



Item of the Week *from the* Long Island Collection

LONG ISLAND COLLECTION

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EAST HAMPTON STAR ARCHIVE



Abe Katz and his sister Ruthie, 1952

Some of us pass it every day along Rt. 27 near the intersection for Cove Hollow Rd. in East Hampton; large open fields surrounded by split rail fences, with multiple silos in the distance through the trees. Sometimes horses can be seen there grazing, presenting an idyllic scene. To assume it was some sort of farm wouldn't be far from the truth. It was formerly Dune Alpin Farm, a dairy farm, owned by Abe Katz. Abe was born in 1909 and raised in Patchogue, N.Y., the only son (he had four sisters) of Jewish immigrants from Lithuania, Israel Katz and Anna Cohen, who operated a cattle and dairy farm in Holtsville. Soon after graduation from Cornell University in the early 1930's, Abe moved to East Hampton where he purchased the previous farm of George L. McAlpin, known as McAlpin Farm or McAlpin Dune Farm, so named because it was said the ocean left a dune on the property many, many years ago after having receded. Katz modified the name to Dune Alpin Farm and set about creating the largest dairy farm in East Hampton by the mid-1960's. In 1964, it became the first farm on Long Island to install an automated milking parlor, which allowed up to thirteen cows to be milked at the same time. In addition to being a dairy farmer, Katz was active in town. He was a member and former president of the East Hampton Lions Club, often hosting the club's barbecue fundraiser at Dune Alpin Farm, which was an idea of his. He also served as a Town Trustee from 1965-1975, was president of the Federal Loan Association of Riverhead, and served as a volunteer fireman for 35 years. By the early 1970's, Abe Katz had sold Dune Alpin Farm, which later became a horse farm and then a condominium and housing development. Developers retained some of the farm buildings, which can still be seen from the road today. Land was also dedicated to the Town of East Hampton for scenic easements. Abe Katz later passed away in Southampton in 1978, but his presence is still felt.

EXPLORE MORE

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 6,500+ item collection by collection name, year, title, or keyword search.

The Local Artist Research Archive is a collection of over 10,000 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 wedding 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. Our public hours are Mon.-Tues. and Thurs.-Sat. 1:00-4:30 p.m.

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