



Google Street View

Dew Drop Inn

105 B Street, Anderson, AK (907) 582-2856

64°20'38"N 149°11'24"W

License Issued: August 5, 1970 to Neal and Jeannette Witte

CLOSED 2020

Amenities: Pool table, TVs, juke box, food, liquor store

Web site: None.

History and Notoriety: There are many establishments in the world called the Dew Drop Inn. This bar in Anderson is the only one in Alaska that currently uses the name. It is also the only bar in Alaska that has a seven-foot-tall image of an ice cream cone on the front of the building.

In 1961, Art Anderson subdivided his eighty-acre homestead into quarter-acre lots and began selling them, primarily to men working at the Clear Missile Early Warning Site. Art was a businessman from Fairbanks who bought the Buffalo Lodge in Delta Junction that same year. The town of Anderson was incorporated in 1962 and by 1970 enough people lived here to justify having a bar and liquor store.

Neal Witte was born in 1933 in Minnesota. Jeannette was born in 1938, also in Minnesota. They married in 1954 and moved to Alaska in 1957, where Neil worked at the gold mine in Ester and then the Air Force Station at Clear. They moved to Anderson in 1962 and decided to open their own Dew Drop Inn in a single rectangular white building that was previously the battery shop at the Clear Air Force Station. They moved the building five miles to Anderson in 1970, and the bar opened in the spring of 1971. They eventually expanded the building on both sides and added a restaurant in 1990.

In 1975, *Esquire* magazine did a story on fifteen restaurants in the U.S. that shared the Dew Drop Inn name. The Dew Drop in Anderson was noted as the furthest north of all the establishments.

The biggest event of the year in Anderson is the Bluegrass and Country Music Festival, held in July, which typically draws the type of crowd that would make a “Dead Head” (a fan of the Grateful Dead rock band) feel right at home. In 2012, approximately three-thousand revelers converged on the Anderson Riverside Park to camp, eat, party, and jam. The festival continues to this day, and folks who want to take a break typically head to the Dew Drop to have drinks and maybe some ice cream.

Jeannette Witte told me that notable visitors to the Dew Drop Inn include Governor Bill Egan, Senator Frank Murkowski, and Senator Nick Begich Sr.

Visiting the Dew Drop Inn: The Dew Drop Inn is the unofficial social center of Anderson. The bar is open Tuesday – Saturday and is closed in the winter months.

Author’s Note: Neal Witte passed away in January 2018. Jeannette Witte passed away in October 2019. The liquor licenses were transferred to the City of Anderson and Denali Borough in 2020. The bar has not reopened.



THIRD LIFE—The top story of Jeannette and Neil Witte’s Anderson home is living its third life. After being moved from Clear Air Force Station, the former government building was part of Anderson High School. The Wittes also have added a garage and a rear deck.

Jean Murray/News-Miner

Fairbanks Daily News Miner – July 8, 1988



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