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Showing postings 1 - 42 of 42 in the thread: Finast and A&P.

Posting: Finast and A&P Poster: William Brainard Date: 29 April 2007 7:36 PM	Posting 1
Where was the First National before it was built where Royal Buffet is now? What about A&P before it was on Valley Street? Did A&P go out of business? Seems there are some down-state and in Massachusetts.	
Posting: Re: Finast and A&P Poster: Ernie Gesner Date: 30 April 2007 12:17 AM	Posting 2
William the First National was across the street from the Capital Theater and had a large parking lot. The A&P was on Valley street. My Dad's cousin, John Riggles was the meat manager.	
Posting: Re: Finast and A&P Poster: Dick Donovan Date: 30 April 2007 10:17 AM	Posting 3
I worked at Finast after school from 56-57. Bill Hines was the manager. The part time high school guys usually worked Thurs Friday 3pm to 9pm and Sat 8am to 6pm. I remember on Friday nights seeing the line at the Capital theater. In the winter the guys in line usually wore full-length wool overcoats and pork-pie hats. Anyone remember the hats?	
Posting: Re: Finast and A&P Poster: John Tormey Date: 30 April 2007 12:28 AM	Posting 4
Ernie: I worked at the A&P part-time during my senior year at WHS. I believe Homer Paulus was the meat manager and John Riggles was the assistant manager - under Roland Peckham. Joe Cavoli held down the fruits and vegetables. I believe John Riggles went on to become the manager of the new A&P at the Meadowbrook Mall. My Dad worked at the old A&P and retired from there.	
Posting: Re: Finast and A&P Poster: vince cerreto Date: 2 May 2007 8:32 PM	Posting 5
RD the very first.....First national store was on the corner of wilson street and Main St. It was a lot the belong to the Haddad Family	
Posting: Re: Finast and A&P Poster: Dick Donovan Date: 3 May 2007 1:52 PM	Posting 6
I don't recall Wilson St. What was it near or other stores located on it?	
Posting: Re: Finast and A&P Poster: vince cerreto Date: 3 May 2007 4:59 PM	Posting 7
I too have been out of Willi for a few years and the only way I can tell you is where Midas Muffler is located. Ives ice house was on the corner of Wilson and Main. By reading the forum I wonder how many people actualy live in Willi right now. Seems like most are out of state. I am hear in Ormond Beach FL.	
Posting: Re: Finast and A&P Poster: William Brainard Date: 3 May 2007 8:03 PM	Posting 8
I've lived in Coventry all my life but for 7 years I lived in Delray Beach Fl. in the 1990s.	
Posting: Re: Finast and A&P Poster: John Boudreau Date: 5 May 2007 5:44 AM	Posting 9
" Seems like most are out of state. I am hear in Ormond Beach FL. " Vince ...I'm in Japan .	
Posting: Re: Finast and A&P Poster: Ernie Gesner Date: 5 May 2007 8:20 AM	Posting 10

I have been in southern California since I got out of the Air Force in 1957.

Posting: Re: Finast and A&P Posting 11
 Poster: John Tormey
 Date: 5 May 2007 12:20 AM

I've lived in Manhattan since B.U. graduation in 1959.

Posting: Re: Finast and A&P Posting 12
 Poster: Dick Donovan
 Date: 7 May 2007 8:55 AM

I lived in Northern Va 1966-96. I retired in 96. Now live in a small town in the Northern Neck of Va on the Chesapeake Bay. This September going to the Elks Club for 50th WHS reunion. One of my best friends just passed away--lived in Boynton Beach Fl.

Posting: Re: Finast and A&P Posting 13
 Poster: William Brainard
 Date: 7 May 2007 10:56 AM

Boynton Beach is a lovely town though it's changed like all of South Florida. Also Hypoluxo and Briney Breezes. South Bay in western Palm Beach county is interesting. I'd hate to have my car break down at night coming back to the coast; those Everglades roads are creepy! A lot of folks died when their cars went into the canals which aren't deep but deadly just the same. It's hard to see on those foggy south Florida nights. 5-6 miles from the ocean causes some interesting weather conditions.

Posting: Re: Finast and A&P Posting 14
 Poster: Jules Corn
 Date: 18 May 2007 10:19 AM

The First Natonal was located at Thread Mill Square in 1952 when I turned 16 and got my first job there. Homer Paulhus was the manager and there was an asst manager(name unknown) and me. When the "new" store was built across from the Capitol theater we were all transfered to it. Don't remember the date, but I only worked at Thread Mill for a very short time.

Posting: Re: Finast and A&P Posting 15
 Poster: Jack Farrell
 Date: 18 May 2007 9:02 PM

The manager of the First National (Finast) on Thread Mill Square, I am quite certain, was Roger Paulus, not Homer who was the meat department manager of the Main Street store across from the Foot Bridge (455 Main I think) back in those days. My dad was manager of the A&P store next to the Finast on Thread Mill Square from roughly 1922 to 1939. In those days there were at least two other A&Ps, one on High Street, next to the then NET&T building, and the 455 Main Street store. Around 1938 the latter was remodeled and enlarged into what the company called a "combination market" having separate grocery, produce, and meat departments. The store manager was Dan Wade, Homer Paulus was meat manager and Joe Cavoli (I had forgotten his name) was produce manager (see John Tormey's 30 April '07 post). A couple of years after this opening, the High Street and Thread Mill Square stores were closed. Roland Peckham started with my dad and moved up to the new combination market shortly after it re-opened. My dad chose to re-open the store as an independent Universal Food Store which he ran until the war shortages made it impractical. Referring back to Roger Paulus, he left Finast at some point and was elected Willimantic City Clerk several times.

Posting: Re: Finast and A&P Posting 16
 Poster: Roger Abare
 Date: 19 May 2007 5:03 AM

During the early 1950's, Archie Sylvestre was the manager of the Thread Mill Square Store. I worked there as a stock boy. Carried out groceries for the customers, to their cars.

Posting: Re: Finast and A&P Posting 17
 Poster: Jack Farrell
 Date: 19 May 2007 4:35 PM

Correction to my posting of yesterday: The telephone company building referred to was SNETCO (Southern New England Telephone Co.) not New England Tel & Tel. I've been away from Connecticut too long! Sorry.

Posting: Re: Finast and A&P Posting 18
 Poster: John Riggles
 Date: 10 July 2007 6:39 PM

You are right..the A&P Was on Valley St...May I ask ..What was your Dad's first name? I'm the John Riggles you mentioned. I don't believe I would be your Dad's cousin and was not the meat Mgr...That would be Joe Moran. I was assistant Mgr. and then took a promotion to Windsor to run a store there. Did you know Roland Peckham?

Posting: Re: Finast and A&P Posting 19
 Poster: John Riggles
 Date: 10 July 2007 6:51 PM

John....How well I remember your Dad and of course You..Your right about the meat mgr. and produce Mgr. and myself as assistant.. I did go on to become mgr. of a new A&P in Windsor, but of all things...I was transferred back to the Willimantic area (Eastbrook Mall) in '78 and retired in '86.. still going strong...

Posting: Re: Finast and A&P Posting 20
 Poster: Ernie Gesner
 Date: 10 July 2007 11:49 PM

John, my dad's name was Gordon Gesner. He died in 2000 at Mesa, AZ. He was in fact your first cousin. Your parents lived on South St. Your mom and my grandmother were twin sisters.
 Your Dad worked for the railroad at the Bridge St crossing. I have kept in touch with your nephew, Rev Elven Riggles on the internet. We have lived in southern California since 1957, and try to fly back to Connecticut at least every other year,

Posting: Re: Finast and A&P Posting 21
 Poster: Mick Seretny
 Date: 11 July 2007 3:51 AM

I seem to remember a Riggles family that lived in a house at the corner of Bain and Connor St. in the late 50's early 60's.
 And a fellow named Jacky Riggles.
 Am I imagining this?

Posting: Re: Finast and A&P Posting 22
 Poster: William Brainard
 Date: 11 July 2007 8:54 AM

There was a Joe Moran who managed Guido's Coventry Supermarket before it burned in 1988. Wonder if it's the same person? Billy Kelly was manager of Guido's before Joe.

Posting: Re: Finast and A&P Posting 23
 Poster: John Riggles
 Date: 11 July 2007 5:37 PM

Yes.. Joe Moran did manage Guido's for a good many years after he got through with the A&P Company. We had been good friends since school days..Joe passed away last year and now I really miss a good friend and golfing buddy.

Posting: Re: Finast and A&P Posting 24
 Poster: John Riggles
 Date: 11 July 2007 5:47 PM

Ernie... You are absolutely right..I would be.... your Dad's first cousin...I just didn't connect your first name at the beginning... I'm glad that you are keeping in touch with Elven. He is great and really follows up on family history. Good to hear you are doing well...

Posting: Re: Finast and A&P Posting 25
 Poster: John Riggles
 Date: 11 July 2007 6:02 PM

Mick..... Yes ...We did live on Bain St.until 59'... We then moved to Windsor.. and you also were right... thinking of my son John (Jacky) Riggles. So.. your imagination is still with you..

Posting: Re: Finast and A&P Posting 26
 Poster: William Brainard
 Date: 12 July 2007 7:34 AM

Joe was a quiet man. I'm sorry to hear he passed away last year. Guido is going strong at Highland Park Market in Manchester.

Posting: Re: Finast and A&P Posting 27
 Poster: John Tormey
 Date: 12 July 2007 5:24 PM

John, how great to see your name up on my monitor. I had a lot of respect for you back in the Late Fifties when Buddy Fayen, John Casey and I used to clown around with Flo Haddad at her register and you had the kind sense not to fire us.

I spoke with Roland at my Dad's wake and introduced him to my son, John. Was sorry when Roland passed away.

You guys were the greatest. Keep kickin'.

Posting: Re: Finast and A&P Posting 28
 Poster: John Riggles
 Date: 13 July 2007 5:57 PM

Yea John...you guys were quit the bunch back in those days... Do you remember Marcella Duchesneau in High School.. She remembers you but not the year you graduated What year was it? Were you with A&P when Clarence Carpenter worked there. Take care....

Posting: Re: Finast and A&P Posting 29
 Poster: John Tormey
 Date: 16 July 2007 5:46 PM

John: I worked at the A&P during my senior year at WHS. Fall of '53 through June of '54. The only Duuchesneau working there at the time was Jerry. He took care of all the bottle returns in the back shed and did one heck of a job. My brother Charlie also worked at

the A&P at the same time. We were a triple threat.

Other guys were: Joe & Nick DeMarco, Tony Nadile, Roger LeClaire, John Casey's Mom at the fruit department, Doug Turissi with meat and fish along with Pete Van Haverbeck. My Dad assisted Mr. Lemieux at the liquor store at the time.

It was a great place to work. And at a good time. There was a gas war going on at the time. You could buy gas for 19 cents a gallon at Harry's.

We used to carry customer's groceries to their car at the time. Tips were very rare but we didn't mind much. We considered ourselves well-paid at something like \$2.80 per hour.

Posting: Re: Finast and A&P Posting 30
 Poster: John Boudreau
 Date: 16 July 2007 7:14 PM

Hi John ,

\$ 2.80 seems like an awful lot of \$ per hour in 1953 . I don't think my father made that much working at Electric Boat in the 50's .

Posting: Re: Finast and A&P Posting 31
 Poster: Dick Donovan
 Date: 17 July 2007 2:42 PM

John Tormey--I started work at FINAST in June 1955 part time and the starting wage was 65cent/hr. If we joined the union -- we got a nickel raise, I think every 6 months. Working PT after school I worked about 20 to 24 hrs per week. You mentioned John Casey, who I knew through his younger brother Alan. I remember John had old 2-door roadster with a rumble seat and he would take a bunch of us to the movies .

Posting: Re: Finast and A&P Posting 32
 Poster: John Boudreau
 Date: 18 July 2007 9:22 PM

65 cents an hour sounds more like it ! If memory serves my Dad used to bring home about \$ 88 a week from Electric Boat (he was a pipefitter) in the 50's .

Posting: Re: Finast and A&P Posting 33
 Poster: John Tormey
 Date: 19 July 2007 1:24 PM

John Boudreau & R D:
 Yeah, for me the past is kinda fuzzy lately. I'm an old guy.
 Like they say, memory is the second thing to go.
 Maybe John Riggles can set us straight.

We all joined the Union, as I remember.
 Worked 26 hours a week (PT).

Posting: Re: Finast and A&P Posting 34
 Poster: John Costello
 Date: 27 July 2007 1:22 AM

John,

Was your father, or maybe your uncle Jimmie the Tormey fellow that used to sing as a soloist at St Joseph's Church? The man had an amazing voice.

Posting: Re: Finast and A&P Posting 35
 Poster: John Tormey
 Date: 27 July 2007 12:45 AM

John: My Dad, also John Tormey, wasn't in church much. However, my "Uncle Dinny," Dennis, sang at St. Joseph's church. Dennis was my Godfather, a kind man, a great man ... as was my Dad. My Dad had a beautiful Irish baritone voice. He sang in most minstrels and fund raisers in the Willimantic area. His version of "Boy of Mine" was the song that could raise the short hairs at the back of your neck.

Posting: Re: Finast and A&P Posting 36
 Poster: John Costello
 Date: 28 July 2007 5:25 PM

John,

Yes it for sure was "Dinney" and not "Jimmy", as I erroneously recalled. Dinney also had a great voice, and a very unique tone to it.

I bet there is a chance that your father did some singing with the Tom Costello Orchestra. Tom was my uncle, my Dad's younger brother.

Posting: Re: Finast and A&P Posting 37
 Poster: John Boudreau
 Date: 7 August 2007 9:38 PM

What was the guy's name who ran the package store ?

Posting: Re: Finast and A&P Posting 38
 Poster: John Tormey
 Date: 8 August 2007 11:46 AM

The manager of the A&P in the Fifties was George Lemieux (We pronounced it "La Meer"). My Dad assisted him. The Church Street Package Store, kitty corner from the A&P was owned and operated by my Uncle and Aunt, Jack and Rose Guarnaccia. Later it was passed on to my Aunt, Angelina Bovino.

Posting: Re: Finast and A&P Posting 39
 Poster: John Boudreau
 Date: 8 August 2007 8:27 PM

" George Lemieux (We pronounced it "La Meer"). "

There was a Bernita Lemieux in my class at St. Mary's and we too pronounced the last name La Meer . There also was a kid named Ricky Dubois whose last name we pronounced DOO BOYS instead of DOO BWA . His parents eventually changed their last name to Wood , which BOIS means in French .

Posting: Re: Finast and A&P Posting 40
 Poster: John Boudreau
 Date: 8 August 2007 8:29 PM

John T ,

Your nephew Michael was in the same class I was referring to . He and I were pretty close pals all through elementary school . What is he doing these days ? He'd get a kick out of knowing that I post here .

Posting: Re: Finast and A&P Posting 41
 Poster: John Tormey
 Date: 9 August 2007 11:29 AM

John: Mike's still with Pratt Whitney, "keepin' 'em flyin.'" He and his family are all doing very well. God Bless!
 jt

Posting: Re: Finast and A&P Posting 42
 Poster: John Costello
 Date: 10 August 2007 9:57 PM

When I worked at the A&P on Valley Street, for Roland Packham and Joe Moran, circa 1961-63 they sold some Ann Page labeled hermit cookies that were in a sort of brown colored, transparent down the front packaging. Those hermits were the best I've ever tasted - and for some crazy reason they quit making them right about that time. I could never figure out why they did that! I'd surely like to get that recipe!

After my A&P days, I worked for awhile at the First National, when it was out on West Main Street - the manager was my next door neighbor on Jackson St - I guy named Ray Lavoy. Anybody remember him?
 He was driving a 1954 chevy at the time that, was almost the same caramel/white color of the wrapper of those darm hermits!