

The Anchor better than ever after rebuild

By Michelle Lovrine Honeyager
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After the fire that shut down the Anchor Inn in Newville during the summer of 2014, The Anchor has risen from the ashes. The brand new facility has indoor banquet halls. And business is booming.

"It's nice to be in the building after a year and a half," said John Kinnett, owner of The Anchor. "We've been able to get used to it and work out all the kinks. It's clean, new, efficient. Everything's laid out how we want. We're really happy with how it

turned out."

The building is now three times the size it once was, increasing to 10,000 square feet. Small and large banquet halls have been added. The bar area is bigger. The business can rent out space for weddings and those types of events year-round now, which used to be outside.

"It's really added a new dimension to the business," said Kinnett.

Changes galore

One of the other big changes is the rebranding from The Anchor Inn to The Anchor. As to why the

change was made, Kinnett said, "We were constantly getting calls to book rooms."

For many people, it will always be the Anchor Inn, however. Patrons still refer to the bar by its old name. "Sometimes I still catch myself calling it that," said Kinnett.

They've also added many jobs. The staff has now doubled to cover the new, larger facilities. They've picked up a lot of business with corporate events both on weekdays and weekends thanks to the expanded banquet facilities. There are business association meetings and the fire department holds training sessions at The Anchor.

The boat rentals and boat launch are still active. Music is still outside May throughout the summer on weekends. Though The Anchor has expanded the music outside, music can now be hosted inside more often now due to the increased space.

As for plans for the future, Kinnett said they just intend to improve on what they have now. "There's always something exciting going on over the weekend," Kinnett said. Examples include fun events like Derby Days



Above: Still sporting the establishment's former name, an anchor fittingly marks the spot of The Anchor on the Rock River shoreline. **Below:** An inventive welcome sign at The Anchor. (Photos by Toni Turnquist)



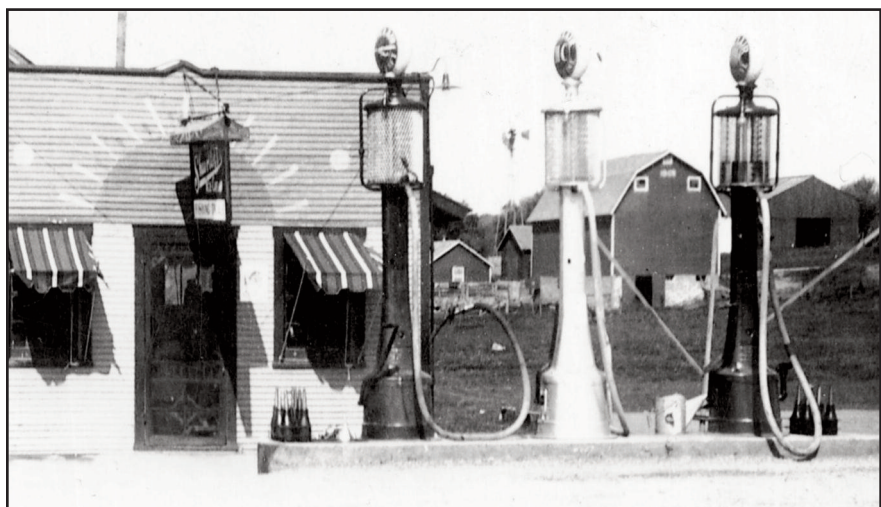
Don, Bill and John Sherman with Clarence Nicks at Anchor Inn, May 1964. (Photo courtesy of Tom Sherman)



Don, Bill and John Sherman with Clarence Nicks at Anchor Inn, May 1964. (Photo courtesy of Tom Sherman)



The Anchor was at one time a grocery store and tavern. (Photo courtesy of Tom Sherman)



Nearly a century ago, gas was sold at what became Anchor Inn and what is now known as The Anchor. (Photo courtesy of Tom Sherman)

and the Break in the Weather Party.

A storied past

The Anchor Inn has been a major landmark and business in the area for generations.

According to Tom Sherman, whose grandparents George and Edith Sherman owned and leased out the building from 1919-1995, the old building (before the fire) was first built around 1860.

Around 1930 it then became a grocery store and tavern owned by Esther and Ray Simon. The store sold Sinclair gas out of three pumps, as well as other items like cigarettes.

The tavern was named Simon's Magic Bar, which had been wired so neon lights would turn on when you put the glasses on the bar. The business card for the bar read, "Simon's Magic Bar- Where the glasses get lit before the customers."



According to Sherman, the bar had several names and owners since. In the 1940s, it was called Getchells Resort and was owned by Elliott and Gladys Getchell. It was called the Newville Resort when Harry Smith took over in the 1950s, right up through when Jim and Ruth Carnes owned it until 1970. Then it became the Anchor Inn in the 1970s and had several owners: Tom Fink and Mike Jones in the 1970s, in the 1980s Joe and Linda Perry and in the 1980s into the 1990s Mike and Dawn Gimm

The grocery store stopped around 1950 when ownership of the bar business was taken over by Harry Smith.

Then John Kinnett took ownership of the building in the mid-1990s. "John's a great businessman and has done some wonderful things with [the bar]," said Mary Lingo, Ester Simon's daughter. Lingo grew up in the old living quarters behind the bar and was born there.

In addition to the fire in August of 2014, there was a flood in 2008 that only closed the Anchor Inn for a month.



Inside and outside the impressive new Anchor in Newville. (Photos by Toni Turnquist)

