Supper Clubs Pamphletv2.pdf 1 4/14/2014 11:54:39 AM

The Supper Club Capital of the Midwest

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What is a Supper Club? Well known to those lucky enough to live in Wisconsin, the term sparks curiosity to those outside of the state. A supper club is a traditional dining establishment that also functions, or has had a history of functioning, as a social club. In the 1930's and 40's these clubs were considered 'high class' yet affordable. They allowed a couple or group of friends to go to the establishment for cocktails, dinner and entertainment. By today's standards they're viewed as 'a lot of good food and fun for a few hours work', even if most no longer provide entertainment.

Supper clubs are unique to the rural areas in the Upper Midwestern part of the United States, and most common in Wisconsin. Typical menus include relish trays, breads, soups, salads, and a hearty meal, accompanied by a Wisconsin favorite drink, the Old Fashioned, with olives or cherries, of course!

The Calumet County region has an abundance of supper clubs. It is unknown why there are so many supper clubs, but one theory is because the region was settled by men and woman that worked hard in the farm fields and needed a 'night out' at the end of the week. As more industrialization occurred in the area, people worked in the factories and looked forward to socializing with their family, friends and neighbors.

These clubs pride themselves on hand cut steaks, homemade salads and desserts, or other features that built their reputation. For most the recipes have not changed over the years; after all, why change something the people love. Many are even decorated the same as when they were originally established.





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**Map Date:** 2014

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