

Old businesses continued from 152

Early businesses included land sales, food, goods, drinks, tools and transportation. Blacksmiths, Tinsmiths, Woodsmiths (Coopers) and carpenters made needed items. Several brick companies made bricks. Brewers made beer. Tanners tanned hides which were used for many things.



Before restaurants there were many Inns, Taverns, Speakeasys, and dives. In the old days they were often vulgar places with dirt floors that customers spit their chewing tobacco out on. Fights were common. But some

others ran clean establishments had female bartenders of strong character who did not put up with too much bull. Some even served good food. Louie's started we are told as an ice cream parlor. During prohibition many became blind pigs. Often the local sheriff deputy was a well known customer. Many folks liked to have a drink and just because some anti drinkers had got a law passed against it wasn't going to stop them. The Detroit area was known as the rum capital. The Eighteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution, established Prohibition in the United States in 1919. It was repealed by the Twenty-first Amendment in 1933. During this time the Detroit area was a hotbed of illegal activity. There were many speakeasys in Warren. Clem's Pour House was one of many that were open 24-7. You could not get in unless you were known by someone inside. "As many as 25,000 illicit saloons, or "blind pigs," operated in Detroit area and did a \$215 million business. Liquor trafficking was Michigan's second leading industry. (Lawrence E. Ziewacz 228) Warren and Center Line often had more bars than churches.

Automobile repair shops did a good business also

There were riding stables such as the Ryan Riding stable but for a time for an additional fee one could be ridden. Rosie's red light was down on Ryan, and a bar across from St Clement Church who had one bartender who baby-slitted his young baby while the house next to it had seven young "housekeepers." There were speakeasys or blind pigs and other recreational businesses during prohibition and at other times which the history of has been "forgotten."

Sure a lot of stuff went on in the old days as does now that will not be recorded in histories. The velvet touch down on Van Dyke supposedly gave great massages.

I was a social worker for the American Red Cross and used to look down from an upstairs window at John R and Erskin. I admired the little church across the street because any time of the night or day there was a person out there in front of the church passing out church literature. They carried it even further and got in the car for a ride around the block I assumed for a sermon. Funny though they always rode in the back seat. Turned out that it was a 24/7 drug dealers. And there was that nice motel almost next door on Woodward. I recommended it for several families to stay there when they had a sick child at the medical center close by. Once a client complained to me that the motel only charged by the hour and was too expensive. Opps.

Of course the majority of businesses are outstanding honest concerns.

As you look thru this archive you will see hundreds of business fotos. There is an alphabetical listing using the index and a listing by street is in the business section. This is being added to as I can manage it.