

PROGRESS 2008

Selection, price and service at CB Liquor set them apart from the pack

CB Liquor is located at 1202 A Ave. East, in Oskaloosa, and has more than 400 varieties of wines and champagnes for a holiday, wedding or any special occasion. If you wish, for a bottle for a present, special dinner or just for yourself.

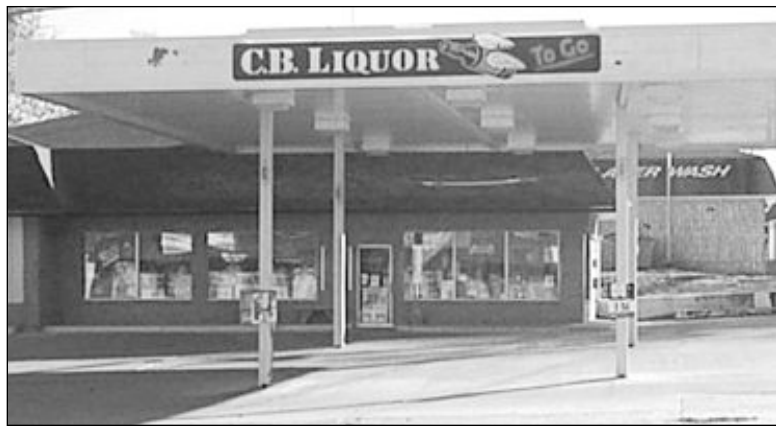
Carrie and Bill Bainbridge, of rural New Sharon, brought the property, which was a gas station at the time and made it into a liquor store in December of 2002. They also own and operate Wiggs Convenience Store and attached Laundromat just east of CB Liquor. Carrie said at CB they have increased the number of wines sold at the store from last year. She estimated they have increased the wine selection by 40 brands since December of 2007 and average around 10-15 a month in the wintertime.

"We bring in as many new wines as we can," Carrie said. "We try to give people a chance to try most of the new stuff at our wine tastings. I would want to taste a wine and see how it is instead of buying some and not liking it and wasting a whole bottle too."

From September through March at CB Liquor, they hold a monthly wine tasting. Besides a monthly wine tasting during the winter, customers can sample champagne on New Years Eve from 6 to 8 p.m. so they can try to find the one they want to open that night. Carrie said the wine tasting is very popular. At least 50 plus customers have signed up at the store to receive postcards ahead of time to remind them of an upcoming tasting.

"We've had very big turnouts," Carrie said. "The wine tastings are doing very well."

Besides wine, champagne, beer and liquor, CB Liquor also stocks mixers, beer and wine glasses, bottled water, cigarettes, chips, pop, ice, Power Ball and lottery



tickets and even the old redemption ticket machine. In addition, they also carry firewood, cigars and pipe tobacco, as well as a large selection of the 50 ml, mini, or most people call them the airplane size liquors.

Carrie said they offer weekly specials on beer and monthly specials on liquors, which are posted by the front door. A 10 percent discount is given on Mondays to senior citizens, excluding tobacco products. A 10 percent discount for whole-case purchases is available also. However, the two offers are mutually exclusive.

"When the state gives us a deal we try to pass this on to the consumer," Carrie said. "Instead of just keeping the prices up."

CB Liquor also carries special-order items such as Seagrams VO Gold, Wisers Deluxe, and San Francisco Cookies and Cream. It can take up to six weeks or sometimes longer for a special-order item to arrive, so they try to keep those in stock as much as possible.

CB Liquor also carries Tassel Ridge wines, produced near Leighton, and has other Iowa wines from Summerset Winery, Jasper Winery and Sugar Grove Winery.

CB Liquor has some amenities for its customers such as a canopy

for parking under, a very large parking lot to accommodate large trailers, auto racing trailers, buses and large trucks. They can pull in on one road and out on the other.

Besides selling alcohol to individuals, CB Liquors service bars in Oskaloosa and surrounding towns. CB Liquor's business hours are 8:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., Monday through Wednesday; and 8:30 a.m. to 10 p.m., Thursday through Saturday. The store is closed on Sundays to let the employees be home with their families.

However, if holidays such as New Years Eve or Christmas Eve fall on Sunday, they will be open. CB Liquor is a member of the National Federation of Independent Businesses and is an Oskaloosa Chamber member.

Carrie said at Wiggs they plan to do some rearranging at Wiggs Country Store. They want to change some of the area up near the front counter with new racks and add some items. And in the attached Laundromat, they added 20 new regular washers and five new extra large washers. Future plans call for replacing all the dryers and installing a television for customers to watch. Wiggs was one of the first locally owned convenience stores in this area. Something not a lot of people are aware of is, they also make and

sell their own homemade ice cream, a very popular item with the customers in the know.

"I make it and put it up front. I make it in the soft serve machine and we freeze it and put up front," Carrie said. "If you happen to be in the store when it is in the making I have had people buy it fresh out of the machine. I even have people in the summer buy it and eat it while they are doing their laundry."

The ice cream comes in pints, quarts and half-gallons. Besides vanilla they have eight different flavors. They also sell what they call Wiggy bars and ice cream cookies.

"I can hardly keep up with it," Carrie said. "Once people taste it they say it's so much better than...they get hooked on it."

If you are a customer who's really in the know, you know where the beer special door is. The cooler door where you'll find the cheapest beer in town.

"We do have a what we call our special door but it really is only the bottom shelf but a very large shelf where we have beer specials," she said. "It is usually beer items close to date that beer companies have asked us to help them sell cheap."

If you can't find the door ask Steve Fisher, he is in control of all the beer, pop, water and juices. It is a full time job and that is all he has time for. If you are looking for a special beer or can't find one he is the person to talk to. If you don't see him right off have the girls call him on the walkie-talkie and he'll be right up.

Wigg Bainbridge, Bill's father worked at the dairy before buying it back in 1959 and making it into the store you know and love today. He built it up and can still be seen at times at the store and likes to tell you some good stories from the past.

Laserworks: First-rate laser cutting at affordable prices

Laser cutting, parts engineering and modification, welding services, fabrication consulting and materials purchase are no problem for Laserworks in Oskaloosa. Since 2006, Laserworks, located at 1202 S. Seventh St., has provided timely laser-cutting solutions to customers who demand high-quality parts at reasonable prices.

Mike Garner, Laserworks president and one of three owners, said they can laser cut just about anything, from metal to wood to plastic.

"We cut mainly metal. But we do carbon steel, aluminum, stainless, galvanized, we can cut wood, acrylic," he said.

Laserworks uses Mazak brand lasers to cut up to three-quarter inch thick steel, one-quarter inch thick aluminum and one and one half inch thick wood, all to a tolerance of plus or minus .002 inches.

Besides Garner, Jason Houglund and Chris Brown are the other two owners, combining to provide more than 35 years experience. Laserworks also has two employees.

Garner said once an order is received, next is a series of steps to get to the finished product. A computer-aided drafting drawing of the part is submitted or one is generated by Laserworks based on the part to be manufactured. Next, Garner said they put that into nesting software, which allows them to visualize the final product and to maximize materials.

"And take a five foot by ten foot sheet of whatever steel or material and set it on the bed of the laser and you download the program and the nesting software generated and it cuts it out," Garner said.

4 GREAT LOCATIONS NO WAITING !!!



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