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Showing postings 1 - 45 of 45 in the thread: Old Willimantic Restaurants.

Posting: Old Willimantic Restaurants	Posting 1
Poster: Gary Littlefield	
Date: 27 June 2005 1:37 PM	
<p>One of my favorite topics is food. Why not, it sustains us. I recall some of the best restaurants or eating establishments in Willimantic and want others to relay their stories. Remember Hallocks where the ice cream was divine. Lindys was another great spot my father took my sister and I when my mother was out of town at conferences (usually once or twice a year). The restaurant at the Nathan Hale Hotel had great reviews from many that I knew, although I never had the pleasure of dining there. Jury's Tavern in Willington, the old Shell Chateau in Willimantic and the famous Bills #7 were places I recall from my childhood.</p> <p>Thank goodness Willimantic is getting more additions to comfortable dining like Ruby Tuesdays and Applebees along with some others that make the fast food restaurants not the only game in town. I must admit that fast food is sometimes good and needed as well.</p> <p>Thanks</p>	
Posting: Re: Old Willimantic Restaurants	Posting 2
Poster: Francis "Whitey" Sellars	
Date: 27 June 2005 8:11 PM	
<p>Here are a few more restaurants that were in willimantic. Park Central Hotel, Welsh's, Frontenac, City Lunch, Helmolds. There are a couple of more I can't recall their names, one on the corner of winter St and main and one on north St.</p>	
Posting: Re: Old Willimantic Restaurants	Posting 3
Poster: John	
Date: 27 June 2005 10:28 PM	
<p>Francis ...wasn't it Welch's ?</p> <p>Woolworths used to serve some decent fast food as I recall at their lunch counter . And let's never forget Jim's Diner !</p>	
Posting: Re: Old Willimantic Restaurants	Posting 4
Poster: rd	
Date: 28 June 2005 8:17 AM	
<p>Welch's was on Main St across from the Capital theater. The one on North St was Clark's formerly owned by Charley Mullaney. His mother ran the original Clarks that was located in old wooden clap board building closer to Woolworth's. There also was the Italian Garden (IGs), the Rock Garden, the Park Central on Valley St, the Campus Shop on High St. Hmmm, these are all lost "VISIONS" of the 1970's redevelopment that Roger Albare alluded to in an earlier post.</p>	
Posting: Re: Old Willimantic Restaurants	Posting 5
Poster: John B	
Date: 28 June 2005 4:28 PM	
<p>There was the College Shop on Jackson St. which was just south of Valley Street on the west side . Good meatball grinders as I recall ...</p>	
Posting: Re: Old Willimantic Restaurants	Posting 6
Poster: GP	
Date: 28 June 2005 4:52 PM	
<p>What was the name of the place near the old Polish Club that burnt down about 1992? It was also near the corner of Milk Street, and I think there was a barber shop there too. I remember getting fantastic sandwiches there. The guy who ran it was a big wheel in the Knights of Columbus I believe.</p>	
Posting: Re: Old Willimantic Restaurants	Posting 7
Poster: John B	
Date: 28 June 2005 5:20 PM	
<p>The guy who ran the College Shop was a big wheel at the K of C . Perhaps he ran the shop you are referring to as the College Shop came down during redevelopment - he may have relocated ? I don't recall any restaurant in the area you are talking about during the 60's .</p>	
Posting: Re: Old Willimantic Restaurants	Posting 8
Poster: John B	
Date: 28 June 2005 5:21 PM	

And I just remembered his name - George Bourey .

Posting: Re: Old Willimantic Restaurants Posting 9
 Poster: A. Insalaco
 Date: 28 June 2005 6:12 PM

Yes, that's it John. he was a great guy -- and the College Shop did burn down in the early 90s. It was not a restaurant as such, just a sandwich shop. My fondest memories are of the Central Hotel's restaurant. I went there regularly when I was in college around 1969 -- the spaghetti and meatballs were incredible.

Posting: Re: Old Willimantic Restaurants Posting 10
 Poster: JOhn
 Date: 28 June 2005 6:57 PM

Insalaco ? Boy does that name ring a bell ...What year did you graduate Windham High or Tech ? My last name is Boudreau 1970) , and my cousins are the Collins' (John , Jackie , Laurie ,& Pam) ...

Posting: Re: Old Willimantic Restaurants Posting 11
 Poster: A. Insalaco
 Date: 28 June 2005 7:34 PM

I graduated Stafford Springs High School in 1967 John, then after basic training in the army went to Vietnam for 13 months. When I returned I went to UConn. The Willimantic Insalacos are of course from Italy like my grandfather, and I think my dad was a distant cousin of one of them. I spent some time in Arizona and New Mexico, but came back to northeast CT two years ago.

Tony

Posting: Re: Old Willimantic Restaurants Posting 12
 Poster: John B
 Date: 28 June 2005 10:04 PM

Apologize for assuming you were a Willi Insalaco . ;)

At this point in my life I think I would prefer the warmer climes of AZ & NM to the frigid NE winters . . :)

Posting: Re: Old Willimantic Restaurants Posting 13
 Poster: William Brainard
 Date: 30 June 2005 11:47 AM

I remember the old Iron Horse in the Nathan Hale Hotel as a child. Though not in Willimantic, the Ox Bow Restaurant in Columbia on Route 66. And of course the Shell Chateau.

Posting: Re: Old Willimantic Restaurants Posting 14
 Poster: Judy D
 Date: 6 October 2005 6:34 PM

Hi all,
 We're relative newcomers to Willi/Windham- moved here int 1981. Our daughter used to tell us her friends talked about the Shell Chateau but we had no idea where it was. It came up again this week- and my web search brought me here. Where was the Shell Chateau? When did it close?

Posting: Re: Old Willimantic Restaurants Posting 15
 Poster: Judy D
 Date: 6 October 2005 6:34 PM

Hi all,
 We're relative newcomers to Willi/Windham- moved here int 1981. Our daughter used to tell us her friends talked about the Shell Chateau but we had no idea where it was. It came up again this week- and my web search brought me here. Where was the Shell Chateau? When did it close?

Posting: Re: Old Willimantic Restaurants Posting 16
 Poster: Alphonse
 Date: 6 October 2005 7:51 PM

How about the City Lunch, Archie Dubina's Diner on the site where Dairy Queen now is, Joe Putnick's (sp) Diner near the Capital Theater, Seven Acres where Apollo Pizza now sits, Ray's Drive in --Ideal Tire site, Liberty's Restaurant across from Artspace served great breakfast when Leo Bellerose ran it, the Lighthouse in Columbia-now a used car dealer, Burger Chef now houses a fish market, Allains Pizza-now Tony's, The Candy Kitchen run by the Yonclas family in the block that burned in the famous Valentine Day fire. Don't remember the name but Roland Frechette had a restaurant in the building on the corner of Main and Bank, the Chinese restaurant in the Hooker, Jim's (Sullivan) Coffee Spot, Welch's on the Corner of Walnut and Main, The Cozy Corner on the corner of Wilson and Main, The Frontenac (sp) on the Wili site, the Checker Grill on Union Street across from Auto Electric, C.W. Walkers on Union Street. There were many over the years.

Posting: Re: Old Willimantic Restaurants Posting 17

Poster: Tina Date: 6 October 2005 11:16 PM	
He did relocate-and what I remember about the College Shop was fountain rootbeer served in frozen mugs!	
Posting: Re: Old Willimantic Restaurants Poster: Bobbi Date: 7 October 2005 7:11 AM	Posting 18
The Shell was located about where the Burger King and Gas station are across from Super Stop& Shop It burned early -mid 60s	
Posting: Re: Old Willimantic Restaurants Poster: Bobbi Date: 7 October 2005 7:11 AM	Posting 19
The Shell was located about where the Burger King and Gas station are across from Super Stop& Shop It burned early -mid 60s	
Posting: Re: Old Willimantic Restaurants Poster: mammabear Date: 7 October 2005 7:43 AM	Posting 20
Lindy's was a great place to get a bite to eat after a movie. It was located on Union Street, next to Hickey's Drug Store. There was also Hallock's on Main Street. I think it was located across from the old Woolworth's (now Nasiff's). Hallock's made their own ice cream and had the traditioanl black/white ice cream shop tile on the floor.	
Posting: Re: Old Willimantic Restaurants Poster: Jack Date: 7 October 2005 5:00 PM	Posting 21
How many remember A's and I's at the airport and the cove in coventry	
Posting: Re: Old Willimantic Restaurants Poster: Ernie G Date: 8 October 2005 12:12 AM	Posting 22
Irene recently passed away at over 100 years oild	
Posting: Re: Old Willimantic Restaurants Poster: Dawn Date: 9 October 2005 10:06 AM	Posting 23
Hallocks....that was the first place that Ron Frechette owned. It used to be the family birthday place...large family (six children)...anyway the birthday person got to pick what they wanted...big deal for us. My sis used to work at Ron's place on the corner of Bank...can't remember the name though.	
Posting: Re: Old Willimantic Restaurants Poster: ziggy Date: 15 October 2005 7:05 PM	Posting 24
Mikes at the foot of railroad street - the vanilla beer's Pure heaven @10c	
Posting: Re: Old Willimantic Restaurants Poster: Francis "Whitey" Sellars Date: 15 October 2005 9:08 PM	Posting 25
Al's And Irene's in No. Windham was a great place. They had the best home made french fries in the area. The music was great on sundays. We used to go there almost every sunday for their french fries and beer. You would have to wait for some time to get your fries, they were so busy.	
Posting: Re: Old Willimantic Restaurants Poster: John B Date: 16 October 2005 5:42 PM	Posting 26
Ziggy ...We used to call those " fake beers " ! What a hang out that was : comics , soda fountain , pinball machines ...Ahh , the memories ...	
Posting: Re: Old Willimantic Restaurants Poster: Callie Date: 27 October 2005 8:40 PM	Posting 27
The Shell Chateau burned in the late '70s, actually, I'm pretty sure.	
Posting: Re: Old Willimantic Restaurants Poster: Francis "Whitey" Sellars Date: 27 October 2005 9:20 PM	Posting 28
Callie, you are right the shell chateau burned in the mid 70's	

Does anyone remember Remy's restaurant, next to the Hurley-Grant building on main St. This was in the late 40's or early 50's. It was run by a fellow named Leo Arsenault, Leo and his wife live in Sarasota Florida he is now 93 years old. Do you also remember a small Italain man named Pasqual, he always had a italain stogie cigar in his mouth. I believe he worked in the american thread co

Posting: Re: Old Willimantic Restaurants Posting 29
 Poster: Sandy R.
 Date: 31 October 2005 1:07 PM

The Shell Chateau burned in 1968 and was replaced with a place called the "Tastee Tower" which was short lived (horrible food!) The building had been remodelled several times before being demolished for the Burger King in 1982. Another good restaurant was the one they had in the old Grants Store in the plaza on West Main on the opposite end of the then Shop Rite.

Posting: Re: Old Willimantic Restaurants Posting 30
 Poster: mammabear
 Date: 31 October 2005 1:54 PM

When the old Grants store became a JC Penny, they continued to operate the restaurant. The food was good and the prices were reasonable. I used to go there with my children on Friday nights and then go grocery shopping at Shop-Rite.

Posting: Re: Old Willimantic Restaurants Posting 31
 Poster: Francis "Whitey" Sellars
 Date: 31 October 2005 3:23 PM

TO SANDY R.

The Shell Chateau burned down in the mid 70's. I worked for the water Dept, Mr. Roy was out ill and I called out the men to start the pumps at the pumping station so the water pressure would be increased at that end of town. If I remember right it was around 8:00 - 9:00 PM

Posting: Re: Old Willimantic Restaurants Posting 32
 Poster: Dawn
 Date: 1 November 2005 2:14 PM

Mammabear...Grants, wow that brought back memories...My first job was there...hated liver night...had to deliver that stuff and couldn't stand the smell...but good food and good people

Posting: Re: Old Willimantic Restaurants Posting 33
 Poster: chas barrett
 Date: 7 September 2006 12:09 AM

RE: Wmtc eateries of the past from 2005 posting:

The Tastee Tower in Willimantic in the 1960s was built by Louie Catania of Boston, who also operated 2-3 others on Cape Cod. Louie was a very nice man, who I worked for one summer on The Cape during school vacation. He was a friend of Bill Sledjeski SHell Chateau), who ran a place called "The Gay Nineties" restaurant on the Cape too, which today of course takes on a different meaning, but then meant -- 'turn of the century'

Louie Catania ran a clean place with great food !

Posting: Re: Old Willimantic Restaurants Posting 34
 Poster: William Brainard
 Date: 7 September 2006 12:23 AM

Where was the Tastee Tower?

Posting: Re: Old Willimantic Restaurants Posting 35
 Poster: Ada Kerachsky Albright
 Date: 8 September 2006 4:24 PM

Although the Candy Kitchen had been in the block that burned in the Valentine's Day fire, it ceased to exist long before that fire. I can't remember what business replaced it. That block had Mustard Insurance, a children's clothing store, there was once a Sherwin-Williams and then a small women's clothing store (next to Church-Reed, which was on the corner of Church St?).

Posting: Re: Old Willimantic Restaurants Posting 36
 Poster: chas barrett
 Date: 27 January 2007 12:03 AM

WB

The Tastee Tower of Pizza was on the site of the Shell Chateau coffee shop and it opened about 1965, I recall it perfectly cuz I was the Hartford Times correspondent for Wmtc during that year and I was invited to the opening by the owner Loue Catania of Boston, who I met years earlier as a kid working on Cape Cod (he had 3 others there...I drove a delivery truck for Louie). I took a picture of the opening and it ran in the Htfd Times - Wmtc news pages. Later the TT burned down...Louie was a kind and thoughtful guy who played the horses and drove white caddie....like right out of The Sopranos !

Chas

Posting: Re: Old Willimantic Restaurants Posting 37
 Poster: Mick Seretny
 Date: 8 February 2007 5:51 PM

An old restaurant that I remember as a kid, was on Main St, nearby to where Lenney Levine's laundry was. I believe the laundry is now occupied by The Shoe Smith at 503 Main St.
 The restaurant was a pizza place that was run by a guy named Louie, I think, from Rhode Island. My dad used to call it "Pizzarino's" because we could never remember the name!
 Anyway, my brother and I used to go there after school on our way home from Natchaug, and there was a great pinball machine they had that, if you smacked it just right, you always got a free game!
 I don't think old Louie ever caught on, but we always got a grinder while we were there anyway.
 By the way..I always thought Tiny Bellerose at old Libertys made the best clam fritters in Windham county!
 Ahh..the little things we miss..

Posting: Re: Old Willimantic Restaurants Posting 38
 Poster: John Ferreri
 Date: 8 February 2007 8:32 PM

Anyone here ever frequent the Kozy Corner?
 Mother always said, "stay away from that place". I still don't know why!

Posting: Re: Old Willimantic Restaurants Posting 39
 Poster: William Brainard
 Date: 17 February 2007 8:06 PM

Friendlys when it was an ice cream shop till it expanded in 1981. No matter where you went the big beef hamburgs were always lucious and sweet and put on grilled bread with the cheese already melted.

Posting: Re: Old Willimantic Restaurants Posting 40
 Poster: John Witkowski
 Date: 3 March 2007 9:48 PM

Is that you the famous Mick Seretny, previously of MadBeach?

Posting: Re: Old Willimantic Restaurants Posting 41
 Poster: J. Richard Phaneuf
 Date: 9 March 2007 10:14 AM

Nobody mentioned Leonard's Restaurant (formerly Mahoney's Tavern) down at Cardinal Square. I'd be afraid to count the pounds of potatoes peeled and cut, the clams shucked and chopped and the heads of cabbage chopped up for cole slaw produced by my brother and I as we prepared for each Friday's meals of Fish and Chips, Clam Chowder and Fritters. . . The good old days!!! :-))

Posting: Re: Old Willimantic Restaurants Posting 42
 Poster: J. Richard Phaneuf
 Date: 9 March 2007 10:16 AM

And how about Lefty's out at the Golf Driving Range that vied for the best grinder in town in it's heyday??

Posting: Re: Old Willimantic Restaurants Posting 43
 Poster: John Boudreau
 Date: 15 March 2007 7:14 PM

Speaking of grinders , ever buy one at Charlie's Grinder Shop on Jackson Street diagonally across the street from Natchaug school ? They were pretty darn good . Eternal summer afternoon and lunch of grinder , State Line chips and a Pepsi ... :)

Posting: Re: Old Willimantic Restaurants Posting 44
 Poster: William Brainard
 Date: 15 March 2007 9:32 PM

Darn it John, you're making me hungry!

Posting: Re: Old Willimantic Restaurants Posting 45
 Poster: Ernie Gesner
 Date: 15 March 2007 11:49 PM

thought Remi's grinders were the best. Didn't take the lunches at Windham St School as we could play the pinball machines there too