Barnard's Bar

Barnard's Hotel and Bar, well known to the people of this area over a long period of time was originally operated under this name by Mr. and Mrs. George A. Barnard. They purchased the business, The Columbia House, from August Goldbeck in 1911 and engaged the late Charles Hintz, Sr. to construct the present building after tearing the old building down. The old structure housed two taverns, one where the present bar room is and another three steps down, which is the living room of the present Barnards.

George A. Barnard operated a meat market and livery stable in addition to the tavern and hotel. Salesmen stayed overnight and rented horses from Mr. Barnard thus enabling them to travel through the neighboring countryside conducting their business. Meals were served to the guests. It was a headquarters for telephone crews and public service men.

The Barnards had three sons, Oliver, William, George E. and one daughter, Priscilla, married to Atty. Howard J. Leppla and resides in Brillion.

Unknown to the Barnards, eight racketeers stayed at their hotel in 1932. They were running a still in the neighboring area and were arrested the day that F. D. Roosevelt was campaigning in Green Bay.

When Reedsville was hit with a severe sleet storm in 1922, the hotel housed about 25 to 30 people, many of them telephone men who were in this vicinity doing line repair work. In 1923, when a tremendous snow storm stalled the trains at the Grimms cut, 48 people spent the night.

1936 was still another snow storm this area will long remember, 26 individuals being stranded at the hotel, two of them being Mr. Milton Detjen and Seymour Athen. The former is well known for his musical talent, especially as an organist; the latter was a newspaper man that still is proficient in that field. Also included among the snowbound travelers were two orchestras. The American Legion hall was specially heated for the night; the orchestra members and many residents of Reedsville trudged through almost unsurmountable banks to attend the unscheduled dance that lasted until the wee hours of the morning.

"Grandpa" Barnard died November, 1949. His son, George E. ran the hotel and bar until he and his wife, the former Theresa Brick of Askeaton, purchased the business in 1952. "Grandma" Barnard died on May 26, 1952, so "Tess" and "Dolly" and their two children, twins Donna and Donald, were the remaining Barnards to occupy the living quarters attached to the business establishment.

The Reedsville Lions Club was chartered at the hotel in 1938; "Dolly" is a charter member of that organization. The Lions continued to meet there, being served a noon dinner until 1951. The building also housed a beauty shop in 1937 and 1938; the salon being operated by Miss Mildred Denk.

The Barnards do not rent out rooms any longer at the hotel. The bar is presently doing business as usual.

Barnard Oil Co.

The Barnard Oil Company was started in 1927 by George A. and Charles R. Barnard. Charles who lived in Brillion and George, who also owned the hotel at that time, were brothers. They were among the first Texaco distributors in Wisconsin.

An underground pipeline was laid from the bulk plant to the railroad track to unload tankcars in which their products were received. Trucks were used to carry the fuel to consumers where their storage tanks were filled with five gallon buckets. This was a slow and tedious process compared to today's method. Because oil was not yet a popular