

History of Parkside Tavern

By JoAnn Miller 2019

The Parkside Tavern continues a legacy of hospitality shared by only 4 previous owners since it opened in the mid 1920's.

The original resort was officially located in the town of Lac du Flambeau, with a postal address of Manitowish, Wisconsin alongside then State Highway 10. In 1926, State Highway 10 became U.S. Highway 51 and in 1927 the State legislature approved the formation of a new township to be known as Spider Lake, still with the Manitowish postal address. Later changes included the town being reborn in 1940 as Manitowish Waters with a post office, and in the 1950's when US Highway 51 was re-routed the resort found itself adjacent to County Highway W.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Schroeder created Schroeder's Resthaven in 1925-1926. Local newspapers referred to Schroeder's as offering hotel rooms and cabins, serving meals "when you want them". Advertisements had a tag line of "Unusual-Yes" and an old postcard shows gasoline pumps in front of the present building. The resort property included what is now Koller Park.

In October 1943 the Iron County Miner newspaper reported that the Schroeders sold their resort to Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph List of Pewaukee. Rudy and Garnet List rebranded the resort as Rudy's Rest Haven and operated a seasonal business. During the following decades Garnet became known for her expertise in the kitchen, adding touches of southern cooking to the supper club menu. Rudy manned the bar and together they improved and expanded the resort. Grandson Tommy recalls lines of people waiting to be seated for dinner at one of 8 tables and late-night bar crowds playing bar dice with the un-mistakeable sound of leather cups slamming the bar.

Cabins were located alongside Hwy.W up to Ilg Road. A small dormitory behind the main building housed summer help, usually from the Ironwood area. During the 1950's and 60's improvements were made to the lake front creating a parklike setting with seawall, boat ramp and several docks including one with a gasoline pump. According to Tommy, Rudy wanted to

encourage boating access to the town's shops and of course, Rudy's bar and restaurant. Upon entering the front door everyone was greeted with "Hi, my name's Joe, what's your name?" Joe the Mynah bird was featured in radio advertisements for the resort and made the trip between Florida and Wisconsin for many years. After Rudy's passing in the late 1960's, Garnet closed the business and the restaurant, land and cabins were sold separately.

Rita and Bill Ehrich purchased the restaurant business and in 1970 opened with the name The Rest Haven. In 1972 the restaurant was renamed Ehrich's Bavarian Inn, featuring German specialties prepared by Rita using her family recipes. The restaurant was known as "The House of Good Food" with a friendly atmosphere serving lunch and dinner year-round.

As of 1991 and through 2006 Eileen and Greg Swanberg were proprietors of Swanberg's Bavarian Inn offering a more diversified menu for lunch and dinner. Former patrons and workers recall the friendly atmosphere and popular menu items like chicken cordon blu, spaetzle and schaum torte.

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