



Item of the Week *from the* Long Island Collection

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I.Y. Halsey Garage, East Hampton, N.Y., 1918

In business for over fifty years in East Hampton, Halsey's Garage, seen in this image from 1918, arose from humble beginnings, but seemed to find itself in the right place at the right time. The proprietor of that business, Isaac Youngs Halsey (often referred to as I.Y. Halsey), was born in Westhampton Beach on November 13, 1882 to Frank C. and Maria Isabelle Youngs Halsey. Halsey grew up in Southampton, but eventually moved to East Hampton with his family as a teenager. As a young man, he attended a machine shop school in Providence, R.I. before opening a small bicycle repair shop in 1905 behind Muchmore's drugstore, which is currently White's Apothecary at [81 Main St.](#) in East Hampton. The following year, Halsey broke ground for his automobile garage on Newtown Lane.

Seen in one of the shop's earliest advertisements from 1908, Halsey's Garage boasted of having "3,300 square feet of concrete floor space in the garage, and an up-to-date machine shop." In 1910, G.A. Eldredge began construction on an

automobile storage building that was 22 by 88 feet in diameter with eleven auto stalls. It certainly seemed like the shop was thriving, until it inexplicably burned down later that summer. According to Donald Miller Halsey, I.Y. Halsey's son, the original structure was a wooden building "sheathed in tin," which was common for the time. As a result, a larger structure was built entirely out of concrete and Halsey started advertising his new garage as fire proof in 1911. Over time, several additions were added to the building.

In spite of the setbacks, I.Y. Halsey opened his business at a time when automobiles were becoming more common and East Hampton's wealthy summer residents were bringing their cars out from New York City. Aside from vehicles needing regular maintenance and repair, Halsey saw a need for storage, and would house up to 120 automobiles in the winter for summer residents who decided to leave their cars behind until next season.

Halsey maintained ownership of the garage until 1954 and died the following year. At the time of his death, Halsey's Garage was one of the largest buildings in East Hampton, containing over 17,000 square feet of space on one floor and about 40,000 square feet of parking space surrounding it. Today, [Stop & Shop](#) occupies the place where Halsey's Garage once stood.

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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!

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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.

gina@easthamptonlibrary.org | (631) 324-0222 ext. 4 | www.easthamptonlibrary.org

