

A&W turns 90

Lodi icon marks nine decades of icy root beer floats and burgers

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By **Daniel Thigpen**
Record Staff Writer
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LODI - This town may take pride in its wineries, but for one day, Lodi will boast its status as the birthplace of one of the country's most ubiquitous root beer brands.

For five hours Saturday, A&W Restaurant on East Lodi Avenue will stage a large birthday bash to celebrate 90 years of root beer and eats.

A lot has changed - and much has been added to the menu - since the June day in 1919 when entrepreneur Roy Allen sold his first mug of root beer on a downtown Lodi corner for a nickel.

In the decades since, that roadside stand has exploded into an international chain.

Contact reporter Daniel Thigpen at (209) 546-8254 or dthigpen@recordnet.com.

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If You Go

What: A&W Root Beer 90th anniversary celebration

When: 5-10 p.m. Saturday

Where: A&W Restaurant, 216 E. Lodi Ave., Lodi

More info: (209) 368-8548 or www.awrootbeer.com

Event highlights:

- 200-vehicle classic car show

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- live music
- A&W birthday cake for 5,000 people

Nine decades later

THEN (1919)

Lodi population: 4,850 (1920 U.S. Census)

Price of root beer: 5 cents

Locations: One

Popular song lyrics: "Doggone, I've got the prohibition blues"
" Nora Bayes

NOW

Lodi population: 63,313

Price of root beer: \$1.89 (large cup); \$2.37 (medium float) at a Stockton store

Locations: 675 outlets in 15 countries and territories

Popular song lyrics: "Blame it on the alcohol " Jamie Foxx

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