

1.

I am a niece of Rueben
+ Minnie Schmidt who owned
Schmidt's bar from 1920's - 1990's
My name is Vicki Dobratz

1950's, I would spend a week
with my aunt + uncle. I was between
5-10 yrs old.

There were no indoor toilets. That
didn't seem to bother me. My
aunt would take me to the
outdoor toilet. They had one for
men and one for women and those
toilets were so clean and were
surrounded by flowers.

I do remember the State Inspector
coming - and told my aunt Minnie
they had to put in indoor toilets
one for men and one for women. She
was so upset. I remember her showing
the inspector her outdoor toilets
and she told him - "these toilets
are so clean you can eat off of
the toilet seats" and they were!!

I remember the train coming thru town especially late at night. I was in a bedroom up stairs and the whistle was loud and I would be screaming thinking that train would come thru the building. My aunt would hold me tight and everything was better.

I would occasionally trick my aunt and tell her I had a "stomach ache." Of course that meant I should get some white soda to help my stomach. It always worked.

My aunt & uncle never had any children but they have had a lot of kids in the neighbourhood. I would play with the neighbor kids. A family of 7 or 8 kids - their mother had died and the older kids took care of the younger kids. The building next door was a hardware store and the father was always extra busy.

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I also remember a grocery store next to my Aunt's Tavern also a bank down the street. A post office in Sally Wilkes house, also a barber shop down the street. A cheese house where my uncle Reuben worked. I remember the cheese house job was a union job as my Aunt & Uncle had good health insurance.

The town also had a garage cars were always parked outside & inside. There also was a gas station across from the car garage.

My Aunt Minnie ran the bar even after my Uncle Reuben had died. She was 86 and my dad said "that's enough. You need to shut the tavern down! It is not safe you being here alone." She made the tavern area into living quarters this was in the 1990's.