



NORTH GREENBUSH NOTES

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Wynantskill Businesses Over the Years

George Doakmajian's Insurance Agency sits on the corner of Brookside and Main Avenues in Wynantskill. His business began in 1963. I recently talked to him about businesses in town back then and how things had changed in 54 years.

In the early '1960's there were eight gas stations. Longtime residents may remember the names LaBreck, Welsh, Jim Arelius & Press Jones' Esso station, Burdick, FayLoomis, .Panichi's Atlantic, Bently & Hains Sinclair gas, and Sarkis Minasian's Mobil station. The old Mobil station is now Wynantskill Auto Repair. Wow! What a choice-and gas was only 31 cents/gallon.

Today there are fewer choices. You can buy gas at the Fast Food Express, Raizada Fuels and Stewarts. Depending on the grade, you'd better have well over \$2.00 for a single gallon.

What Wynantskill lacks in gas stations today, it makes up for in banks. In the early 60's there were no banks. Today we have Pioneer, Key Bank, Trustco, M&T and various ATM machines. These didn't even exist until 1969-how did we make do back then?

In the 60's you could get food at Appleknockes, Deeb's Fruit Stand, RKO Market, Safeway or Schillinger's Meat Market. Today we have Hannaford and places such Stewart's where you can get fast food or drinks.

Of course some things are gone forever:
Houser's General Store closed in the 1960's and
there used to be a mini-golf site in Wynantskill.

Now we have a solar panel business. Progress!

The Doakmajian family is known today for
operating two liquor stores along Main
Avenue. What people may not know is George
Doakmajian Sr., an Armenian native, operated
Brookside Market for many years where the
insurance office is today. His son George didn't
like the grocery business and persuaded his
father to let him put insurance brochures next
to the meat grinder which were available for
customers and that's how his business began.
It's probably the oldest continuous business in
town.

I'm not a native of Wynantskill, so if you have
memories to share, contact me:

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