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THURSDAY, MAY 2, 1963

New Owners Form Gifford House, Inc.

Gifford House, famous old inn established in 1868 on Bradford Street hill, recently sold by its long-time owner Daniel C. Merrill, has been incorporated by its new owners, John Atkins, Dr. Thomas F. Perry, Alton E. Ramey and Francis Rogers. Mr. Atkins has been elected to serve as president of the corporation, Mr. Rogers as treasurer, and Mr. Ramey as clerk.

Started by the Giffords, the inn was operated by them until 1903 when it was sold to George A. Merrill. The Merrills have owned and operated the Gifford House up to the present time, Daniel C. Merrill taking over the business when his father died.

In 1910, George A. Merrill made extensive additions to the establishment, which now has 45 rooms. Many famous names may be found on the old register, including that of President Ulysses Grant and the Vanderbilts.

The new owners have had the lobby and dining room redecorated and other improvements made, including substantial expansion of the kitchen and installation of a large cocktail lounge in the basement. The cocktail lounge which will be known as the Compass Room, has been designed by Mr. Atkins. It includes a driftwood bar and nautical decor with accessories from ship and shore. Interior decorating was done by Antone Bent of Court Street.

The Gifford House will retain the same chefs, who have made its food famous, with Frank Hill continuing as head chef. It will continue to operate on the American plan, the only place in town which includes meals with

Grand Opening Set For Gifford House

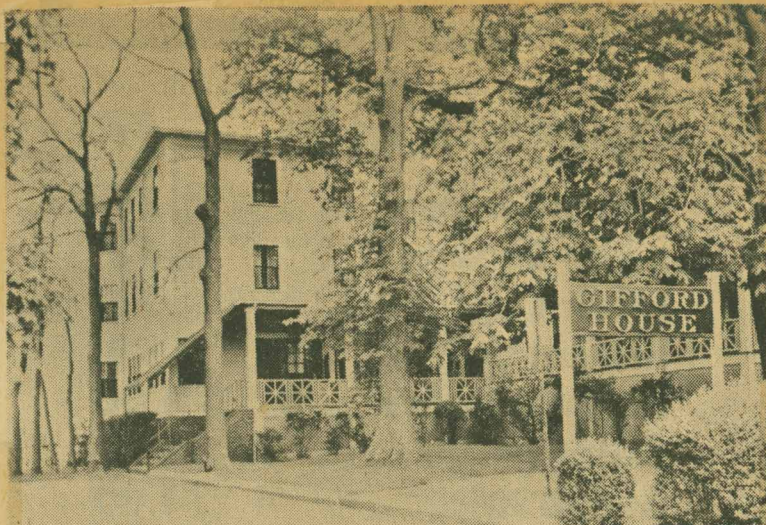
Francis Rogers, Dr. Thomas F. Perry, Alton E. Ramey, and John Atkins, new owners of the Gifford House, are holding a grand opening there Saturday at the Compass Bar between 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. with hors d'oeuvres and "your favorite drink on the house prepared by John Atkins"

Chef Frank Hill who has been with the Gifford House for several years will be on hand with his own crew in the newly expanded kitchen to turn out for the 6:30 o'clock dining-room opening the same kind of good food which has given the famous old inn its fine reputation for so many years.

Mrs. Frank Rogers and her friend Mrs. John Foley of Norwood, a professional decorator, have transformed the lobby and dining room from its former gumwood finish to early American decor with a pink and white color scheme like cool icing for the dining-room's murals. Pink draperies dress the windows, and the tables covered with sparkling white tablecloths are complemented with antique diners' chairs painted pink. The filigreed white wrought-iron light fixtures also seem to bring out the effect of coolness.

The lobby has a welcoming aspect with its new mushroom-colored walls, scenic toile print draperies, gold and white towel light fixtures, and gold-striped furniture in light cherry wood, including several deacon's benches and original captain's chairs in white and gold.

Electrical work was by Lloyd Atwood and painting by Antone Bent, the owners said.



The Gifford House, at the corner of Bradford and Carver Streets, will open again Saturday night under the new management of townspeople who have taken it over from Mr. and Mrs. Dan Merrill. The establishment first opened its doors in 1868, making it one of the oldest inns on Cape Cod. A story of the opening will be found elsewhere in this issue.

