



SMITH'S ROCK GARDEN SPRING TAVERN  
Muskego Center, Wis.

This is a sketch, (mostly by memory) of Charles E. Smith's Rock Garden Spring Tavern located on the west side of what is now Pioneer Drive and the old T.M.E.R. & L. line right of way. It was purchased from the Schlitz Brewing Co. around 1915 and was named for Grandma Smith's rock garden next to the picnic area across the road, and the artesian spring at the right side entrance. The small building at the left is the T.M.E.R. & L. waiting station and the other building is the loading dock where packages were sent and picked up. Besides farmer's needs, car loads of sugar used for home distilling of alcoholic beverages were shipped here during Prohibition.

The Hotel-Saloon boasted an upstairs ballroom with a "spring floor"--a floor laid independently from the walls so it bounced up and down when set in motion by dancing movements.

Ice was harvested from Little Muskego Lake during the winter months and stored in a building to the right of the hotel. The sawdust that it was packed in kept it intact for sale during the hot summer months.

The picnic area across the road had a beer stand, ice cream stand, barbeque pits and a trap shooting area to lure the city visitors who emerged in droves from the interurban cars on week ends during the hot summer months. The two-lane highway was filled as they walked the two blocks to Muskego Beach Amusement Park.

Live pigeons were raised alongside the ice-house and used for a yearly "pigeon" shoot.

A minnow house spanned the creek in the picnic area where minnows were trapped to sell to the local fishermen.