



Brookdale Store, long a landmark of the area, may close because of parking problems.

9-20-77

# Parking Problems May Close Brookdale Store

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The Brookdale Store has been on the corner of Highway 9 and Pacific Avenue for as long as most oldtimers can remember, giving Brookdale the uniqueness of being a one-store town.

Modern-day regulations and the reliance on the automobile, however, may mean the end to the current ownership of the store, now known as Anderson's 10-10 Market.

"We don't have the parking. That's the main thing," Store Manager John Anderson said. "So, what we're doing is putting the store up for sale to someone, hopefully, who can solve the parking problem."

Around the turn of the century, when the store was first built, parking probably was of little concern. Most of the summer crowd would walk to the store, with an occasional horse or auto pulling up in front.

The Andersons, John and Kathy, have seen their hopes for parking eaten away since March when Bruce Anderson, John's brother, purchased the small store.

Also in March, the parking area across the street was closed down by Owners Bill and Bob Gus of the Brookdale Lodge, the Andersons explained.

Just as they began moving into the store in the summer, all the available parking down Pacific Avenue was reduced by the County Public Works Department.

"Think of all the grocery stores you know of that don't have parking,"

Kathy Anderson commented. "Think of the commercials on TV for large stores that advertise free parking. They wouldn't be spending so much on commercials if parking wasn't important."

The Andersons view the vacant lot across from the store as the perfect place for parking, but the lot is owned by the Brookdale Lodge and the county has other plans for the property.

County Planner Susan Blair explained that the Brookdale Lodge owners agreed to put in a neighborhood park and five parking spaces on the property when they came in with a request for the lodge development.

"The five spaces were designated, as a recommendation by the planning commission, to be used by the neighborhood for the little shopping complex there," Blair explained.

The Andersons said that their problem is immediate and they can survive no longer. They figure the Brookdale Lodge owners won't develop the property for some time, concentrating more on the renovation of the lodge at the moment.

Blair said, however, that the Brookdale Lodge owners must complete the park and have the parking spaces in before they reopen the Brookdale Lodge restaurant.

She added that the park was required because the lodge must have a certain amount of open space per residential unit and the development of this neighborhood park will satisfy that requirement.

Jim Sheehan, traffic engineer for the county public works department,

explained that the curbs along the side of the store were painted red in March because the narrowness of Pacific Avenue causes a dangerous traffic situation at the intersection with Highway 9.

"We found it very difficult to make left or right turns (onto Highway 9) when there were cars parked there," Sheehan said. He said the public works department didn't discuss the removal of parking with the store owners because the store wasn't opened at the time.

The Andersons explained that when the store was purchased from Former Owner Wally Patch, it was with the promise that parking would be available in the lot at Pacific Avenue and Highway 9.

The store's owner, they said, has been reimbursed some of the purchasing money from Patch because of the parking situation.

"It's not really that the county is unsympathetic," John Anderson commented, "They just feel that all businessmen are lumped into the same category. They feel that they are not here for the businessman, but for the majority of the people."

"The biggest thing I have to say for the county is that they are not realistic," Anderson added.

As far as the future of the only store in town goes, the Andersons said that a store that relied on foot traffic, rather than car traffic, might be able to make it. They also suggested that the Gus brothers of the Brookdale Lodge buy the store and install the parking.