HIKA BAY TAVERN AND UNION HOUSE

Hika Bay Tavern and Union House stands at 252 Lincoln Avenue in the Village of Cleveland.

The proprietor of this tavern beginning in 1899 was Hugo Schurrer. Mr. Schurrer was one of the most colorful personalities in this area. He was born in Stuttgart, Wurtemburg, Germany in 1867 and came to the United States as a young man in 1885. After a brief stop-over in Milwaukee he came to Cleveland, which at that time was just a flagging point on the old Lake Shore railway. For a time he worked for fifty cents a day making fence posts. Then he was promoted to a job with the Lake Shore Railroad for eighty cents a day. He decided to try something a little less strenuous, and went to work for Peter Hoffmann in his tavern in the St. Wendel area. After that he operated his own tavern in Cleveland for four years, and then moved to Centerville where he established his tavern business in the building now known as Hika Bay.

The building housed a tavern, rooming house, and dance hall. For a time it also included a barbershop. There were nine rooms upstairs and three downstairs. Meals were served for fifty cents, which included all you could eat. Beer in those times sold for $5.00 a barrel, and good whiskey sold for $1.50 a gallon. The establishment was known as the Union House. The rooming house and meals were discontinued in 1944 "when food was hard to get."

Hugo Schurrer had many other activities besides running his tavern. He was a town constable for thirteen years, a substitute mail carrier for fourteen years, and town treasurer for two years. He served on the school board for twenty-eight years, and also
played in the Germania Centerville Band. When Mr. Schurrer passed away in 1961 at the age of 94, he was the village's oldest resident and the oldest tavern license holder in the state. In his lifetime he was issued sixty-eight licenses as a tavern-keeper.

Schurrer's Tavern was in the Schurrer family from 1899 to 1972, when it was sold and the name changed to Hika Bay Tavern and Union House. It was resold again in 1975 to the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Gilmore Miller.

RUTHERFORD'S SURF DINNER CLUB AND MOTOR HOTEL

Until December 23, 1963, Cleveland had a dinner club and hotel. Folks who had planned to usher in the New Year of 1964 at Rutherford's had to change their plans when the buildings were reduced to a heap of ashes in a matter of hours.

The Rutherfords had come to this area in 1941 to open up a dinner club on the site of the former Strattmann Winter Gardens. Louis and Fred Strattmann had operated a tavern, dance hall, and country store there for many years.

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MEET THE CROWD AT

STRATTMAN BROS.
LOUIS AND FRED
PRIVATE PARTIES AND PICNICS
REFRESHMENTS DANCING
CENTERVILLE, WIS. P. O. HKA, WIS.

An extensive dining room, bar kitchen, and living quarters remodeling project had barely been completed before World War II gasoline rationing forced them to temporarily discontinue business in October of 1942. During the war years they operated a popular eating place in downtown Manitowoc, which is now the Left End. They returned to their Hika Club shortly after V-J Day in September of 1945.

With Mrs. Rutherford in charge of food preparation and serving, the Surf menus and rustic atmosphere quickly gained a favorable reputation, not only in this area, but throughout the state and midwest as well.

In 1948 the Rutherfords added a sixteen unit hotel and expanded the dining facilities. An enclosed swimming pool for year-round use was added in 1953, and additional units in the hotel were added. The hotel units totalled thirty at the time of the fire.

The fire caused damages estimated at $300,000 and was a great blow to Mr. Rutherford and to the village as well.