

Yellow Wagon & Red Wagon Restaurants, Brownwood, Texas

Yellow Wagon Closing: The Yellow Wagon, a restaurant established in 1917, closed on June 9, 1973, after 56 years of operation. The owners, Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Fowlkes, cited the loss of their lease as the reason for the closure. The restaurant was located at 401 N. Main at the time of closing, although its original location in 1917 was 108 Anderson.

Quote: "We wish to thank the people of Brownwood and the area for their business," Fowlkes said, "but due to our losing our lease we will be unable to continue business after June 9."

Red Wagon Opening: A new restaurant called the Red Wagon, owned by N.I. Monk, was scheduled to open in November 1974 at the former Yellow Wagon location. The article indicates the Red Wagon will feature a "general menu."

Quote: "The Red Wagon restaurant, located at the site of the former Yellow Wagon location, is expected to open for business sometime this month and possibly as early as next week. The restaurant, owned by N.I. Monk, will feature a general menu."

Location: Both restaurants were located near the Brownwood traffic circle between Main and Fisk streets. The Yellow Wagon was located at 401 N. Main at the time of closing in 1973.

Ownership Change: The closure of the Yellow Wagon and subsequent opening of the Red Wagon mark a significant change in the Brownwood restaurant landscape. The Red Wagon represents a new business venture by N.I. Monk, who previously operated a restaurant in Brady.

Implications:

The closure of the Yellow Wagon, a business fixture for "decades," likely impacted the local community, marking the end of a long-standing establishment.

The opening of the Red Wagon offered a new dining option for residents and those traveling through Brownwood. The Red Wagon restaurant continues operation today in 2025 as a very popular establishment.

Restaurants and Lunch Rooms

American Cafe 200 W Broadway
 Big Boys Cafe 412A Center av
 Central Cafe 311 Center av
 Charlie's Kitchen 508 Center av
 Derrick's Cafe & Hotel 203 W Broadway
 Dixie Cafe 617 S Washington
 Dotts Wm F 405 E Broadway
 Dutch Lunch 119 E Broadway
 Elk Cafe 110 E Baker
 Frisco Cafe 108 Frisco av
 Graham Hotel Coffee Shop 203 E Broadway
 Harvey Fred House e end Adams
 Highway Cafe 106 Main av
 Hi-Way Sandwich Shop 605 Center av
 Hotel Brownwood Coffee Shop 204 Fisk av
 Hotel Southern Coffee Shop 401-7 Center
 Hurtado Sacramento 1606 Comanche
 Jack's Cafe 101-2 S Broadway
 Lewis & Davis 1009 Beaver
 Liberty Cafe 307 Fisk av
 Lindberg Sandwich Shop 1016 Fisk av
 Lon's Den Cafe 1006 1/2 Austin av
 Lockett & Gipson 818 Beaver
 Marshall's Cafe 207 E Broadway
 Moore's Cafe 709 Bailey av
 Neal Q A 111 Main av
 Old Mill Inn 104 E Lee
 Post Office Lunch Room 603 Center av
 Royal Cafe 816 Beaver
 Russell H B 205 Main av
 Spears J O 410-12 S Broadway
 Square Cafe 213 S Broadway
 Texas Cafe 102 W Broadway
 Union Cafe 511 S Washington
 Vanzandt R L 406 S Broadway
 Villareal Manuel 1609 Main av
 Watfile House 408 Center av
 Williams J L 2503 Austin av
 Yellow Squeeze 201A S Broadway
 Yellow Wagon Cafe 108 W Anderson

Cafes (Cont'd) 1961

FIESTA BOWLING LANES as Ft Worth Hwy (E) AMI 2-3725
 Friendly Cafe 503 W Commerce
 Gladys & Lela's Pl 807 Beaver
 Golden Hour Restr 407 Fisk
 Gomez Cafe 716A W Commerce
HOTEL BROWNWOOD COFFEE SHOP
 200-04 Fisk AMI 1-2656
 Hubert's Coffee Shop & Bar-B-Q Pit 817 Beaver
 Ideal Cafe 408 N Fisk
 Industrial Cafe 1509 Main Av
 Jeff's Pl as Ft Worth Hwy (E)
 Lindsey's Drive Inn 1601 Austin
 Neil's Cafe 102 Johnson
 Old Soldiers Pl 804 Beaver
 Ranch Hae as Ft Worth Hwy (E)
 Schwartz Eat Shop 910 Austin
 Silver Grill 106 W Anderson
 Slim's Pl 600 N Center
 Star Cafe 834 W Commerce
 Steve's Cafe 606 Center
 Studdard Cafeteria 409 Main Av
 Terminal Steak Hse as Ft Worth Hwy (E)
 Tharp's Cafe as Ft Worth Hwy (E)
 Underwood's Pit Bar-B-Q 404 W Commerce
 White Sanns Coffee Shop as Ft Worth Hwy (E)
 Wigwam Cafe 2502 Belle Plain
 Willie's Pl 909 W Anderson
 Winson Roberts Mrs 813 Beaver
 Yellow Wagon 401 N Main Av

Yellow Wagon to close Saturday

The Yellow Wagon, a Brownwood restaurant established in 1917, will close at the end of the business day Saturday, Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Fowkes, owners for the past 30 years, announced.

"We wish to thank the people of Brownwood and the area for their business," Fowkes said, "but due to our losing our lease we will be unable to continue business after June 9."

He added he had no plans to open a restaurant at another location.

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Red Wagon slated for opening soon

The Red Wagon restaurant, located at the site of the former Yellow Wagon location, is expected to open for business sometime this month and possibly as early as next week.

The restaurant, owned by M. L. Monk, will feature a general menu. The business is located near the Brownwood traffic circle between Main and Fisk.

The Red Wagon will open business after the closing of the Yellow Wagon, which had been a business fixture in Brownwood for decades.

Monk, a resident of Brownwood since 1940, formerly operated a restaurant in Brady.

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