

White Creek Tavern c.1944

Before the railroad went through Adams County, White Creek was called Cascade. There is a natural waterfall on the creek which was ideal to use to power a mill. Due to this resource, Cascade was growing. It was a stop for the stagecoach, and as a result had large hotels, general stores, a post office, jail, etc. There was talk of making Cascade the county seat of Adams County.

But, when the railroad came through, it went 10 miles to the north.

The growth of Cascade/White Creek was over. Now the city of Adams had the resources to grow.

In 1933, the 21ST Amendment of the US Constitution put an end to Prohibition as created by the 18TH Amendment. Wisconsin was the second State to ratify the 21ST (25-April-1933), and approximately 50% of the States had signed on by September. While it was apparent that the Amendment would become part of the Constitution, it still needed to be ratified by 75% of the States. This occurred on 5-December-1933, and went into effect 15-Dec-1933. Buying, selling, and drinking alcoholic beverages went on openly during the ratification process, often with "legal" permission from local government (licenses).

In September 1933, Lorenzo ("Ren") & Alice Smith opened a small tavern at the corner of, what are now called, County Road H and West 14TH Lane. Just a few years later a dance hall was added to the north end of this original building. In 1942 the main building of White Creek Tavern was built to have beer sales separate from the dance hall. After son Ernest (Ernie") returned from service in WWII, the two structures were connected by another addition in 1946.

This painting is based somewhat on photos taken sometime between 1942 & 1946, although the specific view depicted was not in any of the photos.



2013 marked the 160TH birthday of Cascade/White Creek, and White Creek Tavern celebrated 80 years of continuous operation with the license still held by the same family.