

History of the Parting Glass Irish Pub & Restaurant

It is said to be the oldest continuously run Bar and Restaurant in Saratoga Springs. Lou Rocco opened the bar known as "Rocco's Iron Spring Grill" in approximately 1930 ...

It was a full bar and served Italian food and soon became well know for its thin crust pizza. A wall divided the front room into two sections where a corner door allowed women to enter since they where not allowed on the bar side of the room.

When it first opened, the restaurant and bar occupied the entire 5000 square feet of open space. As years passed, Lou Rocco converted the back section to occupy a Union Hall, a Plumbing Shop, and a Carpet shop with a car garage in the back area that is now the Dart Hall with a 2nd full Bar. The Bar itself: its wood is Tiger Oak, straight grain oak and Honduras Mahogany; has a history of approximately 75 years. Its antiquity and beauty inspired the present owners to purchase the property and restore it to its original beauty. The Bar was built in 1936, By Frank K Spalt, who was a personal friend to Gerald King who lived next door to Lou Rocco. It was built in two months in his garage and brought into the present building in pieces. The Spalt Family has a history of cabinet making dating back to 1868. The carved faces on the high front of the back bar represent Father time as described by the carving of the four seasons, with father time carving being the center figure.

In 1981, the property was purchased By Joan Desadora and Family and established as Saratoga's Original Irish Pub and Restaurant. In the 1990's, It received the Honor of being voted one of the Top Ten Irish Pubs in the United States by USA Today. As business increased, it expanded into the back room and then into the area that is now a 2nd Bar and Dar Hall; and now we often extend the business into the parking lot where we erect a tent and have the use of an outside patio. There is a second story that is used for storage, but is said that Lou Rocco had rooms upstairs that he used for guests ...

An Old Irish proverb states that the last drink of the night is "The Parting Glass"... It is beautiful Irish song wishing everyone a safe journey and joy-after having their Parting Glass; and thus derives the name of the Pub "The Parting Glass ...

We Celebrated our 30th anniversary on Saint Patrick's Day, 2011 and we are proud to be a part of the success of Saratoga Springs...