THE house immediately north of the Post Office, now 72 High Street, and for more than 50 years the property of the Healy family, was before their occupation Mrs. Cornelia Sands' Hairdresser. Our old citizens still remember her window full of wigs and hair tresses and other paraphernalia of the old time hairdresser. She was the first of her kind in Kilkenny as far as can be ascertained. Her profession has many worthy exponents to-day. A beautiful daughter, Lottie, is still remembered and was possibly an only child. Mrs. Sands had an advertisement in Bassetts' Guide of 1884.

Nicholas Healy, solicitor, commenced practice here about 1900, one of a brilliant band of apprentices of the late Michael Buggy, solicitor. The firm is still represented by his son and daughter.

The next two shops, which belong now to two brothers, Richard and Godfrey Ryan, were before their time the fashionable millinery establishment of Miss Whyte. Miss Whyte, who had served her time in the Cloth Hall, was a very clever and gifted business woman and was ably seconded in her business by Miss H. Furniss. They visited the London and Paris markets each season and brought back very smart hats and frocks for Kilkenny customers who were loyal and satisfied. Miss Whyte started with only one half of her full shop, the half belonging to Godfrey Ryan, jeweller. As her business grew she incorporated the half now belonging to Richard Ryan, electrician, and made both into a very smart and select warehouse. Before Miss Whyte's coming to 73 High Street, about 1910, T. Brennan, military tailor, had these premises (advertisement in Basset's Guide, 1884). Our oldest citizens can remember the
redcoats and beautifully made breeches in the window. Descendants of Mr. Brennan are still large owners of house property in Kilkenny. The Ryan brothers are sons of the late owner of St. Philomena’s, the first private nursing home in Kilkenny, and are very interested in the welfare of the old town. Richard is a past president of the Chamber of Commerce.

The Gas Co., No. 69, and Hipps, No. 68, were originally all one house, the very interesting and historic home of a branch of the Shee family, retaining to-day an original mantelpiece, illustrated on cover, and displaying armorial bearings. Also there are coats of arms on the Kieran Street frontage to which this house extends. In 1854 this house was acquired from the Buggy family by Mr. John Feehan, (Mayor of Kilkenny, in 1866), a merchant who started to convert it into a West of England Cloth Hall. In doing so the evident antiquity of the building came to notice. Pointed arched doorways, flat-headed windows, ancient floors and, of course, the mantelpiece all proclaimed it to have been built about 1600, or a little before, a time when numerous fine merchant dwellings of this kind were raised in Kilkenny. A description of the uncovering of these antiquities and the promise to preserve the mantelpiece are to be found in Old Kilkenny Archaeological Journal for May 3, 1854.

Mr. Feehan’s example in holding the mantelpiece intact has been followed by all tenants since his time and there it is to-day and Messrs. Hipps are always kindly and accommodating about showing it to those interested in seeing it. On July, 5th, 1854, Mr. Feehan is again listed in the Journal as presenting to the old Society an interesting iron chimney back, in size, 1'11" x 1'3", also found in this house and bearing the date 1656 and the motto, Fides dona superat (Integrity is greater than bribery). This plate had been built horizontally into the wall and above it occurred a substance like decayed silk. Rev. Mr. Graves thought the casting might have been made by some Cromwellian settler, as these chimney backs are often found in England, but rarely here.
Later names connected with this historic old house are Clerys, coach builders, Coxes, drapers, and Stathams, who started a motor garage and bicycle shop here in 1904. The names “Motor Garage” are still in raised concrete letters over the second storey. Stathams divided the premises into two shops, on removal to Patrick Street and Hipps have occupied the more northern shop since that division, made about 30 years ago. In the other (southern) division many names occur: Adams, Connick, Lawless, Duffy and Mark’s Music Shop, before the Gas Co., occupiers of to-day. Over this shop a succession of dentists have lived and had their surgeries there since the turn of the century. Their names are W. K. Carew (his wife was niece of John O’Leary, the great Fenian), E. Brown, E. Lanigan, K. Drea (our member whose drawing of the old mantelpiece is here produced) and now Cyril Kennedy.

67 High Street, now The Gem, confectionery and cafe of Mr. Fitzmaurice, was once Bowden’s drapery; Shearmans, poulterers, and “Sticky-Backs”. Shearmans moved to 84 High Street, in 1905.

No. 66, Gerald Doheny’s butcher’s shop, was once Martin Hawe’s leather store. Later Captain Ankleton Jones had a seed shop here and James Allen was its manager and later its owner. Tynan and Foley, drapers, immediately preceded the victuallers. A great variety of occupations were pursued here. A son of Martin Hawe became a reporter on The Irish Independent.

No. 65. Browne’s leather shop was numbered 67 when it was procured as a drapery business by Mr. and Mrs. George MacAdams in 1900. Coonan’s fancy warehouse preceded the MacAdams and the parrot in their window is well remembered by our old citizens. Coonans were celebrated for their moleskins and everlasting kind of corduroy. Coonans must have occupied these premises for more than 60 years as they are mentioned in Shearman’s 1839 Directory. J. Leo MacAdams, photographer of the Society, is only surviving son of Mr. and Mrs. G. MacAdams.

64 High Street. The Marble City Bar is 66 in the old
enumeration. Matthew Walsh is our oldest name here. He had been manager of Potter's right opposite, before setting up here about 1880. He was married to Miss Crotty, sister of the founder of the Crotty firm. After Matthew Walsh's time it was bought by Michael L. Potter about 1900 and he had it redecorated by Parnall's of Bristol in a very elegant manner. Part of these furnishings still exist to-day. The bar remained the property of the Potter family, but was afterwards occupied by Brennans and Dowlings until it was recently sold to Laurence Langton, brother of our famous hurler, Jim Langton.

No. 63. The O.K. House was a store of Potter's before it was acquired by Mr. and Mrs. T. Griffin about 1926. A very successful newsagency was established by them here and still is flourishing under the direction of Mr. Griffin and his son, Thomas.

No. 62. High St. Now St. Joseph's Dry Cleaning Depot was the Stall and home of James Hickey, Victualler and his family. The Hickeys, who had also a stall in Rose Inn St., opposite opening to St. Kieran Street, were very successful in business, and in dying remembered the poor of Kilkenny very generously indeed. The Hickeys were neighbours of Coves, also butchers, who were connected with the Shearman family, the printers and antique dealers of 19 and 100, High Street.

Patrick Hyland, Butcher, who had worked with James Hickey, followed him here before the present occupancy of St. Joseph's Laundry.

No. 61. Coves Stall and house, has for many years now been the Singer Sewing Machine premises.

No. 60. Pembrokes have occupied these premises since about 1895. Ald. John Pembroke, father of present owner William Pembroke, is well remembered for his love of sport and coursing. He had an interesting sign with a greyhound on it which was featured lately in the "Evening Press." Barry's Greengrocer's small shop in Pembroke's House was occupied by the late John Hickey, cousin of James and brother of singer Joe Hickey. Fitzgeraldds, Butchers, who
afterwards moved to 9 High Street, preceded Pembroke's here.

The small row of little wooden shops known to all Kilkenny folk as the Shambles has a continual change of occupants and trades.

Purcell's, 54 High Street, alone can claim a long time here and they have been here well over a 100 years. The Purcells are one of the oldest Kilkenny families and have a record back to the coming of Strongbow. Their Coat of Arms is three boars heads couped. They have an impressive row of tombstones in St. Canice's Cathedral, the earliest dating from 1768. Other names in the Shambles are Beckett's, McGees, Fahy's, Kenna's, Meany's, Quinn's, Stacpoole's, Doyle's and O'Malley's. The trades pursued besides butchery were brogue-making, nail-making, vegetable selling, and the Quinn's were gun smiths. "La Casita" Confectionery and "Erica" Flower Shop next door have lately brightened up this little bit of old Kilkenny. A plaque over Purcell's is thus engraved: High St. founded A.D. 1200, widened A.D. 1883. John Hogan, Mayor.

No. 53, Murphy's News-Agency, immediately North of the Shambles, was an antique or old curiosity shop run by Christy Sullivan. After him came Brennan, and Murphys of the Metropole Hotel took over here about 40 years ago.

52. Cinema Cafe, owned by Miss Ryan, sister of the late Mrs. Murphy of the Metropole Hotel, followed Eivers leather shop. In 1913, Miss Ryan and Mrs. Murphy opened the very pretty Royal Tea Rooms in the very end house on this side of High Street. These Tea Rooms had been the Kilkenny People Office for many years. P. J. O'Connell had a Pork Butcher's shop between the Cinema Cafe and the Tea Rooms at 51 High Street, and when his son-in-law, Ted Dore (a native of W. Limerick) joined him in the business they acquired the Royal Tea Rooms (next door to them) and built the very fine shop and business that Patrick Dore (grandson of P. J. O'Connell) runs to-day. Mr. O'Connell had learnt his business in O'Shea's Pork Butchery in Parliament Street, and started in High Street in 1889. He acquired the yard at Friar's Bridge which is now the
thriving Bacon Factory of this Kilkenny firm which sends its produce all over Ireland.

No. 50, High Street. Before the Royal Tea Rooms, these premises were for many years the offices of the Kilkenny People.

The end of High Street, showing the old "Kilkenny People" office.

The Kilkenny People was founded about 1890 by two journalists, P. J. O’Keeffe and E. T. Keane, to give voice to the followers of Parnell, and though after the split, Parnell’s cause was not the popular one, they made a great success of their paper. Mr. O’Keeffe died about 1911, just before John Bligh came from Roscommon to manage the office and works. The paper pursued a nationalist policy and was raided in 1917, as our illustration shows, shortly before the removal of the office to James’ Street. The paper was again raided in 1919 and suppressed and its editor, E. T. Keane, imprisoned, but nothing and nobody could suppress
his ability and brilliance and when peace came he continued his work successfully. Though not a native of Kilkenny (Mr. Keane was a Kerryman) he showed a great interest in our history and sponsored the printing of May Sparks' and Eric Bligh's "Pen and Pencil Sketches of Our History" —a valuable guide to Kilkenny. The illustration here produced is by the courtesy of the "Kilkenny People" and is taken from the window of Tom Stallard's shop opposite. His wife, as Miss Aine Doheny, had been, up to the time of her marriage, manager of the People Office. The firm is represented in Kilkenny to-day by Mrs. E. M. Keane and Mr. J. E. K. Keane.

50. The earliest business in this last house on the East side of High Street, as far as can be ascertained, was Woodlock's. An advertisement of Woodlock is included in Bassett's Kilkenny Guide of 1884, but does not mention these premises—whether it was the same owner or not is not certain. Old Kilkenny folk think the owners were certainly related. The Woodlock house in John Street was called the old "House from Home" and is considered to have been the corner shop at top of John Street owned successively by Wilsdon's, Mansfield's and now Lalor's. Woodlock also owned the Refreshment Rooms at the Station till they were taken over by Koenigs some short time before the first world war.

Woodlock had a very fine rhyme to advertise his wares and which was recited to the writer, word perfectly, by one of our old citizens. It is in Bassett's Guide but is spirited and arresting, and apparently memorable and so is worthy of inclusion here.

Here it is:

"Good no doubt is Woodlocks stout
In either wood or bottle,
His splendid ale can never fail
To please a thirsty throttle;
His rum and wine are very fine,
They make the weary frisky,
There's not a draught that ere was quaffed
To equal Woodlocks Whiskey."
The steps outside Dore's, which lead into Kieran Street and Parliament Street, were used to sell a variety of wares in days gone by, brogues, old clothes, plants, wallpapers, etc. Especially on Saturday this little market was very busy.

So we come to the end of what this writer has been able to ascertain about the occupants and residences of our old High Street citizens.

Since 1960 Old Kilkenny Review, one front higher up has disappeared, No. 77 (Hackett's). We are glad that we have this photograph to perpetuate the memory of this old shop front and of Rafter's leather shop next Post Office (South side), now Crotty's. The photograph was taken by J. L. MacAdams.

Early Front now removed — Hackett's, High Street.