Diamond Variety began in Anacortes c. 1939 in the Empire Building on the northwest corner of 5th and Commercial after Allinger’s Variety Store vacated the ground floor storefront; the space was formerly occupied by Thornburg Department Store. Note Dentist sign; the 2nd floor of Empire Building was long used for doctor and dental offices and was also known as the Medical-Dental Building. (Wallie Funk Collection)

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Joe Hagan’s Mobil gas Service Station was located on the southeast corner of 5th and Commercial. This corner held a gas station from c. 1927 to c. 1948. Ed Mooney still operated the station as of 1939. Joe Hagan, proprietor of this gas station, initially worked as a jitney driver at Apex Cannery before operating service stations, and serving as mayor of Anacortes. (Wallie Funk Collection)

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Located at 510 Commercial, the Goodwin-Benedict-Havekost building was constructed between 1890-91 during the boom years in Anacortes. Fred Etter’s barbershop occupies the left storefront in the THEN photograph, taken by Fred Brady circa 1935, and shows ornate brickwork that was covered over by the 1940s. The NOW photograph shows the ground level occupied by Adrift restaurant.

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On April 5, 1929, J. C. Penney’s had its grand opening in the newly completed Brooks Block. The Safeway grocery store was located in the South section of this building. J.C. Penney’s was listed here through 1986. Bayshore Office Products has operated at this location since 1986. (Wallie Funk Collection)

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Anacortes Veneer float heading north during the Marineer Parade between 7th and 6th. Carpenter’s Hall at far left (614 Commercial) housing Morganthaler’s Sunset Florist and now Watermark Book Co. Next is Andrews Variety Store, in business here from 1949 to c.1954. A far right is Shannon Building, housing the Mayflower Bakery and now Red Salon. (Wallie Funk Collection)

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Beginning in 1926, this popcorn and candy stand was operated by Virgil Johnson, and located on the curb at the northwest corner of Commercial and 7th Street, next to the Empire Theater (1913-1957). Phil D. Burton, in business since 1930 at 618 Commercial, purchased the entire building in 1957 and by 1958 relocated Burton Jewelers to occupy the old Empire Theater lobby. The expanded shop now operates in both old and new locations. (Wallie Funk Collection)

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Paul Luvera (1898-1990) started Luvera’s Market on November 22, 1922 on the ground floor of the Blackmore Building, at 702 Commercial. This structure was built as the Blackmore Building c.1890; later known as the Hensler Building. In 1953 the Blackmore building and Luvera’s store, were extensively remodeled including removing the 2nd story. (Wallie Funk Collection)

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Texaco gas station, located on 7th Street, 1000 block, Anacortes. The station was owned by Gene Schultz, and the man standing at the pump is Claude Spear. By 1937, B.P.O.E. had moved from their 6th Street Elks Club (now City Hall) to this building at 1009 7th St.

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This house was the residence of Velasco Knapp, a Union veteran of the Civil War who arrived in Anacortes in 1889. He worked as a machinist with his son at E.L. Knapp & Co, and also served as Anacortes postmaster. The health food store was added in the late 1960s and originally included Russell’s Hair Design on one side of the addition.

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The short-lived Everybody’s Store located in the Keystone (Moyer) Building at the NE corner of 7th and Commercial Avenue in the early 1930s, just as the Great Depression worsened. It was not listed in 1934 and subsequent city directories. By the 1970s the Papritz family was operating the Fishermen’s World Market here, and later the Keystone Center for the Arts. (Wallie Funk Collection)

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The July 3, 1941 ANACORTES AMERICAN reported, “Amsberry purchases old Citizen’s Bank Building. They plan to transform building into a modern up to date restaurant.” The result was the Empire Café, visible at the SE corner of Commercial and 7th) in the old Citizen Bank Building. This was later the location of the Harbor Restaurant and Bar for decades. (Wallie Funk Collection)

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New Home of the Citizens Bank, Seventh and Commercial
Exterior view of Jackson Funeral Home, 807 Commercial. A spectacular fire on June 26, 1952, destroyed the garage, three cars, and the chapel and adjoining rooms. This view shows the southern edge of the Paramount [Island] Theater Building; the central building, housing Jackson’s Funeral Home, is believed to be the J. R. Brown Building, constructed in 1891. Following Jackson, the business became Bryson Engdahl Mortuary until 1977. The building was then converted to a restaurant by Village Pizza, which still operates here.

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The band marches past Mel’s Signal Station at 18th & Commercial during the 1940 Marineer’s Pageant parade. In the background is this two story building at 1814 Commercial, which was Breckenridge Plumbing, listed in the 1948 and 1954 directories and now the home of Compumatter. (Wallie Funk Collection)

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Thomas P. Eden and his wife Lucy at their home on 23rd & Commercial around 1910. Mr. Edens was a Civil War veteran who came to this area with his Edens brothers (same family—different name spelling) who homesteaded and logged on Guemes Island.

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