

BULK RATE  
PERMIT #6  
US POSTAGE PAID  
EAST HAMPTON NY 11937

Rash Of Turtle And Seal Strandings. (Page 8.)

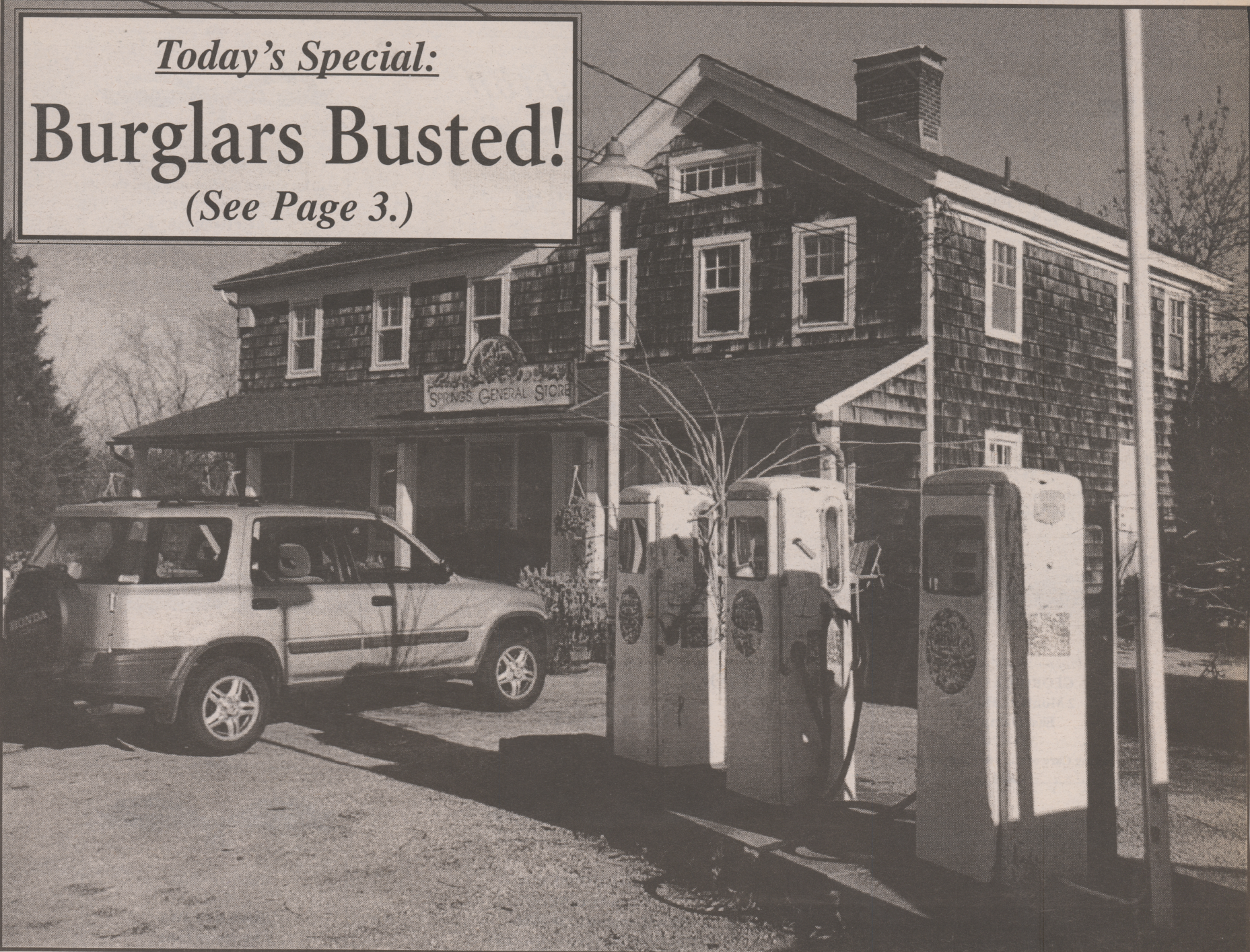
# THE • EAST HAMPTON INDEPENDENT

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FREE

*Today's Special:*  
**Burglars Busted!**  
*(See Page 3.)*



Independent / James J. Mackin

Cops were called to a burglary in progress at the Springs General Store, and now the suspects are getting their meals courtesy of the County Jail.

# Burglars Bagged In Bonac

BY KITTY MERRILL

The Springs General Store is the very picture of sleepy country life. A quaint, shingled building nestled back among the reeds of Accabonac Harbor, its wide front porch beckons to locals and tourists alike, inviting them to "set a spell" and linger over an early morning brew and fresh-baked bagel. Over the years, it's been a meeting place both for fishermen and filmmakers, artisans and artists.

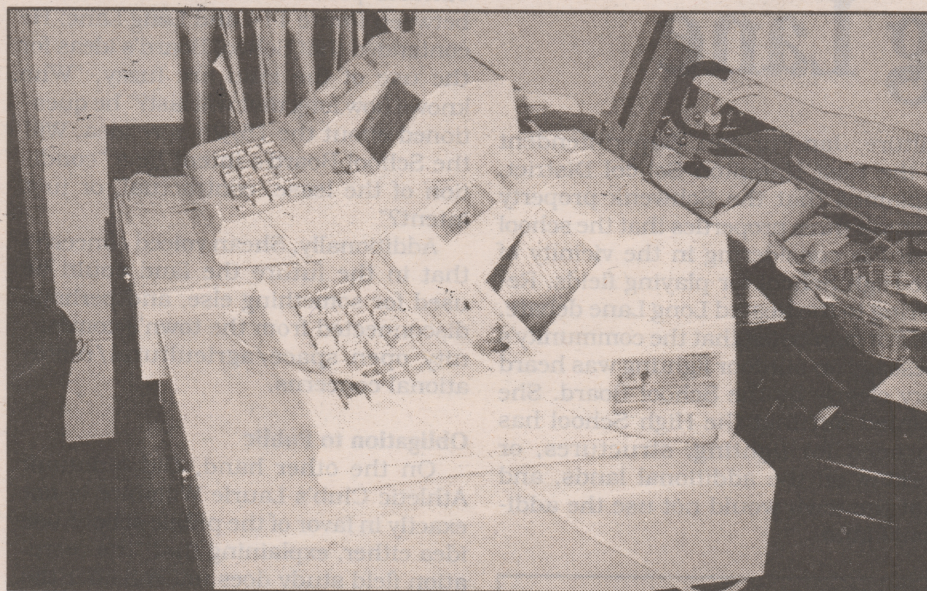
But the scene at the market last Friday night was anything but sleepy as responding officers interrupted a burglary in progress. Yesterday, Det. Sgt. Kevin Sarlo of the Town Police related that a resident of the apartment over the historic market noticed something was awry at about 10:30 p.m. She heard a noise and looked outside. She saw a sedan parked out near the public telephone, but that was nothing unusual. (People pull up to use the pay phone at all hours of the night, Sarlo explained.) What she saw next was, however.

Two people standing in the shadows suddenly came into view near the shed adjacent to the main building. Then she saw another pair of figures carrying items from the back of the store and loading them into the car. Time to call 911.

## Punch and Pursuit

Within three minutes of the initial alert, the first two officers arrived. They found four men standing around the sedan. They approached the pair standing next to the driver side of the car — Leonides D. Castro, 20, of Stratton Square in East Hampton, and Amain F. Gonzalez, 19, of Hunting Avenue in East Hampton. In the back seat of the black Dodge were two cash registers, a basket full of candles, an armload of deli meats, cigarettes, and Bambu rolling papers in full view.

Cops had both suspects "assume the position" on the trunk of the car, but



Independent / Kitty Merrill

Burglary did not compute for an East Hampton foursome apprehended in the act last Friday night. (Above) The two cash registers culprits lugged out of the back of the Springs General Store, then across the parking lot to a getaway car.

when an officer tried to cuff Gonzalez, he threw a punch and ran off. Castro stayed put, cops said, as they pursued the 19-year-old. He wasn't terribly cooperative, allegedly. He was chased down and tackled, but got up and ran at an officer who countered with a poke to the solar plexus. Thus subdued, Gonzalez was handcuffed as well.

While cops were grappling with Gonzalez, the two men who had been standing next to the passenger side of the car took off. One fled out of the parking lot in a northwest direction. The other hightailed it to the north behind the store. Cops weren't able to catch them on the scene, Sarlo said.

By this time reinforcements — two more patrolmen, two detectives, and two officers from the Village Police force — arrived to conduct the search. Within an hour an officer with the State Police K-9 unit was on the scene and tried to track one of the errant interlopers, to no avail. But that was okay, since a search of the car proved most revealing.

## From Picnic to Pokey

One of the missing marauders left his wallet on the floor of the car. At 3:14

papers, 18 packages of assorted cheeses and 16 packs of assorted deli meats, and a basket full of numerous candles. The cash registers contained about \$370. In Barrantes's wallet, cops found \$391 in cash and a small double-edged dagger — the type that fits between your knuckles, with a blade measuring about three inches exposed.

What the search of the car revealed next led detectives to deduce that this was no impulse job. A variety of tools, including a cordless drill and Allen keys plus a pair of bolt cutters were found in and under the sedan. So was a billy club. Sarlo affirmed that the quartet is suspected of other commercial burglaries in the town.

By daybreak Castro, Gonzalez, and Barrantes had been charged. Each gleaned one count of third-degree burglary, a felony, and one count of possession of burglary tools, a Class A misdemeanor. Gonzalez was additionally charged with resisting arrest, and Barrantes will answer to a misdemeanor count of criminal possession of a weapon for the dagger. The 15-year-old is charged as a juvenile delinquent. Castro was released on \$1000 bail, while his two adult companions were remanded to Suffolk County Jail in lieu of bail.

Due to a prior larceny-related felony conviction, Gonzalez's bail was set at \$15,000, Sarlo said. Barrantes was unable to post his \$10,000 bail. He had no prior felony convictions, but may pose a flight risk.

Asked to comment on the wisdom of parking the alleged getaway car near the phone at the most visible and brightly lit portion of the Country Store parcel, then lugging the stolen goods out from behind the market and across the parking lot, Sarlo merely offered, with a shrug, "These were not your smartest burglars."