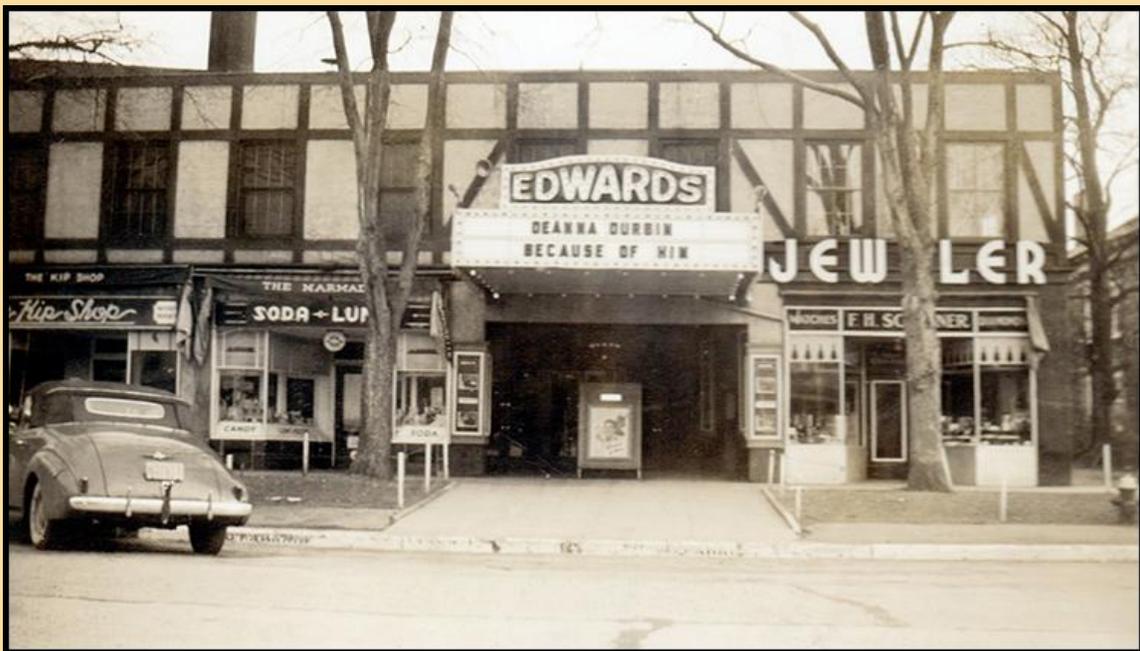




Item of the Week *from the* Long Island Collection

LONG ISLAND COLLECTION | DIGITAL LONG ISLAND | EAST HAMPTON STAR ARCHIVE



Edwards Theater, East Hampton, 1946

This photo shows the Edwards Theater and its neighboring businesses on Main Street in East Hampton ca. 1946. The theater was located in approximately the same location as today's [United Artists Cinema](#) and was situated among F. H. Scribner, Jeweler, The Kip Shop (a clothing store), and The Marmador, a luncheonette and soda shop.

[Roy Edwards started showing movies in a converted garage in 1915](#), and his son Leonard spearheaded the project to build a new theater building that opened in 1926. The new Edwards Theater offered 1,035 seats and smoking lounges, which were decked out with chandeliers and tapestries. During World War II, local school buses would shuttle soldiers and sailors stationed in Montauk back and forth to enjoy a show.

The date of this photograph can be estimated by the movie advertised across the theater's marquee. According to *The East Hampton Star*, the movie *Because of Him* opened at the Edwards Theater on February 10, 1946, about three weeks after its initial debut. The romantic comedy starred Juvenile Oscar winner Deanna Durbin as an ambitious young waitress scheming to get a Broadway role. Durbin was known for her musical performances and *The East Hampton Star's* February

7th [review](#) reflected on her talent with musical numbers when they predicted the film would be a classic. At the time, Durbin was the second-highest paid woman in the United States, just behind Bette Davis.

In 1944, a [grease fire](#) in the nearby luncheonette spread through the vents at the theater, causing smoke damage to a storeroom for The Kip Shop. Ultimately, a second fire on [April 14, 1964](#), completely destroyed the theater where faulty wiring was suspected. Responding firemen faced a fireball and collapsing walls. The Marmador, A.C. Osborn Jewelry, and the three other businesses in the building were destroyed. Following [debates over building ordinances](#), Leonard Edwards reopened the "East Hampton Theater" in the [summer of 1965](#).

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[The Digital Long Island Collection](#) is part of New York Heritage Digital Collections. Included are searchable scans of deeds, drawings, etchings, inventories, letters, maps, paintings, pardons, patents, photographs, plans, postcards, prints, sculptures, sketches, textiles, tiles, yearbooks and more to come.

[The East Hampton Star Archive](#) is a fully searchable, online digital archive of our local weekly newspaper, that features each complete issue of the paper from 1918-1968, exactly as it appeared in print. Visit the archive online, for a tour of our Town's history that will fascinate both the amateur and professional historian!

[The Karl Grossman Research Archive](#) is an extensive collection of materials digitized from the personal archive of Karl Grossman, an investigative reporter, columnist, author, and current professor of journalism at SUNY Old Westbury. The archive brings together a decades long career in reporting and journalism with topics ranging from the economy and pollution to fishing and East Hampton Town. Patrons are capable of searching this 9,500+ item collection by collection name, year, title, or keyword search.

[The Local Artist Research Archive](#) is a collection of over 19,000 items digitized from Guild Hall, containing materials including personal letters, photographs, news clippings, and art catalogs concerning artists of the East End. Patrons are capable of searching this archive by collection, title, or keyword search.



Welcome to the Long Island Collection's "Item of the Week."

We are an archive dedicated to the history and people of Long Island, with a special interest in all things East Hampton and East End. Unlike some small local history rooms in other public libraries, we have over 100,000 items including, but not limited to, rare books, maps, photographs, deeds, postcards, letters, newspapers, and whaling logs. We also have a dedicated and hardworking staff ready to help you with any questions you may have. Unable to make it to the library? No problem! We upload images from the collection to Digital Long Island on a weekly basis, so there's always something new and interesting to behold.

Please visit us at the Library, make use of our extensive online digital resources, or contact us for assistance. Public hours are: Mon. - Tues. and Thurs. - Sat., 1:00-4:30 p.m.

Researched and written by Andrea Meyer, Librarian/Archivist, Long Island Collection.

Andrea Meyer began working in the Long Island Collection in January 2015. Her responsibilities include updating Digital Long Island, scanning, processing new collections, and assisting patrons

with research. She earned her M.L.I.S. through Long Island University, and completed her M.A. in Archives and Public History at New York University through the dual-degree program. Andrea started working in archives in 2005. Prior to working for the East Hampton Library, Andrea worked at the New Jersey State Archives, at NYU Libraries, and as a private research consultant. Her clients included the New-York Historical Society. She is also involved with the Sag Harbor Historical Society.

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