

K-Mart Store will close; ends 70 years downtown

The K-Mart Store at Fifth and Adams streets will close Dec. 31, after nearly 70 years of business downtown.

Three of the store's four leases for the property expire in March 1983. After reviewing recent business, K-Mart decided not to renew the leases, said Susan McKelvey, firm public relations official in Troy, Mich. There will be efforts to terminate the fourth lease, which does not expire next year.

The four properties involved in the K-Mart leases are owned by 14 people and a trust at the Springfield Marine Bank.

McKelvey said K-Mart is pleased with business at Clear Lake and Wabash avenues, but doesn't think it's necessary to have a downtown outlet. The six-months notice given to employees follows the same procedure used when the Kresge store at Town and Country Shopping Center was closed in December 1980, and the closing was announced in late June. The downtown K-Mart has about 30 employees.

The firm opened its first store — a five-and-ten cent outlet — in 1913 on Fifth Street near Adams. In 1929, it opened a Dollar Kresge store in the same block. The stores were combined into one large store in 1939. In 1963, the store was closed so it could be remodeled and reopened as a K-Mart.

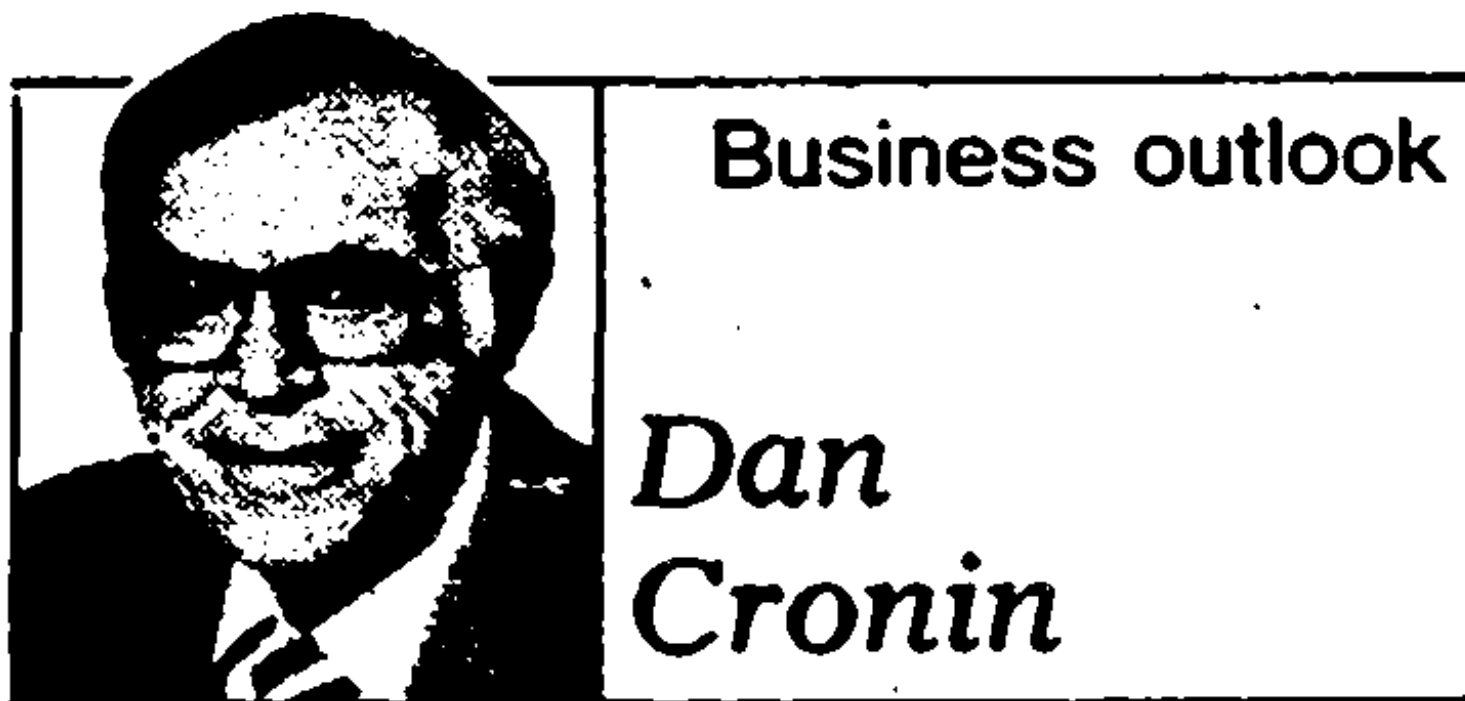
Manager J.R. Lawler was assigned to the store just three months ago.

Kohl's opening

The Kohl's Department Store, which is taking over the Stix, Baer and Fuller store in White Oaks Shopping Center, will not open until November.

Kohl's will take possession of the store at the last of July and will start a major remodeling and construction program, said Curtis Natvig, vice president of marketing, in Brookfield, Wis. He said the store will hire about 150 people and will carry a full line of Kohl's merchandise.

Natvig said the store will be 65 percent clothing items, with a complete women's and junior miss departments. The men's clothing department will carry suits, but will not provide tailor-



Business outlook

Dan Cronin

ing. There will be hardware, automobile parts and appliance departments.

Some Kohl's stores have supermarkets but there will not be one at White Oaks, Natvig said. The store will be opened in time for Christmas shopping and will start out with a large toy department.

It's part of a five-year expansion program recently announced by Kohl's.

"We feel the Springfield market is ideal for Kohl's and is representative of the customer we now serve," Natvig said. Kohl's last year started a \$60 million expansion that included 19 new stores in Wisconsin, Illinois and Iowa. The company will open five stores in Milwaukee and Green Bay, Wis., and Rockford. It has 18 stores in Wisconsin and Illinois and is projecting 32 stores by 1985.

Appletree Stereo closing

Appletree Stereo & Video at 1754 Wabash Ave. in Chatham Square will close Saturday because of the local economy and because its president doesn't think area residents appreciate sophisticated stereo equipment.

"Springfield is the least progressive audio and video market in Illinois," said Michael Jaret, president of the DeKalb company. "We have stores in six other Illinois towns, and there is less awareness of stereo in Springfield than any of the others. We also find the economy of Springfield depressed because of increasing layoffs."

The stereo and video outlet will hold a sale Friday and Saturday, then will go out of business.

Appletree Records, also located in Chatham Square, will continue in business.

Appletree Stereo and Video came to Springfield in January 1976. The store, which opened at 409 E. Adams St., moved to Chatham Square in 1978.

Other stores are in Peoria, Champaign, Decatur, Bloomington, Rockford and DeKalb. The company was organized in DeKalb 15 years ago.

New business

Baumgartner Graphic Design & Production has been opened by John and Lynn Baumgartner at 437 W. Allen St.

The firm offers design services for publications, brochures, logos, slide presentations, exhibits and displays. It offers production services in layout, type collection, paste-up, color overlays, charts and graphs.

John Baumgartner has been a designer for Southern Illinois University School of Medicine, and Lynn has been a publication designer for Horace Mann Insurance Company and the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.

Cathy Ganschinetz is business representative.

Kline expands

Kline Department Store in Lincoln Square Shopping Center in Jacksonville plans to expand by moving into the space next door to its present location.

The expansion will give the store about 36,000 square feet of space, more than twice its present size. The store also will enlarge its fashion department and install a new shoe department. A grand opening is planned for late August.

CD interest

Interest rates for the six-month \$10,000 certificates of deposits dipped slightly this week. Most savings and loan associations are paying 13.09 percent and most banks 12.21.