

Byrnes Closes Stores

By Cecil Lode

Long time Marshall City businesses, Byrnes' Pharmacies #1 and #2, closed yesterday.

Since the cyanide poisoning of Patrice Zeller last September 12, the local Byrnes stores suffered a drastic decline in customers. The tainted aspirin that nearly took Mrs. Zeller's life was traced to the Byrnes' store at Harlem and Chica Avenues, where former Byrnes' employee Martin Zeller allegedly planted the deadly pill. Zeller has been charged with attempted murder of his wife.

"I don't care who did it. I don't trust the store and I know others who feel the same way. I'm glad they are closing," said Jason Bobbert, 29, a Marshall City resident. "Anyway, the place wasn't the same after the founder, Charles Byrnes, died."

A third store, in Moline, was recently sold to former employee, Anthony Zito. Zito is related by marriage to the Byrnes family.

"It was a sad day for everybody when we closed the doors," said Jamie Byrnes, former owner and heir to the Charles Byrnes fortune.

"That pharmacy has been our life. Marty Zeller's crimes fall on all of us. This wonderful business which my father loved, and which served this community,

is gone. Zeller deserves to rot in prison for the rest of his life."