

White Lake Barbecue  
Barbara Bedau Brow  
White Lake Area Historical Society



The White Lake Barbecue restaurant building was a landmark on the corner of Dowling and Water streets in Montague, for almost 40 years.

John Paliatsos built the building in 1932 and operated the barbecue restaurant for five years. In May of 1937, he completely redecorated it. He also announced in an ad in the local newspaper that he would give a free bottle of Coca-Cola to everyone he served on his big opening day May 9, 1937.

A May 1937 ad for the "Weekend Special" was half a Spring chicken, fried, with French fries and a salad for 50 cents. The July 4<sup>th</sup> Special was fried lake trout, with French fries, bread and butter and a salad for 35 cents, and a fresh strawberry sundae for 10 cents.

In July 1937, John sold the popular eatery to Fred R. Anderson, a well-known local resident. Fred enlarged the main room and moved the kitchen to other quarters.

In August 1940, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Pratscher of Chicago purchased the White Lake Barbecue which was considered a local tavern.

At an August 1948 City Council meeting it was agreed to sell the property on which the Barbecue restaurant stood to the Pratschers for \$3,500. A stipulation of the sale was that the building would need to be moved 50 back from its present location. This was because of future street widening.

Ken Adams of Reed City purchased the Barbecue from Pratschers in October 1952. In 1955, he applied for a liquor-by-the-glass license in addition to already selling beer and wine.

In 1957, Ken Adams sold the Barbecue to Preston Murdock and James Eklund. The name was changed to The Shoreline.

By July 1959, the former Barbecue had changed hands once again. The new owners were Walter Brooks and Edward Kopenkosky.

Art Dargan bought the establishment and changed the name to Art's Bar & Grill in November 1960.

The next change came in July 1961 when Art sold his bar to Mr. & Mrs. John O'Bradovich of Muskegon Heights. They changed the name to John's Bar. Mr. & Mrs. Don Wheeler of Crystal Downs took over ownership of John's Bar in August 1964.

In October 1969, the former White Lake Barbecue building was sold for the last time. Frank Machovsky purchased the building, put wheels under it, and moved it to Rothbury where it was converted into a residence.

The lot where the building had been located for nearly 40 years became the site of the Hackley Union Bank building (now Shelby State Bank).