

THE OYSTER BAR

THE ORIGINAL SALOON FIRST OPENED AT 1830 SOUTH CALHOUN IN THE SUMMER OF 1888. THE PROPRIETOR WAS THE HONORABLE FERDINAND OETTING. TWO YEARS LATER, IN 1890 A FIREMAN FOR THE PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD, WT. HARVEY PURCHASED THE SALOON.

W.T. HIRED A BARTENDER BY THE NAME OF JOSEPH J. SCHNEE. IN 1894 JOSEPH PURCHASED THE SALOON THUS BEGINNING THE LONGEST FAMILY OWNERSHIP OF THE ESTABLISHMENT. ROSINA AND JOSEPH LIVED ABOVE THE SALOON UNTIL APPROXIMATELY 1910.

SHORTLY AFTER JOSEPH PURCHASED THE SALOON PROHIBITION WAS USHERED IN. FROM 1918 TO 1927 HE SOLD SOFT DRINKS IN THE FRONT... AS RUMOR HAS IT THERE WERE OTHER LIBATIONS AVAILABLE VIA THE BACK DOOR IN THE INFAMOUS "BACK ROOM".

THE DEPRESSION, COUPLED WITH PROHIBITION FORCED JOSEPH TO CLOSE BETWEEN THE YEARS OF 1928 AND 1931. IN 1932 THE COUNTRY BEGAN TO REBOUND FROM THE DEPRESSION, PROHIBITION WAS ABOLISHED, AND F.D.R. CAME INTO POWER. LEO SCHNEE (JOSEPH'S SON) OPENED THE SALOON UNDER THE NAME OF HOOSIER PRODUCTS CO, MALT.

LEO WAS SAID TO BE A RATHER CANTANKEROUS PROPRIETOR. IF HE LIKED YOU HE SERVED YOU, IF HE DIDN'T, HE DIDN'T.

LEO OPERATED THE SALOON UNDER A VARIETY OF NAMES. FROM 1935 TO 1939 IT WAS CALLED SCHNEE'S RESTAURANT FROM 1940 TO 1944, IT WAS KNOWN AS SCHNEE'S LIQUORS.

FROM 1945 TO 1953 THE SALOON HAD SEVERAL DIFFERENT OWNERS AND NAMES... THE MOST NOTABLE BEING "THE WIFFENPOOF" UNDER THE MANAGEMENT OF M. MCNAMARA AND R. VENDERLEY.

IN 1954, THE REAL OYSTER BAR ERA BEGAN. HUGHIE JOHNSTON, A LOCAL SUPERSTAR ATHLETE PURCHASED THE SALOON AND PROPERTY FROM LEO SCHNEE.. HUGHIE PLAYED FIRST BASE FOR THE WORLD CHAMPION ZOLLNER PISTONS SOFTBALL TEAM. IN 1954 HUGHIE BROUGHT THE TEAM'S STAR SECOND BASEMAN, NEAL BARILLE INTO THE BUSINESS AND OPERATED IT AS HUGHIE'S TAP FROM 1954 TO 1962. HUGHIE ALSO INTRODUCED OYSTERS IN 1954.

DURING THE JOHNSTON AND BARILLE YEARS THE SALOON BECAME A FAVORITE HAUNT OF PROSECUTORS, LAWYERS, AND OTHER PROFESSIONALS.

IN 1963, NEAL BARILLE PURCHASED HUGHIE'S TAP AND CHANGED THE NAME TO "NEAL'S OYSTER BAR". NEAL OPERATED THE RESTAURANT/ SALOON VERY SUCCESSFULLY UNTIL 1975. ALAN HUFFMAN AND ALEX LAGUNA PURCHASED THE BUSINESS AND SHORTENED THE NAME TO "THE OYSTER BAR". ALAN REMODELED THE KITCHEN, BATHROOMS, AND BAR TO THEIR PRESENT STATE.

IN 1987, A NEW ERA BEGAN WHEN STEVEN AND BRENDA GARD PURCHASED THE OYSTER BAR. WE HAVE USHERED IN OUR OWN ERA MAKING THE OYSTER BAR A FAVORITE DINING AND DRINKING SALOON. THE OYSTER BAR IS SERIOUS IN ITS COMMITMENT TO BRING YOU THE BEST AND HAVE FUN DOING IT.