

## Gibsonville Druggist Runs Same Business for Past 43 Years

*The Daily Times News (Burlington, North Carolina)*

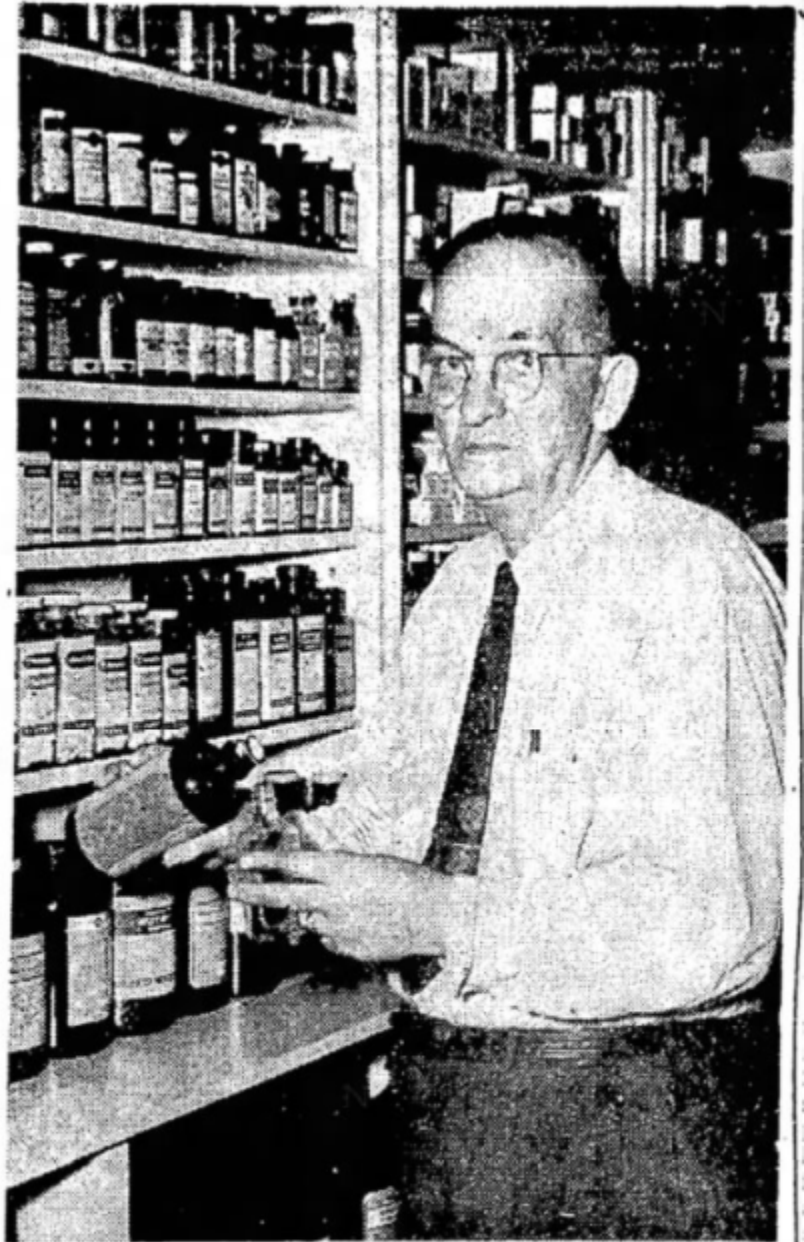
By Richard E Morris on July 1, 1948

Gibsonville, July 1 – If they ever get around to picking the men who has done the most for his community in Gibsonville, they had better look over the record of druggist Lee Wharton.

This druggist, the one that Gibsonville “The City of Roses” has had in more than four decades, in all probability has treated as many or more case of the sniffles and tummy aches as any other man in North Carolina.

Dr Wharton lays claim to the state record for having operated a drug store in the same spot for the longest period. His establishment has operated on the corner opposite the Gibsonville Depot, on the highway to Greensboro, since the day he received his license to practice some 43 years ago, and in all that time he has never missed more than six weeks of being on the job due to illness.

On looking into the Gibsonville pharmacy, one finds one of the most up to date establishments in the state if not in the south. Dr. Wharton has always kept it this way, changing with every logical and permanent change of time. His stock is of the finest quality and adequate quantity to serve any demand. One of the features of the drug store is the large refrigeration set up to provide adequate facilities for biological work and drugs. In addition, there is a sink at the



Pictured here is Dr. Lee Wharton, druggist, who has operated a pharmacy in the same location in Gibsonville for the past 43 years. Dr. Wharton is shown in the process of filling a prescription from his modern stock. He is the only druggist in the Guilford County city, and the nearest doctor is in Burlington, eight miles away. (Photo by Ted Brown).

prescription counter affording hot and cold running water, thereby speeding up service in handling and working with prescriptions.

The druggist, one of a member of the oldest and best known families of this section of the state, recalls that he has been in business at Gibsonville since receiving his pharmacy training in the Page School of Pharmacy, then at Greensboro, at the age of 16. In the time that has elapsed, Dr. Wharton says he has seen at least a half dozen doctors into the profession by filling their first medical kit. He pointed out a huge file and stated "those are the prescriptions I have filled since being here."

There are 624,678 of them, excluding narcotics, he asserted. The later group, the narcotics, have amounted to about 25,000 orders, he indicated. The huge figure resembles as big a volume of business as is known for any one drug store in this section.

The Gibsonville druggist claims that his business has always been good since the nearest drug store is in Burlington, about eight miles from Gibsonville.

Because of this fact, he stated, "I have always attempted to improve for the customers benefit and to keep a heavy stock in the case of any emergency."

Such a practice of keeping well stocked came in handy for the druggist during the war years for he was able to get many medicines unavailable on large store counters and in bigger cities and thereby gave his customers the very best of service. Because of the necessity of giving residents of the section every possible care, the druggist maintains the store from 8 o'clock in the morning to 10 o'clock every night and on many occasions has turned out in the wee hours of the morning to fill emergency orders.

Aside from his pharmacy, the North Carolina Pharmaceutical Association, and his farm, Dr. Wharton's hobby of collecting antique goblets keeps him fairly busy. These goblets are kept at the Wharton farm, the 75 acre old homeplace on the Greensboro highway.

Some of the collection are of the blown nature while others are molded. His collection totals about 200 of all descriptions, sizes, shapes and colors and paint a very pretty picture. They date over 100 years and between looking after their care and addition and meeting the needs of Gibsonville residents, the Guilford County druggist is one of the busiest men in this section.

**THE BURLINGTON (N.C.) DAILY TIMES-NEWS, THURSDAY, JULY 1, 1948**