



### NOW

The Brooks Hotel was bought by Ravalli County Bank at the auction in 1995. Shortly after this, a woman named Mrs. Robbins opened a holiday store in the Brooks. It is mainly a Christmas store, but it's also open daily and for different holidays. Many people come during Christmas to look at the different themed trees and to buy holiday trinkets. Throughout the years in Corvallis, the area around the Brooks was exceptionally empty and undeveloped besides the Corvallis school across the road from it. Now, the Ravalli County bank, and a bead shop are next to it. Slightly behind the house a new physical therapy building was built, which seems to be quite popular. Across the road is the Corvallis Elementary School. Back then, people would consider the Brooks a warm, inviting and social place. These days the historic house is still as warm and inviting as it used to be. Plus it's a good place to socialize over a steaming cup of hot cider from the notable kitchen.

(Right: picture of the Brooks, March, 2010)

By Keenan Moore

### THEN

The house was purchased through a Montgomery Ward catalog and built by Ralph Dougherty. It came by train in 1895. Dougherty sold it to Thomas J. Hefling soon after it was built. Hefling rented the house to the Brooks family two years before they purchased it in 1916 from Hefling. Louis and Lula Wood Brooks were the couple that purchased the hotel in 1916. The house became a hotel and restaurant along with a home for the Brooks plus their four daughters, Inez, Lois, Edna, Gladys, and a son, Lloyd. The father, Louis, died in 1946, while his wife and daughters went on to continue running the business for the next 12 years. Lula died working in the kitchen in 1958. Gladys, Edna and Lois promised to keep up the family business as their mother would have wished. Lois soon got married and left the sisters to go live on an eastside ranch. After 80 years of business under the Brooks family, the Brooks Hotel, along with all its contents, was auctioned off in 1995.

(Left: picture of the Brooks Hotel, 1935)

