

# Bethinking of Old Orleans

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## The Carlton Grill

Joseph F. Lynch bought a parcel of land in the town of Carlton from Harry Dean in 1920. Mr. Lynch built a general store, which he ran until 1932.

The store sat idle for a short time. Will Hibbard rented the building from Joseph Lynch and operated a barbershop in it for about one year.

In 1933, Charlie Fritz bought the store and got one of the first beer licenses issued in Orleans County following prohibition.

At that time, Charlie named it what it is today, the Carlton Grill.

Around Aug. 5, 1934, every Friday, Saturday and Sunday night, a band played, which consisted of Wanda McGlen (Suhr) and Bob Weist who both played the saxophone, Malcolm Bird who played the drums, and Allan Sanford who played the piano.

Allan played for a short time, and then passed away, when Wanda began to play the piano.

Throughout this time peri-

od, Frank Graver played the accordion as well. This band continued for approximately five years.

Business was so successful that Charlie Fritz added on a building, doubling its size. He also built the card table that is sitting in the bar today. Leland Kelsey, Chuck Billings, Charlie Fritz and his wife Amelia, obtained the original bar in Rochester.

This bar is still in use at Carlton Grill Station today.

Draft beer sold for 10 cents a glass. Chuck Billings, a nephew to Charlie Fritz, and his wife Eleanor, ran the business for a while. Mike and Harriet Mattern were the next ones to lease the business.

This was in 1942, during World War II. The next proprietor was Mr. Podgers, who leased for a short period.

Walter and Hazel Batt bought the business from Charlie Fritz in 1947. Around 1952 the beerador that is still operating was installed. Bob and Mary Tillman purchased the grill in 1955. They made their home in the back of the establishment, while serving

diners in the front.

In 1968, Bob Willis purchased it from the Tillmans. Richard (Dick) and Josephine Janus purchased it from Willis in 1970 and ran it until 1986. Dick held euehre tournaments on Tuesday evenings. He served breakfast and lunch daily and fish fries on Friday nights.

Polish dances were often held here with music for dancing provided by Carol Pawliczyk on the accordion and Chuck Nerri on the drums.

In July 1986, Eleanor (Ellis) Jurs and her son Ronald (Ron) bought the Carlton Grill. They renovated and restored many areas of the restaurant.

In May 2002, Darlene Felker purchased the restaurant to pursue her dream of owning her own business.

Renovations to give the appearance of a railroad station were done in memory of her grandfather, Thornton E.

Dartt.

One of his paintings can be viewed in the cozy dining area. The above information is taken from the present menu at the Carlton Grill.

Our photo which accompanies this story was recently taken in the Carlton Grill when an old lavatory and partition were removed along with some paneling.

The result is quite revealing showing to the left some decorative painting on the wall reflective of card playing.

Here we see a club, diamond, heart and a giant K (I assume for "king"). To the right we see the ghosts of two partitions as well as a ghost of an old urinal and ghost of an old toilet tank.

All these images take us back to the 1930s, when Charlie Fritz created the Carlton Grill.

