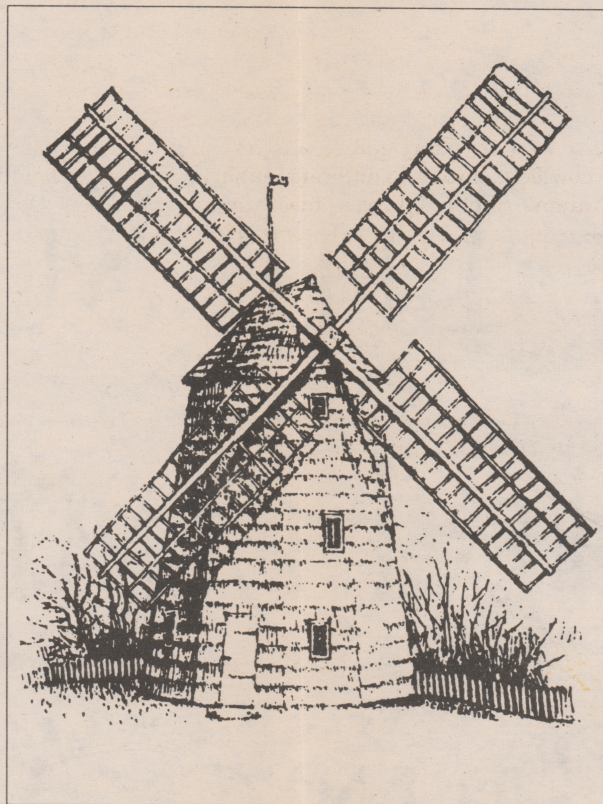


And Some Changes

New Businesses In Town Set the Tone For the Coming Summer Season



New York has its landmarks. The Hamptons has its landmarks. Certainly it would be disturbing if one day you went to the Empire State Building and found it closed with a sign saying, "Reopening in 1997 as The Chesterton Tower."

And so it is that this winter an astonishing number of landmarks here in the Hamptons have either shut down or changed hands and, just as the Chesterton Tower would re-define Manhattan, so the changes in the Hamptons will redefine this place.

Certainly, no change here is on the scope or the scale of the Empire State Building. Indeed, Guild Hall remains and so does the Parrish Art Museum. You can still go to the Rogers' Memorial Library.

On the other hand, the Springs General Store has closed. Few landmarks defined a community as the Springs General Store defined Springs. It was here, back in the late 1940s that painter Jackson Pollock did a swap with store owner George Miller. You give me paintings, I give you food. Seems to have worked out. In 1951, Arthur Miller and Marilyn Monroe rented a house for the summer nearby. Pictures of Marilyn taken in front of the store are classics.

The cause of the closing of the Springs General Store came suddenly and is reported to be nothing more than a dispute between tenant and landlord. Perhaps they will resolve it. But at the moment, the place is cleaned out.

(New tenants are expected to reopen the Springs General Store in early April.)

In Bridgehampton, the business known as "Hallock's" closed this winter. I put the name in quotes because it never bore that name over the door but everybody called it that. For most of this century, it was a weekly newspaper office — the publication was the *Bridgehampton News*

— and BRIDGEHAMPTON NEWS appeared over the door. They did wedding announcements and posters and leaflets also. Then, in the 1950s, when the newspaper shut down, it continued in the family as a printing office, with one contingent of Hallock's branching out into Real Estate. The sign BRIDGEHAMPTON NEWS remained until a month ago, as did signs reading PRINTING and REAL ESTATE. But nowhere did it say Hallock's. Anyway, the present generation of Hallocks has closed down and retired up to the Adirondacks. The building has been sold to Robert Rattenni, and it is currently being completely remodeled. Space is for rent. And all the signs are down. (Golden Pear will be the new tenants here.)

Also, in Bridgehampton, Portico Bed & Bath is going to the the Bridgehampton Commons, and One Ocean Road right by the light, will become the Bridgehampton Cafe. And a very big change, especially construction-wise, the Bridgehampton National Bank is moving from the east end of Main St. to a new location, now being built, right across from our offices here at Dan's!

In Westhampton Beach, the Quogue Emporium, in business for more than twenty years, relocated to Fraser's Florist and Garden Center in Quogue. It was originally in Quogue and then the owners built a great department-store size complex on the Old Riverhead Road in Westhampton. This was in the early 1970s. Now

the space is vacant.

Cavagnaro's Bar on Newtown Lane in East Hampton closed this winter when Mr. Cavagnaro became terminally ill and passed away. It is boarded up and for rent. The stories that place could tell from the last fifty years would fill a book. Diamond's Furniture closed.

Another big closing is in Montauk. There, right on the beach in the center of town, the Mimosa Beach Restaurant has gone out of business. For those unfamiliar with it, the Mimosa is oceanfront. There is a restaurant and bar on the ground floor, but then, upstairs, a dining room with one of the most spectacular ocean views imaginable. The place has been there for a generation and has hosted the Pro-Am Beach Volleyball Tournament on the sand out front year after year. It is the only oceanfront nightspot I know of on eastern Long Island, besides Gurney's Inn, the great resort. This place won't stay vacant long. But it won't be the Mimosa.

An interesting sidelight about the Mimosa is that it was originally built as a public laundry. Can you imagine? In the late 1940s, right on the ocean, they build a cinderblock building with giant washing machines inside. You could break for a cigarette by going outside and watching the surf thunder on the beach. But you had to walk a considerable distance to get away from the smell of bleach and laundry detergent.

Not all the landmark changes in the Hamptons this winter have involved closings. Some are also remarkable transformations.

The single business in the village of Sagaponack, for example, shut down as the Sagaponack General Store owned by Don and Mary Spelling, and six months later, reopened completely different, as the Sagg Store. And I mean

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INFLATABLE TENNIS DOME LAWS. Until now, everyone has been free to make an application to build an inflatable tennis court dome for use on their property during the winter. This year, however, there is a change in that law. From now on, those getting inflatable tennis court domes approved will have to inflate and deflate the domes before and after each use. Blame it on the neighbors.

IDENTITY CARDS. Beginning June 1, the Hampton Council requires that you carry an

identity card. This was a move the Council made reluctantly. But it came about because of the increasingly pressing need to do maintenance work on the Hamptons — clean it up, fix it, repaint it etc. — and to do this without the crowds of people all around getting in the way. Register to receive your Identity Card free of charge (this year only) at any Town Hall. Your card will allow you to be in the Hamptons at the following times: LOCAL -anytime. TOURIST -Friday night to Sunday afternoon only. SUMMER RENTER (half

share) - Friday night, Saturday morning or Saturday night and Sunday morning but not both. SUMMER HOME OWNER -Friday to Monday. WEEKENDER - weekends (what did you expect?). CEO - Thursday to Tuesday. VICE PRESIDENT AND DOWN - Thursday to Monday. MASTER OF THE UNIVERSE -Anytime except Wednesday, actually Wednesday is just a request, if that's not okay with you than Tuesday or, well, if no day is good we'll just work around you. Have your secretary fax your schedule. —Dan Rattiner

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