

Provincetown Advocate, Thursday, July 15, 1976

Inn purchase denied

Eugene Burman, owner of Burman Clothing in Hyannis, said Tuesday that he had been negotiating for the purchase of the Provincetown Inn, but that he has decided "absolutely not" to buy the hotel.

The Inn is the biggest, most expensive commercial property in Provincetown.

Burman said that he stopped negotiating for the motel, which is owned by Bass River Savings Bank, "several weeks ago." The purchase price had reputedly been about \$2.6 million.

"The answer to all of your questions is no," Burman said.

The Inn was once recognized as one of the most prestigious hotels in the town.

After its sale several years ago to Jerry and Sheila Malloy, of Pilgrim of Provincetown Corporation, the Inn suffered a series of financial difficulties.

Creditors foreclosed on the Malloys in April, 1974, because Pilgrim of Provincetown owed approximately \$150,000.

In June, 1974, Bass River, one of three bank joint owners, bought the Inn at an auction for one million dollars after obtaining a liquor license transfer. Bass River has refused to comment on the possible role of the inn.

The Inn is presently contesting a \$1.8 million tax assessment

Provincetown Advocate, Thursday, February 16, 1978

Provincetown totaling storm damage

By Gregory Katz

Last week's colossal storm and quiet flood did tremendous damage to the Provincetown Inn, the Inn at the Mews, Cicero's Trattoria and other waterfront businesses and homes.

As newscasts described hundreds of people who lost their homes to the storm in Revere, Hull and Scituate it became clear how lucky Provincetown had really been. But this was small comfort to those who suffered harsh financial setbacks because of the flood here.

The days following the storm were marked by gorgeous winter skies and comfortable temperatures. No serious shortages developed here although grocery supplies dwindled over the weekend. Fuel deliveries were made. The A & P received a special delivery of food late Saturday night and it remained open Sunday after Gov. Michael Dukakis suspended the state's blue laws prohibiting trade on Sundays.

The Provincetown Inn suffered electrical damage due to flooding and was forced to close for four days. Brooke Evans said the inn's seawall was shaken to its foundation and is in danger.

"The damage couldn't have been any worse without losing the whole building," Evans said Monday.

Everything in the inn's cellars was flooded. Six large boilers were ruined along with 30 compressors. The entire electrical system and telephone system had to be rewired. Fifteen windows were

shattered and shingles on two of the inn's roofs were blown off by high winds.

In addition, Evans said the inn had to postpone a week-long convention gathering that was scheduled to begin Sunday. The conference was an executive meeting of the Digital Corporation, a Maynard firm. The company had booked 25 rooms for seven days. Evans said the firm plans to rebook the conference.

The Wine Cellar at the Inn at the Mews, a popular bar on the lower level of the restaurant complex, was completely inundated with water. The restaurant remained closed last weekend as repair work continued.

Owner Basil Santos said there was nine-and-a-half feet of water in the Wine Cellar.

"The water stopped just a few inches before flooding the main floor, thank God," Santos said. If we can replenish our supplies in time we should be open this weekend."

Santos said the dishroom at the restaurant was badly damaged and a lot of wine was lost. Frozen food supplies were ruined because power had to be cut. All the wiring panels were replaced before power could be turned on again.

The Mew survived the high tide last

Monday night without damage. But the next morning's high tide came right into the wine cellar.

"It happened so fast I couldn't believe it," Santos said. "All of a sudden, in 15 minutes, the cellar was filled with water."

Cicero's Trattoria lost its foundation to the tide and water and sand filled its basement. Giovanni Cicero said he lost more than \$30,000 of baking equipment in the flood.

Arnold's appliance store was also flooded, but most of the stock was removed in time, according to owner Arnold Dwyer. The Masthead apartment complex in the West End was badly hurt by the high water and winds.

The Masthead, which operates year round, was forced to close because of electrical problems. Part of its deck was ripped away and its carefully manicured lawns were left a shambles. Repairs are continuing and the Masthead is open again.

St. Mary of the Harbor Church, which was clobbered with \$18,000 worth of damage during the year's first flood on Jan. 9, escaped last week's flood with "only" \$8000 in additional damages.

The Rev. John Upton said water cascaded into the church again and

damaged the church organ. The church's insurance policy will not come close to covering repair costs, Upton said.

Despite fears, a serious food or heating oil shortage did not develop. Superintendent of Schools Dr. Frederick Bardsley had prepared alternative menus in case bread and milk were not delivered to the schools.

The A & P and Cumberland Farms both ran out of milk over the weekend. A & P manager Raymond O'Neill said Monday that some fruit and vegetable supplies from the Midwest may not arrive for several days because of bottlenecks in Boston and Providence.

No mail crossed Cape Cod bridges after the storm until Sunday night. Mail deliveries last week consisted solely of items mailed on the Cape and items that were already on the Cape before the storm.

Anything mailed on the Cape to the outside world was stalled for a week at Buzzards Bay, according to Provincetown Post Office Acting Supervisor David Roderick. The trucks carrying mail were not able to leave the Cape until Sunday night.

Deliveries of newspapers from New York were curtailed until Sunday, when a bundle of Sunday papers arrived in a van from New Bedford.