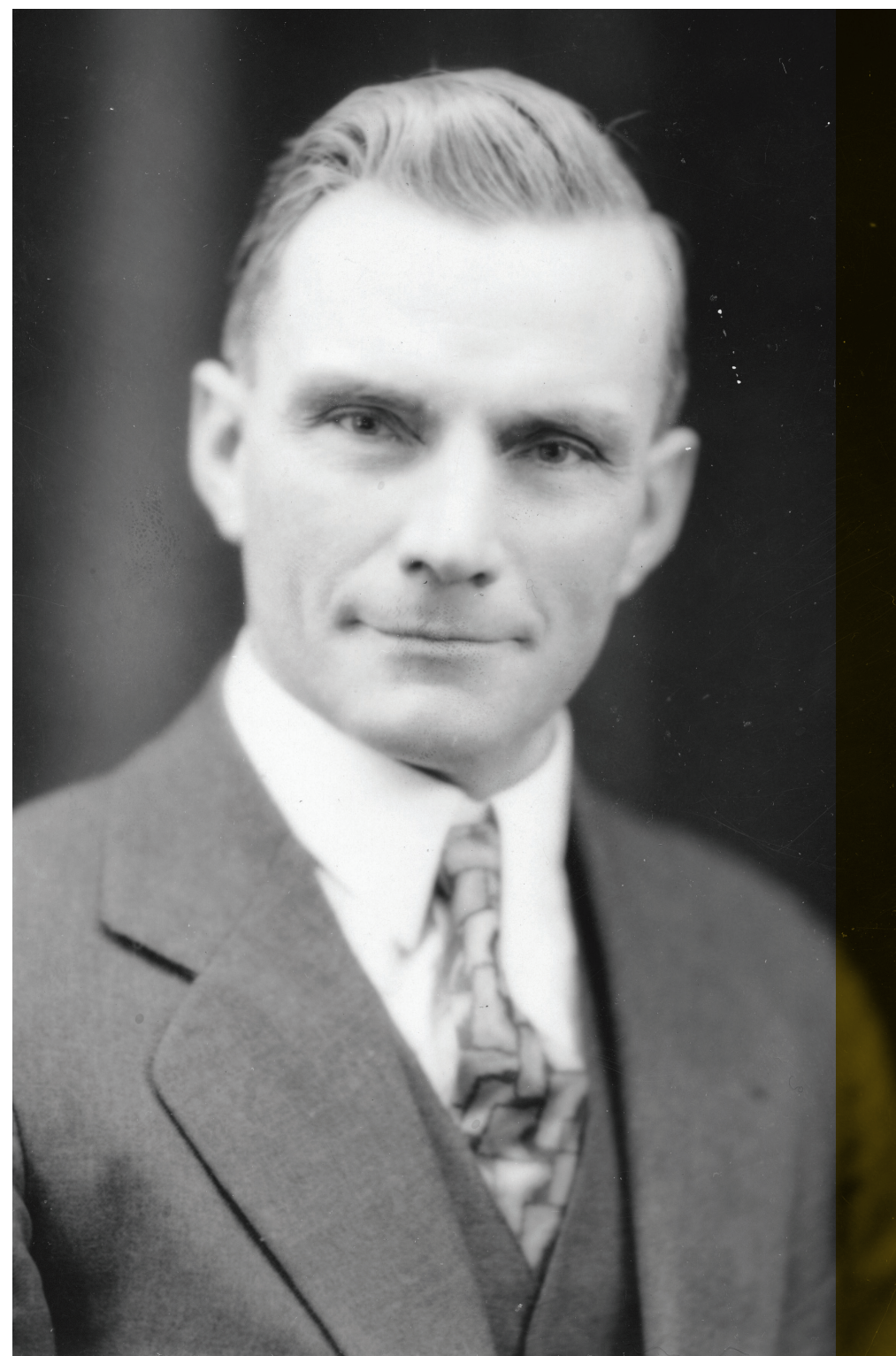


PINCHER CREEK CO-OPERATIVE



United Farmers Historical Society Archives, UF 2005.0044.79.

Earl G. Cook (no date). Cook was the first president of the Pincher Creek Co-operative Association from 1922 to 1935.



Pincher Creek and District Historical Society, Co-op.01.

Pincher Creek Co-op lumberyard and administration offices, Bridge Ave. (1940s).

The co-operative movement played a crucial role in Alberta's economic development. Co-operatives were community-based economic associations that allowed farmers and ranchers to pool resources, establish businesses and have greater control over selling and marketing their goods to consumers. They reflect the larger spirit of rural cooperation that defined agricultural settlement in Alberta.

Pincher Creek's first co-operative, the Southern Alberta Haygrowers Association, was founded in 1918 but soon failed due to Alberta's postwar economic downturn. More successful was the Pincher Creek Co-operative Association established in 1922 through a resolution of the local branch of the United Farmers of Alberta. The co-operative is based in Pincher Creek but once had a strong presence in surrounding districts such as Cowley, Twin Butte, Beauvais and Springridge. The association acquired its headquarters in 1923, built and opened a seed cleaning plant in 1927 and operated a lumberyard by 1930. The association provided



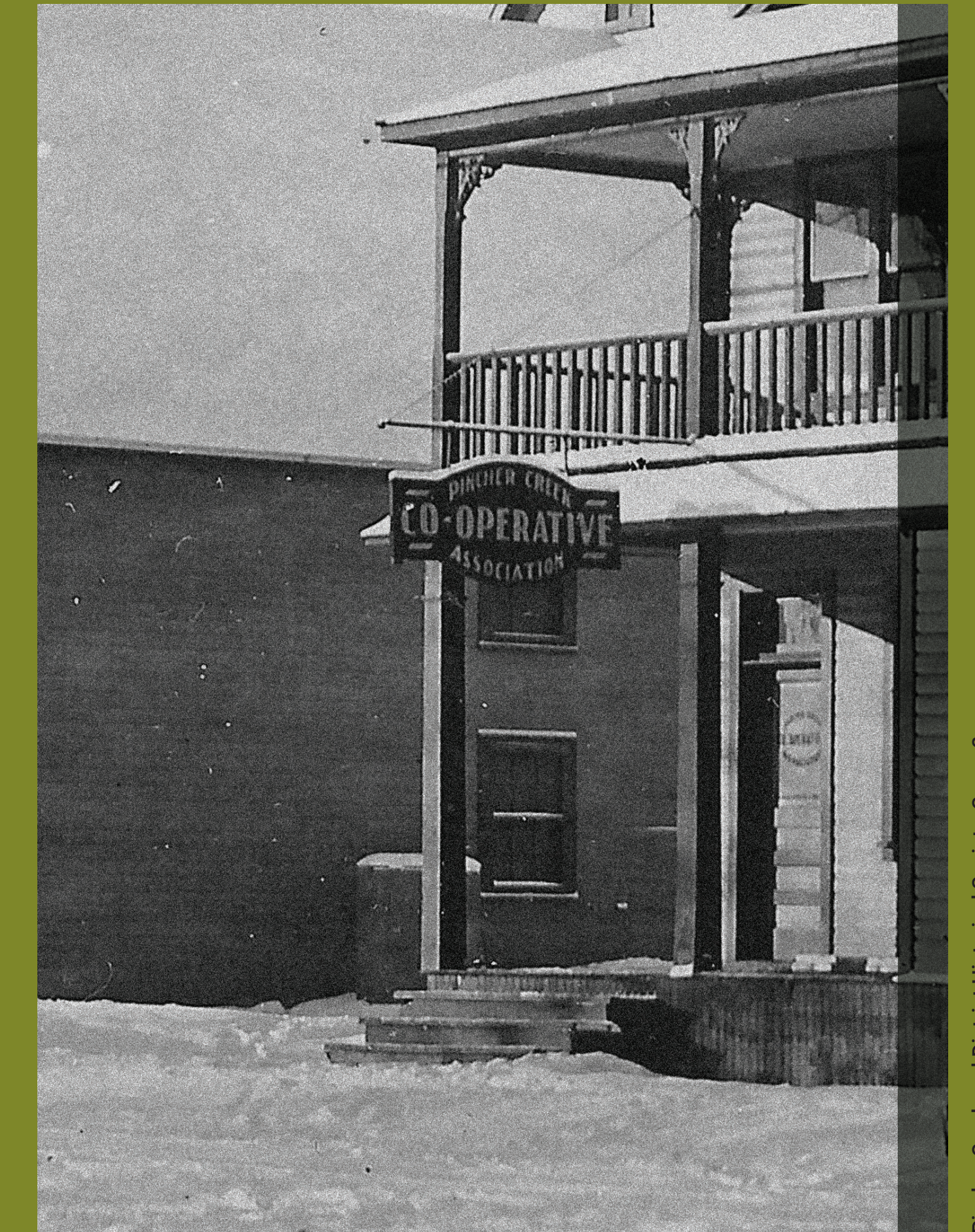
Pincher Creek and District Historical Society, Co-op.08.

Pincher Creek Co-op department store, Main Street (1960s).

crucial financial support to members during the Great Depression and managed to help several nearby villages build new community halls. The headquarters was also a social hub, with local clubs renting space on the upper floor for meetings and events.

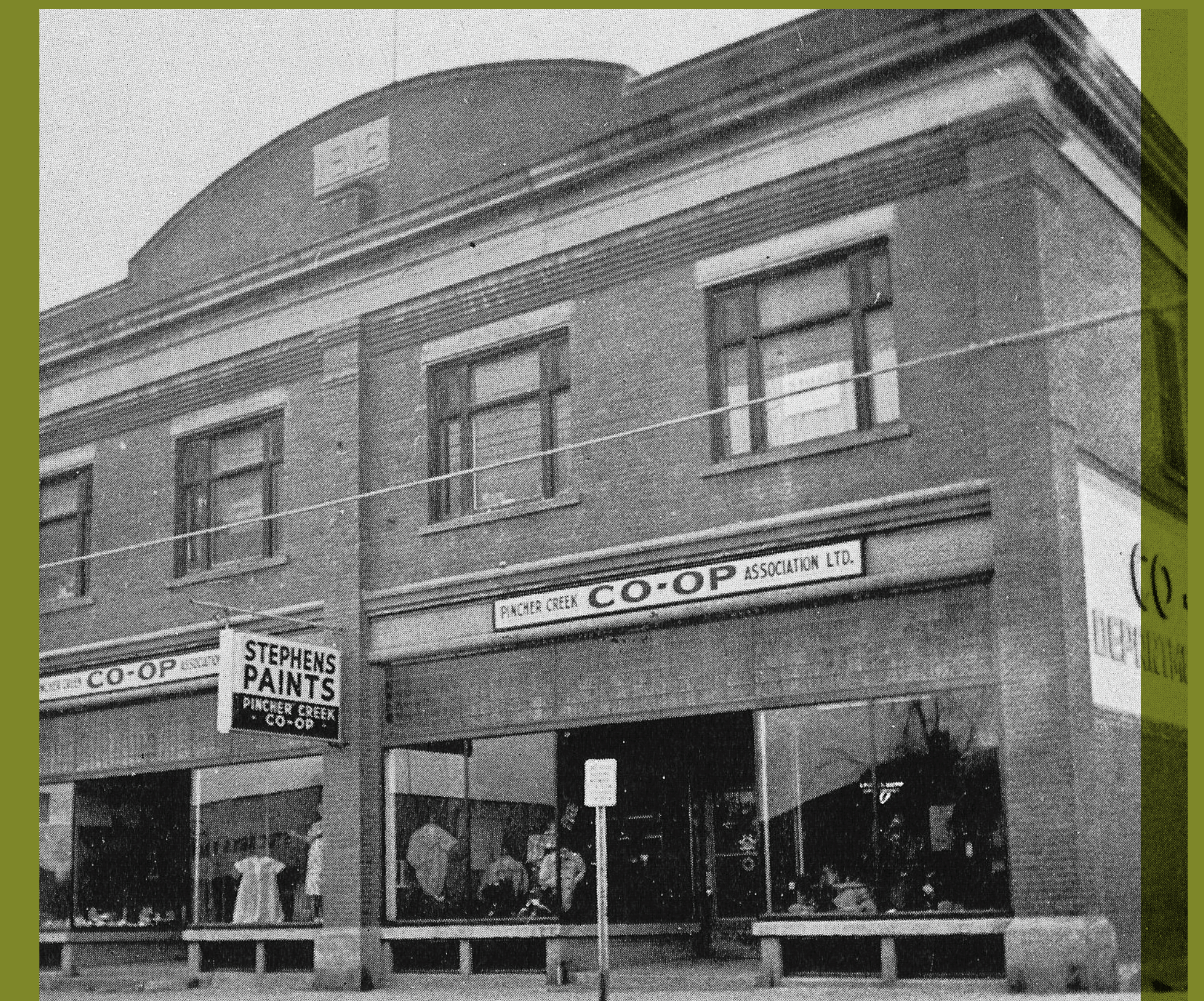
The co-operative grew steadily after World War Two, with a membership of 1,450 by 1958. It continued to diversify its businesses, acquiring a garage, a creamery and a department/grocery store in the late 1940s. The store attracted shoppers throughout the region and was so successful that the co-operative built an addition to it in 1958. The grocery store remained on Main Street for twenty-one years until moving to Ranchland Mall in 1979. The co-operative sold the garage to Canada Post in 1958 and it became the Pincher Creek Post Office. The creamery closed in 1988.

In 2022, the Pincher Creek Co-operative Association recognized its one hundredth anniversary, celebrating a century of community service to the Pincher Creek area.



Pincher Creek and District Historical Society, Co-op.2.

Old Signage, Pincher Creek Co-op administration building (1940s).



Pincher Creek Co-op department store, Main Street (1960s).

Pincher Creek and District Historical Society, Co-op.08.



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