike Knott.

#### THE REAGAN FAMILY CONNECTION WITH 1005

President Reagan's parents were born here in Fulton, Nellie grew up here and they were married here. Several of the buildings in the 1000 block of 4th Street have connections with the Wilson/Reagan families. Florence Utz Jones, could recall little Ronnie when his parents were visiting relatives in the apartment upstairs, coming into the Railway Express Office and asking her, "Wha'cha doin' Florence?"

Prior to that time, the President's great aunt, Katie, was the head clerk in the Chicago Bakery. The announcement of her position was made in the Fulton Journal in August, 1900. Paul Zimmer was the owner at that time.

One sad commentary: William Reagan, the President's great uncle, was living in the upper apartment above the American Railway Express company's office in 1919. He, for several weeks, had not appeared in public when friends requested that a medical commission commit him for alcohol rehabilitation and mental illness. Drs. Farley, Durkee and Clendenen agreed that he was mentally deranged and he was ordered to Watertown for treatment. The apartment was rented to Mrs. O. G. Baldwin, William's aunt at the time.

----CONTINUED----

**CHICAGO BAKERY.**  
Always on hand, fresh bread, cakes and pies, also a full line of canned fruits, canned fish and canned meats. A fine variety of pure confectionery. Everything warranted first-class. Lunobes, with cold meats, oysters in season, and tea and coffee served, during the day and evening. Ice cream to fill large or small orders.  
**Paul Zimmer**  
**Prices Reasonable.**  
**G. UTZ, Proprietor.** **FRED UTZ, Manager.**

Chicago Bakery advertisement from the Fulton Journal. Above dated June 23, 1892 & right dated June 25, 1901

**Chicago Bakery**  
The place for Choice Chocolates and Novelties and Delicacies in  
**CONFECTIONERY**  
Full Line  
Fresh Assortment  
Pure as Home-Made  
Everything in the Bakery line fine and fresh daily.  
**PAUL ZIMMER, Prop.**

Six loaves of bread cost 25¢ at the Chicago Bakery during Zimmerman's ownership. One loaf could be purchased with a token, pictured left.



## The "Butter Pat" Murder In the New Life Café

The New Life Café was located in 1005-4th Street in 1918. George Nave was the chef/manager of the restaurant. At 11:00 p.m. on Tuesday evening, March 5, 1918, two Clinton men, Carl Beutil and Robert Felton, had finished eating their dinner. Earlier, Felton had asked for butter to go with his meal and Nave, the server, informed him that butter did not go with that meal. Felton insisted. Nave served him the butter pat and added a nickel to his bill. This angered Felton who refused to pay the extra charge. The waiter, Nave, and Felton, the customer, quarreled. Nave then evicted the two men from the New Life Café. Once outside, Felton threw a stone/rock through the front window. Nave grabbed a gun and another employee, Peter James, armed with a knife, pursued the two Clinton men who headed to the corner and west on 10th Avenue.

Near the front of the Livery Stable (current site of Denny O's Tavern), Beutil was shot in the back by Nave who was standing on the corner of 10th Avenue and 4th Street. Several people, including Nave, gathered around the fallen man and carried him into the City Hall (then located on 4th Street at the site of the former fire station). The City Marshal, Orville Baker, was standing inside the livery stable and witnessed the killing of Beutil. No one could believe that Nave could shoot Beutil from that distance. He was arrested immediately in the City Hall when the victim died. The irony of the killing is that the victim was not involved in the dispute over the butter-pat. It was his friend, Felton, who became angry and threw the rock into the café window.

On April 26, 1918, George Nave was found guilty of murder by a jury that deliberated for over twenty hours. He was represented by M. C. Rogers, a local attorney, who was serving as mayor at the time of the trial. Nave, an Albanian native, was not a naturalized citizen. Many immigrants from several foreign countries came to Fulton because of the three railroad companies located here. They lived in camps on south 4th Street. Nave was sentenced to life imprisonment. He was 27 years old.

### **OTHER RESIDENTS AT 1005 ½**

Florence and Thaddeus Jones lived there when they were first married.

Maria and Paul Zimmer, proprietor of the Chicago Bakery, lived there during the first five years of their marriage. Their two oldest children were born there.

In contemplating this week's profound loss in Prophetstown, now more than ever, we appreciate our rich heritage of historic buildings in Fulton.

Hats off to Mike Knott for the restoration of 1005 Fourth Street. And a special thank you to Mike and Howard Neese for the investment of their time, energy and resources in preserving 1005 for future generations.