



Photo by Clarence Pusey

FITZGERALD'S RESTAURANT, better known as the Indian Head Inn, was a popular night spot for more than 40 years. Photo courtesy of the Branford Historical Society.

Pictures of the Past

Indian Head Inn was popular spot

The Indian Head Inn

One of the well-known and rather notorious spots in Branford's past was the Indian Head Inn. In 1939 Thomas J. and Katharine Fitzgerald started a restaurant and tavern at South Montowese Street in Indian Neck serving a shoreline menu. It soon became a gathering place for the night crowd.

The original Fitzgerald's tavern was across the street from 205 South Montowese St. Eventually the latter building was converted and the tavern moved to this site. In 1950 it officially became known as the Indian Head Inn. Despite being crippled from polio at the age of 7,

Thomas Fitzgerald tended the bar and Katharine ran the restaurant and did the cooking. Thomas died in 1959 and Katharine continued operating the tavern until her retirement in 1966.

The Indian Head Inn operated under various management throughout the 1960s and 1970s. It continued as a popular night spot and many a parent during this period forbid their teenager to go to the bar. The well-known seafood restaurant - Lenny's Indian Head Inn, was opened at the site in 1982 by owner Leonard Conlin.

- Jane Peterson Bouley