

Leo Montemerlo's Map of Downtown Windsor Locks Businesses

by Mel Montemerlo
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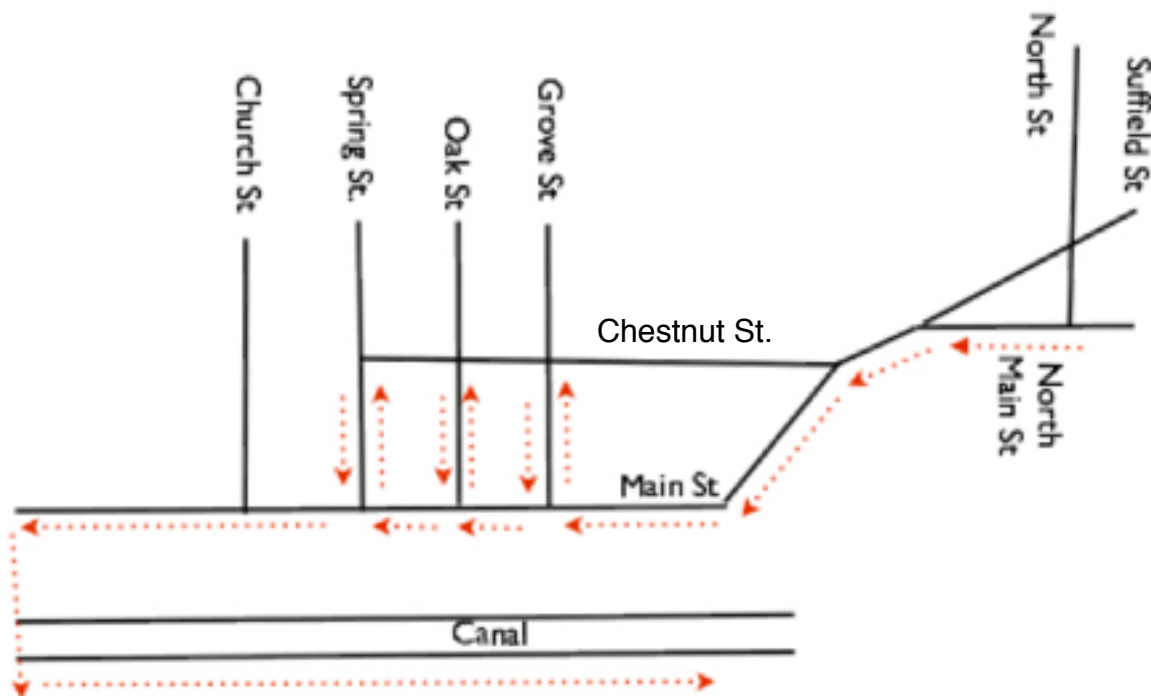
Leo Montemerlo (1915-2010)

In 2003, when he was 88 years old, Leo Montemerlo sat down on his couch and made a list of businesses in downtown Windsor Locks. This list, which was handwritten on eight pieces of paper, came to my attention in March of 2016. After studying the list, it was clear that these businesses did not all exist at the same time. The list was not in chronological order. Rather, it was in the order that you would see the businesses if you walked a certain route through downtown Windsor Locks. In his mind, he “took a walk” down Main St from North St, to the Ashmere Inn, and then came back to his starting going by walking along the the line of mills beside the canal. He did take three little “side trips”. When he got to Grove, he took a right and went up the hill to Chestnut, and then came back to Main St. He did the same thing when he got to Oak St, and again when he got to Spring St. As he took this “walk”, he wrote down the names of 77 businesses that he passed. In four cases, he listed two businesses that occupied the same location at different times.

In other words, he made a map of the locations of 77 businesses, even though he experienced those businesses at different times in his life, from the early 1920s to the 1960s. This could be the only map anyone ever made with regard to location, but without regard for time. His mind's systematic traverse through the downtown business area was quite ingenious. He focussed on businesses that he worked at, or dealt with, or knew the owners of. This list/map is an ingenious and exciting historical document. Many of the business names that he listed were fascinating: the Princess Theater, the Central Hall building, the Bee Hive Building, Beltrandi's, Garbarino's Ice Cream Store, a Chinese Laundry, and Katz's Junkyard. Leo's list/map of downtown Windsor Locks businesses called out for further research to identify the businesses whose names were unfamiliar, and to get more information on the familiar names.

This article is the result of research on the 77 businesses in Leo's list. To present this information, we will retrace the walk that Leo took in his mind through downtown

Windsor Locks, and consider each of the listings. The dotted red arrows in the following map show the path he took.

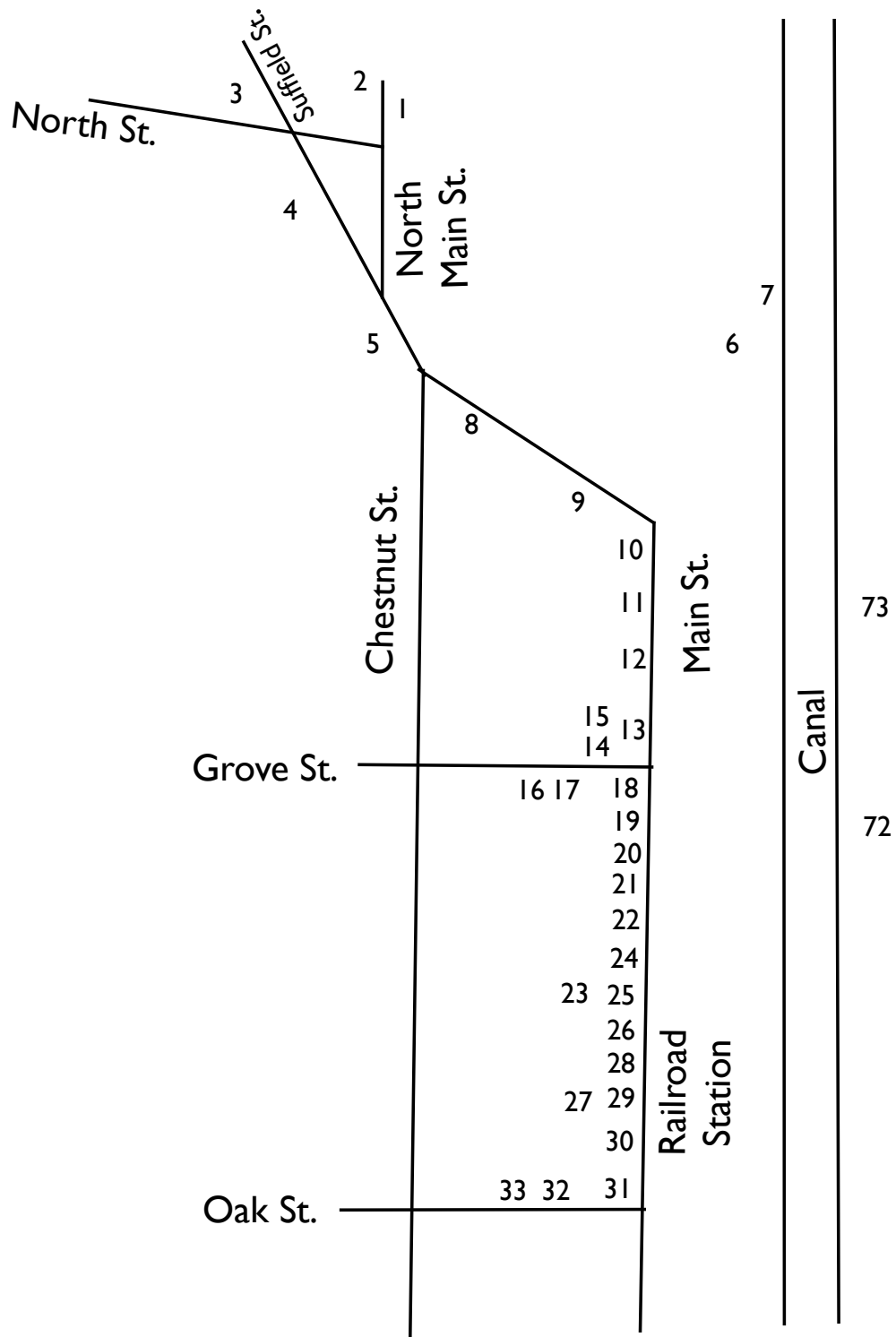


Three things will bring Leo's list to life: The first is a two-page map which gives the location of the 77 businesses he listed. This map is found on the next two pages. The second is a numbered list of the 77 businesses with some information about each. Finally there is a sequence of 50 photographs of businesses in the list.

It is useful to print out the two-page map and tape the two pages together before reading the list of businesses and viewing the photographs. Together, the list of businesses, the map, and the photographs constitute "**Leo Montemerlo's Map of the Businesses of Downtown Windsor Locks**".

In four cases, Leo listed two businesses which occupied the same location at different times. The first example is of the ABC Market, which was destroyed by fire, and replaced by The Brown Derby. The ABC Market is the 12th business in his list, so it was given the number "12", which appears on the map. The Brown Derby was given the number "12A". The map only shows the number 12. Both business 12 and 12A were in the same location.

The next two pages are the map, with the numbered locations of the businesses. The map provides the locations of the businesses in the list.



	Chestnut St.	34		
		35		
		36		
		37		
	45	38		
	44 43 42 41 40	39		
Spring St.	46 47 48 49	50		
		51		
		52		
		53	Main St.	
		54		
		55		
		56		
		57		
Church St.		58		
		59		
		60		
		61		
		62	Bridge	71
		63		70
		64		69
		65		
				68
		66		67

Leo Montemerlo's Map of Downtown Windsor Locks Businesses

The organization of this article will be to break the map into the following Sections:

- I. From the corner of North Main and North Streets, go south on Main St. to Grove St.
- II. Up the Grove St. hill to Chestnut St, and back down to Main St.
- III. Main St., go south from Grove St. to Oak St.
- IV. Up the Oak St. hill to Chestnut St, and back down to Main St.
- V. Main St., go south from Oak St. to Spring St.
- VI. Up the Spring St. hill to Chestnut St., and back down to Main St.
- VII. Main St., go south from Spring St., as far as the Ashmere Inn.
- VII. Go North along the canal, where the manufacturing plants are to the American Writing Paper Co.

I. From Corner of North Main & North Streets, go south on Main St to Grove St.

1. Dr. Ettore F. Carneglia -From our starting point, we can see the office and home of Dr. Ettore Carneglia and his wife Blanche on North Main St. Photo on page 16.

2. Park Chevrolet at 6 North Main St. is not far from Dr. Carneglia's house. Leo bought his beloved 1951 Chevy from Jack Quagliaroli's dealership. Photo on page 16.

3. Windsor Locks Lumber Co - on North St, just west of Suffield St . In their time, the only two places to buy wood and building supplies in Windsor Locks were Windsor Locks Lumber and Bidwell's Lumber.

4. Carroll's Pharmacy, 18 Suffield St. This was not only a pharmacy, but also an Ice Cream Shop. The cones didn't cost much, and they were good. Dr. Carneglia gave certificates to his young patients which could be exchanged for an ice cream cone at Carroll's. Photo on page 16.

5. F.S. Bidwell Lumber Co. was on the west side of Main St., just north of the brook between the corner of Chestnut St and Main St. This was half of the Bidwell business enterprise in Windsor Locks. The other half was their hardware store on Main St, just above the Carlisle store. Photo on page 17.

6. Dan Leach's Coal and Ice Yard used to be where Windsor Locks Commons is in 2016. Photo on page 17.

7. Old Graveyard - While this was not really a business, but Leo had it on his list. Many still don't know that there are gravestones and fragments of gravestones there, dated from 1861 to 1876. The location is just behind Dan Leach's Coal and Ice Yard.

8. The old Windsor Locks Post Office was on the west side of Main St, just north of Syd's second Modern Drug store.

9. Mr. Tate, the Photographer. The Tate house had a distinctive look. Mr. Tate was a photographer. Photo on page 18.

10. Beltrandi's - 252 Main St This was a place where you could go to shoot pool or play cards.

11. Jenkins Shoe Store - was listed on the 1913 Map of Windsor Locks, saying "Jenkins, Alfred. Boots, Shoes & Rubbers. Main St."

12. A B C Grocery Store - This store was a partnership of Joe "Red" Ambrosetti, Frank Barberi, and John B. Colli. Mr Ambrosetti was the grocer, and Mr. Barberi and Mr. Colli were the butchers. Photo on page 18. The store burned to the ground in a 1925 fire. It was rebuilt as the Brown Derby.

12A. The Brown Derby - John Romanofsky (1914 -1968) was the owner.

13. The Bee Hive Building - The "Bee Hive Building" was a nickname of a large apartment house at the north corner of Grove and Main Streets. The nickname did not refer to the looks of the building, but to the fact that it was made of of a lot of very small apartments, and the building always had a lot of "action" - as does the interior of a bee hive. It was owned by Mr. Shea. A Mr. Botasso owned a meat market on the bottom floor. The building was knocked down in the 1930s or 40s. Later this piece of land had Leary's store on it. Over the years, it has changed hands a number of times. See page 19 for a 1925 photo of the Bee Hive building and other nearby buildings.

13A. Red Leary's hardware and appliance store. Red Leary opened the first gas station in town and later opened a hardware and appliance store on the corner of Grove and Main, in the building that replaced the Bee Hive Building. Later, this space housed a Western Auto store. Still later, the Western Auto store moved to the north corner of Main and Oak Streets. and was owned by Don LaRussa. Photo on Page 19.

II. Go Up the Grove St. hill to Chestnut St., and back down to Main St.

As you are walking south on Main St. and reach Grove St., take a right and walk up the hill. As an aside, this Grove St hill used to be called "Cork Hill".

14. Blanche Bianchi's Bowling Alley - This was a low cost way to spend an evening. It had real pin boys. The bowling alley was destroyed by fire. Photo on page 20

15. Princess Theater Leo's notes stated that you could see two movies and get a lolly pop for seven cents. The Princess Theater was upstairs from Blanche's Bowling Alley. See newspaper clipping on page 20.

Now we go across Grove St. and start back down the hill toward Main St. On your right, you see:

16. Preli's Italian Grocery Store - Bartholomew (Bart) Preli had great home-made salami and sausages and a wide supply of Italian food supplies. The 1913 map of Windsor listed: "Preli, B. Foreign & Domestic Groceries. Pure Italian Olive Oil, Fruits & Confectionery. Grove St.

17. Chinese Laundry - was in the two story building that was behind and above Shonty's. The entrances to the apartments was on Grove st. That was verified by Noreen Baron, whose grandparents also lived in that house. Noreen's mother told her about the Chinese laundry which had been there. See photo of Shonty's on page 20.

III. Main St.- Go South from Grove St. to Oak St.

18. Shonty's Bar and Restaurant - Shonty's restaurant and bar was around for a long time. Unfortunately it burned down in 1967 in a fire that gutted the entire building, including the apartments on the second floor, and Sy Preli's News stand at the south end of the building. See photo on page 20

19. Bianchi's Restaurant and Bar - Bianchi's was a good family restaurant in the downtown area. Their prices were reasonable. The food was good. Photo on page 20.

20. Moses Goldfarb Clothing store - Mr. Goldfarb opened his clothing store after 1913, but before 1922. There was an article in the May 31, 1922 issue of the Springfield Republican describing how police caught a man who had been taking clothes from store. See newspaper article on page 21.

21. Moses Goldfarb rooms for rent - Mr. Goldfarb had rooms or rent on the second floor of the building, over Bianchi's restaurant and his clothing store. Photo on page 21.

22. Sy Bianchi's News stand - Sy Bianchi had a newsstand on the south side of Bianchi's Restaurant. He was an avid New York Yankees Fan. Once, after the Yankees lost the World Series, his friends draped the storefront in black. Between Sy's store and Coly's Hotel was a driveway. The driveway was the way up to the rooms that Mr. Goldfarb rented, to the Mid Town Motor garage, and to the back of Coly's hotel, where the hotel parking lot was.

23. Coly's Hotel - 182 Main St. Leo Montemerlo noted in his list that you could get a room at Coly's hotel for \$14 per week, but he didn't say when that was possible. Leo worked evenings in Vito Colapietro's store at the Main St. level after he married Vito's

daughter, Lena. Vito bought the hotel from Mr. Byrnes in about 1917. It burned down in 1927, but Vito rebuilt it immediately and it operated until the redevelopment of Main St. See photo on page 22

There were three stores under the hotel at Main St level. Vito rented one of them from Mr. Byrnes before he bought the hotel. There was a lot of turnover in those three stores over the decades. The three that Leo put in his list were Spinelli's Grocery Store, Bianchi's Shoe Store and Bill Amstead's Package store.

24. Spinelli's Grocery Store - Mr. Spinelli had an old fashioned Italian Grocery store in the slot closest to Sy Preli's News Stand. See Coly hotel photo on page 22

25. Mondo Bianchi Shoe Store - The middle slot. The Bianchi family had four businesses in downtown Windsor Locks: Blanche's Bowling Alley, Sy's News Stand, Bianchi's Restaurant and Bar, and Armondo Bianchi's shoe store. See Coly Hotel photo on page 22.

26. Bill Amstead's Package Store had the slot closest to the A&P. We now call them "A B C stores", but back then, they were referred to as Package Stores. See Coly Hotel photo on page 22.

27. Central Hall building - The building extended from Coly's hotel to Oak St. and had two floors.. It was called "The Central Hall building". Upstairs was a large room that was used for basketball games and for boxing. Two of the Marconi brothers, Angelo and Louie were known to have boxed here. Mickey Danyluk said that Central Hall was also called the "Burnap Opera House", and that the floor of the Boxing/Basketball room had springs in the floor to make it bounce for dances and other events. There was a movie theater in Central Hall, / Bernap Opera, but it shut down in 1914. See news clipping on page 20 about Princess Theater for information on this theater shutting down. See photo on page 23 of A&P and Western Auto store for location of Central Hall.

28. SNET office in Central Hall Building. SNET was Southern New England Telephone. It was founded in 1878.

29. Garbarino's - 176 Main St. They sold ice cream, fruit and groceries, as did the other ice cream stores on Main Street. It was located in the Central Hall Building. See newspaper clipping on page 22.

30. A&P Grocery - The A&P was the large, centrally located grocery store in Windsor Locks.. Jack Redmond had an excellent column on the history of the A&P. The first location of the A&P was in the Zaccheo building opposite the bridge on Main St. It occupied the entire first floor of the building. Then it moved to another site on the Coogan block, and finally moved to its well known location across from the Railroad Station. See photo on page 23.

31. Western Auto Store - This store was owned by Don LaRussa, and it became the first D.F.LaRussa appliance store. Photo on page 23.

IV. Go up the Oak St. hill to Chestnut St, and back down to Main St

Turn right and head up the hill on Oak St. On the right is:

32. The Oak Street Market - This was more commonly referred to as “Aldo’s”, as it was owned and operated by Aldo Satirana. Photo on page 23. Before Aldo had this store, the market was owned by Joe Borachi. It had a sign outside that said “Joe’s”.

33. The Old Fire Station - this building is now the site of the Senior Citizens Club. It was just up the hill from the Oak Street Market.

Now cross Oak St, and walk back down the hill to Main St.

V. Main St. - Go South from Oak St. to Spring St.

Having walked down Oak St. hill and arrived at Main St, take a right and walk south.

34. Allen Pease Co., 158 Main St. The Allen Pease Co. was listed in the 1913 Windsor Locks map as selling house furnishings, plumbing & hot water heating. The Windsor Locks Journal issue of April 1, 1928, says that the Allen Pease Co observed its 56 years at the same location on Main St under the same management. The business was started in 1873 by Allen Pease and a brother with a tin shop. Later they constructed the 3-story Main St building. Mr Pease ran the company with his sons Howard and Frank." See photo on page 24. Pease building was where Modern Drug is in that photo.

34A. Kamin’s Department Store - (see 34 on map since Kamin’s was at the same location as 34) The Pease Building was on the corner of Oak and Main Streets. Later it became the Kamin Department Store. An article in the Tuesday, May 25, 1954 shows that Graziano Graziani gave a five year lease to Morris Kamin et al. for Kamin’s Department Store at the corner of Main and Oak Streets. Later Syd’s Modern Drug Co store was on the ground floor of that building. See news clipping on page 24.

35. Wong Chinese Laundry - A photo on page 24 shows a sign saying “Wong”. It was taken when the Memorial Hall was dedicated on June 10 1891. Looking at this photo, you can see the railroad station is just to the left, indicating that it was taken from an upper level of a building on Main St, near the corner of Oak and Main. In other words, the photo was taken from the Pease Building.

36. Rialto Theater - 154 Main St. - The Rialto Theater opened in 1922. It was owned by Leo Viola and Dominic Alfano. It was operated by Dave Magliora. See photo of the Rialto, Swede's Jewelers and Syd's Modern Drug on page 24.

37. Donut Kettle - The Donut Kettle had many "regulars" for breakfast and for lunch. It was not open for dinner. See photo on page 25 The food was simple but good and the prices were right. John and Vic Sasali kept the restaurant going until the redevelopment of Main St, when they sold the store and its name. Shari Wadsworth was a waitress in the Donut Kettle. She bought the name and some of the equipment and opened a Donut Kettle at 482 Spring St. Later she sold out to Angelo D'Aleo and the place was refurbished. It opened as the "Gathering Ground".

38. L.D. Cutler's The 1913 Windsor Locks map had an listing which read: "Cutler, L. D. Jeweler and Optician. P. O. Block, Main St." See a photo of a ring box from Cutler's on page 25. Also on page 25 is an L.D.Cutler advertisement in the May 4, 1934 Windsor Locks Journal which shows that Cutler's then sold women's and children's clothes, shoes and sneakers. Later, Swede's Jewelers occupied this spot.

39. Marconi Brothers Luncheonette (also known as Wuzzy's) - (130 Main St—NA3-7465) John, Louis and Angelo (Wuzzy) were the Marconi brothers. This was an iconic ice cream store that also sold sandwiches, soups, etc.. It had booths in the back and was a popular teenage hangout. See photo on page 26.

VI. Go up Spring St. hill to Chestnut St and come back to Main St.

40. Umberto Pesci's Shoe Repair Shop - Leo Montemerlo's notes said: "Main St. , Umberto Pesci Shoe Shop, Old Library Upstairs, " The shoe repair shop was in the lower level of the building on the north corner of Spring and Main Streets. The door to the shoe repair shop was the second door to the building on Spring St. From 1920 to 1955, the Windsor Locks Public Library was on the second floor of the building on that corner. The entrance to the library was on Spring St. Marconi Brothers Luncheonette was on this corner at a later time. Page 27 has a 1927 photo of Mr. Pesci and Leo Montemerlo, who worked in his shop when he was 12 years old. He got \$3 a week for 2 hours of work a day after school.

41. Angelo Gatti, Tailor - was listed in 1913 map of Windsor Locks. It said: " Ladies' and Gents' Tailor. Spring St." See photo on page 27

42. Pastori's Cleaners

43. Windsor Locks Journal Office - The old Main St. was the heart of Windsor Locks. The Windsor Locks Journal was the soul of Windsor Locks. It only came out once a

week, but was the record of our accomplishments - both big and small. It told us what happened last week and reminded us what happened in the past. Photo on page 28.

44. Tony Basile's Shoe Repair Shop - In the days before Nike and Adidas athletic shoes, leather shoes were taken to Tony Basile's shop to get heels and soles replaced. It was across the street from St. Mary's Catholic church. There was a saying that Windsor Locks was the only town in the United States in which 99% of wedding snapshots had a shoe repair shop in the background. That would be Tony's shop.

When you get to the top of the hill, you are at Chestnut St. Look to the right, and you will see Johnny Cappa's Market.

45. Johnny Cappa's Market - Kids who grew up in Windsor Lock's downtown area in the 1940s and 50s spent a lot of time at Johnny's but not much money. It was the place to go for penny candy. Parents sent their kids there for a loaf of bread or other things needed for lunch or dinner. There were always bicycles laying on the sidewalk in front of Johnny's. Johnny's was a Windsor Locks "institution" in the same sense that Wuzzy's was. It was unique and it was a favorite.

Now cross Spring St, take a left, and head back towards Main St.

46. Windsor Locks Bakery Shop - The Tambussi brothers ran this shop which provided excellent bread, cakes, cookies and everything you could expect from a small town bakery. A 1934 ad for the bakery is on page 28.

47. Maria's Market - Maria and Pat Casinghino ran a Italian market across the street from the Windsor Locks Journal office. The fact that there were four Italian markets in such close proximity (Maria's, Aldo's, Johnny Cappa's and Bart Preli's), indicates that there was a large Italian community in the area.

48. Sandy Dipinto Barber Shop

49. Topor Barber shop

VII. Main St.- Go South from Spring St. to the Ashmere Inn.

When you reach Main St, take a right, and head south. The first thing you see will be:

50. First National Bank - Many of the businesses that Leo put in his list were owned by entrepreneurial immigrants. The place they went to get a loan to start their business was the First National Bank of Windsor Locks. Then their family members opened

savings accounts there. Probably no single institution was as central to the growth of Windsor Locks as the First National Bank. Photo on page 29.

51. Carlisle's Hardware - Carlisle's was a centrally located place to go for hardware items for the home. After going to Home Depot or Lowe's in the modern era, one yearns for an old fashioned hardware store. While there are still a few old fashioned hardware stores remaining in the U.S. in 2016, they are dying fast. Photo on page 29

52. First National Supermarket - See page 29 for a photo of the First National Supermarket, which was next to Carlisle's. It moved to Dexter Plaza in the early 1960s and it later moved to Turnpike Road. The First National chain changed their name to the Finast Supermarkets.

53. Lefemine Barber Shop - See a 1962 photo on page 20 of Leo Lefemine cutting the hair of a very young Lenny Montemerlo. Windsor Locks had three Italian families that were related: Lefemine, Colapietro and Zaccheo. All three came from the same tiny town in Italy named Turi, which is just south of Bari. Turi is much smaller than Windsor Locks. Turi's patron Saint is St. Oronzo. Now you know how the tradition of St. Oronzo Day celebrations started in Windsor Locks.

54. Sisitsky's Market - Jim Price was the proprietor of Sisitsky's Market. Mr. Sisitsky was the owner of the building. See advertisement on page 30 of an ad they placed in the Windsor Locks Journal of May 4, 1934.

55. Red Leary's Gas Station - 92 Main St. A 1915 photo on page 29 shows the First National Supermarket to the right of Red Leary's Mobil gas station, which had pumps right on Main St!

56. Town Clerk's Office - was where town records were kept before Windsor Locks had a town hall. While this was not a business, Leo Montemerlo had it on his list.

57. Billy "Hoisty" Asselin's Newspaper stand was the second store away from the north corner of Church and Main. He retired in 1960 and it became Charland's Drug Store. See photo on page 31.

57A. Charland's Drug Store -(see 56 on map since same location as 56) Ray and Tilly Charland opened their pharmacy in 1957. Jack Redmond wrote an article on them on July 13, 1978. Ray got out of the business when re-development happened, and he went on to work for the state from 1972-78. While operating the pharmacy, they donated a percentage of their earnings to charity annually. Tilly sold Avon products for about 5 years. See photos on page 31 of the pharmacy and of Ray Charland.

Having arrived at the corner of Church and Main Streets, we cross Church St, and arrive at the south corner of the intersection. On our right, we see:

58. Bridgeview Restaurant - Philip Lombardi was the proprietor of this well known and long lived restaurant. See photo on page 31 of Phil Lombardi standing in front of his restaurant in 1945. Later photos show that a brick facade was added in 1955. The Bridgeview Restaurant was one of the first places in Windsor Locks to sell grinders.

59. Bill Karges Shoe Store - Photo on page 32 shows Bill standing in front of his shop in 1948.

60. Package Store - Preli and Kennedy

61. Patsy Colapietro's Ice Cream store - in 1906, Pasquale (Patsy) Colapietro had an Ice Cream store in the building just north of Tom Zaccheo's Pontiac Dealership, across the street from where traffic from the bridge empties onto Main St. Patsy's shop was one of three shops in that building. A photo on page 33 shows the building his shop was in. A 1906 photo on page 32 shows Patsy, his wife, his child, his dog, and his two brothers, Vito and Leo. Patsy was the first of four Colapietro brothers to immigrate to Windsor Locks. They were a hard working and entrepreneurial family. Vito soon owned Coly's Hotel, and Leo started the Windsor Locks Macaroni Manufacturing Company. Patsy's business was listed in the 1913 Windsor Locks map, which said: "Coly, Patsy. Fruits, Cigars, Tobacco & Groceries, Confectionery, Postal Cards and Toys. Imported Olive Oil a Specialty. Mather Block, Main St."

62. Windsor Locks Macaroni Macaroni Mfg. Co. Leo Colapietro was the owner. It was in the Mather Block, along with Patsy Colapietro's Ice Cream store. Leo bought high-gluten flour from Wisconsin, Nebraska and New York State to make into pasta of all kinds and shapes. According to a Windsor Locks Journal article, the macaroni manufacturing company burned down, along with the rest of the "Mather Block" in 1924. Leo Colapietro moved to Springfield, Mass., where he opened the Windsor Locks Supermarket on Main St. His macaroni business card is on page 34.

63. Tommasso Zaccheo's Pontiac Dealership and Garage, 114 Main St. This was the first Pontiac dealership in the area. It also had a gas station. See photo on page 33. Tommasso came up with the idea of putting an awning over the gas pumps to shelter customers from the sun and rain.

Before Mr. Zaccheo started his Pontiac Dealership, he had a "Armchair Restaurant" in that building, which he owned. Armchair restaurants were not uncommon in the early 1900s. In such a restaurant, chairs had one arm that was very wide and was used as a table. After Tom sold his dealership, his family moved to nearby Massachusetts and he became a "gentleman farmer". By the way, the A&P once occupied the first floor of Mr. Zaccheo's building.

Before Mr. Zaccheo bought the building, it was known as "Coffin Hall". After he sold the building, it became a Norge appliance dealership owned by Preli and Lunn.

64. Vinny Musco's Esso Station - A photo of this gas station before Vinny Musco owned it, is on page 34. The 1938 photo was labelled "Barberi's Gas Station". Vinny bought the gas station in 1957. The photo shows a man riding a stationary bicycle next

to the gas pump. The photo was taken after the 1938 hurricane when there was no electricity, so they powered the pump by hooking it up to the bicycle. Jack Redmond wrote a "Cabbages and Kings" article on Vinny Musco, and said that the Main St. Esso station was the first in Connecticut to have a "pit" for servicing autos.

When it was evident that Main St was going to be "re-developed", Vinny decided it was time to go. He sold his Main St. gas station and moved to Turnpike Rd, where he opened a Texaco station. Vinny's Main St. Esso station had an old Coca Cola machine which was sold when he sold the station. It still exists. It is now in the hands of Chet Pohorylo of Windsor Locks (2016) See photo on page 35.

65. Barberi's Home Style Bakery - This was a well loved business which is fondly remembered by its customers. The bread, cakes, cookies and other treats were delicious. To understand where Barberi's bakery was located, see photo on page 35. In the photo, Fusick's gas station is on the left, and Barberi's bakery is on the right.

66. Ashmere Inn - This was originally the mansion of Dexter D. Coffin. When he sold it, it became an Inn and a restaurant. It was torn down to make room for Dexter Plaza. See page 66 for a photo.

This ends our southerly walk down Main St. Now we cross the canal, reverse course, and head North, walking along the little road between the canal and the manufacturing plants.

VII. Walk North along the canal, as far as American Writing Paper Co.

---- GO ACROSS CANAL TO THE STRIP OF LAND WHERE THE MILLS ARE.

Now we take the last leg of Leo Montemerlo's walk through his memories of Windsor Locks businesses. We cross over the canal. We are on the road between the canal and the river, where the manufacturing plants are. During his career, Leo worked at three of those plants, and all three made it onto his list. The following gives an idea of how much money people made when they worked at those mills in the 1930s and 40s. When he was 15 in 1930, he went to work for the Medlicott Factory in the carding room, where he made 35 cents an hour. In 1938 he worked in the spinning room, where he made \$1.15 an hour. In 1937, he moved to the Windsor Locks Paper Co. where he was a foreman. In 1945, at age 40, he moved to Dexter Corp, where he drove a lift truck and earned \$1.50 an hour.

67. Katz Junk yard - Leo's list included the name "Katz' Junk Yard". Charles Carroll provided a clue as to what that meant. Louis and Rebecca Katz lived on North St., just around the corner from where the Carroll family lived at 18 Suffield St. They were "rag dealers" and collected rags and junk by horse and wagon. They might have had a

junkyard along the Canal to store stuff while awaiting sale. No other information was available on "Katz' Junk Yard".

68. Windsor Locks Paper Mill - This was one of the smaller paper mills in Windsor Locks. Among its customers was the United States Army. They bought vast quantities of toilet paper from the Windsor Locks Paper Mill. The regularly did quality control checks on the toilet paper. The cartons of toilet paper were stacked in large blocks. The inspector would tell Leo Montemerlo to get a particular carton in the middle of those blocks of cartons of toilet paper, and they would take a "random" roll out of that box and count the sheets on the roll. The mill building is no longer in existence. See newspaper clipping on page 36.

69. C.H. Dexter - Dexters was the largest and most well known business in Windsor Locks for a long while, and it was one of the largest employers in the town. It never had unions, although attempts were made to form one. The employees always voted against the formation of a union. Photo on page 37. It is not well known that the Coffin family was instrumental in the building of Bradley Field, and there was thought given to naming the airport after Dexter Coffin. However, it was felt that the name "Coffin Airport" was a bit too morbid, so it became Bradley Field. Dexters, once the oldest firm on the New York Stock Exchange, became Alstrom in the year 2000.

70. Medlicott Co The Medlicott Company produced woolen and knit goods. It was an outgrowth from a small business begun by William G. Medlicott, of Longmeadow, Mass in 1866. It was known for introducing the highest technology machines for making such products. It no longer exists. It was located on the south side of the bridge. Photo on page 37.

71. J.R. Montgomery Co - was located just north of the bridge to Warehouse Point. Photo on page 38. First built in the 1871, the Montgomery Mill was originally made to manufacture "cotton warp" which formed the basis for carpets. Later it switched to decorative and electrical tinsel. It closed down in 1989. There was a fire in 2007.

72. Horton Chuck - Eli Horton, of Stafford, a skillful machinist, who had resided here several years, invented a lathe-chuck, which has superseded all previous inventions in this line, and the Horton Chuck company was quite successful. Photo on page 38

73. - American Writing Paper Company (see 1913 map) American Writing Paper Company. Windsor Paper Co. Division. Canal Bank.

The following are photos that match the Photo numbers in the text of the article

1. Dr. Ettore Carneglia



Dr. Ettore F Carneglia 1904 - 1970

2 - Park Chevrolet



4. Carroll's Pharmacy



Charles Carroll between his grandfather, James P. Carroll Sr. (left) and his father, James P. Carroll, Jr (right), in Carroll's Pharmacy, Circa 1955

5. F.S. Bidwell Lumber Company



Bidwell Lumber Fire - 1958

6. Dan Leach's Coal and Ice Yard



Dan Leach's Coal and Ice Yard

9. Mr. Tate, the photographer



Larry Ferrari in front of Tate House. Main St.
Windsor Locks. Mr Tate was a photographer.

12. A B C Store



ABC Market

The market on Main Street was a partnership of 'Red' Ambrosetti, Frank Barberi, and John B. Colli. Mr. Ambrosetti was the grocer and Mr. Barberi and Mr. Colli were the butchers. This photo was taken in 1923. The business was a total loss after a 1925 fire. The site was rebuilt as the Brown Derby, which stood until redevelopment.

Photo courtesy of Jenny Colli, J. B. Colli's daughter.

Joe (Red) Ambrosetti's Market, Main St., Windsor Locks, CT 1923

13. The Bee Hive Building



MAIN STREET, WINDSOR LOCKS, CONN.

Photo taken in 1925

Edwin P. Eagan

Coly's Hotel
before 1927 fire.
Central Cafe is
the store on the
left on street level.

Bee Hive Building was an apartment house
on north corner of Main & Grove Streets
with chimneys on roof with large overhang.
Was owned by Mr. Shea. Mr. Botasso
had a meat market on bottom floor

13A. Red Leary's Hardware and Appliance Store



Elmer "Red" Leary's Hardware & Appliance Store, corner Grove & Main

14. Blanche Bianchi's Bowling Alley

15. The Princess Theater



*Blanche Bianchi's Bowling Alley destroyed by fire.
Princess Theater (old) was on top floor.*

The two moving picture houses that have been operated in competition for some time have been combined. Hereafter the pictures will be shown only in the **Princess theater** and the show in the Burnap opera house will be closed. George J. Rice of Thompsonville and M. Weiner of Hartford will manage the **theater.**

**Jan. 5, 1914,
Springfield Republican**

17. Chinese Laundry

18. Shonty's Restaurant and Bar and

19. Bianchi's Restaurant and Bar



*From left to right: Shonty's Restaurant, Bianchi's Restaurant, Coly's Hotel.
Chinese Laundry was over Shonty's. Entrance was from Grove St, and was on the second floor, where the balcony is.*

20. Moses Goldfarb Clothing Store

**GOLDFARB IDENTIFIES
PROPERTY AS HIS OWN**
**This Leads Police to Think
Kozryn May Have Been In-
volved in Break**
Windsor Locks, May 30—Recovery
of a considerable amount of the goods
stolen from the **Windsor Locks** de-
partment store a week ago is be-
lieved to be an outcome of the arrest
of Joseph Kozryn in Hartford. Sus-
pected of bootlegging last week, Koz-
ryn was taken into custody in Hart-

ford, but not until Sunday did the
officers succeed in locating his room-
ing place. There they found considera-
ble property that is believed to have
been stolen. When the officers made a
search of his room they found many
suits of clothes, several bags and suit
cases, some jewelry, trousers, shirts,
some other goods that later were
identified by **Moses Goldfarb**, propri-
etor of the store, as having been stolen
in the break that was made there
last week.

Kozryn is being held by the Hart-
ford police pending further investi-

Moses Goldfarb store robbed, 1922

21. Moses Goldfarb's Rooms to Rent



*Moses Goldfarb, between Vito and
Leo Colapietro. 1932. Rooming
House has open window*

23. Coly's Hotel housed 24. Spinelli's Grocery, 25 Bianchi's Shoe Store and 26. Amstead's package store. 27 Central Hall housed 28. SNET Office, 29. Garbarino's Ice Cream, 30. A&P



Central Hall Building (dark building on left) housed SNET Office, Garbarino's, A&P, boxing & basketball gym. Coly's Hotel (light building on right) housed Spinelli Grocery, Bianchi Shoe Store, Amsted's Package Store.

29. Garbarino's Ice Cream Store

WINDSOR LOCKS

Windsor Locks, Dec. 26—An automobile driven by George Klezos of Hazardville, who had Joseph Urbanowski of Suffield as a passenger, collided with one driven by John M. Clifford of Brooklyn, N. Y., on the overpass in the south part of town about 1 yesterday morning with slight damage to both cars. All three persons received cuts on the head and face from flying glass. Officer Caffrey ordered all three to appear in court Monday night.

The fruit store conducted by D. Garbarino in the Central hall block was broken into last night and about \$6 and some merchandise stolen. Entrance was gained by breaking the protecting shield on a rear window and lowering the top half. No arrests have been made.

Springfield Union, 12-27-1929

30. A&P and 31. Western Auto



Corner of Oak and Main. Don La,Russa's Appliance store, and the A&P. LaRussa originally had his Western Auto Store here. Previously the Central Hall Building occupied both spaces

32. The Oak St. Market. (Aldo'a)



Oak St. Market. Aldo Satirana & Tony Campinosi

34. Allen Pease Co.

36. Rialto Theater

34A. Kamin's Department Store.



Realty Transactions
A five-year lease has been given by Graziano Grazini to Morris Kamins et al. for Kamins Department Store at the corner of Main and Oak Sts.
May 25, 1954 Spfd. Union

Allen Pease Co , founded in 1873 South corner of Oak and Main. Here the location has the "Modern Drug" sign. Mr. Graziani leased the building to Morris Kamin and it became Kamin's Department Store (1954)

35. Wong Chinese Laundry.



Wong's Chinese Laundry.(Pease Bldg.)

37. Donut Kettle



Between Spring & Oak Streets. Donut Kettle at right.

38. L.D. Cutler



Ad in May 4, 1934 Windsor Locks Journal



39. Marconi Brothers Luncheonette (Wuzzy's)



**Interior of "Wuzzy's"
Marconi Brothers Luncheonette**

40. Umberto Pesci Shoe Repair, on Spring St second side entrance.
Public Library first side entrance. Post Office on Main St entrance.



**Corner of Spring and Main. Post Office on first floor.
Library upstairs. Umberto Pesci's Shoe Repair on first floor**

40. Umberto Pesci's Shoe Shop,



*Umberto Pesci, Fidelio Giannuzzi, Eddie Cappa, Leo Montemerlo (age 12)
Windsor Locks, Connecticut 1927*

41. Angelo Gatti, Tailor



Angelo Gatti, Tailor, Spring St.

43. Windsor Locks Journal Office



Windsor Locks Journal Office, Spring St. Built 1907

46. Windsor Locks Bakery (Tambussi Brothers)



Windsor Locks Journal ad, May 4, 1934

- 50. First National Bank
- 51. Carlisle Hardware



Carlisle Hardware, First National Bank, Spring & Main St

- 52. First National Supermarket
- 55. Red Leary's Mobil Station



Red Leary's Mobil Station
First National Supermarket

53. Leo Lefemine's Barber Shop



Vito Lefemine cuts Lenny Montemerlo's hair. 1962

54. Sisitsky's Market

Meats and Groceries
.. At ..
Low Prices for Standard Goods

GROCERY SPECIALS		MEAT SPECIALS	
Palmolive Soap	2 bars for 9c	Legs of Lamb	27c lb
Sugar	10 lbs for 50c	Lamb Stew	2 lbs 25c
Forest Park Tomatoes	2 cans for 25c	Swift Premium	
Macaroni or Spaghetti	10c pkg	Roasting Chickens	32c lb
Land O'Lake Butter	2 lbs for 59c	Veal Stew	2 lbs 25c
Old Dutch Cleaners	3 cans for 25c	Swift Premium Fowl	28c lb
2-lb can of Coconut	22c	Swift Premium Bacon	25c lb
Pineapple Juice	10c can	Groton Weigel Frankfurts	23c lb
Brer Rabbit Molasses	2 cans for 25c	Groton Weigel Sausage	25c lb
Not-A-Seed Raisins	8c pkg	Fresh Ground Hamburg	15c lb
Heinz Sweet Pickles	qt. jar 28c	Corned Beef, Sugar Cured	10c lb
Forest Park Red Salmon	large can 20c	Armour Star Boiled Ham	35c lb
		Pork Chops, Rib End	16c lb
		Puritan Smoked Shoulders	15c lb

Sisitzky's Market
"The Store of Quality and Service"
112 MAIN STREET : WINDSOR LOCKS
Delivery Service Telephone 645

Windsor Locks Journal Ad, May 4, 1934

57. Billy "Hoisty" Asselin's Newspaper Stand
57A. Charland's Pharmacy



Church St & Main St.- 2nd store past corner was Hoisty Asselin's Paper Stand. Later it was Charland's Pharmacy



Ray Charland

58. Bridgeview Restaurant -



Phil Lombardi in front of his Bridgeview Restaurant 1948

59. Bill Karges Shoe Store



Bill Karges Shoe Store, Main St., south of Church St.

61. Pasquale “Patsy” Colapietro’s Ice Cream Store (opened before 1906)P.O.



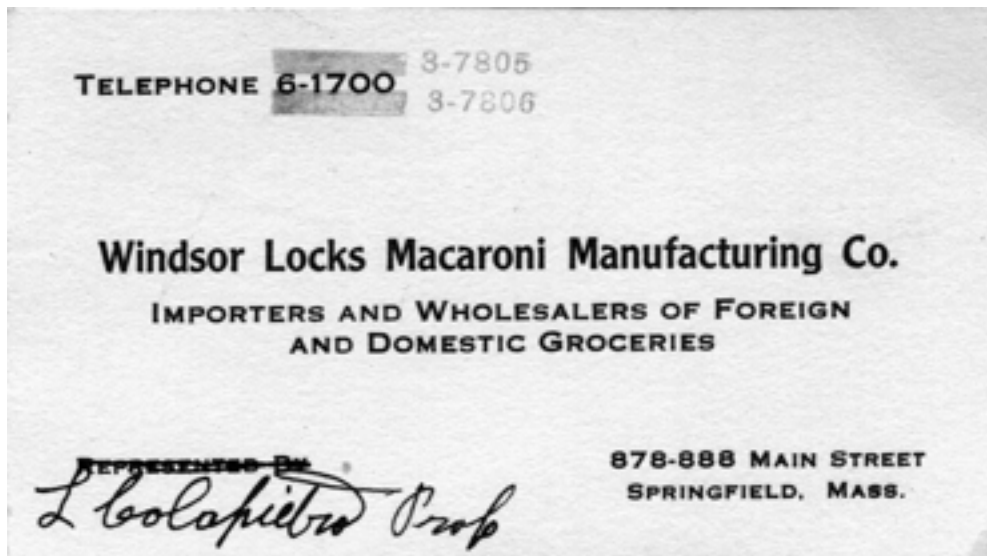
**Pasquale Colapietro's store, Main St., Windsor Locks, Conn. about 1906.
Pasquale (seated), daughter, Pasqualina, Vito Colapietro,
Grazia (Patsy's wife), Leo Colapietro behind the counter.**

61. Location of Pasquale Colapietro's Ice Cream Store



*Main St, on south side of Church St ~ 1906
was location of Pasquale Colapietro's Ice Cream store.
Just left of this photo was Zaccheo's Garage*

62. Windsor Locks Macaroni Manufacturing Co



63..Tommaso Zaccheo's Pontiac Dealership (earlier was Armchair Restaurant)



***Tommaso Zaccheo's Pontiac Dealership
White building at left. Main St, south of Church St, across from bridge.***

64. Vinny Musco's Esso Station



**Barberi Esso, later became Vinny Musco Esso.
1938 Photo, no electricity after hurricane.
Using bicycle to pump the gas.**

64. Vinny Musco's Esso Station



Vinny Musco Esso coke machine.
Later bought by Chet Pohorylo

65. Barberi's Home Style Bakery



Barberi's Home Style Bakery
seen from Mike Fusick's gas station

66. Ashmere Inn



Ashmere Inn

68. Windsor Locks Paper Mill

Three Plants Close Down But Aviation Industries And Other Business Places Look for Upturn Before Year's End

Thompsonville, Jan. 18 -- Despite the current slowdown of some Northern Connecticut industries, many area manufacturers are expanding their facilities, confident of an upturn in production later in the year.

Good Expansion

Although three plants, the E. Horton Co., Windsor Locks, Stafford Worsted Co., and the Pacific Pearl Button Co., ceased operations during the past year and the Windsor Locks Paper Co. has closed down for an indefinite period, expansion has taken place in many instances.

Spfd. Union, Jan 15, 1958

69. C.H. Dexter & Sons



C.H. Dexter & Sons

70. The Medicott Co.



The Medicott Factory, just south of the bridge

71. J.R. Montgomery Co.



J.R.Montgomery Building, just north of the bridge 1976

72. Eli Horton & Sons mill



**Eli Horton & Sons mill is to the left.
It was destroyed by fire in 2006**

CONCLUSION

Leo Montemerlo made a list of 77 businesses in downtown Windsor Locks. His list turned out to be a map. These businesses existed sometime between when he was born in 1915 and when he wrote the list in 2013. We saw that the businesses in the list were written in order of their location along a certain route through town. A small map on page 2 showed that path. We saw how all of these businesses are located on a two-page map of Windsor Locks. We saw 50 photos, advertisements and newspaper clippings which helped us visualize the 77 businesses in Leo's list.

For historians and for citizens of Windsor Locks, Leo Montemerlo's list/map is an absolute delight. He wrote down names that most Windsor Locks citizens in 2016 have never heard of. They include: the Princess Theater, the Central Hall building, the Bee Hive Building, Beltrandi's, Garbarino's Ice Cream Store, Wong's Chinese Laundry Umberto Pesci's shoe repair shop, and Katz's Junkyard.

Leo's list provided the information to identify the location of businesses such as Umberto Pesci's shoe repair shop, and Patsy Colapietro's Ice Cream Shop. His map led to research on Zaccheo's Pontiac Dealership which uncovered the fact that before it was a car dealership, it was an "armchair restaurant", and for a while, the A&P was located on the first floor of Mr. Zaccheo's building. It led to finding out that before the A&P existed across from the Railroad Station, there was a building there in which boxing matches and basketball games were held. That was the Central Hall Building. We also learned that the Central Hall Building previously was the Burnap Opera House! Leo's map raised more questions than have been answered here. We still don't know the exact location of Katz's junkyard. There is a long list of such issues. We need to find photos of Central Hall (Burnap Opera House). So there is much room for more research to be done.

Many people helped with the research on Leo Montemerlo's map. My brother, Lenny Montemerlo found Leo's list. Together, we figured out the route that our fits our father's sequence of business locations. Mickey Danyluk's knowledge of Windsor Locks history solved a number of issues that Leo's list of businesses brought up. Noreen Baron identified the location of the Chinese Laundry on Grove St. Jerry Dougherty's website provided a number of photos of businesses. The Windsor Lock Library, in the persons of Gloria Malec and Eileen Pearce, provided needed photographs. The children of Tommaso Zaccheo, John, Anna and Tom, provided information on the Zaccheo dealership. They identified the locations of the Windsor Locks Macaroni Manufacturing Co, and of Pasquale Colapietro's Ice Cream store. The members of the "You know you are from Windsor Locks when" Facebook group, enthusiastically and actively discussed many of the topics in this article for a number of weeks, and provided invaluable answers to questions that were raised. My thanks go out to everyone who participated in this exploration of Windsor Lock's past.

Finally, I thank the readers of this article and to ask them to pass it to others who have an interest in Windsor Locks history.

Mel Montemerlo

Appendix I- Some Items requiring further research.

1. The business called “Beltrandi’s” was known as a place to shoot pool and play cards. It would be good to get information as to how the business actually worked.
2. Aldo’s Oak St. Market took over from Joe Borachi’s Market. Little could be found on Borachi’s Market.
3. The Windsor Locks Journal exists in paper form and in microfiche form. It is the most valuable source of information on Windsor Locks history that exists. It needs to be turned into “Scans” which can be stored on the Internet and searched.
4. John Zaccheo said that his father’s first business in his building was an “armchair restaurant”, which pre-dated the Pontiac dealership. He said that such restaurants were common at the time. It would be good to know more about “armchair restaurants.”
5. Exactly where was Katz’s Junkyard?