Hotel Overlooks Scenes Dear to Mark Twain's Heart



Ultra-Modern Hostelry

A Far Cry From Tavern

First Was the Stoner House, on What is Now Sullivan

ern-Most of Them But Memories Now.

throughout this section of the country.

from resembling like institutions of today.

By William H. Arnold

Chemung County Historian

before the advent of the canal or railroad, when plank roads and

turnpikes were common, and the only mode of transportation was by

the now antiquated stage coach, could be found the early taverns

the first institutions to set up, after the establishment of the trading

post of Matthias Hollenback, was that of a tavern. True, it was far

tures," if they may be so called, of our ancestors, who left comfort-

able homes in New England or Orange County in our own state to

build a new home in the wilderness, for wilderness it was.

Long years ago, shortly after the first settlement of this locality,

About the time that Newtown Point was settled, among one of

In those days they were built of hewn logs, not unlike the "struc-

And Inn of Early Days

Street-Historian Arnold Traces History of Some of

the More Noted of The se Old Places Including the

"Black Horse," Mansion House and the Eagle Tav-

morist and literary figure, Samuel that popular novelist, it will for in the hotel, with the refreshing where, 40 years later, his funeral Beecher, who united Clemens and Langhorne Clemens, to whom it is years to come remind both visitors view out over old Wisner Park, one was held.

Located, as it is, in proximity to played in the history of Elmira.

FIRST TAVERN cated on what is now Sullivan Maxwell, in the directory

House was built. Mr. Maxwell also makes mention of the old "Black Horse Tavern," run by William Dunn, at the northeast corner of Water and Lake Streets, and which, with barns an sheds, occupied about 200 feet land between the corner and where Carroll Street now is. William Dunn died and his widow afterward married John Davis, who tended bar for Mr. Dunn. The tavern was from then on known as the John Davis tavern, and was an important stage stop in all directions from the village. The blast of the stage horn was a familiar sound announcing

the arrival or departure of the stage

Terminer being held at this partic-

The Kline House, run by John Kline, stood near the site of the present Madison Avenue bridge. Mr Kline also ran the "ferry" which did duty there in carrying passengers who wished to cross the river during the early days of the village's existence, and until the erection of the old wooden covered bridge at Lake Street, the first bridge to be built over the river in the village. Upon being hailed by a prospective "customer," his reply would be "Treckly! Treckly!," which meant 'directly," of course. The Kline House was honored in having as a guest, for about 10 days in 1797, Louis Philippe, who later became the citizen King of France.

MANSION HOUSE The old Mansion House stood on the south side of Water Street, a little east of Baldwin Street and was kept by Judge Bundy. It was a rambling, disjointed sort of a structure. The Masonic Lodge held its meetings there in 1828 at the time communications were suspended, due to the excitement caused by the Morgan trouble.

Hogan's tavern was a red, dilapidated looking building, situated on Water Street a little west of Baldwin Street, and was the headquarers for the Irishmen who helped to dig the Chemung Canal. These early taverns were prom-

inent places in the valley, where the villagers met, and swapped horses and yarns, and held, sometimes. heated discussions, and helped materialy to dispose of the liquid refreshments that were sure to be had at all times.

The tavern kept by Hawks and William Dunn stood on the north side of Water Street next to the anal. In the upper story of this building was held the first theatrical exhibition to be held in Elmira vil-Those who took part in the performance later on made their mark in the profession. The "or-chestra" consisted of a single vio-

The old Jerry Sullivan wooden tavern was a great rallying place and stood on the bank of the river just west of the railroad bridge. was another Mansion House, at the corner of Lake and Cross (now Market) Streets, run by "E. Jones," which was quite a respectable place and patronized by he better class of citizens. It was burned, while Silas Haight was proprietor. He rebuilt it and it was again burned. When it was erected the next time it fell into the hands

to the heart of From practically every window was married 60 years ago and Beecher, brother of Henry Ward and townspeople of the part Twain can see the Langdon home, diagon- On the west side of the park is 60 years ago.

> of Col. Samuel G. Hathaway, after pretty much of a wreck. The first of these taverns was lo- whom it was named. After its usefulness as a hotel was passed, it became the home of the Elmira Advertiser until it was destroyed on the night of Feb. 15, 1888. Still another of the same name was located at the northeast corner of Railroad ular place, before the old log Court | Avenue and East Second Street. EAGLE TAVERN

The old Eagle Tavern, a respect able hotel, and well known throughout this section of the country, was erected in 1833. The first landlords were Gamble & Hess. It was stroyed by fire Sept. 7, 1849. following year it was rebuilt by Mr. E. R. Brainard, the proprietor, and high winds. afterwards known as the Brainard House. Later it came into the possession of John T. Rathbun, who gave it his name, by which it is time, in fact, in 1850, one of the

merly the home of Judge Theodore needed. The Eagle Hotel was be-North and was located at the cor- ing rebuilt, and the Haight's Hotel ner of Water and Main Streets. It on the Mohican corner had been is said that during the Civil War, burned. It was at a time when the the members of a Michigan regi- New York & Erie Railroad had just ment picked up the bar and carried been completed as far as this vilit out and placed it on the sidewalk, because the landlord refused to nevertheless the Pattinson House cater to their demands. When they looked after them. got through with the hotel it was At the time of the dedication of

ally across the way, where Clemens, the statue of the Rev. Thomas K. Miss Olivia Langdon in marriage

> The old Elmira House was the hangout of farmers who visited the city from miles around, who came to do their trading and to market their products. It had commodius stables and hitching sheds attached, where teams could be fed and cared for, while the hotel was noted for its good meals, and the fine quality of its liquid refreshments. It was destroyed in the fire which started in its sheds, and which also consumed a goodly portion of Water Street, both sides, between Exchange Place (or Basin Street) and the railroad. This was on Mar. 24, 1874. It was a very cold night with

PATTINSON HOUSE The Pattinson House was at one leading hotels in Elmira, and at a The old Franklin House was for- time when a good hotel was sadly

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Grilles

lard Fillmore, and members of his can be called the called the spot can be called the ca Webster, the officers of the rail- John Carpenter kept the "Half at the same time, for any one occa-

Chemung House, located was an excellent haif-mile across the street from the Pattin- where first-class races were held, in son, catered somewhat to the city which well-known horsemen particitrade, but had a large patronage pated. from the farmers.

Another well-known hotel was the Tavern," nearby catered to West End which was patronized by weary traveler, fed the hungry, and farmers and horsemen for many regaled the thirsty with an excellent years. It lately passed like many brand of elderberry wine, or whatothers, the prey of the flames.

lin House at the corner of Main and turned to his old quarters, railroad.

MOUNTAIN HOUSE

old Mountain House, which kins Glen)." stood about a mile above Fitch's bridge near the "Frenchman's." It probably had a career equaled by cated just across Lake no other resort in this vicinity. At bridge, and is used now as a the beginning it is said to have ca- dence. In a part of it are the offices tered to the better class, and made of G. H. Cotton & Bro., and John Lowe and Mrs. Theodore Borden. a specialty of Sunday dinner par- Levy manufactures cigars in anties, and exclusive dances. The old other portion. hotel, however, drifted away from We came very near passing up the class which made it famous and the Old Homestead Hotel, which livan Dairymen's League local will became a resort somewhat question- before its hotel days was the home meet Wednesday with John Strange

the New York & Erie at Elmira, the able in character. It was torn down of the late Mrs. Harriet Arnot Rath-President of the United States, Mil- when the E., C. & W. Railway built bone. This was for many years

Uncle Dick Hetfield's "Elderberry ever else was required. Uncle Dick There were on the "Avenue," the was just the man to make the place Delavan House, which was opened famous-and it was famous-if you in 1853 as a Temperance Hotel, also don't believe it ask some of our the Frasier House, and nearby the older citizens. A reading notice American House on Third Street. | an old paper in 1850, says: "Summit Across the street from the Frank- Level Hotel-Mr. R. Hetfield has re-Water Streets stood the Washington two miles this side of Horse Heads Hotel near the bridge on the bank He has remodeled his former resiof the river. The Wyckoff House dence into a capacious and neat was also on Water Street above the hotel, and is now prepared to do 'justice' to his customers, in a style that can't be beat between this Some mention should be made of place and Jefferson City (now Wat-THIRD WARD HOTEL

The old Third Ward Hotel was l

It was a popular place for a great the young people on sleighride parties. It was burned some years ago, and later rebuilt.

In conclusion, the old Wilcox Driving Park and the Park Hotel, which still stands, near the south end of Walnut Street bridge, was a popular place shortly after the Civil War. Many fine races were held on the old track, and the splendid view, which was to be had from the ver-

means a complete story of the old taverns and hotels of the village of Newtown, later the village and city

SOCIETY MEETS TUESDAY

Mansfield, Mar. 23.—The Ladies Aid Society of the Baptist Church will meet in the church Tuesday afternoon. Hostesses will be Mrs. B. J. Rockwell, Mrs. Frank Reynolds, Mrs. Leon Baynes, Mrs. Verne Odell, Miss Nellie Bloom, Mrs. Wallace

LEAGUE TO MEET Mansfield, Mar. 23.—The East Sul-

nave it...

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Parking. ? Certainly.!

on the only cement surfaced parking area to be found in the city. The women will be pleasantly surprised with the simplified arrangement we have, that allows such easy driving in and out features.

To the Mark Twain Hotel—

We wish you sincere congratulations upon this, the opening day, and extend our best wishes for your future success.

ELMIRA ARMS CAR SERVICE

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