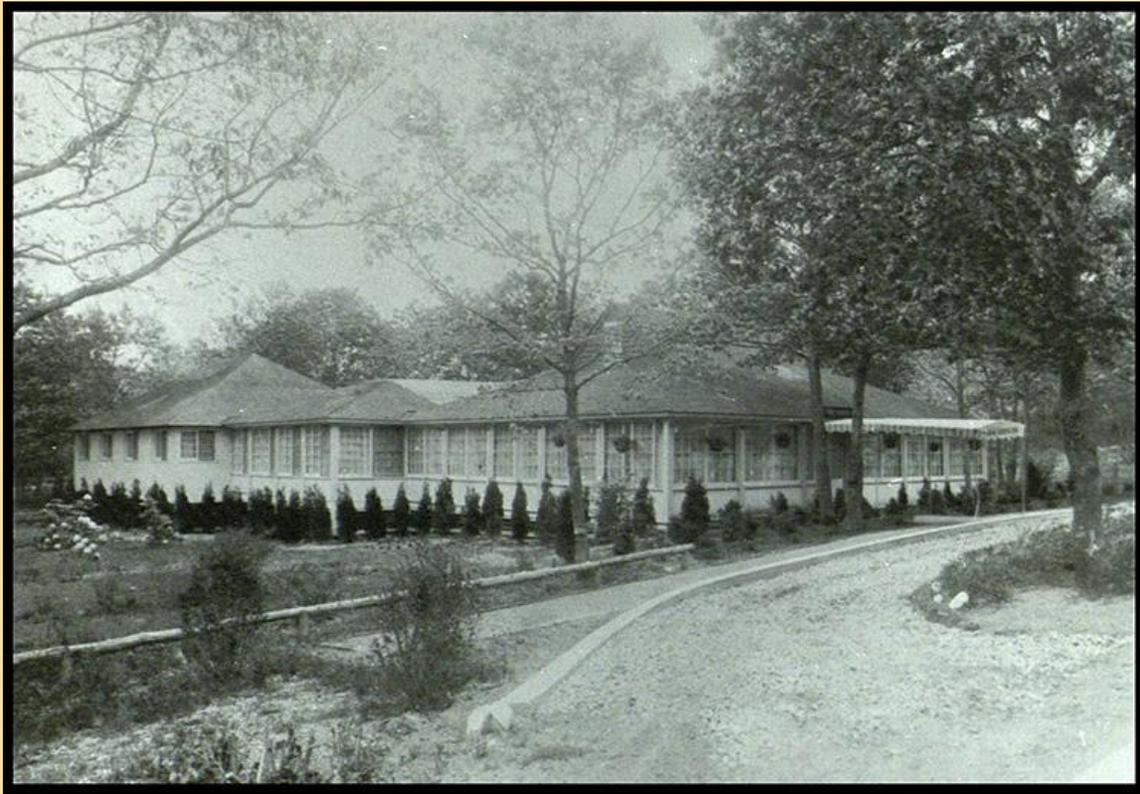




Item of the Week *from the* Long Island Collection

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The Oaks Inn, East Hampton, NY

In the May 24, 1912 edition of *The East Hampton Star*, it was briefly announced that a firm by the name of Hooper & Clark would build a tea house, known as "the Oaks," on the Bridgehampton road, by June 1st of that year. The establishment most likely derived its name from the surroundings in which it was built, a "much improved" park that promised to be, with time, one of the "beauty spots" of town.

The Oaks tea room was originally located across the street from the former site of the East Hampton Bowl, whose address was [71 Montauk Highway](#), now occupied by CVS. The land on which the building was built is said to have been owned by Joseph Loris, the owner of the East Hampton Hotel on Newtown Lane (who was previously discussed in a recent *Item of the Week*).

In 1925, The Oaks was reopened as the Oaks Inn Restaurant under Otto Fritz Kuespert of Sag Harbor, who operated a bakery and lunch room in Sag Harbor and previously in East Hampton (which was known as East Hampton Bakery), and Fred Blumenthal, who managed the restaurant. The restaurant was open all

year long and was the scene of many dinners and parties, such as for the East Hampton Fire Department, Elks, and so forth.

In 1933, Joseph Loris did not renew his lease with the restaurant and a new Oaks Inn, seen in the image above, was opened down the road at [103 Montauk Highway](#). While Kuespert died in 1926, Blumenthal continued to manage the restaurant until his death in 1938. It stayed in family hands until 1963, when it was sold to Wilbert B. Ely, who retained the Oaks name. Since the 1970s, however, the Oaks building has experienced multiple identities as a club and restaurant, formerly known as The Moon, Butterfield II, 411 East, Royale Fish Restaurant, Little Rock Rodeo, Duke's, Bacci's Charcoal Haven, Peconic Coast, JL East, Prime 103, Beachhouse, and The Player's Club. Today, it is the home of [Landscape Details](#), a landscape design firm.

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[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 Gina Piastuck, Department Head, Long Island Collection.
Gina Piastuck joined the East Hampton Library in 2007 as a librarian and archivist and has

served as the Head of the Long Island Collection since 2009. She's a graduate of LIU Post's Palmer School of Library and Information Science and holds both an M.L.I.S. degree and a Certificate in Archives and Records Management. Her responsibilities managing the Long Island Collection include providing reference and research assistance to patrons on and off site, as well as the acquisition, arrangement, description and conservation of rare and new materials pertaining to the history and people of Long Island.

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