

History

1945 phone directory listed businesses of all kinds

Part One

Thanks to Vince Cerreto, we are able to continue our examination of 1945 Willimantic through that year's phone book. Last week, we looked at local phone service of half a century ago. This week and next, the book's yellow pages offer us a fascinating glimpse of local commerce during World War II.

The yellow pages section in 1945 was more conservatively known as "The Classified Telephone Directory For Willimantic, Lebanon, Stafford." The listings ranged from "Accountants — Certified Public," such as Stanley Miller at 33 Church St., to "Wreckers — Building & House," including Abe Ostrofsky on Bridge Street.

The only listing under "Amusement Places" was the Lucky Strike Bowling Alleys at 872 Main St. The town could call on 16 attorneys in 1945, including Harry Gaucher at Willimantic 150-W, and Arthur T. Kelley at Willimantic 657. Today, Willimantic residents can call on more than 250 attorneys by looking at pages 11 through 30 of the 1999-2000 Willimantic Yellow Pages!

Buicks, Cadillacs, Chevrolets, Chryslers, Plymouths, DeSotos, Fords, Mercurys, Dodges, Pontiacs could be

p u r -
c h a s e d
a t 24
l o c a l
d e a l e r s,
r a n g i n g
f r o m
t h e
C a p i t o l
G a r a g e
a t 156
V a l l e y
S t. t o t h e
M i n e r
N a s h
C o. a t 280
J a c k s o n
S t.



Tom
Beardsley

You could become beautiful at 14 local beauty shops, including Baron's at 78 Chapman St. and Potvin's at 796 Main St. When feeling beautiful, you could go for refreshment at two beer taverns, the Center Street Tavern at 25 Center St., and the City Tavern at 1190 Main St., where fish and chips were a specialty.

There were plenty of beauty shops and bars, but an even better choice of undertakers, including Avery & Van Zandt on North Street, Hurteau's on Valley Street, Killourey's and Martineau-Bacon on Union Street and Russell Potter at 62 Church St. To ensure those gentlemen didn't get your trade too early, there was also a good choice of physicians including Arthur Girouard

on Union Street, Brae Rafferty at 807 Main St. and Nathan Spector at 59 Church St.

There were no supermarkets in 1945, but the region had a wide selection of grocery stores to visit, including Adam's Market at 157 Valley St., Harry Brettschneider at 1088 Main St., Mazzola's Italian and American Groceries at 933 Main St. and the Red and White food stores at 194 S. Park St. and 130 Jackson St.. If you didn't want to prepare a meal at home in wartime Willimantic, there was a wide range of restaurants in town. There was a choice of twenty-six from which to choose, including Bill's Number Seven at 725 Main St., the Checker Grill at 137 Union St., that specialized in steak dinners and beer, Hallocks, Ideal, Lindy's, the Shell Chateau and the Windham Grill. Welch's at 907 Main St. specialized in lobsters and chicken and fine Italian-American cooking could be found at the Park Central Restaurant. If you fancied going up market a little, you could visit the restaurant and cocktail lounge in the Nathan Hale Hotel, and "dine in an atmosphere of charm and dignity."

More 1945 yellow pages Next Week.

 **Bill's** 

NUMBER SEVEN RESTAURANT

Specializing in
**STEAKS
CHOPS
CHICKEN
SEA FOOD**



DOWNY FLAKE DONUT DEPOT
Doughnuts Wholesale-Retail

TEL. 2527 725 Main Street
Willimantic

• CITY LUNCH •

Rondeau & Verte Feuille
Proprietors

REGULAR DINNERS
A LA CARTE
STEAKS and CHOPS



Counter and Booth Service
Open 24 Hours

TEL. 2210

628 Main Street Willimantic

Two of the city's most well known restaurants of 1945 placed their ads in the yellow pages.

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