

Osceola Restaurants, Updated
Primary Source: Marie White

Andy's is mentioned only in 1971 and was (probably) Andy Gwinn's restaurant (see Simmerman's).

A & W – in Osceola in the 1950s; a drive-in on the north side of highway 34, about the 600 block of West McLane. In the late 1970s, it was a short order restaurant with inside seating, operated by John and Jennie Jones. They had good chili. Jennie now works at the casino and John has vending machines around town. They had the Jones Café before (see below).

B & H Café – in Osceola in the 1950s; north of the Whiteway Café, same side of the street. It had a horseshoe counter with 11 stools and 5 booths; Carol Gardner worked there in high school. The joke was that B and H stood for Belch and Heave, but those were the initials of the owners.

Beeman's is first mentioned in 1975 - at one time Dick and Mary Beeman had a drug store on the NE corner of the east side of the square, then they bought and operated the Dairy Queen on Highway 69 North. In 1975 they sold it and moved into a building on the south side of the square where a dental office was and opened a small sandwich and ice cream restaurant.

Byer's Restaurant is first mentioned in 1965; it was on Highway 34 about a quarter-mile east of I-35. Bob Byers was the owner. Mr. Byers built a Best Western motel (still there with a different name) next door. The restaurant became Opal Smith's in 1974, and in 1977 it was renamed Chef II, then in 1979 it became The Family Table. It has had different owners and is now Nana Greer's Family Table.

Chef II is first mentioned in 1977 (see Byer's above).

Country Platter is first mentioned in 1978, and Country Table is first mentioned in 1980; they may have been named interchangeably by Dale; they were probably successors to Warren's (see below).

Derby is first mentioned in 1969; a restaurant in the town of Derby where two or three older women served home cooked mashed potatoes, noodles, etc. People flocked there, especially on weekends, and would stand in line to get in for the wonderful food.

Family Table is first mentioned in 1979 (see Byer's above).

Gus and Tom's is first mentioned in 1982 (see Mallot's below).

Hard Water Inn is first mentioned in 1987; it was a restaurant on Highway 69 north of Osceola, just outside city limits, where you could pick out your own steak.

Hotel Café is first mentioned in 1970; it was in the Osceola Hotel at the southwest corner of the square at the intersection of Fillmore and Jefferson. It became the Uptown Café in 1975.

Jones Café is first mentioned in 1974 (see Simmerman's below). See also A & W; same Joneses.

Latchstring is mentioned only in 1971 and nothing else is known about it. It may have been in Leon or Creston, or may have been Warren's (see below) between Pleasant's and Manley's.

Li'l Duffer is first mentioned in 1980; a fast food drive-in on highway 34, more toward the Interstate. Clarke County State drive-in bank is there now.

Lunchbox Cafe is first mentioned in 1976 and was in a small building just south of the railroad crossing on Main Street. People named McGrew operated it for years then the Potts family bought it and had it

for many years, known for great home cooking. Madlyne Potts made the best noodles, she rolled them out on newspapers on the top of the deep freeze in the back of the café; her husband Bill had a rough gravelly voice, they knew everyone and everything.

Mallot's is first mentioned in 1974 and was on Main Street in the middle of the east side of the square in the former JC Penney building. It became Gus and Tom's in 1982, and then Redman's restaurant.

Manley's is first mentioned in 1972 (see Warren's below).

Meal Site is first mentioned in 1978; it was for seniors, age 62 or older, on the west side of the square. Seniors without funds could wash dishes and /or set the table for their meal. For some, it was their one meal of the day.

Nelson's Corners is first mentioned in 1987 (see Warren's below).

Opal's is first mentioned in 1974 (see Byer's above).

Pleasant's is first mentioned in 1968 (see Warren's below).

Simmerman's is first mentioned in 1968; a restaurant on South Main across Jefferson from the east side of the square. It became Andy's in 1971 and was the Jones Café in 1974.

Warren's was the restaurant in the Champlain truck stop in the 1960s on the south side of Highway 34 about a quarter mile east of I-35, just west of Byer's. It was owned by Marshall Warren. The next owner was Ted Pleasant, and the restaurant became known as Pleasant's in 1968. Dale's diaries sometimes use the names "Warren's" and "Pleasant's" interchangeably. In 1972 it became Manley's (we think), then in about 1987 it was renamed "Nelson's Corners." The building is not there any more; a Casey's general store and gas station is there now. It is still often referred to as Champlain's or the truck stop.

Whiteway Café is first mentioned in 1970; on the east side of Main, a half-block north of the square.

Uptown Café is first mentioned in 1975 (see Hotel Café above).

Osceola Restaurant Name/Ownership Changes

Byer's	→	Opal's	→	Chef II	→	Family Table
1965		1974		1977		1979

Hotel Café	→	Uptown Café
1970		1975

J C Penney	→	Mallot's	→	Gus & Tom's	→	Redman's
1960s		1974		1982		1990s

Simmerman's	→	Andy's	→	Jones
1968		1971		1974

Warren's	→	Pleasant's	→	Manley's	→	Country Platter/Table	→	Nelson's Corners
1960s		1968		1972		1978-1980-1982		~1987