

Eulogy for Emily's

Written by Mark Shaffer

Tuesday, 22 January 2019 14:33 - Last Updated Wednesday, 23 January 2019 14:30



Story and Photos by Mark Shaffer



A guy walks into a bar...

In one of my favorite opening scenes from *Cheers*, a stranger wanders into the bar and strikes up a conversation with Woody. The guy explains he used to be a regular, but moved away and hasn't been in the place for twenty years.

Woody: Really?

Guy: Yep. See those stairs? They used to go down the other side of that wall.

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Woody: Hmm.

Guy: And this floor, when I was here it was all ugly green tile.

Woody: Wow.

Guy: I guess everything changes in 20 years. They've even changed the paneling.

Woody: Where?

Guy: Over there, behind Norm.

Cue the music.

No doubt the regulars at Emily's Restaurant & Tapas Bar shared certain similarities with the patrons of Boston's famous fictional pub. Chief among them was loyalty. It was a locals' favorite – a place where everyone really did know your name. But change is inevitable. Sometimes it catches you by surprise like a blackjack to the back of the head in a dark alley. So it came as a bit of a shock when Tommy Winburn sold the business after nearly two decades. The bigger shock came a few weeks later when we learned that after nearly 30 years as a downtown Beaufort icon, Emily's would cease to exist to make way for a new concept.

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Ends on Facebook and on my own blog, you will find a photo of Emily's hat and a photo of the hat on the right.