



MAC'S BAR & GRILL
504 MAIN STREET, KNOX, PA 16232
(814) 797-1940

This month I'm swinging the mayor's spotlight over to 504 Main Street where you will find the legendary "MAC'S BAR & GRILL"

People from all over the world have been at "MAC'S" over the years, If I'm lying / I'm dying. When I hear from former residents and the "out of towners" they always ask me, is THAT bar still there?

Heck YES, MAC'S Bar & Grill is running strong these days & looking good! The business is presently owned by local good guy Chuck Kugler and they still feature the great food & drink the business has always been known for. Always something good on their daily specials and when you talk MAC'S, your talking PIZZABURGERS! Mac's has the best Pizzaburgers in this entire world period. No question about it, they are LEGENDARY! People come from miles around to get the Pizzaburgers @ MAC'S, which are still made from the old triple top secret recipe they have used forever. Yum Yum TRIPLE Yum!

Getting the history on the business was somewhat challenging, but thanks to the help from Doug Rhodes and his father Merl (who is down at Clairview these days) we gathered some early day history on the establishment. The bar was named MAC'S since it began in the early 1930's and I cannot come up with the exact date it opened. The name "MAC'S" came from the "McMeans" family name (Mc = Mac). The McMeans family built and opened the bar sometime in the early 1930's, then in 1940, Ewing McMeans and his wife Thelma (Peters) took over as the owners of the bar. Ewing & Thelma McMeans were well liked in the Knox community & lived right down the street (from Mac's) off of East Penn Avenue in the Sheffler Apartments beside the KGI building. That apartment complex is now owned by Eric Baylor these days and is still in fantastic shape. Everyone knew Ewing McMeans as "MAC", he was

the MAC of MAC'S Bar & Grill. Ewing was a US Army Veteran who served in the WW2 campaign and later became the president of the American Legion in Knox. Thelma ran the business when Ewing went away to serve our country.

Ewing & Thelma McMeans ran the business successfully for many years. The list of owners and operators after included Anna Mae Gould, Bill Kline, Ed Dunlap & Tom Ginkel, Dale & Judy Brocious, Bill Phillips, Randy Benetti, Gary Hartman, Terry & Emily Switzer, Eric Baylor and now Chuck Kugler. I'm sure I have some of those names out of order, I have no real timeline on the ownership years, some were "short time" owners of the business while I do know Randy Benetti owned & operated it for a decade.

DID you know....Before they built the building for MAC'S, there was a street there. Take a ride down West Penn Avenue towards main street and you can easily see where West Penn went before MAC'S was there. Ha, I've often wondered why East Penn & West Penn avenues never came together.....

MAC'S has always been the cool place to be during the Horsethief week celebration in Knox. I can remember back in the 70's & 80's JUST getting inside the door at MAC'S during Horsethief Saturday could prove to be quite a FEAT. The place is generally packed wall to wall on Horsethief Saturdays STILL, and most everything and anything has happened in there on Horsethief Week in Knox. One year a local man rode his HORSE into the bar during the festivities and on another year I was there when a guy rode his Harley Davidson into the bar. I better not mention names here, but what goes on in MAC'S stays in MAC'S.

In general, MAC'S has always been that great place in Knox where a lot of us had some fantastic times in over the years. ROMANCE, Ha! There's been lots of falling in love at MAC'S over the years. Some folks fall in love there for the short term, some for a lifetime. Endless games of POOL with the juke box cranking out the tunes are some of my fondest memories of MAC'S when I grew up in Knoxxerland and it still has that great social atmosphere today. MAC'S has always been that fun place to go and this mayor salutes the tradition of excellence there.

I say THANKS to Chuck Kugler and his entire staff at MAC'S Bar & Grill for being another one of the great businesses we have here in Knox Pa. Long live MAC'S Bar & Grill!