

Daily Herald

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Clinton: GOP
tax cut 'will not
become law'



Tony Gwynn
22nd player to
reach 3,000 hits

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FOX VALLEY

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9 Sections

50 Cents

Saturday's TALK AROUND TOWN

What people are
talking about in
the Fox Valley

WORLD & NATION

Local History
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subject Milk Pail
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From all over, Milk Pail family comes home

Former employees to remember first 50 years

BY DAVE MANN
Daily Herald Staff Writer

They'll come to East Dundee from places like California, Arizona, Michigan and Florida in search of a piece of their past. It's a party that sounds a lot like a family reunion.

Their link, though, is not a surname, ancestors or ethnic heritage.

For former Milk Pail employees headed to the restaurant along Route 25 this afternoon — those who waited tables, tended bar or cooked meals during the restaurant's first 50 years — are family, of sorts.

And they have decided to set up a reunion for everyone who worked there 1939 to 1989.

"People who worked there worked there forever," said Thelma

Rice, who will turn 70 later this month. "Hardly anybody just quit. They either moved away, got too old to work or had families to take care of. You can't find that anymore."

Rice, a waitress at the restaurant along Route 25 for 43 years, said that kind of bond doesn't fade.

Simply stated, "It was like a family here," Rice said.

Even for those who weren't employed there, the Milk Pail, along Route 25, was more than just the restaurant. A bakery, dairy, stocked trout and pheasant fed The Milk Pail and its patrons. People would drive from Chicago, shop at several stores and wander the grounds among deer and peacocks as they waited an hour for Sunday brunch.

The Milk Pail's reputation as a

fine restaurant in the country drew crowds, and a posh private club nearby pulled in the powerful, who enjoyed retreats of hunting and fishing.

Alice McDonald, a waitress at The Milk Pail for 20 years, spent four of those at the private club.

"One morning I came in, and they said, 'You better hurry,'" McDonald, 76, said. "You've got the governor, you have Marshall Field Jr. and Carson Pirie Scott and a couple of their friends to wait on."

"That was the kind of people you had out there then. You had to be discrete. You couldn't make a big fuss over them, because it was quiet and they could relax."

Ninety-year-old Mabel Hayward,

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Virgil and Mabel Hayward are looking forward to today's employee reunion at the Milk Pail restaurant in East Dundee. Virgil tended bar at the eatery from 1948 to 1957. Mabel waited tables from 1947 to 1983.

Daily Herald Photo/Patrick Kunzer

a.m. and told him he had just been attacked by about 15 men yelling gang slogans, reports showed.

The man said he was walking to a friend's house on the 100 block of Hickory Drive when the attackers came at him, saying he was in a rival gang, reports showed.

He tried to climb into his friend's pickup truck during the beating but was pulled back out, officials said. Witnesses confirmed the account.

Police were unable to locate anyone who took part in the attack but spoke with several people.

The assistant district attorney said the man was shown

Local History

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Man faces charge after police find guns

BY CASS CLYATT
Daily Herald Staff Writer

A purple pickup truck



Bob Beeter examines a truck that sustained damage Friday after a hit-and-run accident on Avenue.

Daily Herald Photo/Julie E. Douglas

Injured in hit-and-run accident

Turner said.

Pantoja was taken to Sherman Hospital with non-life-threatening injuries, firefight-

REUNION: Greyhound founder a former employee

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who waited tables for more than 36 years, remembered one way the people running The Milk Pail helped draw throngs during World War II.

"That's when you had to have coupons to buy meat," said Hayward, whose husband worked with her tending bar. "(Milk Pail owners) would go into Chicago and buy black-market steaks. They had steaks all during the war."

Aside from its food, a few may remember The Milk Pail for first seeing what has become an everyday appliance.

Max McGraw, the owner of the land around the restaurant and the former Toastmaster factory in Elgin, adapted the commercial electric toaster for use in the home and promoted his new product at The Milk Pail, current co-owner Myra Gresko said.

McGraw, who set up a foundation

to preserve the land after his death, would let customers of The Milk Pail toast bread on their tables with his new contraption, as well as demonstrating it door to door in the area, Gresko said.

While Hayward expects as many as 150 people who worked at The Milk Pail will return to East Dundee today, a few will be kept away by their busy jobs.

One of the most successful turned his food-service roots at the Milk Pail into heading a multibillion corporation. John Teets, originally of Elgin, began a successful career of serving food as a 13-year-old boy dishing deserts at The Milk Pail.

After navigating more than a couple of stumbling blocks, including one restaurant he was managing burning down and the deaths of his wife and brother, Teets eventually rose to the top of the Greyhound Corporation.

"With this Milk Pail thing

(reunion), I've really started reflecting," Teets said. "There's turning points in people's lives. Dramatic changes take place."

Aside from buses, Greyhound was best known for providing food to airlines, although both parts of the company now have been sold.

During his time at the helm of Greyhound, Teets helped it grow a company worth \$3.5 billion to \$5 billion.

"I learned a lot in the food service," Teets said. "It taught me you've got to get along with people. Everything's a people business. It's a penny business. A restaurant's a dollar here and a dollar there. I learned you've got to know where the money is spent."

"The Milk Pail was family. That's what's coming together here — a family reunion. You don't see that anymore. That's why there's a tie: the dedication, loyalty and people who care for each other."