THE RESTAURANT ON POST ROAD

Leo Roy's Club in Norwood, Warwick, Rhode Island, 1935–1977

Club LeRoy · Alpine Village Hofbrau · Norwood Hofbrau · Norwood Country Club
Joe's Tavern · Little Hofbrau

A history of Leo R. Roy who built it and
Josef Wagner, who ran it

Compiled from Providence Journal and Evening Bulletin clippings, Warwick city directories and family records, 1933–2004 by Claude AI, edited by Patty Roy

Overview

Behind Leo Roy's house on the Post Road in the Norwood section of Warwick there once stood a three-story frame building with dance floors, banquet halls, a beer hall in the basement and room for a band. For about ten years it was one of the better-known night spots in Warwick. It went by several names, it made the front page more than once, and it burned in August 1945. Afterward a smaller tavern on the same lot carried on until the 1970s.

Leo Roy built and owned the place. For its first two years it was a Roy family business, Club LeRoy, with Leo's brothers Eugene and Napoleon named on the directory listing and liquor license. For most of its life after that it was run by Josef Wagner, a Bavarian immigrant who held the liquor license, booked the bands and lived in a small cottage at the back of the lot. Their stories are tied together, so this history follows both the Roys and Wagner.

What follows was pieced together from more than 160 newspaper clippings from *The Providence Journal* and *The Evening Bulletin*, mostly advertisements, license notices and news stories. It also draws on the 1938 and 1940–41 Warwick city directories and on Josef Wagner's draft card and naturalization papers. Newspapers record what was unusual: raids, fires, suspensions and lawsuits. They rarely record the ordinary nights of good food, polkas and wedding receptions that made up most of the club's life.

At a glance: the names of the place

1934–35: Leo Roy holds a license at the Wayside Inn, 1406 Post Road, Lincoln Park, then moves it to the rear of his property at 970 Post Road, Norwood.

1935: The club building goes up (per the 1945 fire reports).

1935–1937: *Club LeRoy*, a Roy family night club. Opening ads appeared in November 1935.

1937: *Alpine Village Hofbrau*. Grand opening in June; closed by November.

1938–1940: *Norwood Hofbrau*, with Josef Wagner as licensee.

1940–1945: *Norwood Country Club* (address now given as 1380 Post Road). Destroyed by fire August 19, 1945.

1946–1958: *Joe's Tavern*, a smaller place at the rear of 1380 Post Road.

1958–1976: *Little Hofbrau*, run by Josef Wagner and later his widow, Alice.

1976–1977: Sold to James R. Lamphere, who later moved the license to the Lampliter II at another Post Road address.

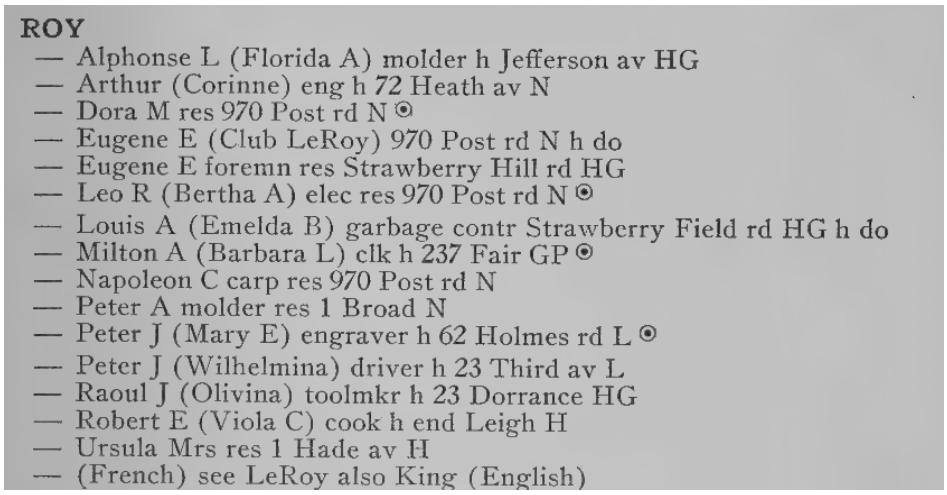
Where was it? A note on addresses

The early clippings put the club at 970 Post Road. From late 1940 on, the same property appears as 1380 Post Road. The Warwick city directories show that this was a renumbering of the Post

Road, not a move. In the 1938 directory, Leo and Bertha Roy, Leo's sister Dora, his brother Napoleon and Club LeRoy are all at 970 Post Road, Norwood. In the 1940–41 directory, Leo and Bertha, Dora and Napoleon are all at 1380 Post Road, and the Norwood Hofbrau is listed "off 1380 Post rd."

The street guides in the same directories explain the change. In 1938 the Post Road house numbers began at Warwick Avenue, and the cross streets near the Roys were Chestnut (opposite No. 910), Maple (No. 951) and Pine (No. 970). By 1940–41 the numbers began at Narragansett Parkway in Pawtuxet, and the same cross streets had moved up to about 1350: Ethan Street at 1292, then Chestnut, Maple at 1347 and Pine at 1369. On a modern map, 1380 Post Road is just south of Ethan Street, across the road from where Chestnut Street and Maple Street come in. The Roy home faced the Post Road, and the club stood "in a large lot behind the home," as the 1945 fire story put it.

One more puzzle is solved by the directories. The Post Road through Norwood was also called the Apponaug Road. A November 1935 Club LeRoy ad gives its address as "Apponaug Road, Norwood (5 miles straight out Elmwood Ave. on Route 1)." So when Eugene E. Roy is listed at "970 Apponaug Road" in a 1938 newspaper notice, that is the same address as the club.



ROY
— Alphonse L (Florida A) molder h Jefferson av HG
— Arthur (Corinne) eng h 72 Heath av N
— Dora M res 970 Post rd N ⊙
— Eugene E (Club LeRoy) 970 Post rd N h do
— Eugene E foremn res Strawberry Hill rd HG
— Leo R (Bertha A) elec res 970 Post rd N ⊙
— Louis A (Emelda B) garbage contr Strawberry Field rd HG h do
— Milton A (Barbara L) clk h 237 Fair GP ⊙
— Napoleon C carp res 970 Post rd N
— Peter A molder res 1 Broad N
— Peter J (Mary E) engraver h 62 Holmes rd L ⊙
— Peter J (Wilhelmina) driver h 23 Third av L
— Raoul J (Olivina) toolmkr h 23 Dorrance HG
— Robert E (Viola C) cook h end Leigh H
— Ursula Mrs res 1 Hade av H
— (French) see LeRoy also King (English)

The Roy family in Armstrong's Warwick and East Greenwich Directory, 1938, page 303. Dora, Eugene (Club LeRoy), Leo and Bertha, and Napoleon are all at 970 Post Road, Norwood. A small circled dot marks a home owner.

The Roy Family and the Wayside Inn (1933–1935)

Leo Roy's first appearance in these newspaper clippings is a liquor-license notice from September 1934. The Warwick Board of Police Commissioners listed a "Class B – Transfer" from Alfred Roy to Leo Roy, 1406 Post Road, Lincoln Park. Alfred was Leo's father, so this was a license passing from father to son. Prohibition had ended only in December 1933, and towns were issuing their first legal beverage licenses. A Class B license let a restaurant (a "victualler") serve beer, wine and liquor with meals.

The address 1406 Post Road was the Wayside Inn. In December 1933, a year before the transfer, the Wayside Inn made the papers when its 73-year-old caretaker, Andrew Belair, said a stranger had struck him over the head. By the next edition he had admitted that he had "imbibed too freely" of the inn's stock and hit his head on the handle of an ice box. The *Bulletin* announced that he had joined the "Baloney Club." The inn's owner at that time was named as Louis Bouchard. The newspaper clippings do not say how the Roys came to hold the license there. Under the old numbering, 1406 Post Road was near Minnesota Avenue in Lincoln Park, a short way south along the Post Road from the Roy home.

The Roys of Norwood

The 1938 city directory shows how closely the family lived and worked together. Alfred P. Roy, Leo's father, was a contractor who owned his home at 25 Chestnut Street, Norwood, with his wife Adeliska. Chestnut Street runs off the Post Road right across from Leo's property. Alfred died on August 10, 1938; the 1940–41 directory still lists him with the note "died August 10 1938."

Across the road, at 970 Post Road, lived Leo R. Roy (an electrician in 1938, a contractor by 1940) and his wife Bertha A., together with Leo's sister Dora M. Roy, who is also marked as a home owner, and his brother Napoleon C. Roy, a carpenter. Another brother, Eugene E. Roy, is listed with "Club LeRoy" at the same address. Brother Louis A. Roy (with his wife Emelda) was a garbage contractor and later excavating contractor on Strawberry Field Road in Hillsgrove; by 1940–41 Eugene lived with Louis at 317 Strawberry Field Road.

The Roy Farm and "Big Democrat"

The brothers also ran the Roy Farm on Strawberry Field Road in Hillsgrove, and it was known for its turkeys. In November 1933 it made the *Providence Journal*. The Roy brothers, Leo, Louis and Eugene, had picked a 23-pound Narragansett turkey from their flock of 500 and named him "Big Democrat." They shipped the live bird to President Franklin D. Roosevelt at Warm Springs, Georgia, for his Thanksgiving dinner. Leo, the paper noted, had met the President in Washington and wrote ahead to say the bird was coming. The President's secretary, Louis Howe, replied: "Send him on."



Narragansett Turkey Going to Roosevelt for Holiday Dinner

"Big Democrat," a 23-pound Narragansett turkey, is going to get a "New Deal" Thanksgiving Day that he little suspects. He will be sent to President Roosevelt for a holiday dinner.

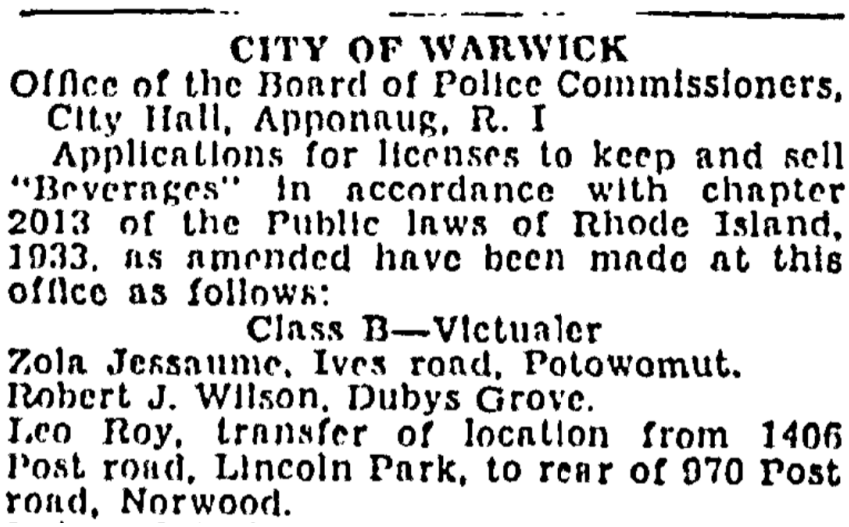
The live gobbler will be shipped today to the President at Warm Springs, Ga., by the Roy brothers, who conduct the Roy Farm, Strawberry Field road, Hillsgrove, today.

Two months ago the Roy brothers, Leo, Louis and Eugene, selected "Big Democrat" from a flock of 500.

Leo, who met the President at Washington, sent him a letter telling him the bird was coming. President Roosevelt's secretary, Mr. Howe, replied, saying: "Send him on."

The Providence Journal, November 23, 1933, page 3.

A family with a contractor, an electrician and a carpenter among its members was well equipped to put up a big building. The newspaper clippings do not say who built the club, but it is likely that the Roys did much of the work themselves.



CITY OF WARWICK

Office of the Board of Police Commissioners, City Hall, Apponaug, R. I

Applications for licenses to keep and sell "Beverages" in accordance with chapter 2013 of the Public laws of Rhode Island, 1933, as amended have been made at this office as follows:

Class B—Victualer

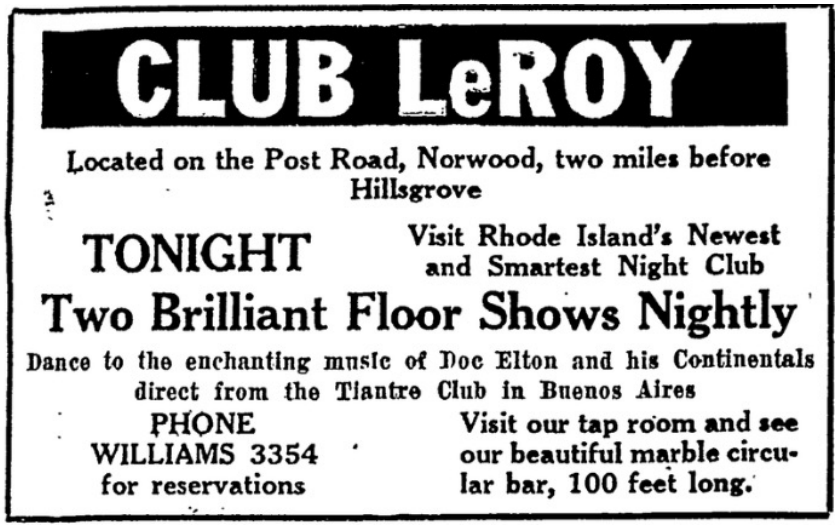
Zola Jessaume, Ives road, Potowomut.
Robert J. Wilson, Dubys Grove.
Leo Roy, transfer of location from 1406 Post road, Lincoln Park, to rear of 970 Post road, Norwood.

July 1935: Leo Roy asks to move his license from 1406 Post Road, Lincoln Park, to "rear of 970 Post road, Norwood." (The Providence Journal, July 6, 1935)

In July 1935 Leo Roy asked the board to transfer his license from 1406 Post Road to the rear of 970 Post Road, Norwood, which was his own property. This is the first sign of the new club. Ten years later, the reporters covering the fire wrote that the building was built in 1935. It was a three-story frame structure about 42 by 80 feet, with brick facing along the basement. Leo later said it represented "a large part of his life savings." It stood well back from the road on a large lot behind his house.

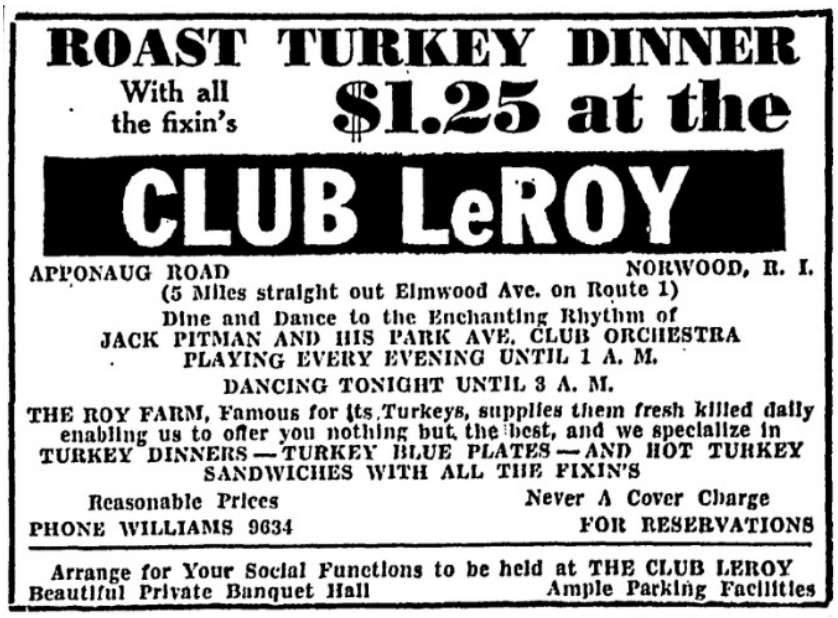
Club LeRoy (1935–1937)

The building's first name was the Roy family's own: Club LeRoy. (The directories note that "LeRoy" is the French form of the Roy name.) Advertisements in the *Evening Bulletin* in November 1935 invited readers to "Visit Rhode Island's Newest and Smartest Night Club," located "on the Post Road, Norwood, two miles before Hillsgrove." The club offered "two brilliant floor shows nightly" and dancing to Doc Elton and his Continentals, billed as coming "direct from" a club in Buenos Aires. The ads also boasted of a tap room with "our beautiful marble circular bar, 100 feet long."



Club LeRoy opening-season advertisement. (The Evening Bulletin, November 1, 1935)

Thanksgiving week of 1935 brought a roast turkey dinner "with all the fixin's" for $1.25. The ad explained where the birds came from: "The Roy Farm, famous for its turkeys, supplies them fresh killed daily," the same family farm on Strawberry Field Road that had sent "Big Democrat" to President Roosevelt two years before. The club could offer turkey dinners, turkey blue plates and hot turkey sandwiches. Music was by Jack Pitman and his Park Ave. Club Orchestra, playing every evening until 1 a.m. and until 3 a.m. on the holiday eve. The same bandleader, spelled Jack Pittman, would be back in the same building as the house band for Josef Wagner's Norwood Hofbrau in 1939–41. The ad also promoted a "beautiful private banquet hall," ample parking and "never a cover charge."



"The Roy Farm, famous for its turkeys." (The Evening Bulletin, November 27, 1935)

In 1936 the club kept up a lively calendar. In May it advertised dancing to Foster Lasher's Club LeRoy Orchestra (gentlemen 40¢, ladies 25¢), with Sunday baseball at "Club Le Roy Park" on the grounds. For the Fourth of July 1936 it offered dining, dancing and a bonfire and fireworks, a tradition Wagner carried on at the same spot in 1938 and 1939.

In May 1937 Napoleon Roy applied for the Class B license for Club LeRoy. The 1938 city directory, probably compiled in late 1937, lists "Club LeRoy (Eugene E Roy) restaurant 970 Post rd N" under both the Roy family and the restaurants. So by then the club was being run by Leo's brothers on Leo's land.

Club LeRoy's own story seems to end in the spring of 1937. By June the same building at 970 Post Road was advertising as the Alpine Village Hofbrau. When Josef Wagner was granted his license in May 1938, the *Evening Bulletin* described his place as "the former Club LeRoy at Lincoln Park," which confirms that the Hofbrau and Club LeRoy were the same building.

The name lingered on in the city's books. In February 1944 the Warwick tax collector won a small judgment of $48.65 against "Dora Roy, Club LeRoy, Norwood" in Fourth District Court, apparently for unpaid taxes. That suggests Dora had a financial stake in the club, though the newspaper clippings do not say what it was.

The Alpine Village Hofbrau (1937)

The building was relaunched in the summer of 1937 with a new German theme. Advertisements in both Providence papers announced the "Grand Opening" of the Alpine Village Hofbrau, "970 Post Road, Norwood, R.I. (Continuation of Elmwood Ave.)". The ads promised a "Genuine

German Kitchen," first-class liquors and wines, and "the Famous Lowenbrew Beer, Munich" on draught. There was no cover charge.



Grand Opening advertisement for the Alpine Village Hofbrau, summer 1937. (The Evening Bulletin, June 30, 1937)

The entertainment was pure Bavarian novelty: "The Baron and his Mother-in-law," and Fred Mueller, "the Master Yodeler," billed as an RCA Victor and NBC radio artist, with music by the Alpine Orchestra. Later ads called it "the breeziest spot on the hottest day," where patrons could "fill your steins to overflowing and sing the merry songs of yesteryear." The night before July 4th it stayed open until 3 a.m. That September it advertised for singing waiters and waitresses.

The Alpine Village Hofbrau did not last. By January 1938 the *Evening Bulletin* described the building as "the one-time Hofbrau, closed since last November." The newspaper clippings never name the operator of the Alpine Village Hofbrau. Because Napoleon Roy had applied for the Club LeRoy license only weeks before it opened, the Alpine Village Hofbrau may have been the Roys trying a new theme, or a tenant leasing the building. The record does not settle it.

The "strip-tease" raid of January 1938

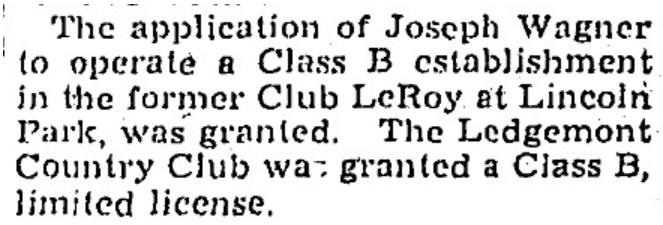
On a cold Friday night in January 1938, a Warwick patrolman noticed about twenty cars parked around the closed building. Police knocked and heard "masculine laughter and swing music" inside. A voice answered, "Get a warrant." The officers had no warrant, so they surrounded the building in the snow and waited. When the door finally opened, 42 men came out and were taken to headquarters in Apponaug. According to the *Evening Bulletin*'s tongue-in-cheek account, every one of them told the same story. Yes, there had been two strip-tease dancers and two tap dancers. Yes, there was an orchestra. Yes, beer and liquor were sold, and admission was

a dollar. Asked who ran the show, all 42 said: “Jimmy.” Nobody knew Jimmy’s last name, and the women were never found.

The next day the Police Commission revoked the victualling license for the Alpine Village Hofbrau and ruled that any future function there must have a police officer in attendance. The newspaper did not connect Leo Roy to the party. It appears to have been a private affair held in an empty building.

Josef Wagner and the Norwood Hofbrau (1938–1940)

In April 1938 a new name appeared on the license list: “Joseph Wagner, 970 Post Road, Norwood, ‘Hofbrau.’” This was the start of a relationship between Josef Wagner and Leo Roy’s property that lasted almost thirty years. On May 10, 1938, the Police Commission granted “the application of Joseph Wagner to operate a Class B establishment in the former Club LeRoy.”


The application of Joseph Wagner to operate a Class B establishment in the former Club LeRoy at Lincoln Park, was granted. The Ledgemont Country Club was granted a Class B, limited license.

The Evening Bulletin, May 11, 1938.

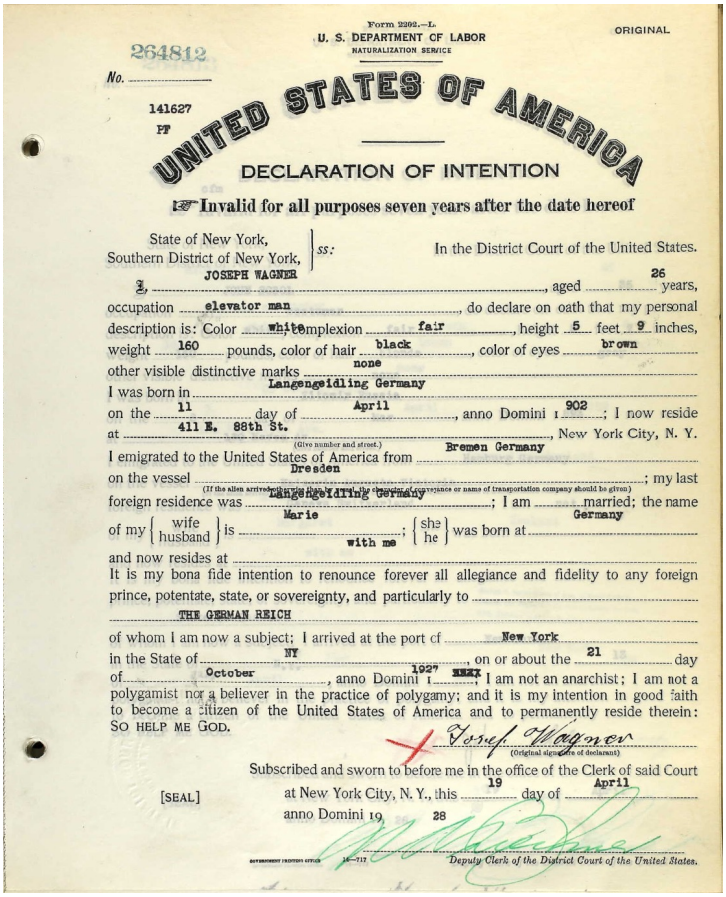
Who was Josef Wagner?

Wagner’s own papers fill in his early life. According to his declaration of intention to become a citizen, filed in federal court in New York City on April 19, 1928, Joseph Wagner was born on April 11, 1902, in Langengeisling, Germany, a village beside the town of Erding, about 20 miles northeast of Munich in Bavaria. (On his 1942 draft card he simply gave his birthplace as Munich.) He left Germany from Bremen on the North German Lloyd steamship *Dresden*, which sailed on October 11, 1927, and arrived in New York on October 21, 1927.

The ship’s passenger list adds more. Josef Wagner, 24, married, is listed with his wife Maria, 25, a housewife. His occupation appears to read “shoem.” (shoemaker). He gave his birthplace and last home as Langengeisling (spelled “Langengeiding” by the clerk), and his nearest relative in the old country as his father, Franz Wagner, of Langengeisling, Bavaria. He carried $50, said he intended to become a citizen, and gave his destination as Philadelphia, to a friend named Gustav Loewenstein. Their U.S. immigration visas had been issued at the American consulate in Stuttgart that September. (The manifest describes him as 5 feet 11 inches tall with blond hair, while his citizenship declaration a few months later says 5 feet 9 with black hair. Clerks often estimated these details, so small differences like this are common.)

Whether they ever lived in Philadelphia is not known. By April 1928 they were in New York City, where Josef, then 26, worked as an elevator man and lived at 411 East 88th Street in

Manhattan's Yorkville neighborhood. He was 5 feet 9 inches tall, weighed 160 pounds, and had black hair and brown eyes. He was married to Marie, who had come with him.



Form 2202.—L
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
NATURALIZATION SERVICE
ORIGINAL

No. 264812

141627
PF

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

DECLARATION OF INTENTION

☞ Invalid for all purposes seven years after the date hereof

State of New York, Southern District of New York, } ss:

In the District Court of the United States.

I, JOSEPH WAGNER, aged 26 years,
occupation elevator man, do declare on oath that my personal
description is: Color white; complexion fair, height 5 feet 9 inches,
weight 160 pounds, color of hair black, color of eyes brown
other visible distinctive marks none
I was born in Langengeidling Germany
on the 11 day of April, anno Domini 1902; I now reside
at 411 E. 88th St. (Give number and street.), New York City, N. Y.
I emigrated to the United States of America from Bremen Germany
on the vessel Dresden (If the alien arrived otherwise than by vessel, fill in the appropriate conveyance or name of transportation company should be given);
my last foreign residence was Langengeidling Germany; I am married; the name
of my { wife / husband } is Marie; { she / he } was born at Germany
and now resides at with me
It is my bona fide intention to renounce forever all allegiance and fidelity to any foreign
prince, potentate, state, or sovereignty, and particularly to
THE GERMAN REICH
of whom I am now a subject; I arrived at the port of New York
in the State of NY, on or about the 21 day
of October 1927, anno Domini 1928; I am not an anarchist; I am not a
polygamist nor a believer in the practice of polygamy; and it is my intention in good faith
to become a citizen of the United States of America and to permanently reside therein:
SO HELP ME GOD.

Joseph Wagner
(Original signature of declarant)

Subscribed and sworn to before me in the office of the Clerk of said Court
at New York City, N. Y., this 19 day of April
anno Domini 1928

[SEAL]

Deputy Clerk of the District Court of the United States.

Joseph Wagner's Declaration of Intention, U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York, April 19, 1928. (Ancestry.com)

His wife was Maria (Fichtl) Wagner, born in Germany on January 19, 1902, the daughter of Johann and Josefa (Matterer) Fichtl. When she died in 1949 her obituary said she had lived in Norwood for ten years, so the family seems to have moved from New York to Warwick around 1938–39, just as Josef took over the club. Wagner does not appear in the 1938 Warwick directory. The 1940–41 directory lists "Wagner Josef (Maria) (Norwood Hofbrau) off 1380 Post rd N h do," meaning the family lived at the club.

Wagner renamed the place the Norwood Hofbrau, and his early help-wanted ads asked for "entertaining waiters, also girl singers, German speaking preferred." He advertised almost every week, and the ads show a busy, cheerful, family-friendly place:

- "Real Bavarian Atmosphere" with Hans Oemig's eight-piece band; later Jack Borckman's Bavarian Orchestra and, through 1939–40, Jack Pittman and his Orchestra.
- "Coolest Spot in Rhode Island," with a mammoth bonfire the night before the Fourth and a full fireworks display on July 4th (1938 and 1939).

- Theme nights for Warwick's many communities: Swedish Night on Wednesdays (later Fridays) and Irish Night on Thursdays, "Let's sing it together—When Irish Eyes Are Smiling."
- Holiday dinners: a full-course Thanksgiving dinner for $1.00, an "old fashion German Christmas dinner," and a New Year's Eve gala at $3.00 per person, including a cocktail and a seven-course dinner. At that party, "colored moving pictures will be taken of the guests."
- A George Washington's Eve masquerade ball, a magician named Budd Bassi, and "The 3 Aces" (Eddie, Frankie and Harry) in songs, dances and comedy.
- A "Special Hall for Banquets, Weddings, Parties, etc." In January 1940 the Rhode Island State Firemen's League held its 50th annual meeting and dinner there.



Norwood Hofbrau advertisement for the Fourth of July, 1938: "Coolest Spot in Rhode Island," bonfire and fireworks. (The Evening Bulletin, July 2, 1938)

The new Rathskeller

In September 1939 the ads began inviting people to "Visit Our New Rathskeller." A *Ratskeller* is a traditional German beer hall in a cellar, so this was probably the basement level of the building. For about six weeks the *Bulletin* ads listed a different daily special, which gives a picture of the menu:

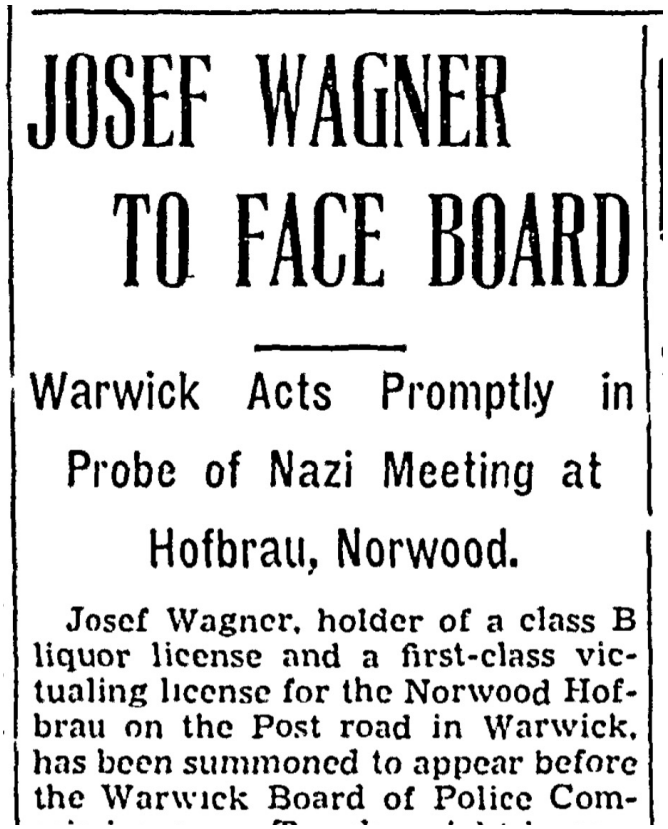
Day	Special (fall 1939)	Price
Monday	Knackwurst with sauerkraut and potato	50¢
Tuesday	Wienerschnitzel with potato salad and vegetable	60¢
Wednesday	Sauerbraten with red cabbage and potato dumpling	60¢
Thursday	Pigknuckles with sauerkraut and potato	45¢
Friday	Fillet of sole with cole slaw and potato	50¢
Saturday	Pot roast with red cabbage and potato pancakes	60¢

Those same ads introduced "Teddy Haxton, Our Tenor." The singer at the Hofbrau seems to have married the boss's daughter. In January 1942 Edward Hughes Haxton, a silverworker of 12 Taylor Street, Providence, took out a marriage license with Ursula Anna Wagner of 1380 Post Road, Josef's daughter, and they were married in Norwood that month. Josef named "Edward Haxsten, 10 Taylor St., Providence" as the person who would always know his address on his 1942 draft card. "Ted Haxton" was tending bar at Wagner's tavern in 1957. Ted is a nickname for Edward. Edward and Ursula were married for 62 years; he died in July 2004. The newspapers never say outright that the tenor and the son-in-law were the same man, but the name, the nickname and the family ties make it very likely.

May 1940: The Meeting That Made Headlines

The most serious episode in the club's history came on the night of Wednesday, May 22, 1940. It was a frightening moment in world events. Germany had invaded France and the Low Countries twelve days earlier, and Americans were anxious about "Fifth Columnists" working for Hitler inside the United States.

That night more than 200 German-speaking people gathered at the Norwood Hofbrau for what had been advertised as a benefit for the German Red Cross. The next day's *Evening Bulletin* reported that films of the German war machine were shown, "The West Wall" (about the Siegfried Line) and "In File," which included footage of Hitler among his troops. An American flag stood on one side of the screen and a Nazi banner on the other. Many in the crowd gave the Nazi salute and sang the German anthems. An attaché from the German consulate in Boston spoke, and money was collected for wounded German soldiers. The papers gave the amount variously as $385, $285 and $185. The reporter noted that "The Star Spangled Banner" was sung with "little power."



JOSEF WAGNER TO FACE BOARD

Warwick Acts Promptly in Probe of Nazi Meeting at Hofbrau, Norwood.

Josef Wagner, holder of a class B liquor license and a first-class victualing license for the Norwood Hofbrau on the Post road in Warwick, has been summoned to appear before the Warwick Board of Police Com-

The Evening Bulletin, May 24, 1940.

Mayor Albert P. Ruerat ordered an immediate investigation, and Wagner was summoned before the Police Commission. Police Chief William C. Kindelan reported that the meeting had been arranged by two German citizens living in the Providence area, Karl L. Steimple, 28, of Cranston, and Erwin Meister, 31, of Providence. They were acting for the Kyffhäuser Bund, a league of German war veterans. The chief said the two men had approached Wagner and made the arrangements, and that about 240 people attended, including the German vice-consul. Wagner told the chief that he was a naturalized American citizen who had received his final citizenship papers in New York City. His 1928 declaration of intention, filed in New York, is consistent with that. The chief also checked with the FBI and learned that similar meetings were being held openly at a Hofbrau in Boston, under federal surveillance.

On May 28, 1940, the commission suspended Wagner's license for one week. The official reason was narrow: he had shown motion pictures on two occasions without a permit. Wagner was not charged with any subversive activity. The commission added a public warning that it would "act immediately and vigorously" against any future meeting that threatened American neutrality. Two weeks later the World War Veterans of Warwick sent a letter commending the board and the chief.

Chief Kindelan made a prediction in his report: "Irrespective of the disposition by the Board… the respondent Josef Wagner is going to experience a large financial loss through a falling off of patronage." He had already received an angry postcard about the Hofbrau, and Wagner said he

had received a similar letter. The label stuck. When the building burned five years later, both newspapers recalled that it had once been "under investigation as a center of Nazi Bundist activities."

> *It is fair to note what the record does and does not show. Wagner hosted the meeting and was penalized for the films. The organizers were identified as two German nationals, not Wagner. The newspaper clippings contain no statement from Wagner about his own views.*

The Norwood Country Club (1940–1945)

By August 1940, only a few months later, the Hofbrau had a new name: the Norwood Country Club. The earliest newspaper clipping that uses it is a federal lawsuit, not an ad. The American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP) sued "Josef Wagner, doing business as the Norwood Country Club" for playing copyrighted songs, including "Baby Me," "Three Little Words" and "The Waltz You Saved for Me," without buying a license. ASCAP filed a series of these suits against Rhode Island night spots that summer. The neespaper clippings do not say why the name changed, but dropping "Hofbrau" so soon after the May headlines may not have been a coincidence.



Norwood Country Club advertisement, 1940–41: "2 Floors Now Open." (The Evening Bulletin)

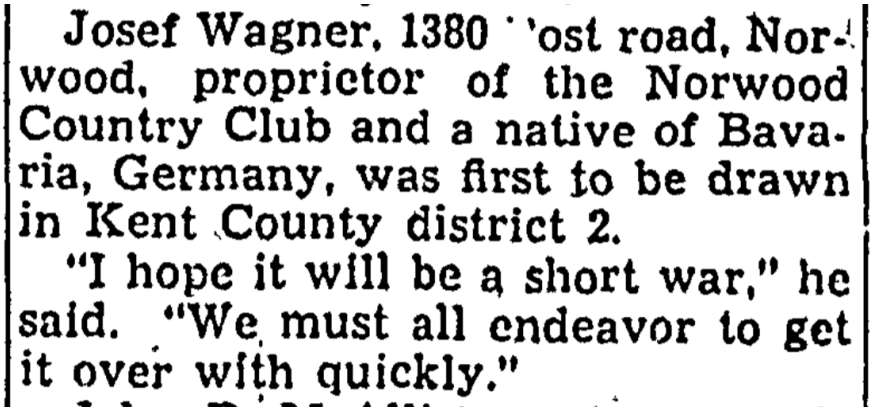
The new ads left out the German touches: "For a real good time, come to the Norwood Country Club… Dine & Dance, 2 Floors Open." Ralph Stuart's orchestra played in the fall of 1940, and Jack Pittman returned in 1941. The club held Hallowe'en parties and New Year's Eve celebrations ($2.00 minimum), and in the spring of 1941 it announced, "the opening of their

main dining room.” In January 1942 it tried a Mexican Night, with a $2.50 dinner of rum cocktail, filet mignon and hot tamale.

A curious episode came in the summer of 1941. In June the license was transferred from Josef Wagner to a Thomas R. Morrissey at the Norwood Country Club. In late August it was transferred back to Wagner. The newspaper clippings do not explain this. Who Morrissey was is still an open question.

The war years

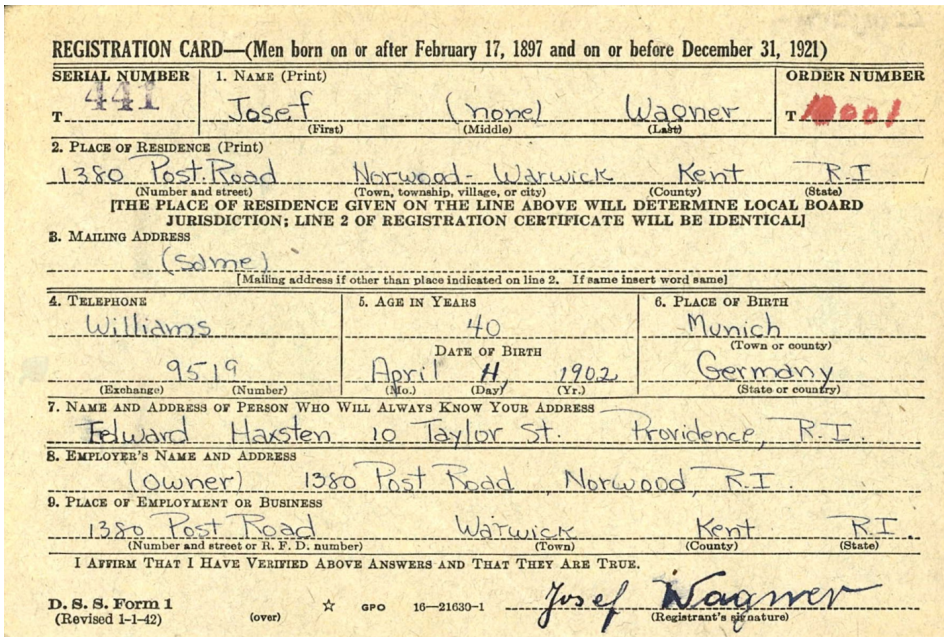
After Pearl Harbor, the United States held a new draft registration in February 1942 for men aged 20–21 and 35–44, followed by a lottery in March. The *Evening Bulletin* of March 18, 1942 reported that Josef Wagner, “proprietor of the Norwood Country Club and a native of Bavaria, Germany,” held the first number drawn in Kent County District 2:



Josef Wagner, 1380 'ost road, Nor-
wood, proprietor of the Norwood
Country Club and a native of Bava-
ria, Germany, was first to be drawn
in Kent County district 2.
"I hope it will be a short war," he
said. "We must all endeavor to get
it over with quickly."

The Evening Bulletin, March 18, 1942.

Wagner’s actual registration card survives. His serial number was 441, the number drawn first in the national lottery, and his order number was T-1, first in his local board. He gave his address and his business as 1380 Post Road, listed himself as “owner,” and gave the club’s telephone number, Williams 9519, the same number printed in every Norwood Hofbrau ad. He was 40 years old.



REGISTRATION CARD—(Men born on or after February 17, 1897 and on or before December 31, 1921)

SERIAL NUMBER T 441 | 1. NAME (Print): Josef (First) (none) (Middle) Wagner (Last) | ORDER NUMBER T 1001

2. PLACE OF RESIDENCE (Print): 1380 Post Road (Number and street) Norwood - Warwick (Town, township, village, or city) Kent (County) R.I (State)

[THE PLACE OF RESIDENCE GIVEN ON THE LINE ABOVE WILL DETERMINE LOCAL BOARD JURISDICTION; LINE 2 OF REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE WILL BE IDENTICAL]

3. MAILING ADDRESS: (Same)

[Mailing address if other than place indicated on line 2. If same insert word same]

4. TELEPHONE: Williams (Exchange) 9519 (Number)

5. AGE IN YEARS: 40

DATE OF BIRTH: April (Mo.) 11 (Day) 1902 (Yr.)

6. PLACE OF BIRTH: Munich (Town or county) Germany (State or country)

7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON WHO WILL ALWAYS KNOW YOUR ADDRESS: Edward Haxsten 10 Taylor St. Providence, R.I.

8. EMPLOYER'S NAME AND ADDRESS: (Owner) 1380 Post Road Norwood, R.I.

9. PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT OR BUSINESS: 1380 Post Road (Number and street or R. F. D. number) Warwick (Town) Kent (County) R.I. (State)

I AFFIRM THAT I HAVE VERIFIED ABOVE ANSWERS AND THAT THEY ARE TRUE.

D. S. S. Form 1 (Revised 1-1-42) (over) ☆ GPO 16—21630-1 Josef Wagner (Registrant's signature)

Josef Wagner's World War II draft registration card, 1942. (Ancestry.com)

> *I hope it will be a short war. We must all endeavor to get it over with quickly.* — Josef Wagner, 1942

Wartime brought closer rules for night spots. In June 1942 the Police Commission warned Wagner about staying open after hours. He explained that he had been serving food to a party of twelve personal guests, and police said no liquor was served. In December 1942 the city held up the licenses of eleven establishments, including the Norwood Country Club, over kitchen sanitation (mainly the lack of glass sterilizers). They reopened a few days later. That same month, after the Cocoanut Grove fire in Boston killed 492 people on November 28, 1942, Warwick set occupancy limits for every night club. The Norwood Country Club was allowed 150 patrons at a time.

The Fire of August 19, 1945

Japan had announced its surrender just days earlier. Early on Sunday morning, August 19, 1945, Rose Confreda of Post Road, Lincoln Park, saw flames and called in the alarm at about 3:50 a.m. The fire had started in the kitchen ell and had probably been burning for two hours. It went up two flights of stairs and a dumbwaiter shaft and then through the banquet halls on the second and third floors.



Firemen Battle Fire at Norwood Country Club

THE WELL KNOWN WARWICK NIGHT SPOT was virtually burned out early yesterday, causing damage estimated by the owner to reach $36,000. The flames spread from an ell kitchen through the 3-story frame structure, causing heavy loss to fixtures, stock and building.

"Firemen Battle Fire at Norwood Country Club." (The Evening Bulletin, Monday, August 20, 1945, page 3)

Chief Arthur H. Woolhouse of the Norwood fire company called in five companies (Norwood, Greenwood, Lakewood, Apponaug and Conimicut) with nine pieces of apparatus. Firemen laid about 6,000 feet of hose from hydrants on Ruggles Avenue and Maple Avenue, and Post Road traffic had to be detoured. The smoke rose 100 feet and could be seen across northern Warwick. Several hundred neighbors got out of bed and stood "scantily dressed, watching the fire." Just before 5 a.m. the west wall began to buckle and part of the roof fell in. Firemen carried 20 to 30 cases of liquor and two cash boxes out of the storeroom for Wagner.

The two men lost a great deal. Wagner, who lived in a small cottage behind the club, said he had put out the cooking fires at 11:30 p.m. and found nothing wrong on his last check at 1:30 a.m. He valued his fixtures, liquor and wine at $16,000 and had only $1,000 of insurance. Leo Roy said the building represented a large part of his life savings. He estimated it was worth $20,000 and

said he carried no fire insurance on it. Estimates of the total loss ranged from $15,000 to $36,000. It was Warwick's second major night-club fire in just over a year, after the Heigh-Ho Club in Lakewood in July 1944.

After the Fire: Joe's Tavern (1945–1958)

Wagner tried to start over elsewhere first. In October 1945 he asked the zoning board for permission to open a restaurant and café on Occupasstuxet Road in Hillsgrove, now known as Airport Road. Neighbors objected, and the state's aeronautics administrator warned that the building might interfere with plans for the State Airport, so the board unanimously said no. In December the city renewed his license for the Norwood Country Club on the condition that it take effect only after the police chief and the health department approved the remodeled building. In April 1946, Joseph Wagner, 1380 Post Road, took out a building permit for a $20,000 "dining establishment and bar" to replace the burned club.

Leo Roy was improving the property too. In July 1946 the zoning board granted Leo R. Roy, 1380 Post Road, an exception to build a 30-by-40-foot open-air terrace onto "the present cafe at this address."

What rose from the ashes was smaller. By late 1946 the license lists read "Josef Wagner, 'Joe's Tavern,' rear 1380 Post Road." The burned-out shell of the old club was never fully cleared away and stood behind Leo's house for years.

Changes in the Wagner family

On February 11, 1949, Josef's wife, Mrs. Maria (Fichtl) Wagner, died after a long illness at the age of 47. The family then lived at 386 Maple Avenue (later Maple Street), Norwood, just across the Post Road from the old club. She left her husband, two daughters (Miss Martha Wagner of Norwood, later Mrs. Guido "Billy" Candelmo, and Mrs. Edward Haxton, Ursula, of Edgewood), a son (Joseph Wagner Jr.), two grandchildren, two brothers (one in College Point, New York, and one in Germany) and two sisters in Germany. Her funeral was held from the J. F. Skeffington Chapel in Providence, with a solemn requiem Mass at St. William's Church in Norwood and burial in St. Ann's Cemetery, Cranston. Among the honorary bearers were Edward Haxton and William G. Candelmo.

The next year brought another loss. Martha Anne Haxton, Josef's granddaughter, died in October 1950 at the age of five. She too was buried in St. Ann's Cemetery.

Josef's children all stayed close to Warwick. His daughter Martha married Guido "Billy" Candelmo, probably a relative of the William G. Candelmo who was a bearer at her mother's funeral. She died in January 2005 at age 83, living on Spring Green Road in Warwick, survived by her daughter Virginia, her brother Joseph F. Wagner of Warwick and her sister Ursula Haxton of Cranston.

1952: Leo Roy sells to Josef Wagner

On May 27, 1952, a warranty deed was recorded from Leo R. Roy to Josef Wagner for "land, buildings and improvements, Post Road." The *Providence Journal* ran a photograph of the charred club with the headline "'Leaning Tower of Warwick' Seen About to Take the Plunge." The story called it "the old German Beer Garden in Norwood," said it had been condemned by the city in the winter of 1950, and reported that it had become known locally as the "leaning tower of Warwick."



Finally Coming Down is the charred remains of the old night club at the rear of the property of Leo Roy, 1380 Post Road, Norwood, which was destroyed by fire more than 10 years ago.
—State Staff Photo

The remains of the old club behind Leo Roy's home (The Providence Journal, May 29, 1952)

According to the article, Wagner bought 1.72 acres to the south and east of Roy's home for about $4,000 (based on the tax stamps). The parcel included his tavern. The deed required that the "tower" be torn down to the first-floor level. Wagner planned to roof over the first floor and move his tavern into it to make a larger restaurant. Leo Roy kept his house and a 50-foot right of

way along the entire southwest edge of the parcel. (The article says the fire was “more than ten years ago,” but it was actually about seven.)

A hard lesson in 1957

In February 1957 the Police Commission suspended the license of Joe’s Tavern for 17 days, including three weekends, after the bartender, Ted Haxton, admitted serving six young men aged 17 to 19. They had shown false identification cards. One of them later put his fist through a store window. Wagner had not been there that night. When told of the penalty, he said he “might as well forget the whole business and never open again.” He asked the board to “have a heart,” and mentioned his twenty years of operating in Warwick. The chairman praised Wagner and the bartender for their frankness but reminded him that the license was in his name. He also noted that Wagner’s wife was not on the license. A month later the license was transferred to Josef and Alice Wagner together, so by then Josef had remarried.

The Little Hofbrau (1958–1976)

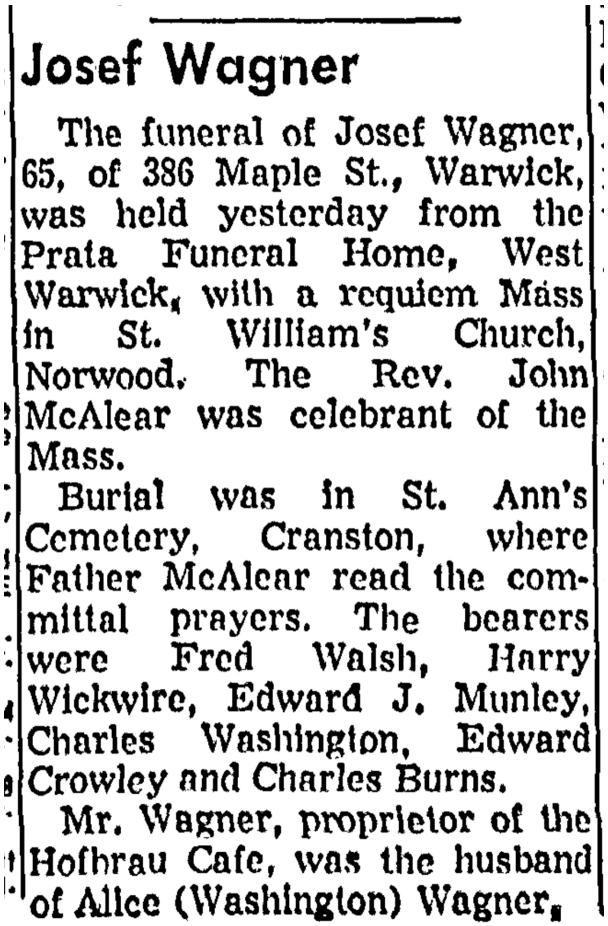
In November 1958 the license list shows a new name, the Little Hofbrau, “rear 1380 Post Rd.” The old Hofbrau name was back, on a smaller scale, and it stayed for almost twenty years. Josef and Alice Wagner renewed the license each year through the 1960s.

The neighborhood was changing. In June 1962 the Norwood Development Corporation, joined by neighbors including Alfred P. Roy of 1380 Post Road and Josef Wagner (by then listed at 1390 Post Road), petitioned to add 240 feet of frontage to a retail store on the east side of Post Road, for a total of 375 feet, with an expanded parking lot. In August 1962 a deed from Josef Wagner to the Norwood Development Corp. was recorded for land and buildings on Post Road. The Little Hofbrau kept operating. Later notices place it “rear Nyanza,” behind the Nyanza discount store. Alfred P. Roy was Leo’s son (named for his grandfather), so the Roy home at 1380 Post Road was still in the family in 1962.

Josef Wagner’s last years

In February 1967 Josef’s son, Joseph Francis Wagner, married Charlene Ann Beliveau at St. Peter’s Church, Warwick, with a reception at the Warwick Country Club. His niece Katherine Haxton, Ursula’s daughter, was one of the bridesmaids.

Josef Wagner died on January 2, 1968, at the age of 65. His funeral was held from the Prata Funeral Home in West Warwick, with a requiem Mass at St. William’s Church in Norwood and burial in St. Ann’s Cemetery, Cranston. The *Evening Bulletin* described him as the “proprietor of the Hofbrau Cafe.” In March 1968 the probate court appointed his widow, Alice E. Wagner, administrator of his estate.



Josef Wagner

The funeral of Josef Wagner, 65, of 386 Maple St., Warwick, was held yesterday from the Prata Funeral Home, West Warwick, with a requiem Mass in St. William's Church, Norwood. The Rev. John McAlear was celebrant of the Mass.

Burial was in St. Ann's Cemetery, Cranston, where Father McAlear read the committal prayers. The bearers were Fred Walsh, Harry Wickwire, Edward J. Munley, Charles Washington, Edward Crowley and Charles Burns.

Mr. Wagner, proprietor of the Hofbrau Cafe, was the husband of Alice (Washington) Wagner,

Funeral notice for Josef Wagner. (The Evening Bulletin, January 6, 1968)

Alice Wagner carries on

Alice kept the Little Hofbrau going for another eight years. The papers recorded the usual troubles of a small roadside bar. In 1965 thieves took a dozen bottles of whiskey and $8 from a beer stein. In December 1970 burglars took $55 in change from a cigar box and left four cases of liquor in the snow in the woods behind the building. There was a fight in the parking lot in 1975, and another break-in in 1976. There were friendlier notices too: in August 1975 the Rhode Island Motorcycle Association held a public meeting at the Little Hofbrau.

In July 1976 Alice applied to transfer the license from "Alice E. Wagner, d/b/a Little Hofbrau, 1380 Post Road" to James R. Lamphere "to do business under the same name and address." That was the end of the Wagner era at the site, almost forty years after Josef first applied for a license in 1938.

Epilogue

James R. Lamphere is listed at "1380 Rear Post Road" in late 1976. By July 1977 his license was being transferred to the Lampliter II, a rock club farther down Post Road (listed at 2907 and

later 2299 Post Road). The Lamphere family ran that club into the 1980s, and its last newspaper mention in this collection is from 1983. The Lampliter was a different building, though, so the story of the club behind Leo Roy's house ends with the Little Hofbrau.

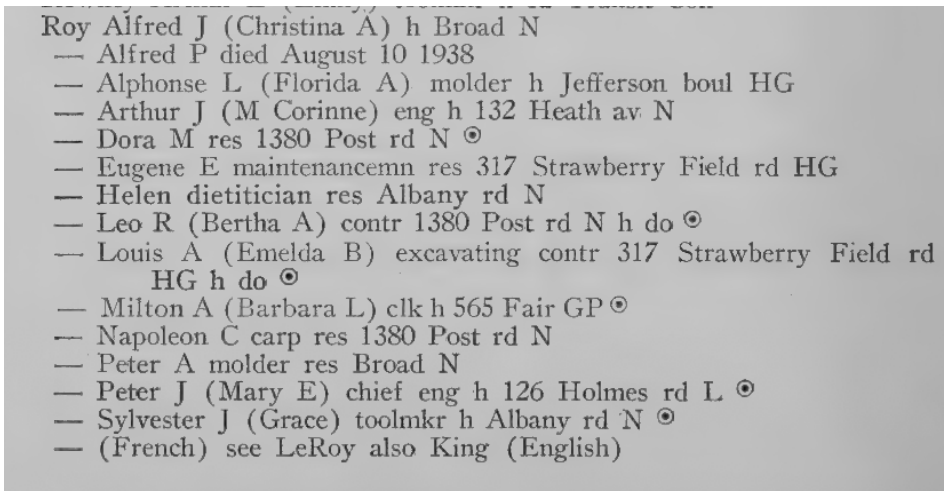
Alice E. (Washington) Wagner died on April 1, 1989, at age 80. Her obituary said she had been "owner of the former Little Hofbrau, Post Road, for 30 years before retiring 12 years ago." She was born in Warwick, the daughter of George and Martha Washington, and was survived by a daughter, Barbara Monteiro, a son, Amos DeBarros, six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Almost nothing of the old building remains in the record after 1952. What does remain is a picture of Leo Roy investing his savings in a grand three-story dance hall in 1935, and of the German immigrant who filled it with oompah bands, Irish Nights, wedding parties and Thanksgiving dinners. The two men lived through a headline-making scandal, a war and a fire, and they kept doing business together on the same piece of Norwood land until 1952. The small tavern that survived stayed open for another quarter century.

The Roy Family

These are the members of the Roy family who appear in this history, with what the clippings and directories say about each:

- **Alfred P. Roy** (died August 10, 1938). Leo's father. A contractor; home owner at 25 Chestnut Street, Norwood, with his wife Adeliska M. Transferred the Class B license at 1406 Post Road to Leo in 1934.
- **Leo R. Roy.** Licensee at 1406 Post Road, Lincoln Park (1934–35); builder and owner of the club property at 970 / 1380 Post Road, Norwood; electrician (1938) and contractor (1940–41); married to Bertha A.; on the Democratic slate in September 1940; built the open-air terrace addition in 1946; sold 1.72 acres, including the ruins and Joe's Tavern, to Josef Wagner in 1952 and kept his home and a right of way.
- **Bertha A. Roy.** Leo's wife; lived at 970 / 1380 Post Road.
- **Dora M. Roy.** Leo's sister; lived with Leo and Bertha and is marked as a home owner in both directories. Named in a 1944 tax judgment as "Dora Roy, Club LeRoy, Norwood."
- **Napoleon C. Roy.** Leo's brother; a carpenter living with Leo; applied for the Club LeRoy liquor license in May 1937.
- **Eugene E. Roy.** Leo's brother; listed as running Club LeRoy at 970 Post Road in the 1938 directory; warden for a Democratic caucus in September 1938; a maintenance man living at 317 Strawberry Field Road, Hillsgrove, in 1940–41.
- **Louis A. Roy.** Leo's brother; with Leo and Eugene, ran the Roy Farm on Strawberry Field Road, which sent the turkey "Big Democrat" to President Roosevelt in 1933; married to Emelda B.; garbage contractor (1938) and excavating contractor (1940–41) at 317 Strawberry Field Road, Hillsgrove.
- **Alfred P. Roy.** Leo's son; living at 1380 Post Road in 1962, when he joined the Norwood Development Corp. zoning petition with Josef Wagner.



Roy Alfred J (Christina A) h Broad N
— Alfred P died August 10 1938
— Alphonse L (Florida A) molder h Jefferson boul HG
— Arthur J (M Corinne) eng h 132 Heath av N
— Dora M res 1380 Post rd N ⊙
— Eugene E maintenancemn res 317 Strawberry Field rd HG
— Helen dietitician res Albany rd N
— Leo R (Bertha A) contr 1380 Post rd N h do ⊙
— Louis A (Emelda B) excavating contr 317 Strawberry Field rd HG h do ⊙
— Milton A (Barbara L) clk h 565 Fair GP ⊙
— Napoleon C carp res 1380 Post rd N
— Peter A molder res Broad N
— Peter J (Mary E) chief eng h 126 Holmes rd L ⊙
— Sylvester J (Grace) toolmkr h Albany rd N ⊙
— (French) see LeRoy also King (English)

The Roy family in Armstrong's Warwick City Directory, 1940–41, page 346. The same household appears at 1380 Post Road, and Alfred P. Roy is noted as having died August 10, 1938.

Timeline

Date	Event
Dec 1933	Wayside Inn, 1406 Post Road, Lincoln Park, makes the news ("Baloney Club").
Apr 11, 1902	Josef Wagner born in Langengeisling, Bavaria.
Oct 21, 1927	Josef and Maria Wagner arrive in New York from Bremen on the Dresden.
Nov 1933	Leo, Louis and Eugene Roy send the turkey “Big Democrat” to President Roosevelt.
Sept 1934	Class B license transferred from Alfred Roy to his son Leo, 1406 Post Road.
July 1935	Leo Roy moves his license to the rear of 970 Post Road, Norwood. The club building is built this year.
Nov 1935	Club LeRoy advertises as “Rhode Island’s Newest and Smartest Night Club.”
1936	Club LeRoy: dancing, Sunday baseball at Club Le Roy Park, Fourth of July fireworks.
May 1937	Napoleon Roy applies for the Club LeRoy license.
June 1937	Grand opening of the Alpine Village Hofbrau in the same building.
Nov 1937	Alpine Village Hofbrau closes.
Jan 1938	Police round up 42 men at an unlicensed “strip-tease” party; license revoked.
Apr–May 1938	Josef Wagner licensed in “the former Club LeRoy”: the Norwood Hofbrau.
Aug 10, 1938	Death of Alfred P. Roy, Leo’s father.
Sept 1939	The new Rathskeller opens.
May 22, 1940	German war films shown at a Kyffhäuser Bund meeting; license suspended one week (May 29).
Aug 1940	First mention of the Norwood Country Club (ASCAP lawsuit).
1940	Post Road renumbered: 970 becomes 1380.
June–Aug 1941	License transferred to Thomas R. Morrissey, then back to Wagner.
Jan 1942	Ursula Wagner marries Edward H. Haxton.
Mar 1942	Wagner draws the first draft number in Kent County District 2.
Feb 1944	Tax judgment against Dora Roy, Club LeRoy.
Dec 1942	After the Cocoanut Grove fire, the club is limited to 150 patrons.
Aug 19, 1945	Fire guts the Norwood Country Club. Leo Roy had no insurance on the building.
Apr–July 1946	$20,000 replacement dining room and bar permitted; Leo Roy granted an open-air terrace.
1946	Joe’s Tavern, rear 1380 Post Road.
Feb 11, 1949	Death of Maria (Fichtl) Wagner.
May 1952	Leo R. Roy sells 1.72 acres to Josef Wagner; the “Leaning Tower of Warwick” is to come down.

Date	Event
Feb–Mar 1957	17-day suspension for serving minors; license put in the names of Josef and Alice Wagner.
Nov 1958	First mention of the Little Hofbrau.
1962	Norwood Development Corp. retail expansion; Wagner deeds Post Road land to the corporation.
Jan 2, 1968	Death of Josef Wagner, age 65.
July 1976	Alice Wagner transfers the Little Hofbrau license to James R. Lamphere.
1977–1983	Lamphere moves on to the Lampliter II elsewhere on Post Road.
Apr 1, 1989	Death of Alice E. Wagner, age 80.
Jan 2005	Death of Martha (Wagner) Candelmo, age 83.

Sources

Newspaper clippings

The Providence Journal, Thursday, Nov. 23, 1933, p. 3 — "Narragansett Turkey Going to Roosevelt for Holiday Dinner" – the Roy Farm

The Providence Journal, Friday, Dec. 8, 1933, p. 19 — "Holdup Man Beats Caretaker at Inn" – Wayside Inn, 1406 Post Road, Lincoln Park

The Evening Bulletin, Monday, Dec. 18, 1933 — "Caretaker at Inn Joins 'Baloney Club'" – follow-up on the Wayside Inn story

The Providence Journal, Saturday, Sept. 22, 1934, p. 17 — Class B license transfer, Alfred Roy to Leo Roy, 1406 Post Road, Lincoln Park

The Providence Journal, Saturday, July 6, 1935, p. 19 — Leo Roy license moved from 1406 Post Road, Lincoln Park, to rear of 970 Post Road, Norwood

The Evening Bulletin, Friday, Nov. 1, 1935, p. 31 — Club LeRoy advertisement – "Rhode Island's Newest and Smartest Night Club"

The Evening Bulletin, Wednesday, Nov. 27, 1935, p. 21 — Club LeRoy roast turkey dinner advertisement – "The Roy Farm"

The Evening Bulletin, Saturday, May 2, 1936, p. 8 — Club LeRoy advertisement – Foster Lasher's orchestra, Club Le Roy Park baseball

The Evening Bulletin, Friday, July 3, 1936, p. 20 — Club LeRoy advertisement – bonfire and fireworks

The Providence Journal, Monday, May 17, 1937, p. 17 — License application – Napoleon Roy, Club LeRoy

The Providence Sunday Journal, June 27, 1937, p. 13 — Alpine Village Hofbrau advertisement

The Evening Bulletin, Wednesday, June 30, 1937, p. 27 — Alpine Village Hofbrau "Grand Opening" advertisement

The Providence Journal, Wednesday, June 30, 1937, p. 10 — Alpine Village Hofbrau "Grand Opening" advertisement

The Providence Sunday Journal, July 4, 1937, p. 4 — Alpine Village Hofbrau Fourth of July advertisement

The Evening Bulletin, Tuesday, July 13, 1937, p. 15 (also July 14–17, 23, 24) — Alpine Village Hofbrau advertisement – "The Baron and his Mother-in-Law"

The Evening Bulletin, Wednesday, July 28, 1937, p. 26 — Alpine Village Hofbrau advertisement – Fred Mueller, yodeler

The Evening Bulletin, Wednesday, Sept. 29, 1937, p. 37 — Help wanted: singing waiters and waitresses, Alpine Village Hofbrau

The Evening Bulletin, Saturday, Jan. 15, 1938, pp. 1–2 — "'Strip-Tease' Girls Perform as Warwick Police Cool Off" – raid on the closed Hofbrau

The Providence Sunday Journal, Jan. 16, 1938, p. 19 — "License Revoked" – Alpine Village Hofbrau

The Providence Journal, Friday, April 22, 1938, p. 28 — License application, Joseph Wagner, 970 Post Road, "Hofbrau"

The Evening Bulletin, Wednesday, May 11, 1938, p. 3 — Joseph Wagner granted Class B license "in the former Club LeRoy"

The Providence Journal, Wednesday, May 4, 1938, p. 23 — Help wanted, Norwood Hofbrau – German speaking preferred

The Providence Sunday Journal, May 22, 1938, p. 40 — Norwood Hofbrau advertisement – Hans Oemig's band

The Evening Bulletin, July 2 and July 9, 1938; Aug. 31, Sept. 2, Sept. 17, 1938 — Norwood Hofbrau advertisements – bonfire, fireworks, Swedish Night, "Seppl and Mirzl"

The Evening Bulletin, Wednesday, Sept. 21, 1938, p. 3 — "Democrat Caucus Officials Chosen" – Eugene E. Roy of 970 Apponaug Road

The Evening Bulletin, Oct. 15, 20, 27, 31; Nov. 22, 29; Dec. 10, 24, 30, 1938 — Norwood Hofbrau advertisements – Irish Night, Hallowe'en, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's

The Providence Journal, Thursday, Nov. 24, 1938, p. 38 — Norwood Hofbrau Thanksgiving dinner advertisement

The Evening Bulletin, Feb. 21, Mar. 11, May 17, May 19, July 3, 1939 — Norwood Hofbrau advertisements – masquerade ball, magician, Jack Pittman orchestra, July 4th

The Providence Sunday Journal, April 30, 1939, p. 40; The Providence Journal, May 1, 1939, p. 78 — Norwood Hofbrau Sunday dinner advertisements

The Evening Bulletin, Sept. 22 – Nov. 3, 1939 (about 20 issues) — "Visit Our New Rathskeller" advertisements with daily specials

The Evening Bulletin, Wednesday, Nov. 1, 1939, p. 3; The Providence Journal, Nov. 7, 1939, p. 22; The Evening Bulletin, Nov. 29, 1939, p. 3 — License lists – Josef Wagner, Norwood Hofbrau, 970 Post Road

The Providence Sunday Journal, Jan. 7, 1940, p. 57; The Evening Bulletin, Jan. 9, 1940, p. 28 — R.I. State Firemen's League annual meeting at the Norwood Hofbrau

The Evening Bulletin, Saturday, April 20, 1940, p. 16 — Norwood Hofbrau advertisement – The 3 Aces

The Evening Bulletin, Thursday, May 23, 1940, p. 13 — "Group Applauds Nazi War Film at Warwick Meeting"

The Evening Bulletin, Friday, May 24, 1940, p. 32 — "Josef Wagner to Face Board"

The Evening Bulletin, Wednesday, May 29, 1940, p. 24 — "Says Bund Pair Backed Nazi Show"

The Providence Journal, Wednesday, May 29, 1940, pp. 1 and 12 — "German Subjects Arranged Meeting" / "Meeting Traced to Two Germans"

The Providence Journal, Wednesday, May 29, 1940, p. 2 — "Three Dine, Dance Places Penalized"

The Evening Bulletin, Wednesday, June 12, 1940, p. 3 — "Warwick Board Obtains Praise" – veterans commend action against the Hofbrau

The Evening Bulletin, Thursday, Aug. 1, 1940, p. 37 — "Exam by Court Doctor Ordered" – ASCAP suit names Josef Wagner, Norwood Country Club

The Providence Journal, Friday, Aug. 2, 1940, p. 15 — ASCAP suits against Norwood Country Club

The Providence Sunday Journal, Sept. 8, 1940, p. 4 — "Lone Democratic Slate is Filed" – Leo Roy of 970 Post Road

The Evening Bulletin, Sept. 14, Sept. 28, Oct. 5, Oct. 19, Oct. 30, Oct. 31, Dec. 30, 1940 — Norwood Country Club advertisements

The Providence Journal, Friday, Nov. 8, 1940, p. 16 (repeated Nov. 22, 1940, p. 18) — License application – Josef Wagner, "Norwood Country Club," 1380 Post Road

The Evening Bulletin, Tuesday, Dec. 24, 1940, p. 29 — Sixth District Court – Alexander R. Fritz, Inc. vs. Josef Wagner, d.b.a. Norwood Hofbrau

The Evening Bulletin, April 26, 1940 [1941?], p. 25; Mar. 15, 1941; May 22, 1941 — Norwood Country Club advertisements – main dining room opening

The Providence Journal, Friday, June 6, 1941, p. 16; The Evening Bulletin, June 25, 1941, p. 3 — License transfer, Josef Wagner to Thomas R. Morrissey

The Evening Bulletin, June 7, 1941, p. 25; July 2, 1941, p. 31 — Norwood Country Club advertisements – season's opening, Fourth of July bonfire

The Evening Bulletin, Wednesday, Aug. 27, 1941, p. 3 — "Liquor License Action Delayed" – license transferred back from Morrissey to Wagner

The Evening Bulletin, Wednesday, Nov. 26, 1941, p. 3 — "Warwick Grants 72 Applications" – Norwood Country Club

The Evening Bulletin, Dec. 30, 1941, p. 19; Jan. 21, 1942, p. 29; The Providence Journal, Jan. 21, 1942, p. 12 — New Year's and "Mexican Night" advertisements

The Evening Bulletin, Tuesday, Jan. 20, 1942, p. 31 — Marriage licenses – Edward Hughes Haxton and Ursula Anna Wagner

The Evening Bulletin, Tuesday, Jan. 27, 1942, p. 2 — "Marriage Recorded" – Edward A. [H.] Haxton and Ursula A. Wagner

The Evening Bulletin, Wednesday, Mar. 18, 1942, p. 25 — "Veterans, Youths Draw First Number in Draft" – Josef Wagner

The Evening Bulletin, Friday, June 26, 1942, p. 4 — "Low Pay Causes Warwick Patrolman to Leave Force" – Wagner cautioned about hours

The Evening Bulletin, Tuesday, Dec. 1, 1942, p. 3 — "Warwick Police Board Holds Up 11 Licenses"

The Evening Bulletin, Friday, Dec. 4, 1942, p. 3 — "10 Warwick Cafes Obtain Licenses"

The Evening Bulletin, Saturday, Dec. 19, 1942, pp. 3 and 20 — "Over-Crowding Stopped at Warwick's Night Spots" – capacity limits

The Evening Bulletin, Monday, Dec. 28, 1942, p. 23 — Norwood Country Club New Year's Eve advertisement

The Evening Bulletin, Wednesday, Feb. 16, 1944, p. 3 — Fourth District Court – Warwick tax collector vs. Dora Roy, Club LeRoy

The Providence Journal, Monday, Aug. 20, 1945, pp. 1 and 7 — "Club in Norwood Damaged by Fire"

The Evening Bulletin, Monday, Aug. 20, 1945, p. 16 (Pawtuxet Valley page; file labeled "Aug 8 1945 page3") and p. 5 — "Norwood Country Club Is Destroyed by Blaze" with photograph

The Evening Bulletin, Monday, Aug. 20, 1945, p. 22 — "Blaze Damages Norwood Club"

The Evening Bulletin, Thursday, Oct. 11, 1945, p. 3 — Zoning board denies Wagner petition for Hillsgrove site

The Providence Journal, Tuesday, Dec. 11, 1945, p. 2 — Norwood Country Club license renewed pending remodeling

The Providence Sunday Journal, April 14, 1946, p. 62 — "38 New Dwellings Swell Volume of Building Work" – $20,000 dining establishment to replace the club

The Providence Journal, Monday, June 24, 1946, p. 13 — License application – Josef Wagner, rear 1380 Post Road

The Providence Journal, Tuesday, July 2, 1946, p. 4; The Evening Bulletin, July 2, 1946, p. 3 — Zoning notice and "Zoning Body Sits July 10" – Leo R. Roy, open-air terrace

The Evening Bulletin, Thursday, July 11, 1946, p. 3 — "Stone Crusher Petition Is Denied in Warwick" – Leo R. Roy terrace granted

The Providence Journal, Saturday, July 20, 1946, p. 2 — License renewal – Joseph Wagner, Norwood Country Club

The Evening Bulletin, Oct. 29, 1946, p. 3; Nov. 12, 1946 — License lists – Josef Wagner, "Joe's Tavern," rear 1380 Post Road

The Evening Bulletin, Friday, April 16, 1948, p. 4 — "Released in $1000 Bail" – break at Joe's Tavern

The Evening Bulletin, Saturday, Feb. 12, 1949, p. 12 — Obituary – Mrs. Joseph (Maria) Wagner

The Evening Bulletin, Monday, Feb. 14, 1949, p. 3 — Funeral – Mrs. Maria Wagner

The Providence Journal, Tuesday, Feb. 15, 1949, p. 3 — Funeral of Mrs. Maria (Fichl) Wagner

The Evening Bulletin, Wednesday, Oct. 18, 1950, p. 46 — Obituary – Martha A. Haxton

The Evening Bulletin, Wednesday, May 28, 1952, p. 2 — Warranty deeds – Leo R. Roy to Josef Wagner

The Providence Journal, Thursday, May 29, 1952, p. 3 — "'Leaning Tower of Warwick' Seen About to Take the Plunge" with photograph

The Evening Bulletin, Monday, Nov. 26, 1956 — License list – Josef Wagner (Joe's Tavern)

The Evening Bulletin, Saturday, Feb. 9, 1957, p. 2 — "Joe's Tavern Draws 17-Day Suspension"

The Providence Journal, Saturday, Feb. 9, 1957, p. 15 — "Warwick Tavern Gets Suspension"

The Evening Bulletin, Thursday, Mar. 14, 1957, p. 50 — License transfer, Joseph Wagner to Josef and Alice Wagner

The Evening Bulletin, Nov. 17, 1958, p. 34; Nov. 9, 1959, p. 3; Nov. 6, 1961, p. 3; Oct. 29, 1962, p. 3; Oct. 28, 1964, p. 37; Oct. 26, 1966, p. 44; Oct. 18, 1967, p. 76 — License lists – Little Hofbrau (first mention 1958)

The Evening Bulletin, Tuesday, May 29, 1962, p. 3 — Auto collision – Josef Wagner, 60, of 386 Maple St.

The Providence Journal, Friday, June 22, 1962, p. 49; The Evening Bulletin, June 25, 1962, p. 3 — Zoning – Norwood Development Corp., Alfred P. Roy and Josef Wagner

The Evening Bulletin, Tuesday, Aug. 21, 1962, p. 3 — Warranty deeds – Josef Wagner to Norwood Development Corp.

The Evening Bulletin, Tuesday, Mar. 16, 1965, p. 2 — Break at the Little Hofbrau

The Evening Bulletin, Tuesday, Jan. 3, 1967, p. 3; The Providence Sunday Journal, Feb. 5, 1967 — Engagement and wedding of Joseph F. Wagner and Charlene A. Beliveau

The Evening Bulletin, Tuesday, Jan. 2, 1968, p. 24 — Death notice – Josef Wagner

The Evening Bulletin, Saturday, Jan. 6, 1968, p. 5 — Funeral – Josef Wagner

The Evening Bulletin, Friday, Mar. 29, 1968 — Warwick Probate Court – Estate of Josef Wagner

The Evening Bulletin, Monday, Dec. 28, 1970, p. 3 — "Thieves Take $55" – Little Hofbrau

The Evening Bulletin, Tuesday, June 20, 1975, p. 3 — "Two Men Deny Assault in Incident at Restaurant"

The Providence Journal, Monday, Aug. 18, 1975, p. 27 — Meeting notice at the Little Hofbrau, "rear Nyanza"

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The Evening Bulletin, Friday, July 2, 1976, p. 11 — License transfer, Alice E. Wagner to James R. Lamphere

The Providence Journal, Wednesday, Oct. 27, 1976 — License list – James R. Lamphere, 1380 Rear Post Road

The Providence Journal, Friday, July 22, 1977, p. 33 — License transfer to Lampliter II

The Evening Bulletin, Thursday, Sept. 25, 1980, pp. 4 and 6 — "Board Tells Nightclub to Hire Off-Duty Cop" – Lampliter II

The Providence Journal, Friday, May 6, 1983, p. 57 — Last newspaper mention of the Lampliter II

The Providence Journal, Monday, April 3, 1989, p. 5 — Obituary – Alice E. Wagner

The Providence Journal, Tuesday, April 4, 1989, p. 50 — Death notice – Alice E. (Washington) Wagner

The Providence Journal, Tuesday, July 20, 2004, p. 77 — Death notice – Edward H. Haxton

The Providence Journal, Monday, Jan. 31, 2005, p. 8 — Death notice – Martha (Wagner) Candelmo

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