

NOJOSHING
A ST. FRANCIS HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
PUBLISHED BIMONTHLY
July 2013 Issue

What's New

The St. Francis Historical Society won a grant from the WI State Historical Society for \$700. Put together with the \$1350 raised from local businesses, the society will have \$2050 to spend on the software, Past Perfect, and a computer to run the program. Our heartfelt thanks to those businesses that contributed to our society.

We also would like to thank the St. Francis Public Library. They graciously paid for the repair of the microfilm reader.

National Night Out is Wednesday, August 7 at Vretenar Park. Stop by our table and say hello.

***Do You Remember?* Jerry's Pheasant Bar**

By Barbara Janiszewski

Starting in 1965, Paula and the late Gil Grosenick owned Jerry's Pheasant Bar. It sat on the original site of Ola's Grocery store – the northeast corner of Packard and Tesch Avenues - where the Polonez Restaurant is currently located.

I recently sat down with Paula to ask her some questions about her approximately twenty years of owning the restaurant.

BJ: *Who was Jerry and why was it called the Pheasant Bar?*

Paula: Well, Jerry (whose real name was Elmer but for some reason everyone called him Jerry) was Gil's dad. He had owned a family tavern on 17th and Center for many years. That bar was "The Pheasant Bar" and so we just kept the name

.BJ: *Did you ever have to call the police?*

Paula: No, but once the police called US at about 3:00am to say that someone had hit the building with their car. Gil went to investigate and it didn't look very bad on the outside so he went home without going inside. The next morning we got quite a shock when we discovered that the whole back bar had buckled and there was broken glass all over. Not only that, the beer taps had somehow opened and there was beer all over the floor. Quite a mess. The driver had left an oil trail so the police were able to find the perpetrator who of course denied it. The person said she was home in bed, but the oil trail proved her wrong.

BJ: *Did anyone famous ever come in?*

Paula: Except for local politicians, the only one I can remember was Ray Nitschke who came in one day and ended up signing a lot of autographs.

The customers were great. One time when we were really short staffed - a waitress didn't show up - some of the customers got up and were taking orders and clearing tables!

BJ? *Any other memorable moments?*

Paula: One weekend in particular I would like to forget. There was a party and a woman seemed to be having some kind of a seizure. She went into the ladies room, fell and broke the toilet. She cut her arm so badly that we called an ambulance. That same weekend two men who had been sitting at the bar left and very shortly afterwards one of them came back in and said we should call an ambulance. The other man had collapsed. We found out that he had a heart attack and died. When that same weekend another customer said that he wasn't feeling too well, I thought to myself "I really don't want to hear this!"

BJ: *Why did you close?*

Paula: After running the bar and the restaurant for 20 years, we were both tired. We were also having a hard time getting help. Our daughters (Sheryl, Laura and Sandi) were marrying and so we decided to close the business.

Paula gave me an old menu from about 1970. Check out the prices.

Cheeseburger: .45, with lettuce and tomato .55

Pot of coffee: 1.50, per cup .15

Texas breakfast consisting of a small steak, eggs, potatoes, toast and beverage: 2.30

T-Bone steak dinner: 4.90

Broiled pork chop dinner: 2.90

Ham dinner: 2.00

All dinners included potatoes, salad, rolls, butter and beverage

Fish fry, rye bread, French fries, and cole slaw: 1.00

Stuffed shrimp, French fries and cole slaw: 1.95

Ice cream sundae: .40

Pie Ala Mode: .90

Do You Know...??? (answers in the next newsletter)

1. In which hand does the Statue of Liberty hold her torch?
2. How many spikes are on the crown of the Statue of Liberty and what do they symbolize?
3. On the American flag, is the top stripe red or white?
4. How many states are in the U.S.A? (Don't laugh. Some people don't know.)
5. What two numbers on the telephone dial don't have letters on them?