

## Spotlight:

# Shelly's Echo Inn

If you put a pin into the epicenter of a map of Carver, it would probably point directly at Shelly's Echo Inn. It rightfully sits at the heart of the community as its longest continually operating tavern, strategically placed at the northwest corner of the Carver bridge.

It began somewhat informally as a roadside stand to serve food and spirits to the local loggers. Stories say that when trains came by, workers at the stand would hand food up to the train cars on poles from their original location below the trestle. Historic documents date the establishment all the way back to 1922.

Whether it was the spirits or the food, the fledgling enterprise met a real need and went from a seasonal roadside stand to a full-time business in just a few years. It has operated continuously since 1924, with occasional

updates over the years to the building that was erected over the original train trestle.

The restaurant is named for its founder. The Echo Inn lunch room in Carver was established by Paul and Echo Mumpower. Paul was a grandson of pioneers Joseph and Julia Hattan Mumpower, who moved to the area in the 1880s and became one of the most prominent families in the community. Julia was Jane Hattan Baker's daughter, stepdaughter of Horace Baker.

Over time, new owners took over the business. It changed hands twice before "Mac" (who owned it for 29 years) expanded the menu to include pre-made cold sand-

wiches. The next owner, Sam, added canned chili, hot dogs and burgers. In 1986, Sam's daughter Shelly took over the business and



*Echo Larkin Mumpower*



*You've discovered  
the best food in  
Carver!*



**1920***Photo courtesy of Ada Durig***1923***CCHS***1947***Photo by Mr. Pix***2022**

brought true home style cooking to Carver.

The comfort-food menu at the bar and grill today is varied, with breakfast, lunch and dinner options — many featuring Shelly's own recipes — to satisfy hungry appetites. Dinner specials range from ribs to steaks to seafood to seriously juicy plump hamburgers. (Check the facebook page at [shellysechoinn.com](https://www.facebook.com/shellysechoinn) to see the current specials.) The kitchen is small, but the quality of the ingredients is outstanding. In fact, it may be Carver's best-kept secret!

The setting is snug, informal, and friendly. An outdoor seating area is covered and heated. It's a rub-shoulders-with-your-neighbor hangout where the staff know their repeat customers and welcome new faces to join the crowd.

### ◀ Echo Inn through the years

**1920** — the bottles of 'refreshments' on the counter display what probably gave the Echo Inn its title!

**1923** — The Echo Inn lunch room in Carver in its initial years of operation. No longer a roadside stand, it's on a firm foundation now. Check out those snazzy automobiles!

**1947** — As from its beginning, the name is boldly painted on the building's new roof; an apartment has been added beside the building, which was owned then by Elmer Pileggi.

**2022** — The adjacent apartment is gone, but a deck is built onto the left side of the building, and today's visitors have more food, beverage and seating options than ever.