

THE OLD FLOUR MILL

BY JOAN MUYSKENS

An old commercial painting of a flour sack was recently uncovered in the office of the Curran Flour Co., Des Moines, Iowa, when the company was remodeling its offices. The painting is an old Falcon Flour advertisement of the Des Moines Roller Mills, commonly called the Shannon and Mott Company. The Curran Flour Co. started to cover the old wall painting, but Mrs. Winnie Runyan, office manager, liked the painting and convinced her boss and the owner of the building to redesign the office interior in order to preserve the historical advertisement, which now has a predominant place in the office. With the local publicity on the findings came numerous phone calls and visits from persons knowing of or being related to Shannon and Mott.

Clinton Shannon, half owner of the enterprise, was born in Peoria County, Illinois, Jan. 22, 1859. As a young boy, he and his family moved to Kansas. Shannon was a wheat farmer in Kansas until he was 19, when he moved to Des Moines.

Shannon went into the wholesale flour business in Des Moines and had a warehouse at Fifth and Vine. It is believed that Shannon met Clarence Mott through the business and the two men decided to form the Des Moines Roller Mills, Clarence Mott's father, Lamoine, supplying the money for his son's share of the mill. Lamoine Mott, who was a local grain dealer as early as 1879, still has real estate holdings in Des Moines.

The Des Moines Roller Mill was located at Fifteenth Street and Mulberry. The mill was first operated in the late 1800's, probably about 1893. The mill was closed in 1917 when it was destroyed by fire, the cause of the fire never having been determined. As for when the Falcon Flour advertisement was painted on the wall of what is now the Curran Flour Co., no one is sure. The advertisement was originally painted on what was then the outside west wall of a grocery store at 1903 Cottage Grove; there have been grocery stores standing at this address ever since 1893.



Register & Tribune Photo

THE FALCON FLOUR ADVERTISEMENT

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