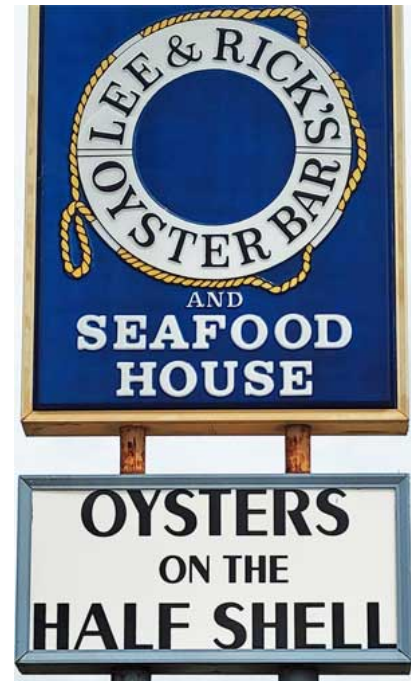


Where the locals dine in Orlando FL

Survival in the restaurant business has never been easy. Location, overhead, and other economic variables have made things difficult. Such things as weather, fire, and other events like COVID have caused many restaurants to undergo stress and sometimes closure. However, there always seem to be those who can be given the title of oldest/longest running restaurants. Lee and Rick's is one of them. See resource <tastychomps.com> for more information about early restaurants in Orlando.

"Lee & Rick's opened in 1950, as a 9-stool establishment which only served oysters. Lee & Rick (Richter) ran the restaurant out front, and raised their family in the back portion, which served as their home. Beverages consisted of whatever you brought in to drink, which Lee kept cold for you in her ice box. Today Lee & Rick's is operated by their oldest son and his family, continuing the tradition of this family run establishment. Vital to Lee & Rick's longevity is friendly personalized service, quality of food and maintaining the reputation as a local favorite. Today, the famous concrete shucking bar that totals 80 feet in length, with seating up to 50 people is a spectacle of delight as oysters are individually shucked for your entertainment, as well as an assurance of their freshness. Lee & Rick's was the first restaurant of its kind to be opened in Central Florida. Rick, being a sailor, had seen oyster bars in his travels around the coast of Florida and especially in the Panhandle where he himself had shucked oysters as a child. The restaurant was an instant success and just through word of mouth, quickly became known as "the only place" for fresh oysters. Rick found himself making weekly trips to Apalachicola in his pickup truck just to supply oysters for his thriving restaurant." (From the Menu)



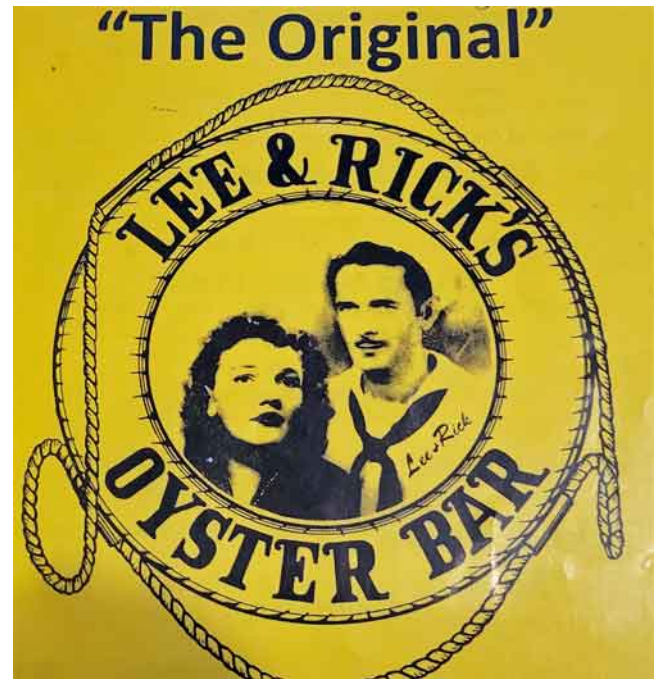
According to Debbie, restaurant manager, Lee and Rick passed away, but the Richter family, the restaurant founders grandchildren continue to operate the business. She said their customers come from both locals and visitors to Orlando.

Our visit to Lee & Rick's came by way of Larry Mattern, who used to live in Orlando. He told his brother-in-law Gary, also a lover of oysters, about the restaurant, and Gary informed my wife and me. "Hats off to Larry! You too Gary!"

Lee & Rick's was clean. The food was good and the staff very friendly. Lee & Rick's restaurant is both quaint and a part of old Orlando. Unfortunately, when we visited the restaurant, oysters were not available due to the recent hurricane in the Gulf of Mexico. Apalachicola is approximately 296 miles from Orlando. They were, however expecting oysters in the coming days. We enjoyed their Golden Fantail Shrimp (we ate some of the meal before photo was taken.)







Sources: <https://tastychomps.com/2021/03/orlandos-most-historic-oldest-longest-running-restaurants.html>,
<https://www.orlandosentinel.com/food-restaurants/os-et-lee-rick-oysters-anniversary-20171023-story.html>,
and <https://leeandricksoysterbar.com/>.

acuri.net John R. Vincenti Lee & Rick's Oyster Bar, Orlando FL