PIctured above Is a replica of the horse-drawn hearse used by Mr. Harris Pellerin when he started business.

PELLERIN
FUNERAL HOME
CELEBRATES 40TH
ANNIVERSARY

"The idea of becoming a funeral director was first given to me by Mr. Jack Bright," stated Mr. Harris Pellerin, owner of the Pellerin Funeral Home of Breaux Bridge, as he recalled an era--four decades ago--when he started in business. Mr. Bright was watching him unroll 500 yards of lace to make a window display in his father's store when he commented, "If anyone with such patience should be a Mortician."

"My first place of business was the second story of my father's store--Frank Pellerin's on Bridge Street," said Mr. Pellerin, "Where I was making my own caskets." 1921 was the year.

Hard work and many memories compile the years of business started with a horse-drawn hearse rented from George Champagne to the present day of modern air-conditioned ambulances and the conveniences of his funeral parlors in the area.

Hard for our young generation to visualize in this jet-age is the method of transportation Mr. Pellerin used to reach some of the out of the way places that he serviced. Many a time he packed a casket and embalming fluid (the whole apparatus necessary to prepare a body) and pumped a hand car from Breaux Bridge to Atchafalaya Station where a body was placed in the home for burial. The body was waked for the night and returned to Henderson Landing by boat and then met by a hearse. At the time the method of preparing a body with hand operated equipment, usually by the light of kerosene lamps or flashlight under the armpit, involved approximately twelve hours.

Today with modern electrical equipment the process of embalming is completed in two or three hours. 1924 was a memorable one for Mr. Pellerin--he purchased his first motor driven hearse, an early twenty Dodge. By 1927 he owned two hearses. That year was also one of significance; for it was in 1927 Mr. Pellerin attended Gupton and Jones Mortuary School in Nashville, Tennessee. Upon completion of his schooling he served his apprenticeship at the Dauereive Funeral Home in Lafayette, Louisiana.

In 1935 the Pellerin Funeral Home expanded and moved to the present location on Berard Street. An old house was bought and renovated for a funeral parlor. During the late thirties a funeral home was started in St. Martinville.

Mr. Harris Pellerin is shown in his first motor-driven hearse.

1930 Meator Hearse owned by Pellerin Funeral Home.

Late model Cadillac hearse presently owned by Pellerin Funeral Home.