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Showing postings 1 - 15 of 15 in the thread: Food markets gone now.

Posting: Food markets gone now	Posting 1
Poster: Brian Wilton	
Date: 28 October 2009 6:13 PM	
<p>I think I remember a First National supermarket across from the Capital Theater during the late 1950's. Is that correct?</p> <p>I used to love to go to the A &amp; P, but was it always on the site where now is ----?---- , the former Elm Supermarket, former Elm Package store, next to St. Mary's church. I remember the aroma of real coffee beans being ground when my mother shopped at A &amp; P. (Nowadays, coffee beans are back, but for decades one didn't see beans - only ground - in the supermarket.)</p> <p>Stop &amp; Shop used to be up and over from where it is now. With Medi Mart attached. Now Stop &amp; Shop sits on the site of the former Barker's Dept. Store.</p> <p>I'll bet the regulars here could offer information about all the small grocery markets and even larger supermarkets that are now gone or moved elsewhere. Will you do that for those of us who have less recall?</p>	
Posting: Re: Food markets gone now	Posting 2
Poster: Robert Thompson	
Date: 28 October 2009 11:33 PM	
<p>The 1st National was not directly,if my memory serve me right, but it was a little further down but not by much,from the Capitol(?) on the opposite side of the stret.I once got caught for trying to shop lift a pack of gum from there many moons ago. Just when I had the pack of gum in my hand, all of a sudden I felt a hand on my shoulder. Looked up directly into the manager's face. That ended my life of crime. Remembered the A &amp; P. Don't remeber anything about Stop &amp; Shop because that was after I had left Willie.</p>	
Posting: Re: Food markets gone now	Posting 3
Poster: Skipper Barrett	
Date: 29 October 2009 12:46 AM	
<p>Gentleman:</p> <p>The First National Store was located opposite The Capitol at the northwest corner of Main &amp; Walnuts Sts. Believe the manager was Mr Hines, father of Laura Hines who graduated with Ada and I at WHS in 1958.</p> <p>I grew up on Lewiston Avenue, near High &amp; Walnuts Sts. We always went to the local supermarket which was known in the late 40s and early 50s as BRADLEY'S and later was bought by a Mr Carter and it was known as CARTER'S. Store was on Summit St., between Walnut and Spring Sts. Last I knew it was converted back into a dwelling.</p> <p>Remember MAZZOLA'S market on Main opposite the Italian Gaardens restaurant?..right next to the city parking lot. ...and then Welch's and Brett's Pharmacy next to The First National.</p> <p>Zoweee</p> <p>SB</p>	
Posting: Re: Food markets gone now	Posting 4
Poster: Paul Ashton	
Date: 29 October 2009 11:34 AM	
<p>Actually Walnut and Spring are perpendicular to each other. I think you mean Summit between Walnut and Chestnut. I used to stop at that store walking to and from Noble school in the 60's. I don't remember it being called Carter's at that time but no other name comes to mind. I remember getting yelled at for trying to split a popsicle by banging it on the the edge of the front store.</p>	
Posting: Re: Food markets gone now	Posting 5
Poster: Ada Kerachsky Albright	
Date: 29 October 2009 12:33 AM	
<p>Skipper,</p> <p>Of course I do remember Mazzola's market. BTW, Charlie Mazzola (son of the owner) was also in our class. Ann Garrison Bailey's Mom worked in the First National when it was across from the Capitol.</p> <p>All,</p> <p>There were numerous small or neighborhood grocery stores. My grandmother's tiny store on Union St. (between Center and Broad Sts), later Flaums; Rothblatt's, half a block down on the opposite side of Union St (between Gottlieb-Bacon furniture and Charlie Martin's music store) were just a couple. The A&amp;P was on the north side of Valley St, near Jack Roan's. I do remember the wonderful smell of grinding coffee beans (why doesn't coffee taste as good as it smells?) and going there between Wednesday and Friday to buy really fresh fish. I haven't had that wonderful butterfish in years!</p>	

Posting: Re: Food markets gone now Posting 6  
 Poster: Mary Lee Bradley  
 Date: 29 October 2009 7:43 PM

Hi everyone,

I remember back in the 40's when there was also smaller First National's one Main St. another in Thread Mill Square. When the one opposite the Capital was opened it was referred to as the "Big First National." My brother worked there after high school. We lived over the river and had two neighborhood stores with only about 3 houses inbetween. One was a small Red and White Store. I believe there were a number of Red and White's scattered around Willi.

I remember the local store in summer reaching into the ice water to pull out a bottle of soda, if you were lucky. The owner would yell at you if you kept the top open too long trying to decide on the soda, it made the ice melt.

They sold good Hallock ice cream and hand dipped cones. One scoop for 5 cents, two scoops for 10 cents. You wanted to buy the cones when the owner was on duty, because his wife always knocked off the extra ice cream from around the edge of the scoop.

Happy memories from the past.

Mary Lee Bradley

Posting: Re: Food markets gone now Posting 7  
 Poster: Robert Thompson  
 Date: 30 October 2009 10:57 PM

I also remember a grocery store that was at the corner of Jackson & Valley Street. I believe there was the College Store, then another building & then the grocery store, these were on the Jackson St side & the front of the store was facing Valley Street. I don't remember the name of the store but the owner's name was Abe & the wife's name I can't remember but I think they have a son by the name of Jerry. I am sure that those of you who went to either St. Joseph's or St. Mary's school must remember the store. As the old saying goes it was just a stone's throw from St. Joseph's.

Posting: Re: Food markets gone now Posting 8  
 Poster: Paul Ashton  
 Date: 31 October 2009 10:22 AM

I recall the store on Valley and Jackson being commonly known as Abbie's Market. At least that's what people called it though the actual name might have been different. It was a wood framed building with a porch a few steps above the sidewalk. The porch was a great place to sit and drink a soda.

Lariviere's Market on the corner of Jackson and Ash, where Mama's pizza is now, was popular stop for me and my buddies riding our bikes to and from Lauter Park in the summertime. Great grinders from the butcher counter in the back. It was also where I picked up my papers during my career as a newspaper boy. They were left in an unlocked box in the corner of the parking lot. Nobody ever messed with them. I wonder if you could get away with that today.

Posting: Re: Food markets gone now Posting 9  
 Poster: John Tormey  
 Date: 31 October 2009 5:52 PM

Abbie's Market was owned and operated by a Mr. Boradach, I believe. But I'm wrong a lot lately.

Once I brought in 3 empty soda bottles I found in the parking lot behind our church, wanting to collect my 6 cents for Joe Labbe's Candy Shop's licorice pipes:

"Did you buy these here?"

"Yes"

"You're lying."

"Yes."

"Get out and stay out!"

jt

Posting: Re: Food markets gone now Posting 10  
 Poster: Dick Donovan  
 Date: 1 November 2009 6:50 PM

JT, great story!! We grew up in an age of fear so to speak. If we were challenged we confessed and bore the results. I think all the way up thru the 50's high school kids were somewhat obedient and honest. We had fun but were honest and responsible for any deeds that were challenged by an adult. You know what kids today would say if you asked them similar questions!! I think we had the best of times comparatively to kids today!!

Posting: Re: Food markets gone now Posting 11  
 Poster: Ada Kerachsky Albright  
 Date: 2 November 2009 1:57 PM

John,

You are correct--it was Boradoch's grocery on the corner of Valley and Jackson (facing Valley St.). There probably is still Bergeron's on Windham Road, just beyond when Old Plains Road forks off. In South Windham there was a small building where Babcock Hill Road starts on the left of Machine Shop Hill Road. One side had been the Post Office (later replaced by a stand alone building just off of Rt. 32) and the other side was Celia Johnson's little grocery store. The school bus stop was just across the intersection. After school Mrs. Johnson's store was a popular stop before walking home. There was little freezer for ice cream novelties, potato chips, some candy (I don't have a sweet tooth), bread, milk soda. More importantly for some, comic books hanging by clothes pins on a line along the wall. There were a few "movie star" magazines, and my favorite--weekly sheets with the words to all the popular songs.

Posting: Re: Food markets gone now Posting 12  
 Poster: Dick Donovan  
 Date: 2 November 2009 2:12 PM

Ada, the Bergeron's market I remember was located in South Windham on the left going towards SW. Ray Bergeron was in my class and joined the Coast Guard after high school. Upon return I believe he went back to work at the market and died rather young--heart attack I believe.

Posting: Re: Food markets gone now Posting 13  
 Poster: Brian Wilton  
 Date: 2 November 2009 2:32 PM

Bergeron's is now Bob's IGA market, and just recently the original building was razed after a large new building was put up next to it.

Posting: Re: Food markets gone now Posting 14  
 Poster: Ilmar Filhaber  
 Date: 25 November 2009 3:45 PM

Ada, I'm surprised that you haven't mentioned your folks' hardware store which was one of the bnetter ones, even by today's standards. The Willimantic Glass Company! I still have one of the power saws my Dad bought there & used the thing last weekend once again! It still works, after 50 years! Much better than what you can get at Home Despot, etc! In re groceries, don't forget the COOP which became Hersant's, on Union St, not far from the Scratchhouse (Strand Theater).

Posting: Re: Food markets gone now Posting 15  
 Poster: Ada Kerachsky Albright  
 Date: 30 November 2009 4:58 PM

Ilmar,

I have written on earlier posts about my parents' hardware store (Morris Hardware, a division of Willimantic Glass Co.). Of course that part of town (at least three blocks by one block, plus the "island" between Union and Main Streets) was demolished in the early 1970's. In the earliest six or so years the business was on Church Street and was Willimantic Glass Co., selling glass (window panes to car windows), paint and wallpaper. When the business moved to 20-24 Union Street, it became a real hardware store, still selling the glass, paint and wallpaper, but also hardware--everything from nails, nuts and bolts to power tools. My Dad would be pleased to know that a power tool he sold 50 years ago is still in use. Many manufacturers made tools that looked the same as the top of the line versions for discount stores, but had different model numbers and quality. That is likely still true. It at least was in 2001 when I had to replace my TV and shopped around.

I do remember the COOP on the corner of Union and Broad Streets and I believe that I also mentioned it in a previous post. I did not remember the name of the store which succeeded it. Thanks for providing that!