



STORE NAME TO CHANGE - The Holland Drug Co. name will come down from the building at the corner of North Main St. and East Charlotte Ave. after three generations and almost a century of

service to the area. Inquiries have already been made about leasing the building vacated with Thomas M. Holland's retirement at the end of December. (Photo by Glenda Loftin)

Holland Drug Store Closed

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Tom Holland took over the store when his dad died in 1971.

When he retired at the end of December, he had put in 42 years plus his work in the soda fountain while he was in high school. At that time the high school was two blocks up West Central Ave. and the drug store was a popular afternoon gathering place for students.

"I'm hoping Tommy will work for us here at Blake Drug," Roray Blake said back in December, "If he doesn't want to work full time, I hope he will give us a couple days a week."

"I'm giving it a try," Holland said over the weekend.

For about four hours a day last week, Holland worked behind a different pharmacist counter doing something new - learning to operate a computer.

"It's interesting. I'm trying to learn how to keep records entered into the computer," he said, "I'll be working on the Holland Drug Co. books all this month, finishing up everything. We are transferring the prescription records."

"I don't play golf or hunt or fish, so this gives me something to do. I don't want to sit around with doing nothing."

Much of the remaining stock from the store is yet to be moved, either to the store up the street or to another Blake Drug store.

The Holland Drug Co. building, still owned by Holland, will probably be leased. A couple inquiries have been made already by persons interested in opening a business.

Hardest Part

"The hardest thing about closing was telling the girls," Holland said, "I really hated to tell them I was closing. Kirk (Reeves, pharmacist) had retired last April, and the girls were really great, very dependable. They had each been there eight or nine years or more. I just hated to tell them I was going to close."

"The girls" are the three employees at the lunch counter, Joyce McManus, Vree Quinn and JoAnn Roman.

The break in family tradition was not such a hard pill to swallow for Tom Holland. After all, not many families can boast of three generations of service to the community in the same business.

In retirement, he will have more time to spend with his wife Frances and their children and grandchildren.

Daughter Camille and her husband Dr. Joe Carruth live in Dublin, Ga. They are parents of Tom, 11, and Elizabeth, 9.

Son Bucky and his wife Kristi live in Columbia, SC, and are parents of her son Craig, 11, and their daughters Carrie Lynn, 2, and Lauren Anna, six months.