

Continental Grain Elevator – Downtown Parkville

The first feature is an article regarding the sale of the Continental Grain Company elevator, formerly on Mill Street. The elevator was a flour mill and in the early 1900s milled flour that was widely used in the home kitchens in Platte County and shipped to other markets.



Continental Grain Company

After a disastrous fire at the mill, the elevator was used to buy and ship grain from the farmers to the market and later added commercial feed and facilities for custom grinding and mixing.

The Continental Grain Company purchased it in 1947 and in 1957 built a 50,000 bushel elevator that replaced the old building that served the community for many years. The elevator was sold to William Fickle and his sister Bertha Lowmiller in 1964.

Bertha Lowmiller served first as a bookkeeper at the elevator and became manager in 1947. She was the only woman manager out of 96 country elevators associated with the firm's office. Four men and another woman worked with her. During a drought in 1953,

Lowmiller drove to South Dakota, bought about 60 carloads of hay and had it shipped to the Parkville elevator to relieve the livestock on the area. Her concern for the community's welfare was

recognized when the Selecta chapter, American Business Women's Association, nominated her as a candidate for the "1954 Business Woman of the Year" and was sent to a national convention in Atlanta, Georgia.

Article provided by Parkville native Tara Fickle Bennett



KC Star article "Women on the Job"