

Satow Family



he Satow name, unlike so many of the Frankenmuth names in these rooms, did not come to Frankenmuth until 1937 when Carl Satow happened to come through Frankenmuth on his way to Sebewaing. He was selling pharmaceutical supplies to drugstores.

He noticed that there was no drug store in the village and was thinking that this would be a place to start one. The next day he was talking to a druggist friend in Sebewaing. He was surprised when the friend suggested he stop selling pharmaceutical supplies and, instead, open a drug store in Frankenmuth.

The following day Carl and his druggist friend came to Frankenmuth, spoke to the bank president, and left Frankenmuth with an offer from the bank to build a building that Carl could rent. Satow Drug Store, a most integral part of the community from that day and continuing to today, became a household word.

Carl (1904) was born in Unionville, Michigan, the son of Adolph and Katherine nee Armbruster. Adolph's parents had emigrated from Mecklenburg, Germany to America to keep Adolph from having to serve in the Kaiser's army. A younger brother came with the family and they settled into farming in the Unionville/Sebewaing area.

Carl would probably have become a farmer except for a mishap when at the age of ten he climbed a sapling tree in the school yard, lost his grip, fell to the ground and seriously broke his left arm. Carl's father did not think the arm would ever be strong enough for farm work, and so when Carl was in the ninth grade, his father suggested he accept a cleanup job at the local drug store and then was encouraged to become a pharmacist.

Carl graduated as a registered pharmacist from the Warner Pharmacy School in Sandusky, Michigan.

He obtained a pharmacist position in Detroit, where he married Cora Tienken in 1929 at Iroquois Avenue Christ Lutheran Church. Jane Ann (Mrs. Arthur Haibel) and Robert Leon (married Ann Kienzlen) were born to the couple. Their grandchildren are: Michael, Sharon and Mark Haibel, and Patti and James Satow.

Carl didn't know a single person in town when he came, and although everyone still spoke German, (along with the English), Carl, who knew German, had difficulty understanding the Frankenmuth dialect. But Satow Drugs, with its prescription drugs, its sundry items, and its soda fountain, became a community gathering place. Carl's sense of humor and his give-away promotions added to the joy of "going" to Satow's. Carl retired from the drug store in 1968.

When Carl came to Frankenmuth the village numbered around 1,000. He became active in various capacities at St. Lorenz Lutheran Church and took an interest in the community. He held various offices in the village, including serving as a member of the Village Council for 2 terms and Village President. Carl was instrumental in forming the City of Frankenmuth in 1955, and was one of the first County Supervisors to represent Frankenmuth. He served as President of the Frankenmuth Rotary Club and District Governor for Rotary District 631 in 1968 and 1969. Carl, a Paul Harris Fellow, had perfect attendance at Rotary for 50 years. He held various offices in Regional, State, and National Pharmaceutical Associations and was awarded the A.H. Robins award for service to Pharmacy from the Pharmaceutical Association.

Carl died in 1993 and Cora died in 1994. Satow Drug Store is presently owned and operated by Ken Boesnecker.



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