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**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Dagen's Grocery (preferred)  
other names/site number Ole B. Johnson and Sons Hotel and Store

**2. Location**

street & number 616 Central Avenue N/A  not for publication  
city or town Jud  vicinity  
state North Dakota code ND county La Moure code 045 zip code 58454

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr.  
Merlan E. Paaverud, Jr.  
State Historic Preservation Officer (North Dakota)

5-23-05  
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Edson H. Beall 7/6/05

Dagen's Grocery  
Name of Property

La Moure, ND  
County and State

**5. Classification**

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)		
		Contributing	Noncontributing	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	2	0	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	0	0	sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	0	0	structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	0	0	objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	2	0	<b>Total</b>

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)  
N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**  
0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
DOMESTIC: hotel  
GOVERNMENT: post office  
COMMERCE/TRADE: department store

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
DOMESTIC: single dwelling

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
OTHER: vernacular commercial

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)  
foundation Stone  
walls pressed tin over wood  
Asphalt  
roof Tar  
Metal  
other \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheet

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery
- E** a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Commerce
- Exploration/settlement
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

- 1905-1907
- 1907-1911
- 1911-1940

**Significant Dates**

- 1905
- 1907
- 1911

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

**Cultural Affiliation**

**Architect/Builder**

Builder: Ole B. Johnson & Sons

Dagen's Grocery  
Name of Property

La Moure, ND  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 4/10 acre

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	14	507901	5152405	3		
	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing

2				4		
	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing

See continuation sheet.

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Pauline Bergman & Deanna Dagen

organization N/a date 2004

street & number 5820 County Highway 65 telephone 701-685-2269

city or town Jud state ND zip code 58454

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Deanna Dagen

street & number 616 Central Avenue telephone 701-685-2282

city or town Jud state ND zip code 58454

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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### Dagen's Grocery La Moure County, ND

#### Description

Located on Central Avenue, the wide "Main Street" of Jud, North Dakota, Dagen's Grocery consists of two conjoined buildings: a rectangular, two-storied, wood-framed store and hotel with a small, rectangular, wood-framed, single-storied cream station from the 1920s attached to the south side of the building. The store is sheathed with pressed tin siding and roofed with tar. The cream station has a metal gable roof, faux-brick asphalt wall covering, and a boomtown facade. A small barn, now unused, sits to the south of the creamery.

In the 1955 Golden Jubilee book, Mrs. H.E. Foy recalls that "in 1904, the Johnson boys (Julius and Edwin) put a little store, in what is now part of the Dagen's Grocery Building" (Jubilee Committee, 23). This is likely the small entry shed in the center of the south facade of the store. In 1905, Ole B. Johnson invested in building a hotel and store, the two-story main building. Built on a foundation of stone, now completely under grade, the wood-framed building still retains its pressed tin siding, an affordable material used to dress up a commercial structure while reducing maintenance requirements. The north facade of the main building has the hotel lobby entrance on the east end and the grocery storefront on the west end. Two 1:1 double-hung windows flank the entry door to the hotel. The west storefront consists of a wooden bulkhead surmounted by two 6:6 fixed pane display windows separated by an asphalt-shingled, shed-roofed entry addition that juts out onto the sidewalk 5-6 feet. The door to the store is in the west wall of the small shed. Historic photos show this being constructed during the Johnson ownership (1905-1909). Six 1:1 double-hung windows allowed light into the second-story hotel rooms. The easternmost windows on this facade, two on the second story and one on the ground floor, were boarded up in 1952 after being broken during a hail storm; the glass in the remaining windows was replaced, but the sash are original. The roofline consists of a foot-high parapet concealing the flat tarred roof. The roof has been maintained by regular tarring and has never been replaced. Small scroll-like brackets, doubled, support the metal cornice piece at the northeast, northwest, and southwest corners of the building and at the center of the north facade.

Moving around the corner, the west facade of the main building features two 1:1 double-hung windows on the second story. The south window is covered by a storm sash. A Coca-Cola billboard occupies most of the first floor of the facade. This side is also the primary entrance to the Cream Station. At the center of the asphalt-covered wall is a four-paneled wooden door. To

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### Dagen's Grocery La Moure County, ND

#### Description (continued)

the left of the door was a display window; it is now boarded over with a faux painted "window." A sign hangs above the door announcing: "Cream Station. Fairmont Creamery Co.," with a light above that.

The south facade is composed of the long side of the cream station and the long side of the main building. The cream station's facade is a solid wall of faux-brick asphalt, with corrugated metal at the ground, covering the foundation. It covers approximately 1/3 of the store's rear wall, but only on the ground floor. Abutting the cream station and covering the central part of the first story south facade of the store is the small entry shed area thought to be the original 1904 store. A wooden stairway runs up the south wall of this shed to the roof, with a short second flight of steps from the roof to a second story door. The west side of the shed is adjacent to the cream station. The south side is covered with the same faux-brick asphalt as the cream station. The north side abuts the store. The east side is covered with large panels of plywood. An entry door is north of this in-fill. The southeast half of the store has three 1:1 windows on the upper story, and two on the ground floor. The south facade of the store is covered with pressed tin.

The east wall of the store has one window on the ground floor, south of center, and one centrally-located window in the second story.

The barn, which a local carpenter estimates was built in 1905 or 1906, is of wood construction on a stone foundation, measuring 16'4" by 24'5". Its hipped roof is covered with wood shingles. A large wood slide door on a rail allows entry from the north side. An interior wall to the left of the slide door divides the ground floor into a garage on the east and a chicken coop on the west. A door in this wall allows access to the coop. The roosts and nests are still in evidence, and a petrified egg was discovered in summer 2004 when the building was cleaned. The garage portion now houses a riding lawnmower and Gerald Dagen's pushcart. A small door on the west allows access to the upper floor. The full loft was used for storage over the years and now houses hotel chairs, cream cans with their shipping labels still attached, and other "antiques." The boarded over windows, destroyed in the 1952 hail storm, are currently painted with chickens.

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**Dagen's Grocery**  
**La Moure County, ND**

### Description (continued)

#### INTERIOR

The front entrance of the store faces Central Avenue. To the left of the entrance is the original counter. This counter was on the right until new shelving was installed by Nash Finch in the early 1950s. Prior to the more modern wooden shelving, the store had open, floor-to-ceiling shelves. The floor-to-ceiling height is 12 feet. The floor is wood. It was eventually covered with a smooth flooring on which the Dagens used a sweeping compound, which put natural oils into the floor, making it easy to sweep. The store walls and ceiling are covered with beadboard. The beadboard on the walls runs horizontally and can be seen on the south and east walls. The west wall has been covered with dry wall, but it is presumed that the original beadboard is still intact beneath. To decorate the large expanse of wall behind the shelves on the west and south walls, the Dagens hung calendar pictures, still remembered by many local people. Many of these pictures still grace the walls.

In an historic photo, Peter Dagen is pictured behind the counter, which was still on the right. The cash register, a scale, and a paper rack all stand on the counter. Canned goods line the shelves behind the counter, with dry goods on the back wall up to the door leading to the storage room. To the left of the doorway, the shelves contain shoes. Suspended from a wire strung from a center post are gloves. A calendar, advertisements, and a warning poster are all tacked to the post as well. Fastened to the crossbeam, which this post supports, are other advertisements. The register, scale, and rack are all still in the store. The storeroom became part of the cream station eventually. The wires still hang, and the advertisements still cling to the walls.

When the cream station and large, walk-in cooler were added, the back wall to the right of the storeroom door was removed. The wood door surround is still visible behind the shelving on the left side of the old door. The walk-in cooler faces west, just where the door originally was. A door on the west led out to the cream station. The platform for cream cans was just outside. When the cream station closed, the door was boarded up and the store expanded into the creamery space. The office, however, has not been changed in the 40 years since the cream

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### Dagen's Grocery La Moure County, ND

#### Description (continued)

station closed. Mr. Dagen's licence is tacked to the wall, the butterfat guide on the shelf, the tea kettle on the burner and the slop pail still in the corner. Testing jars and libs stand on a shelf just outside the door. The centrifuge unit and jar sterilizer, both found stored elsewhere on the property, have been put back in the cream station, along with some cream cans.

The dirt basement under the store is entered from what was the storeroom, directly behind the cooler. Another door, at a right angle to the basement door, gave access into the kitchen of the hotel. The woodwork indicates that this is an original door. The kitchen can also be entered from an exterior door to the south. Originally, there was no access to the hotel dining room from the store. The existing door was added when the Dagens made living quarters out of the hotel.

The hotel was also entered from Central Avenue. The lobby, dining room, and kitchen made up the ground floor of the hotel, with 11 rooms upstairs. In both the lobby and dining room, the floors were wood, the ceilings beadboard, and the walls papered. Like the store, the ceilings in the hotel are 12 feet high.

To the right of the entry is the door leading upstairs to the hotel rooms. This stair is in the center of the building, and gives access to a hallway running the length of the building with a window at either end. All eleven rooms opened on to this hallway. The five rooms on the north were organized with two to the east and three to the west of the stairs. Rooms were 9 feet in length, and 6 or 7 feet in width. One larger room occupies the northeast corner of the building. If the Johnsons lived in the hotel, it is likely that this room was their quarters. The six south rooms were three to either side of the stairs. Originally, the floors were wood and the walls and ceilings were plaster.

The Dagens remodeled the interior after the hotel closed, turning the upstairs and the hotel lobby into living quarters for the family. Although Gerald and Emma married in 1934, they did not reside full time in Jud. Gerald worked for the railroad section crew, and Emma traveled with him. It was not until 1940, when Gerald took over the store, that they moved to Jud full-time. It is well-known that Emma did not get along well with her mother-in-law, so it is most probable that remodeling began in 1940 or soon after Deanna was born in 1943.

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### Dagen's Grocery La Moure County, ND

#### Description (continued)

The west half of the upstairs was turned into a kitchen, on the south side, and living area which spans the width of the building, with the hallway wall removed on the western three south rooms and the western two north rooms (see drawing, attachment 1). The third room in on the north side remained a bedroom, but the hall access door was closed and a new one added from the new living room. The two hotel rooms on the east side of the stairs, north side of the building, were turned into one large room, with the wall between removed and the far east door to the hall closed. The two easternmost rooms on the south side remained bedrooms. The middle room on the south side retains its historic dimensions, but is now a bathroom. Some of the intact rooms were rented to boarders as late as 1950. Deanna clearly recalls Patsy Krueger and Luella Schlenker moving in during the winter months to attend high school in Jud.

A new door was added in the upstairs kitchen, leading to a set of stairs resting on the roof of the entry shed on the south side of the building. In the 1970s, a door was added in the hallway so that the eastern half of the upstairs could be closed off and not heated.

The original plaster walls remain in the large room in the northeast corner of the building. It is likely that the hotel always had painted walls. Wallpaper was added by the Dagens in the other bedrooms, the kitchen, and the living area. Linoleum covers the original wood floors and ceiling tiles were added. The wood molding surrounding the windows and doors are original.

#### INTEGRITY

Some alterations have been made to the original configuration of Dagen's Grocery. On the exterior, the cream station was added to the south side. This change occurred within the historic period and contributes to the building's commercial significance in this farming community. A shed entry addition was added to the front door of the store. An additional door was added on the south side of the building after the interior was remodeled to accommodate family living quarters upstairs. After damage from a hail storm in 1952, some of the windows were boarded up and screens were added to the others.

On the interior, the store was updated by Nash Finch in the 1950s. The cream station and a walk-in cooler were added. These changes contribute to the store's significance by reflecting the

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**Dagen's Grocery**  
**La Moure County, ND**

### **Description (continued)**

changing economic realities of a small town grocery. The hotel closed in the mid-1910s, and the Dagens remodeled the hotel portion to provide living quarters for the family. A door was added between the store and the former hotel dining room. The upstairs was altered, and the original finish materials were covered. Mob boards are original throughout the building. The front store entry is unchanged, as is the door leading from the lean-to into the storage room/cream station. Most of the hardware is original. The wood interior of the lean-to, which served as the hotel kitchen, is unchanged, and the passthrough to the dining room is still visible.

The building is the only remaining Main Street business from the early years of Jud. It has been in operation for 100 years and in the same family for 94. It has been continuously occupied.

The majority of the changes made to this structure reflect different stages of the store's development. A hotel was only needed until claims were staked and houses were built. Once it became an economic liability, the Dagens closed it and used the building as their home, keeping them close to work. The cream station was a valuable and viable addition to the store business. As the majority of the physical structure remains intact, particularly from the exterior, the store has integrity of location, design, setting, feeling, and association. It has lost, to a minor degree, integrity of materials and workmanship on the interior, but maintains this integrity on the exterior.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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**Dagen's Grocery**  
**La Moure County, ND**

### Statement of Significance

Dagen's Grocery, originally known as the Ole B. Johnson & Sons Hotel and Store, has been a Jud institution since 1905. It is the oldest building in the town originally called Gunthorpe. It has provided valuable services to community of Jud since its construction. Dagen's Grocery is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under criterion A for its role in the settlement and commerce of Jud, North Dakota.

In 1904, the Northern Pacific railroad laid the grade near what is now Jud. In 1905, the tracks were laid; the depot was built in the winter of 1905 -1906. The Smith Land Company established the village of Gunthorp (alternately spelled "Gunthorpe") in 1905. The *Edgeley Mail* reported, in December 1905 that Jud "is the logical shipping point for northern LaMoure and southern Stutsman counties, whose produce has been hauled 20 to 40 miles heretofore, to the old main line of the N.P. or to the Soo" (as quoted from Kruger, 8).

For several years, the town had two names. Gunthorpe was the post office and Jud was the shipping point. In 1905, the *Edgeley Mail* reported "A petition is being circulated to have the post office changed to Jud. While we had rather it remain as it is, if the railroad and townsite companies will not change to Gunthorp, it will be better for all of us to have it called Jud. If the name is approved by Uncle Sam, the post office of Gunthorpe will soon be no more" (1955, 7). The petition was passed by O.R. Bennett. In 1906, the name was changed to "Jud," but the town was not incorporated until June of 1909. Little is known about either Jud or Gunthorpe. Gunthorpe was born in England, came to the burgeoning village that bore his name briefly, and he did help erect several buildings. No one knows how long he stayed. Jud was a railroad man. No doubt there were personal and political reasons for the name change, but none of this history has survived to the present day.

The first businesses established were the two lumberyards. The Jud Golden Jubilee book recalls that, in 1904, Julius and Edwin Johnson "put a little store in what is now part of the Dagen's Grocery Building" (23). The small shed attached to the south side of the existing building is believed to be this early store. The first post office for Gunthorpe was in this building, although the original post office was established in a tent.

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

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**Dagen's Grocery  
La Moure County, ND**

**Statement of Significance (continued)**

Those who settled in the area were German-Russian, with a few Swedes and Norwegians. The names of the families associated with the building of the townsite are no longer found in the city directory; most left within a few years of the founding of the town or during the hard 1920s and 1930s. The immigrants who came to farm the land are the ones who held the community together during the rough decades. Dagen is the only family name left associated with an original Jud business.

**OWNERS' HISTORY**

Born in 1847, Ole Bringle (O.B.) Johnson immigrated from Dahlsland, Sweden to Chicago in 1868. He engaged in carpentry for several years. In 1871, he moved to Red Wing, Minnesota, where he owned and operated a store. In Red Wing, he met and married Hannah Johnson; they had two children, Julius and Esther, in Red Wing. In 1876, the Johnson family moved to Stillwater, Minnesota, where they ran a store and then farmed. The rest of the 9 Johnson children were born here. They then sold the farm and moved to Bay City, Wisconsin, where Johnson fished and worked for the railroad when the fish weren't running. It is likely through his railroad connections that he heard of the new rail lines being run through North Dakota and the opportunities this presented.

The "Johnsons came to Kulm April, 1903 with an immigrant car. They had two oxen to use for breaking the prairies. They had a Garr Scoth threshing machine" (56). In 1904, Julius and Edwin began the store. In 1905, the existing building was constructed on land purchased by Ole B. Johnson from the Smith Land Company for \$350 (10 June 1905, Register of Deeds). O.B. Johnson was the first postmaster of Gunthorpe. In 1907, Johnson sold the store to William Long and moved back to his homestead claim. In 1920, he traded that farm for a store in LaMoure, where he lived until his death in 1940.

William Long and his second wife, Ella Rood Long, came to Jud from Wisconsin in 1900. They purchased a farm 7 miles east of Jud. In the winter of 1907, they purchased the Johnson store and hotel for \$3000, which they operated until 1911, when they traded it to Peter Dagen for his farm (19 December 1907, Register of Deeds; 6 March 1911, common value for the even exchange of farm and store was placed at \$4000).

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### Dagen's Grocery La Moure County, ND

#### Statement of Significance (continued)

Peter Dagen was born December 6, 1869, in Morton, Minnesota. He married Elizabeth Enzinger, born June 28, 1880, in 1900. The Enzinger family had immigrated to Minnesota from Germany. Their son, Gerald, was born in Morton in 1903. In 1906, the Dagens moved to a farm in Berlin, North Dakota. They adopted Verna, a two year old girl, in 1909. In 1911, the Dagens traded their farm for the store and hotel in Jud. The Long family still owns and operates this farm. Peter Dagen ran the store until his death in 1940.

Ownership then passed to son Gerald (ownership was transferred on 20 April 1940 for the sum of \$1, Register of Deeds). Gerald worked in the community until 1927, when he got a job with the Northern Pacific Railroad. In 1934, he married Emma Bergman, a teacher in four of the neighboring townships. Emma and Gerald had one child, Deanna, who taught in the LaMoure Public School system her entire career. Upon the death of Gerald in 1975, Deanna took over operations, with the assistance of Ruth Gerdes, until the store closed in 1991.

#### HISTORY OF THE GROCERY

Railroads were the pathways through the Dakotas, with great tracts of land ceded by the government to the railroads to develop the transportation network needed to settle this part of the country. The railroad surveyed what they needed for a right-of-way and sold the rest of the land to private individuals, including philanthropists, developers, investors, and settlers. Many investors bought land sight unseen; those interested only in making money sold the land to developers, who in turn sold land to settlers. The Smith Land Company sold the land that became Jud. In LaMoure County, many of the investors and developers were from Chicago, where the Northern Pacific's headquarters were located.

*"He came to Edgeley with an immigrant car that contained stock, machinery, and household goods. There was no railroad to Jud, so he came to Jud on the railroad grade"* (42, History of John Davis).

In the latter decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, rails had been laid as far as Edgeley, 20 miles south, and Kulm, 20 miles west. Immigrants to the area usually embarked from one of these two stopping points. Often, they came in immigrant cars which would transport families, livestock, and

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**Dagen's Grocery**  
**La Moure County, ND**

### Statement of Significance (continued)

belongings. From one of the two towns, the families would then travel by wagon to their homestead sites. Before 1905, when the rails were laid, the rail bed or grade served as a road from Edgeley to Jud. Travel from Kulm was not as easy as there was only open prairie, no roads.

*"The first year [1904] we got our groceries and mail from Edgeley. Later we got our mail on a route going to the Floyd Post Office: we had our mail box south of the Job farm, then occupied by Wm. Long. We walked for the mail. .... We were glad to see the railroad come and to have a closer town"* (56, History of Mikkell Johnson).

In new communities, the first service organized was the post office. Contact with relatives was important to pioneers who had left homelands and families behind. The majority of the first settlers to the Jud area were immigrants; one can imagine how precious a letter from home was to these folks. The post office was also used to order much-needed supplies. Before the Gunthorpe post office opened, settlers had to travel 20 miles to Edgeley or Kulm. Settlers in Mikkelson Township, to the north, went to Adrian, 17 miles northeast, or further, to Jamestown. Two country post offices were located in the area, and mail was delivered to them by stage.

Johnson could be considered an opportunist or an astute businessman. He understood the need for a post office, store, and hotel in the burgeoning townsite of Gunthorpe. Johnson bought land for this venture close to the rail line. With developers, salesman, promoters, and settlers arriving, a hotel was a good investment for someone with the capital to provide one. Johnson built a second story onto his store with 11 rooms. The store was extended to the east to include a lobby, dining room, and kitchen with a dumb waiter. For fifty cents a night, guests were provided with a bed, chair, commode, wash stand, bowl, pitcher of water, and a towel. Many made use of the accommodations. *"The [Schulte] family stayed with the Roman Brunners at the Johnson Land Company Hotel until the inside of the house was finished"* (81). *"Houses were scarce when Moos came to Jud [circa 1909] and they lived at the Long Hotel"* (65). By city standards, the hotel was not grand. But it provided accommodations and good food when and where both were in demand. It also provided much needed jobs as maids and cooks for young women in the area. Alphens Forsman, son of Nels Forsman, remembers his mother telling the story of how she met his father while she cooked for the Longs in the hotel.

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### Dagen's Grocery La Moure County, ND

#### Statement of Significance (continued)

The post office complimented the store business. With only horse-drawn or oxen-drawn wagons to travel to town, people made certain they took care of all their business in a single trip. The newspapers that came through the post office were also quite an event. They were passed from person to person, and often people gathered at the store to share the papers and their own news. During repair work in 2004, a *Minneapolis Journal* newspaper dated November 12, 1905, was found in the front foundation of the store. A good guess is that it was placed there towards the end of construction as an unofficial "date stone" or time capsule.

Groceries also were not available any closer than 15 or 20 miles, so a store was an excellent investment. From its beginning, the store was an important part of the community. In the tradition of small, rural towns, Saturday night in Jud was an important weekly social event that everyone looked forward to. After donning their "second best" clothes, farm families would head to Jud for the evening. The store provided a place to gather as well as suppling the basic needs for the farm family. A general store sold dry goods and some hardware in addition to groceries. Clothes, sewing supplies, school supplies, personal hygiene products, medical and veterinary supplies, kitchen wares, and small repair parts stocked the shelves. In the late 1940s, cured meats were shipped in by rail from the Swift company.

After about 1920, loading the eggs and cream to take to town became part of the Saturday ritual for most farm families. A cream station was added to Dagen's around this time to accommodate the increasing sales of cream and eggs. In the summer of 1919, the *Edgeley Mail* began carrying ads about buying butter and cream; an ad for a creamery also appeared. Newspaper articles and advertisements about care of poultry and milk cows show that people were relying on this added source of income. From the *Edgeley Mail's* Jud News on 2 June 1921, we know that the "Bridgeman and Russel Cream Co. man from Jamestown was in town Thursday." Since Dagen's was the only cream station in town, it must have been in business by 1921. Probably it was built in the summer of 1919 or 1920. *The Jud Leader* folded at this time, and the *Edgeley Mail* carried no Jud news at this time, so it is impossible to pinpoint the year.

Dagen's Grocery had the only cream station in town, so the store was a hub of activity on Saturdays. A sample of cream was tested for sweetness and butter fat. If a family was very particular about keeping the cream fresh, and it had a high butter fat content, they received a

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**Dagen's Grocery**  
**La Moure County, ND**

### Statement of Significance (continued)

premium price for it. The Fairmont Creamery, to which all the cream from Dagen's Cream Station was shipped, established a system with prices and dockage rates. A receipt was issued to the seller, which was either used to make store purchases or exchanged for cash. Usually, the entire amount was used for groceries and other store items. Very little was given out in cash. Often, a family depended on the cream or egg checks for all basic necessities.

Resident Lillian Hertel recalls prices from the 1920s and 1930s. Cream brought about \$3 per 5 gallon can, the average production per week. Eggs brought 6¢-10¢ per dozen. Families usually brought a crate, which was 12 dozen eggs. At the high end of this, a family would earn \$4.20 a week for 5 gallons of cream and 12 dozen eggs. To compare prices, a shirt cost \$1.06 to \$2.11. Socks were 20¢-30¢ a pair. Ham and bacon, bought at the store, cost 10¢ per pound. Macaroni, a treat, was 3¢ per pound.

From the earliest settling of the community, cream, eggs, and butter were part of the Jud economy. From the Centennial book:

*Adeline Podoll, a typical pioneer wife, churned large quantities (20-30 lbs) of butter weekly to sell to the stores (73).*

*During the construction of the railroad, they [Gust Podoll family] sold farm products to the railroad construction camp (74).*

*We walked for the mail and visited Mrs. Long where we bought five pounds of butter for 50 cents (56).*

*They [the Schulte family] arrived by train in Edgeley. They brought with them 4 horse, .... 4 head of cows. They furnished milk for the first baby and sold butter in town as there were few cows at that time (81-82).*

Cream was kept and transported in cans which usually had an owner name plate attached so that they were properly returned. Mr. Dagen would transfer the tested cream to his cans and tag it for shipment by rail to the Fairmont Creamery in Moorhead, Minnesota. Deanna Dagen remembers her father, Gerald, transporting 5 gallon cans of cream on a push cart to the depot about a block and a half away. The next week, those cans would be returned and ready for the next shipment

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### Dagen's Grocery La Moure County, ND

#### Statement of Significance (continued)

out. Cream was shipped on Wednesdays and Saturdays. In the 1950s, the cream was transported by truck rather than rail. The cans were tagged, then chained out on a loading platform on the west side of the store. Deanna Dagen remembers the trucks coming during the night.

Eggs were sold to the cream station also. When the station was busy, extra help was needed to check each egg. Gerald Dagen made a candling box of wood with a light bulb, and also had a purchased box. Resident John Gerdes remembers working as a young man candling eggs in the 1930s. Each egg was held up to a bright light to judge its freshness; if an egg had started to develop, large spots could be seen inside. Once the fresh eggs were separated, they were crated and tagged for shipment by rail, just like the cream. In Gerald Dagen's time, the eggs were sold to the Edgeley and Gackle Creameries. They were transported to these locations by truck. The cream station closed in 1968. This date is very late when compared to other areas of the state, pointing to the importance of this institution in the region.

In the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, most women did not drive and most families had only one vehicle (wagon, and later, car). These weekly trips to town not only provided the groceries, but an opportunity to catch up on news and socialize. Although men came to town to conduct business during the week, the Saturday nights spent in town were an important social event for the otherwise home-bound women and children. With the groceries packed into the wagon or car, women would sit and visit in Dagen's Grocery. Men went to the pool hall. Farm children played in the streets with the town kids. Everyone stayed until the men finished their pool or card games, often as late as midnight. Deanna Dagen recalls that "sometimes, the last remaining folks were invited upstairs for lunch after the store closed at 11:30 or midnight." Many lasting friendships, romances, and even enmities were formed on Saturday nights.

Wholesalers Nash Finch as well as Gamble Robinson and Jamestown Grocery all served as suppliers for Dagen's. Dagen's was a Circle Food store but always ran independently. These companies served Dagen's until they closed or moved. Deanna Dagen retains the letter from around 1970 notifying her that Nash Finch would no longer serve her low-volume store. From then until 1991, when the store closed, Dagen's was served by Valley City Grocery, whose company policies were more tolerant of low-volume local businesses.

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**Dagen's Grocery**  
**La Moure County, ND**

### Statement of Significance (continued)

The tradition of going to town continued into the 1960s when roads were improved and paved and cars were more reliable. Records from the cream station in 1968 show that families were still bringing in cream and eggs, probably more from habit than for actual cash return. But with the increasing mobility of the 1950s and '60s came the gradual demise of small town businesses and small town family Saturday nights. Coming to town, while still fun, was no longer the big, once-a-week trip it had been before modern automobile transportation. While the social activities remained a part of Saturday nights in the small towns, albeit changed somewhat, the commercial aspect decreased. The café and bar would be open, and teenagers would often head to the movies. Cruising through town became a popular high school pastime in the 1970s.

The practice of coming to town on the weekends through the 1960s is a departure from what other community histories show, which is a decline early in the 1950s. The fact that the Jud community clung to the rural small-town lifestyle much longer than other areas perhaps reflects the influence of the German-Russian immigrants who passed on the tradition of subsistence production. They raised everything they needed to survive on the farm, trading the surplus. Modern refrigerated trucks now pick milk up directly from the farms, cutting out the role of the local cream station. Most of the descendants of these immigrant farmers now purchase milk and butter from the store, though they have many head of milk cows.

In the early to mid 20<sup>th</sup> century, the agricultural community was composed of many small, family-run farms loosely associated with the nearest town. Mail, supplies, and social activities were to be found in town, especially on a Saturday night. The commercial nature of the small town grocery store made it a necessity to the small farm family. The addition, in this instance, of a post office in the early years, made Dagen's an even more important social center in the community. The later addition of the cream station provided much the same draw. This intact physical example of a small town grocery store provides a rare opportunity to interpret the importance of this institution in a small town in the still-rural state of North Dakota.

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**La Moure County, ND**

### **Bibliography**

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*Diamond Jubilee, Jud, North Dakota, 1980.* Jud, ND: Jud Diamond Jubilee Committee, 1980.

Forsman, Alphens. Telephone interview by author, 2004.

Gerdes, John. Personal interview by author, 2004.

Handy-Marchello, Barbara. "The 'Main Stay:' Women's Productive Work on Pioneer Farms,"  
*North Dakota History* 63: 2&3, 17-27.

Hertel, Lillian. Personal interview by author, 2004.

LaMoure County Register of Deeds.

Schoeber, Leona [Geiszler]. Personal interview by author.

### **Verbal boundary description**

The nominated property comprises lots 4, 5, 6, & 7 in block 1 of original Jud.

### **Verbal boundary justification**

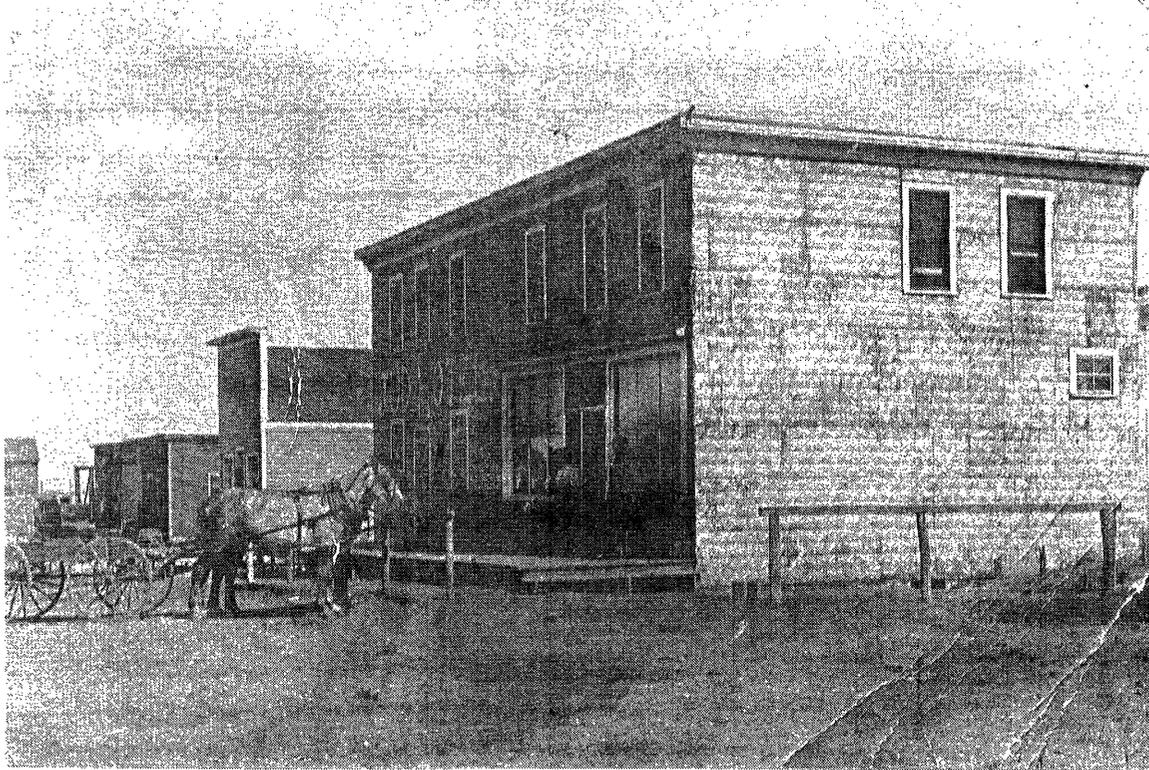
The nominated parcel is the entire property originally associated with Johnson's/ Dagen's Grocery.

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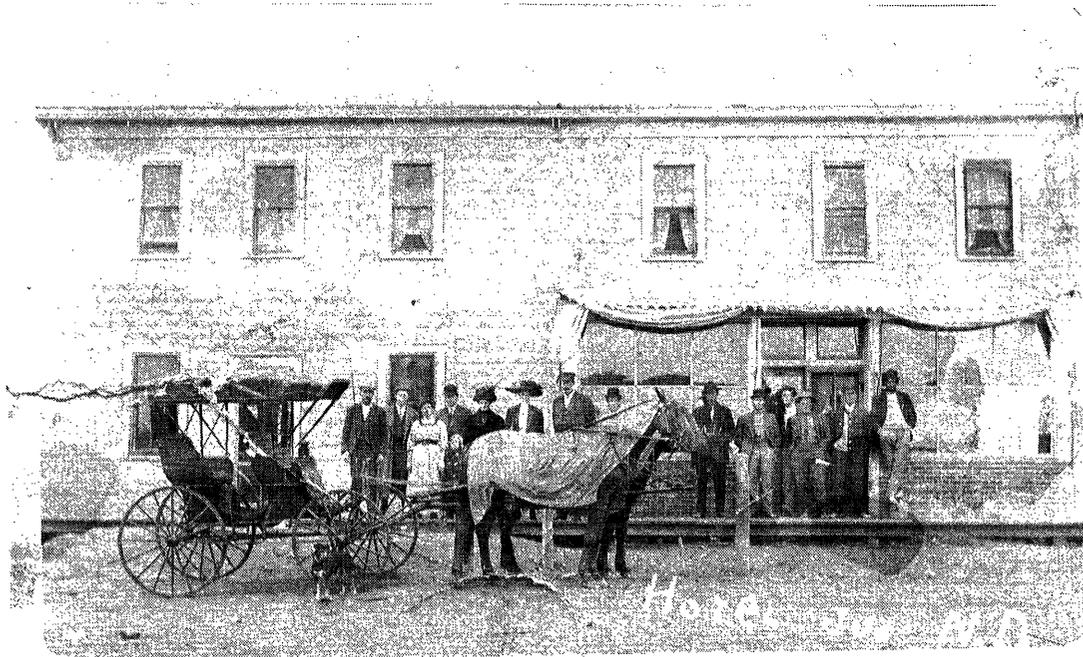
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Top photo: Early days on Central Avenue, Jud. Note the hitching posts.  
Bottom photo: Thought to be a very early photo, as "Jud Hotel" is not yet painted on the side.



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Hotel dining room, early, but date unknown. Molding visible on right edge is double-wide doorway to the sitting room/lobby.

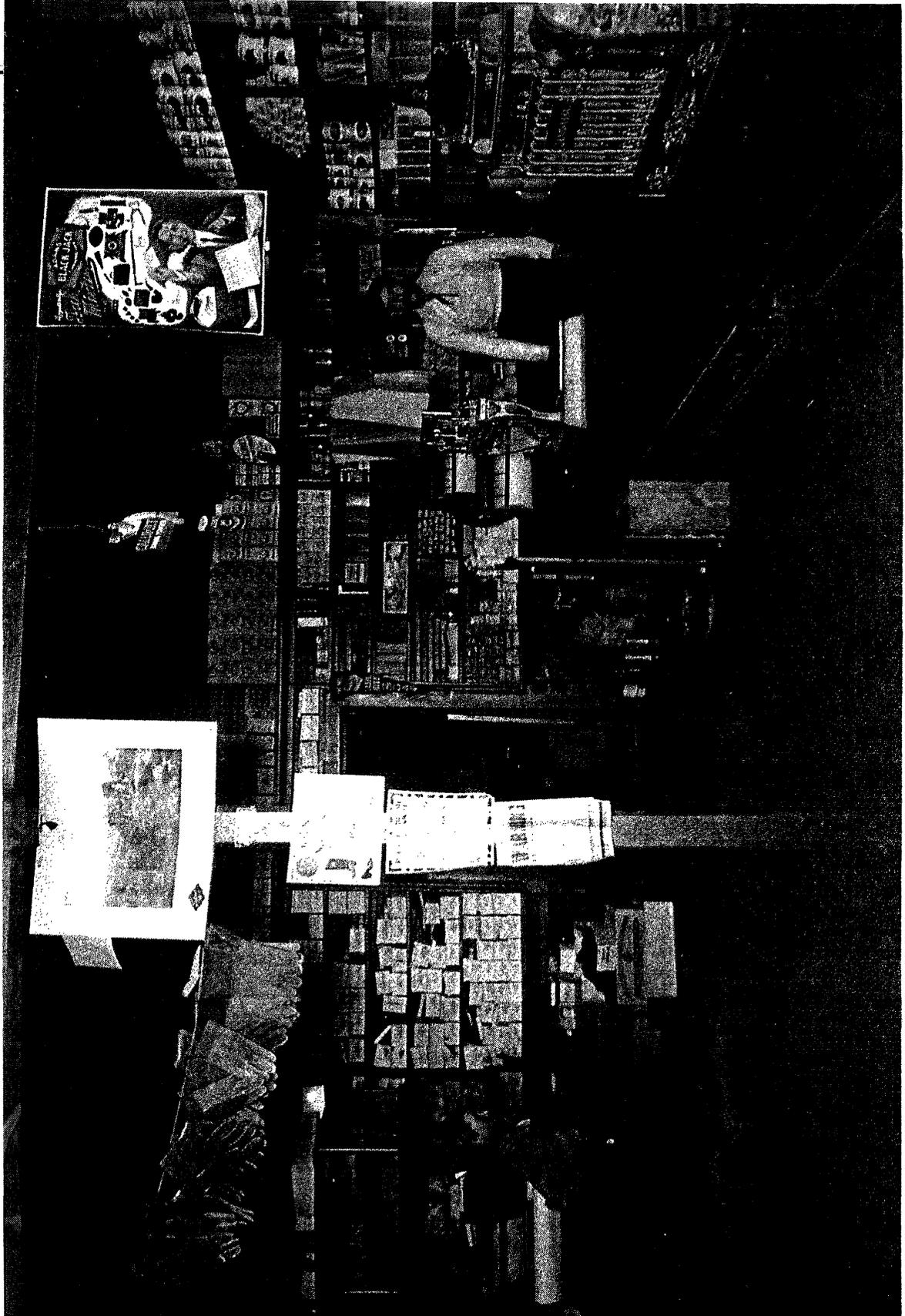


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1913 store interior. Boy, to left, is Gerald Dagen, age 10. Peter Dagen is behind the counter. Photo is taken from entrance.

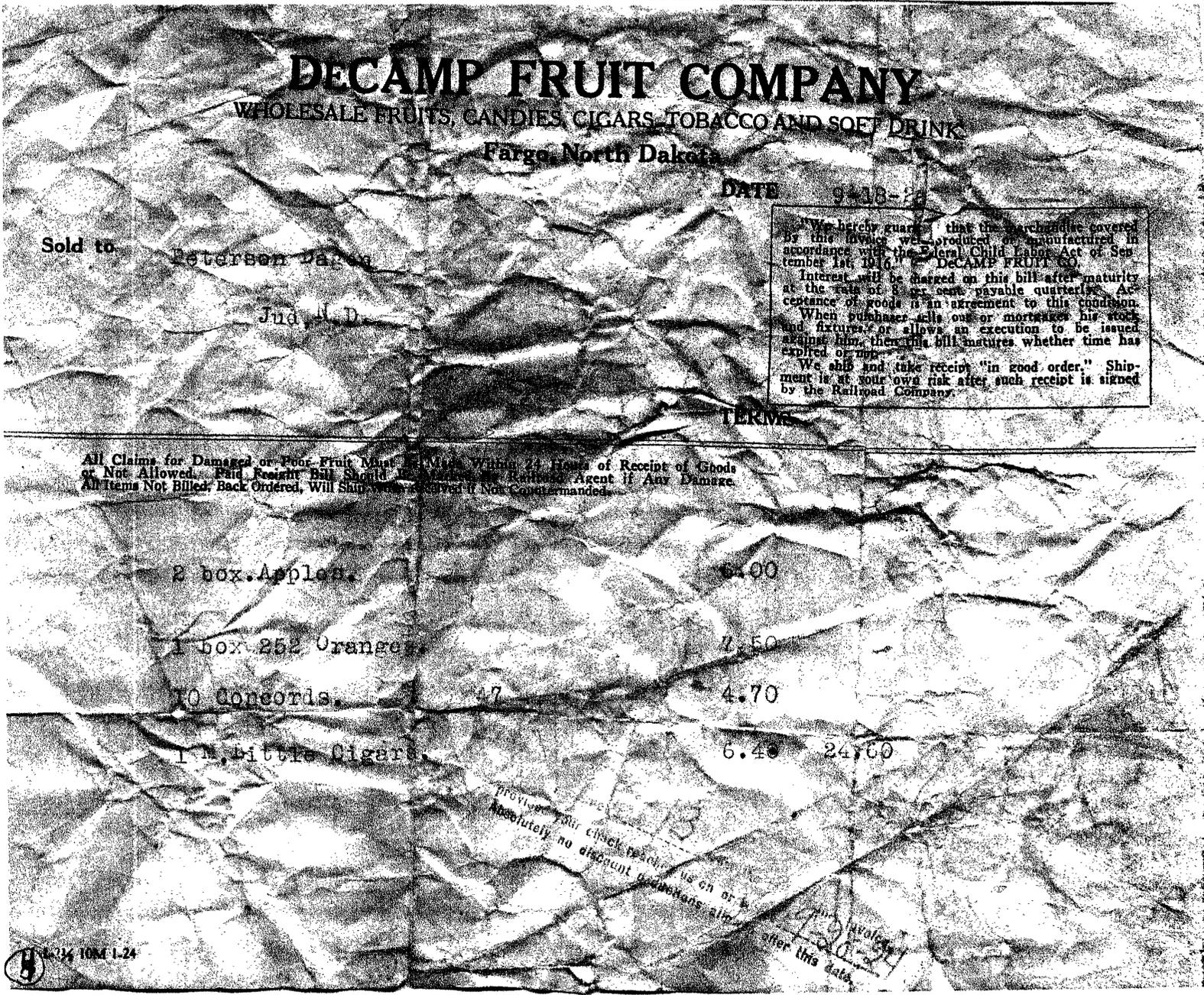


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1924 DeCamp Fruit Company invoice for apples, oranges, concord grapes, and cigars



**DECAMP FRUIT COMPANY**

WHOLESALE FRUITS, CANDIES, CIGARS, TOBACCO AND SOFT DRINKS

Fargo, North Dakota

DATE 9-18-24

Sold to Peterson Dagen  
Jnd, N. D.

"We hereby guarantee that the merchandise covered by this invoice was produced or manufactured in accordance with the Federal Child Labor Act of September 1st, 1916."  
DECAMP FRUIT CO.  
Interest will be charged on this bill after maturity at the rate of 10 per cent payable quarterly. Acceptance of goods is an agreement to this condition.  
When purchaser sells out or mortgages his stock and fixtures or allows an execution to be issued against him, then this bill matures whether time has expired or not.  
We ship and take receipt "in good order." Shipment is at your own risk after such receipt is signed by the Railroad Company.

TERMS

All Claims for Damaged or Poor Fruit Must Be Made Within 24 Hours of Receipt of Goods or Not Allowed. Paid Freight Bill Should Be Returned to Railroad Agent if Any Damage. All Items Not Billed Back Ordered, Will Ship When Received if Not Considered.

2 box Apples		6.00	
1 box 252 Oranges		7.50	
10 concords	47	4.70	
1 M. Little Cigars		6.40	24.60

provided your check reaches us on or before this date. Absolutely no discount on payments after this date.

9-20-24  
after this date

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World War II ad for Dagen's Grocery



*The Family Store*

**GERALD DAGEN'S GROCERY**

*"Make Our Store Your Store"*

JUD, NORTH DAKOTA

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Date Aug 14 19 63  
M Olivia Eland  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

Reg. No.	Clerk	Account Forward		
1	15 days 23			345
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14		2		

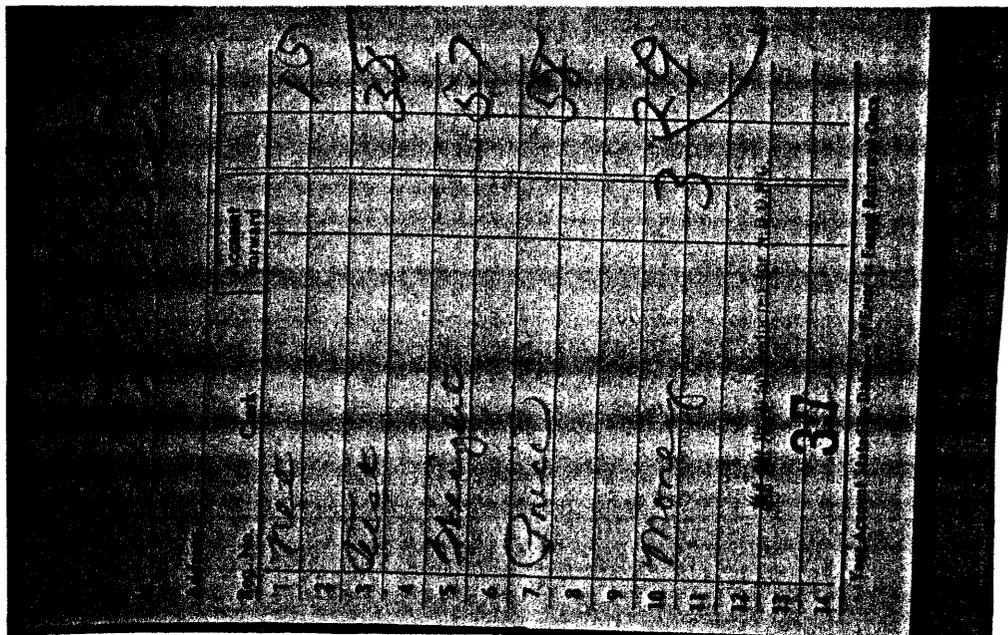
Your Account Stated to Date — If Error Is Found Return at Once

Date Aug 14 19 63  
M F Rhabf  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

Reg. No.	Clerk	Account Forward		
1				
2				
3	13 days 23			299
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14		3		

Your Account Stated to Date — If Error Is Found Return at Once

Egg (top two)  
and cream  
receipts  
1963



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**State of North Dakota**  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND LABOR**



No 2514

Dairy Department

**SAMPLERS, GRADERS & TESTER'S LICENSE**

This is to certify that GERALD DAGEN  
of JUD, NORTH DAKOTA  
is qualified and has been approved by the State Dairy Department to conduct the following duties in the State of North Dakota pursuant to Section 4-30-13 of the North Dakota Century Code.

Sampling       Dated at Bismarck, N. Dak., this 12th  
Testing       day of DECEMBER, 19 67  
Grading       *C. R. Kroghstad* Dairy Commissioner

This license to be posted conspicuously in your place of business and is not transferable.

1000-1-66      "Buy North Dakota Products"      Record Herald, Cando

**STATE LABORATORIES & CONSUMER AFFAIRS**  
**BOX 937 BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA 58505**

DATE: 06/09/81  
LICENSE NO: EF0009

**1981-1982 FIRST BUYER EGG DEALER LICENSE**

DAGEN STORE  
DAGEN DEANNA  
BOX 566  
JUD      ND 58454

THE ABOVE NAMED IS LICENSED UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF CHAPTER 19-07 OF THE NDCC TO PURCHASE OR RECEIVE EGGS FROM PRODUCER AND TO RETAIL OR WHOLESALE EGGS.

EXPIRES: 06-30-82  
POST IN CONSPICUOUS PLACE

**Robert J. Othelner**  
Director



December 1967 Samplers, Graders & Testers License issued to Gerald Dagen and 1981-82 Egg Buyer's License issued to Deanna Dagen