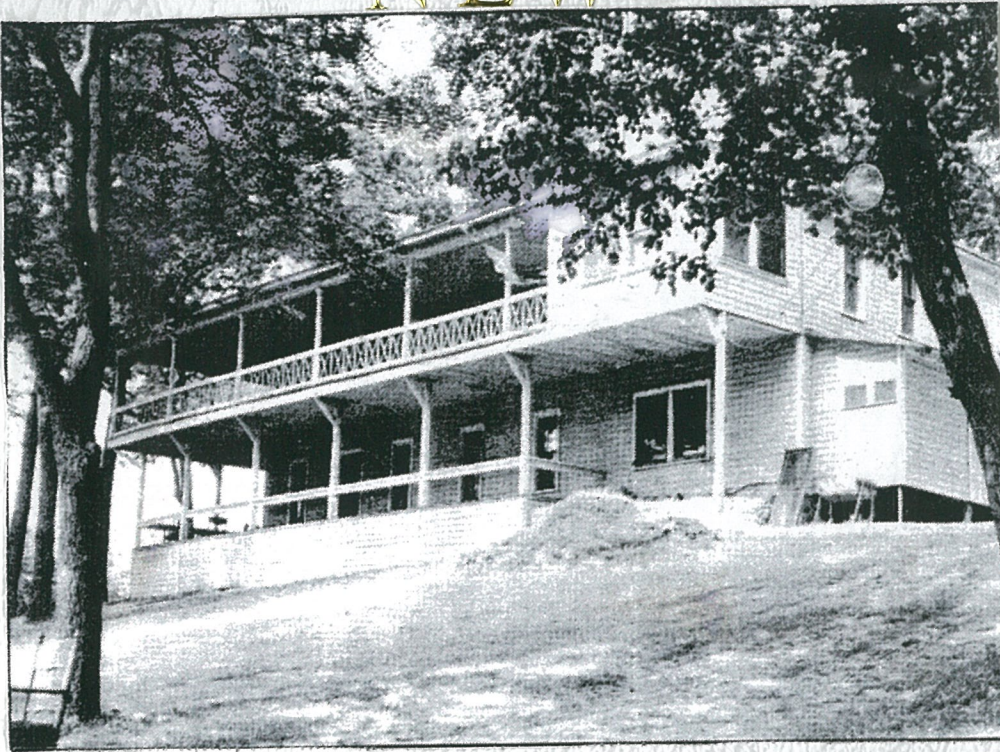


History
of the
Cedar Springs
Hotel

NEW



OLD



HOTEL REGISTER.

Other Valuables must be placed in the Safe in the Office, otherwise the Hotel will not be responsible for any loss.

ROOM NAME RESIDENCE TIME OF ARRIVAL TIME OF DEPARTURE

"Fox Hill Houseparty" Sept. 17 & 18 '38

Marjorie Deacon C. R.

Janet R. Thomas 370 24th St. S.E. (C.R.)

Mary Ann Carter Los Angeles, Cal.

Marjorie McCullas Chicago Illinois

P. J. Leven Cal College

Lois Lockwood Marion Iowa

Mary Elizabeth Smith Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Lauraine Walter Shenandoah, Iowa

Winifred Murray Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

[Faint handwritten entries, possibly including names like "MacCallister"]

[Faint handwritten entries, possibly including names like "Lillian"]

A. M. Towan Cedar Falls, Ia.

Ray Stanley Cedar Falls, Ia.

William M. ... Mason, Ia.

Frank S. Bromer Cedar Rapids Ia. ^{Aug 15}
 Mrs W. W. Purbasso Cedar Rapids Ia.
 Mrs M. S. Steyer Cedar Rapids Ia.
 Edna Martin Cedar Rapids Ia.
 Lucie M. Brown Cedar Rapids Ia. ^{Aug 15}
 Ethel Winterton, Magueta Iowa.
 Mrs. F. S. Bromer Cedar Rapids Ia.
 Dorothy Bromer
 John Bromer
 ✓ Josias Friedli Sheboygan Wis. Wedn. 3 P.M.
 Arthur C. Winterton Ash Grove Ia. 3 P.M.
 Mrs. E. S. Winterton
 Florence Powell Lisbon Ia. 2.30
 Al Cassman " " 4 P.M.
 Mrs. Al Cassman " " " "
 E. S. Farnet Lawton Ia. 7
 Mrs. Worth Hope Cedar Rapids
 Mrs. C. Arends Cedar Rapids
 Sophie Arends Cedar Rapids Ia.

Aug 15
 Aug 15
 Aug 15
 3 P.M.
 2.30
 4 P.M.
 7
 2.30
 2.30
 2.30

Three meals and a nights stay, would cost \$6.00.
 This is the first page of the Hotel Register in 1917. This
 register was retrieved from the mud and is still in fair condition.

Cedar Springs Hotel

What once sparkled and rocked with laughter and music, now lies broken and ready for burial. All that remains of the Cedar Springs Hotel is the creaking structure, too fragile for even a walk-through of the building. However, there are many memories of its past recorded in news articles and family stories.

The Beginnings

It began with the building of Cedar Springs in 1884 to house workers of a new limestone rock quarry. The quarry's stone was not as good as it needed to be, so after five or six years, it was closed. The Cedar Springs continued to be open to guests, a young man named Adolph Biderman remembers working there when he was 16 years old.

He had two friends who shared the job of pumping water and their pay was fifteen cents an hour, each received one nickel an hour. They pumped the water to make root beer; they could make 100 bottles at a time. Adolph also remembers taking care of the horses the visitors rode. One 4th of July, he had to put up 72 horses.

When the hotel came up for sale in 1912, Adolph Biderman bought the hotel. It took three years to restore it, and during that time he married his wife, Beatrice. Together they reopened the hotel in 1915.

The Good Years

The hotel itself had 16 rooms. There were three stall outhouses for the men and the women out back. A large kitchen and dining room took up most of the downstairs. Adolph's granddaughter, Patricia Biderman, retrieved the old hotel registry. The tattered book tells the story of the many guests who visited. At first they came by horse and carriages, and later by train. At one time, there had been a rail spur of the Chicago and Northwestern trains for the quarry, which came from Bertram. There was also the interurban rail system, which was in Mt. Vernon and also in the Upper Palisades. Ben Biderman, who was Adolph's son remembers his father going to pick up visitors from both train stops. One newspaper said, "City folk from Cedar Rapids used to ride out on the excursion train for a good time holiday party, or a Sunday Chicken dinner." People would come from Cornell and Coe College, and the paper called it a "rendezvous for students."

At the peak of its glory, The Cedar Springs had a famous group called the Cherry Sisters perform on the hotel stage. The chicken dinner served at the hotel was famous, reservations were recommended to get in to eat. Beatrice Biderman was the cook, and she said, "We serve good chicken or none. It takes about three hours to fix a chicken up right." At one time, it cost .25cents to eat dinner. There were also homemade kolaches.

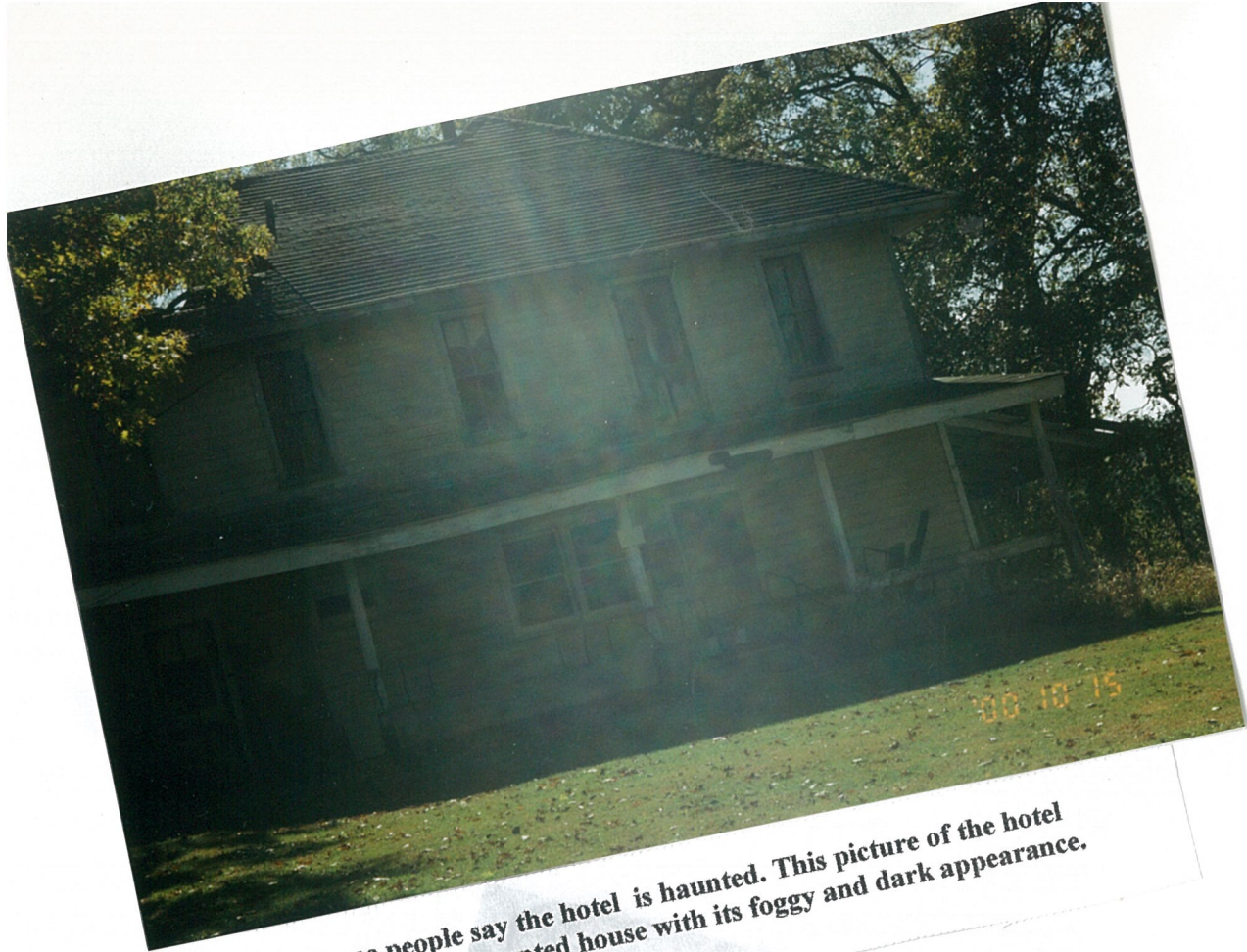
Declining Years

In 1934 Mr. and Mrs. Boggs came to the hotel and helped the Bidermans run the hotel. For eight years they were a part of the restaurant and then they actually took over the operation. Business began to dwindle after World War II and the Bidermans sold the hotel to a couple who ran it as the Old Dutch Inn. This name can still be seen on the North entrance to the building. It seems business just wasn't as good for them and so in 1964 the couple closed the doors and the Cedar Springs Hotel was no longer open to the public.

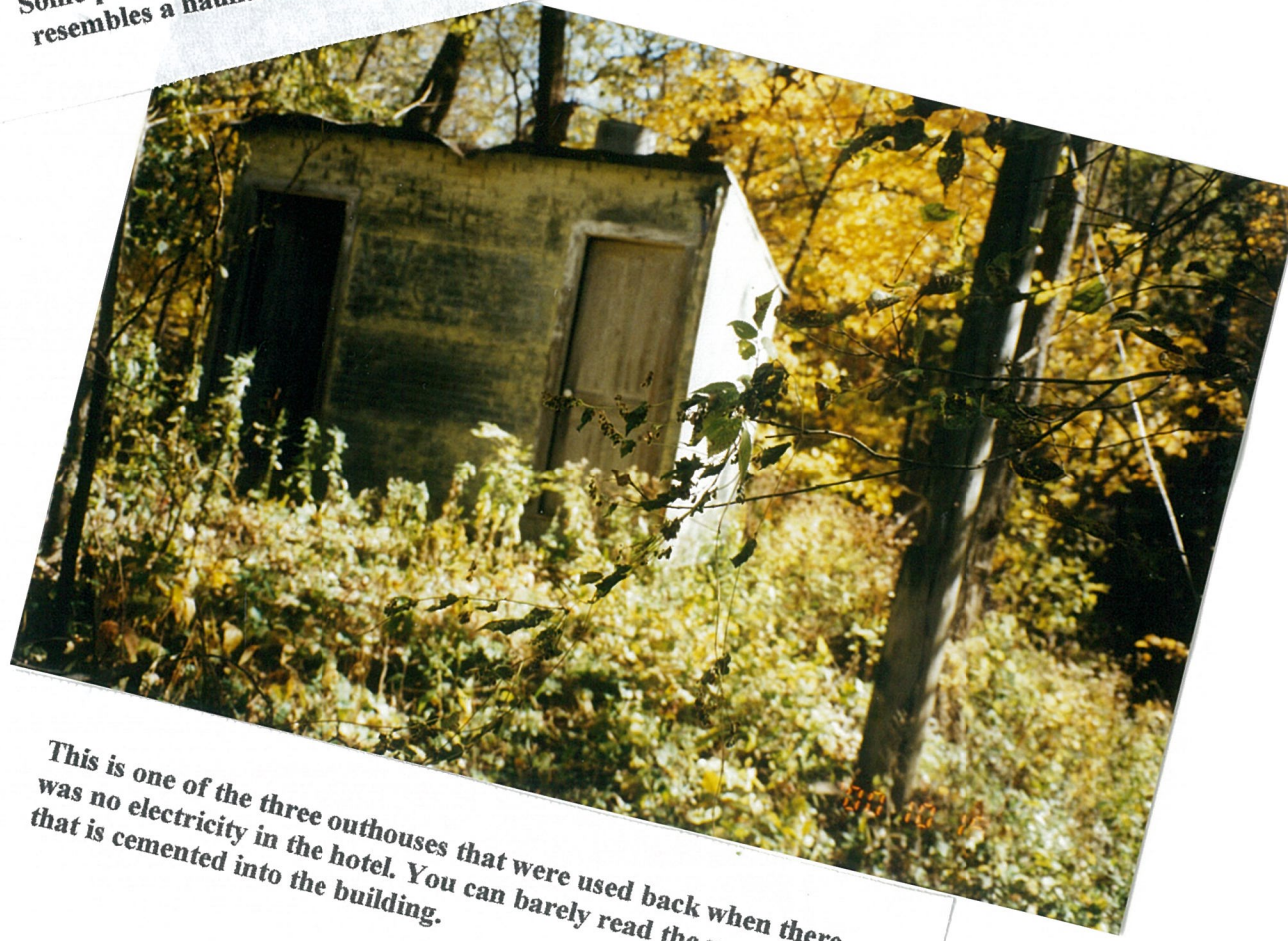
In September of 1967, a married couple, Dr. Lee Layton a professor at Cornell and his wife who taught at Coe found the Cedar Springs and rented the entire building as their home. They made the lobby their living room and the kitchen worked well when they entertained- sometimes up to eighty people. The big oven could make up to 20 dozen cookies at a time.

After the Leightons, others continued to rent part of the hotel, and slowly the upstairs became closed off, then other parts were shut down. It was difficult to maintain such a large building. Ben Biderman, the son of Adolph, his wife Eleanore, and family continued to live in the home built nearby. There are cabins surrounding the hotel rented by other individuals and the Bidermans continued to maintain the grounds surrounding it. What remains of the hotel are just the leaning structures, but the beauty of the river, the trees and well-kept lawns still haunt all visitors who chance upon it.

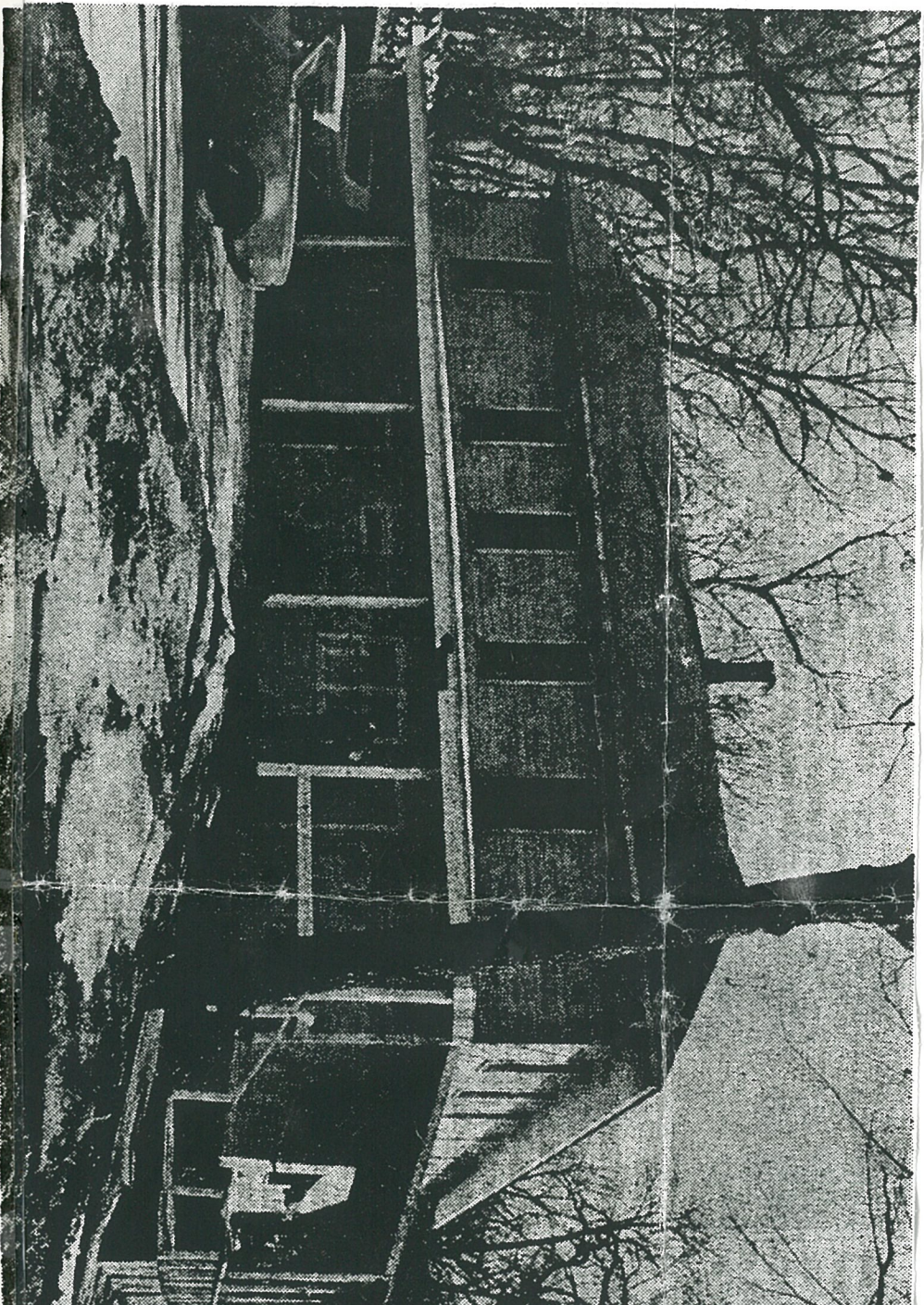




Some people say the hotel is haunted. This picture of the hotel resembles a haunted house with its foggy and dark appearance.



This is one of the three outhouses that were used back when there was no electricity in the hotel. You can barely read the word "Women" that is cemented into the building.



Dr. and Mrs. Lee Layton stand on the porch of the hotel which they rent as their private year-round home at the Upper Palisades. The 16-room structure was built in 1884 to house quarry workers, and was later con-

verted to a hotel, then to a restaurant. Layton is on college; Mrs. Layton teaches at Coe college.

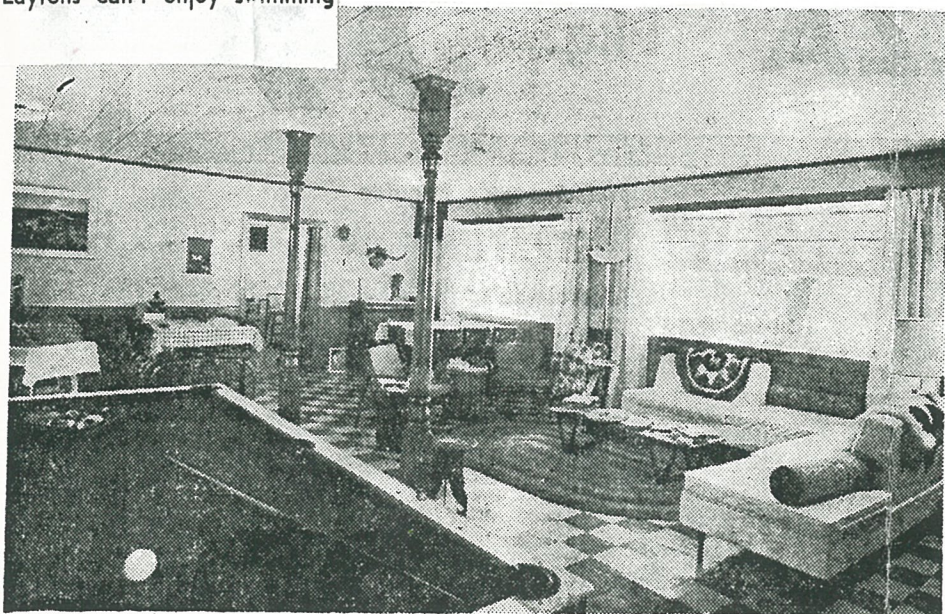


L O B B Y

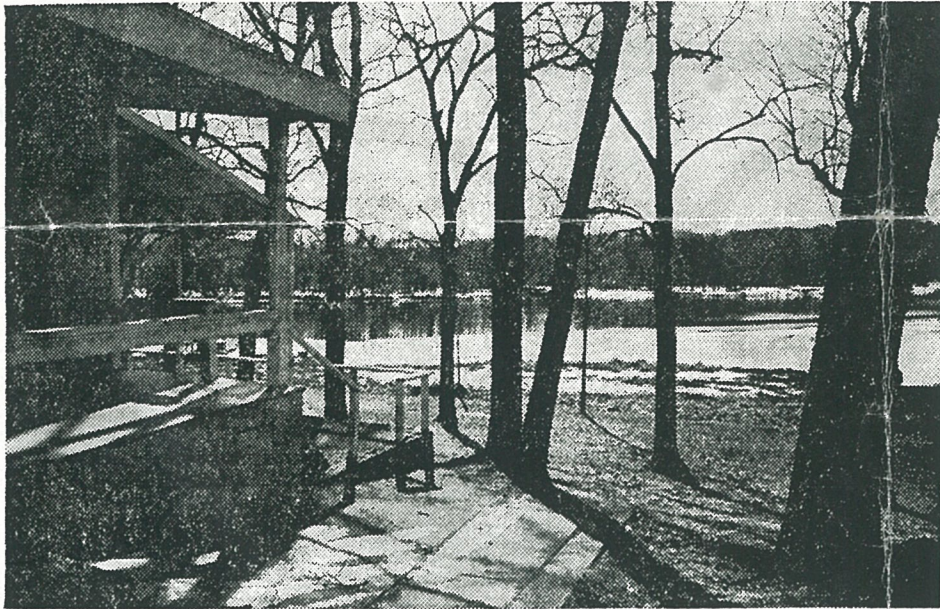
—Gazette photos by L. W. Ward

Dorothy and Lee Layton at the bar of their home, a one-time hotel. Bar stools are sawed logs. The Christmas ornaments are a permanent decoration. Checkers, chess and piano are for entertainment during the winter when the Laytons can't enjoy swimming and boating on the nearby Cedar river.

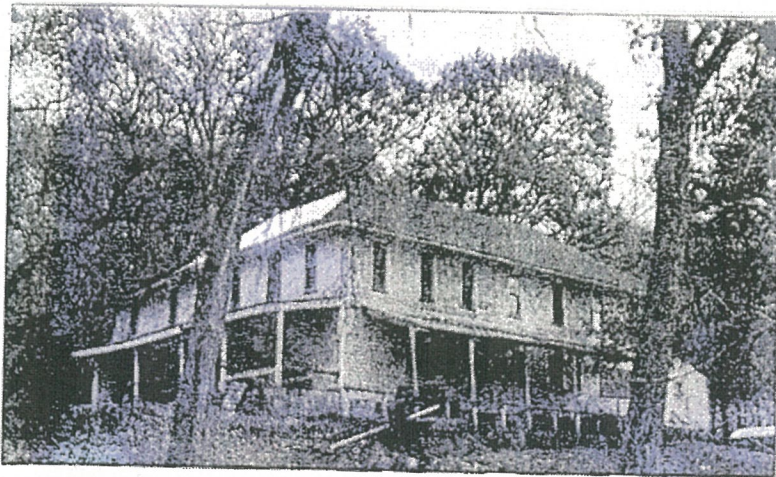
B A R



The former lobby of the Cedar Springs hotel is now the living room of the Layton home. Pool table and checkered tablecloths provide eye-catching touches. Draping the sofa is a llama pelt from South America.



Running a few hundred feet from the Laytons' home is the Cedar river. The inter-urban used to run by here and folks from Cedar Rapids would ride out for the weekend to enjoy a chicken dinner or a swim.



The remains of Cedar Springs Hotel, owned by Ben Biderman, stand upriver from the park. The Biderman family operated it as a hotel until 1938, then as a restaurant until 1965.



MRS. ADOLPH BIDERMAN.





By Heather Heaton and Allison Pospisil

When Mr. Meeker assigned this project to us, we went looking for a historical site. The reason we chose this one was because Allison's great aunt and uncle are Ben and Eleanore Biderman. Allison's grandparents, Robert and Clara Pospisil celebrated their wedding dinner at the Cedar Springs Hotel Oct. 14th, 1947.

We got a lot of information from Patricia Biderman, The daughter of Ben and Eleanore. We also received information from Jim and Karen Jordan who have lived near the hotel for many years.