



~ Part 31 ~

Reflections on a Common Theme

Cafés and Restaurants

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CLOUD COUNTY

Glasco Café

by Joan Nothern

The loss of something too important to ignore prompted several Glasco citizens, many of them farmers from the surrounding countryside, to invest in the last bar and grill in town. It had closed months before, and the end of the day companionship at the bar and grill was sorely missed. Those were the hours that knit the community together.

The new owners shared a vision. They cleaned and refurbished the bar and adjoining dining room, and rented it to good prospective operators. For reasons beyond their control, those businesses were not a success, and Glasco was again without the bar and grill.

But the new owners, the investors with the vision, did not give up. They would do it themselves, and they did. The Glasco Community Pub celebrated completing its first year in May 2017. Community volunteers, the investors themselves, and a few paid workers, wait tables, cook, clean, shop, and maintain something too important to ignore—community.

MITCHELL COUNTY

Kettle in Beloit

The Kettle, located at 204 South Mill Street, provides a unique environment in Beloit. It has become a popular place for local and area residents since opening in June 2015.

Although the owners, B and Mandy Fincham, are not originally from Beloit, they have made this community their home! Their work with civic organizations, Beloit school systems, leadership classes, and the planning commission have given the owners a wealth of information to open Kettle! They realized by talking with friends and their own experiences, that craft beer, wine, coffee, and local handmade foods are becoming popular but hard to find. These items were picking up in cities, but why not Beloit?

So, with the support of their friends, family, and community, they opened Kettle and are committed to bringing the best in coffee, wine, beer, and eats to Beloit!

One visitor said, "We stopped in and had breakfast, it was awesome. The breakfast bowl with sausage, potatoes, eggs, and gravy were great. The mild coffee was very smooth."

Another visitor said, "Cute decor, awesome coffee and baked goods. Nice surprise to see this in a small town as I was passing through. There weren't many gluten free offerings for my friend, but everything looked great that was listed on the menu. They have tapas, I had the sliders which were good. If I'm ever in Beloit again I would definitely go back and try other items on their menu."

"We have enjoyed the Kettle on two different evenings. Both times the food was great! The Meaty Amigos sliders were very tasty. We enjoyed the nachos. Good variety of beers and wines. There is music several times a month," a visitor from Jewell said.

A satisfied customer said, "Having already gone in a few times, there isn't anything that hasn't tasted just awesome...and original. The wraps are mouth-watering! The number of choices are great. The ****Wine Frosty**** ~ ~ Don't go home without trying it! Frozen berries and Moscato blended together in just the right amounts. Ohhhh!"

The Finchams have meticulously researched and chosen the best and most unique beverages made in Kansas and beyond. Topeka roaster, PT's Coffee, is the featured coffee. The extensive wine and beer list will appease the beginner and experienced palette. Learn with the owners as they search for the best beverages at Kettle.

They find it important to cook handmade from the kitchen with fresh ingredients and have partnered with local bakery Cottage Celebrations to make rolls, muffins, and scones. Chef D makes giant cheesecakes every week!

Kettle in Beloit also encourages and supports local entertainers. The First Impressions that took place early in June in Beloit reported that the Kettle Coffee Shop stood out the most in downtown Beloit. It was very well-kept and enticing to go in. Kettle not only has outstanding fresh made coffee but also makes and serves fantastic food as well.

The staff was friendly and there were many options for food and drink. It is definitely more than just a coffee shop!

OSBORNE COUNTY

Bull City Steakhouse at Alton

by Carolyn Williams

Fifteen years ago the old Western View Bohemian Hall was moved to Alton by the local Bull City Community Foundation, Inc., with the purpose of improving the economic development in Alton/Bull City. Known for these past years as some form of Bull City Café, it remained a community meeting place where a cup of coffee, a piece of pie, or cinnamon roll was always on hand. It has changed a bit.

It is still known as Bull City, but the title has been changed to Bull City Steakhouse. Like most steakhouses, its primary menu features Kansas beef. Beef as in Prime Rib on Saturday night, chicken fried steak on other nights as well. The steakhouse just recently obtained its beer license which will probably be a draw for those who like a bit with their steaks. Run by the Glen Frydendall family, it is a welcome addition to the community that is proud to be known as Bull City.

ROOKS COUNTY

Memories of Rooks County Restaurants/Cafés

by Roger Hrabe

Over the years, literally dozens of eating establishments have come and gone during the lifetime of this writer. I grew up in Plainville, but with Howard and Eloise Webster (owners of Webster's Supermarket) as grandparents, I spent a considerable amount of time in Stockton. This time in Stockton allowed me to have many opportunities to become plenty familiar with places to eat. First, a disclaimer. This is a compilation of my memories, so there may indeed be errors. Second, I didn't intentionally leave anyone out, I just had to go with what I remember.

One of the earliest memories I have of eating in Stockton was on holidays (either Thanksgiving or Christmas). On several occasions the whole Webster/Hrabe clan would meet at the restaurant located on the same lot as the current Stockton Medical Clinic (107 S. Spruce). Mildred and Earl Dunlap operated an eating establishment at this location, and had a back room big enough to accommodate our large family. This would have been in the early 1960s. The building was also an early car dealership and the school board office before being demolished.

The Midway Café was a well-known restaurant in Stockton for many years. The picture shown appears to be located in the 500 block of east Main Street, but most people will remember the more recent location of 426 Main, which is now the location of the Rooks County Health Office. Longtime owner Albert McCue always served up a tasty meal to individuals and to groups.

Years later, at least into the 1980s, the family atmosphere of the Midway Café was replaced by the K&V Café (renamed from the Pla-Mor Café) which was located at 320-322 Main. They had the best fried chicken in town. The Stockton Rotary Club met for many years for lunch in the back room of the K&V for their Tuesday noon meal. The K&V was run by the Ken Miller family until 1999.

Out of the downtown area, a youngster like myself might remember going swimming at the pool over the summer and then heading to the B&B Dairy Bar located near the pool at the SE corner of South 2nd and Spruce. I got ice cream, but a person could get hamburgers, as the sign clearly shows in this 1978 picture. If a person looks closely, you can still see some of the remnants of this small café today, even though a residential home is on the property.

One last memory is of my early working days at Webster's Supermarket. The building directly to the east of Webster's has been a variety of restaurants and even a food market called Farmer's Store. However, it was Bob's Place that was at the location in the 70s and 80s that was a good place for a thirsty grocery store carryout boy to get away for an RC Cola and escape the rat race next door. Bob Berens ran the restaurant and adjoining fun club called the Red Kitten.

Today, eight eating establishments remain in Stockton.