

## WHAT'S IN A NAME

**A** longtime Grants Pass watering hole, the Wonder Bur Lounge and Cafe, is a historic downtown landmark. But how did the one-story, brick building, at 116 S.W. H St., get its name?

"The Wonder Bur name is more based in myth and legend than in fact," says Charlie Geissell, who has owned the business since 1991, after buying it from his parents, George and Barbara, who had owned it since 1956.

The building was built in the 1900s and was first used as a grocery warehouse, at least through 1930.

"It's been a tavern since at least 1938," says Geissell, "though some customers swear it was here in the mid-1930s."

According to what Geissell has been told, the bar was originally called Wunderbar, German for wonderful.

"But, during the war years, the Germans were not very popular, so it became the Wonder Bar," Geissell says.

Then, after the Oregon Liquor Control Commission was established, the state would not allow a



TIMOTHY BULLARD/Daily Courier

**The Wonder Bur sign as seen through a rainy windshield. The popular bar is known to locals as "The Blur" because of their alleged strong drinks.**

bar to be called a bar.

"So, as legend has it, someone went up on the tavern's old wood-

en sign with a chain saw and chopped the top off of the 'a' and it became a 'u,'" turning Wonder

Bar into Wonder Bur.

"Of course, most people just call it 'The Blur,'" Geissell says.

## PRESCRIPTIONS

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