



Otto And Matilda Sari Here Since 1933 Start

BY MILLY RAMSBY

"Sari's" is just another neon sign on South Sixth to many in the ever-increasing flow of traffic on that approach to Klamath Falls proper—but to a host of local and out-of-town patrons—the name is symbolic with good food served with friendly hospitality in a homey atmosphere.

The owners, Otto and Matilda Sari, are married business partners, whose restaurant at 5327 S. Sixth, features Italian dinners—recently a cocktail lounge has been added.

First location was known as "The Midway" in 1933—also on South Sixth. Next move was a little further out on the same street; and later they built the present location and opened in 1941.

Otto greets the customers out in front and gives with a joke as the order is given, and Matilda, in the kitchen, which she supervises, gives with the good food—synonymous with the name "Sari's" for over 20 years. The Saris incorporated upstairs living quarters into the restaurant building and have shared their home with many who needed employment and a place to live. This, no doubt, in itself contributes much to the customer's comfortable feeling of being "at home."

This home sharing started when they were first married. The partners began housekeeping with three of Otto's orphaned nephews; all of whom stayed with them until grown, two to marry and make homes of their own—and the other since married to join the navy, his chosen career. It's been that way ever since. And is very apt to continue to be, because, that's the "sharing Sari's" way of living.

Knowing them, it's difficult to think of them other than partners. To realize that Matilda was not always a Sari. That she arrived in Mt. Shasta from Italy, in April

1906, with her mother, Mrs. John Borcatti two years after John Borcatti had come to the "new country" to make a home for his family.

Otto landed in New York from Italy in 1913 and went directly to San Francisco, just seven April's after Matilda (whom he'd never seen) had come west. He went to Mt. Shasta in 1916, just missing the Borcattis who had moved to Weed. It wasn't until 1921 that he met his life and business partner (about a year after the death of her father). They were married in the Catholic Church in Yreka, May 23, 1922.

The wedding reception was at her mother's home in Weed. (Caroline Borcatti, with four daughters other than Matilda, had a wide circle of friends, and since her death is still referred to as "Mother Borcatti.")

Otto picked himself a good partner. As a team they are a perfect example of "you get out of life what you give." They don't measure their wealth in material goods. They don't discuss dividends or clip coupons for riches. They both work. Their riches are evaluated by the vast number of friends they can count as their own. The majority of these cherished friendships stem from having met the Saris as patrons.

They are part of Klamath Falls. And wish to remain so. Otto, in poor health, professionally advised that a change of climate would be beneficial, cannot consider leaving (nor can Matilda). They phrase it, "Because the people here I've been so good to us." A simple statement easy to believe—for I know of no one who met them as a customer, who didn't return as a friend.

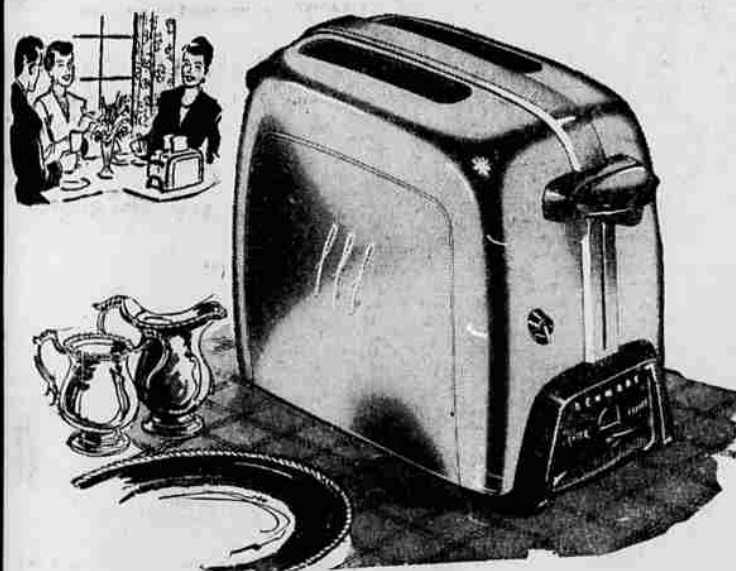
They have two children and five grandchildren. Son Bill and his wife (Norma Howell) and two children live here. Daughter, Renata, (Mrs. Patrick Ryan) and three children live in North Bend.

"SARI'S" ON SOUTH SIXTH STREET is a popular Italian restaurant owned and operated by genial Otto and Matilda Sari, pictured above. Although spare hours are few, these married business partners find time to "do things" for their many friends. Matilda grows interesting and unusual herbs, giving much of the harvest away; while Otto is a familiar figure at weddings—lending his expert assistance to the punch bowl.

—Photo by Kettler



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