

Hughie Grizzell

Submitted by: Glen Haney

Hughie Grizzell was an enterprising businessman in Grayson for around 50 years; starting in the grocery business about 1940. His holdings extended into grocery markets, restaurants, taxicabs, a bus line and hotel. He also was a developer of the Shangri-La motel.



GRIZZELL'S MODERN HOTEL & CABINS - FINE FOODS - Grayson, Ky.

This was Grizzell's Restaurant located on Robert and Mary Avenue in Grayson. The car looks to be a 1947 Oldsmobile so pretty much dates the photo. The hotel was on the second floor and was the honeymoon suite for many local newlyweds who too were short on cash to make a Niagara Falls trip.

The restaurant and cabins thrived until old US 60 was re-routed. The interior of the restaurant was well appointed and was in fact one of the finest in town. However, it was now located off the beaten path and it went into decline. My favorite memory of the place took place around 1950. Hughie installed "soft serve" ice cream in cones...the first in town. A nickel got a heaping swirl of delicious frozen vanilla confection in a sugar wafer cone.

About 1950, Hughie built an addition on the right of this building and opened Grizzell's grocery market which thrived for many years. A picture of the Grocery can be seen here:

http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~kycarter/photos/place/grayson_grizzells_little_giant.htm

In 1953 Hughie bought the fledging Eastern Kentucky Bus Line from George F. Robinson. At various times the bus ran from Willard as far as Greenup and Carter City. Not by coincidence, the bus departed terminated in front of Grizzell's restaurant and Grocery store. However, the bus line struggled and only survived for a few years. Hughie Grizzell passed away in 1994.



Photo courtesy Carter County History by George Wollford

Hughie Grizzell on the left with Owen Fraley chief driver.

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