

Thriving hub now thriving memory

Among a number of well-known restaurants that have earned their spot in the annals of Branford history is the Summit House at the top of Branford Hills. Its history, however, started in a small establishment in the center of town.

The Sachlos family, natives of Greece, started Branford Lunch at 262 Main St. in 1926 near Suvals Department Store. George and Rita Carter joined the Sachlos brothers in running the popular luncheonette.

In 1931, the Sachlos family built a new restaurant at 686 West Main St. called Mitchell's Sea Grill, named for Mitchell Sachlos. My grandfather, Arnold J. Peterson, built the huge cobblestone fireplace in the restaurant and my great aunt and uncle worked as waitress and chef.

George P. and Rita D. Carter, who continued



PICTURES OF THE PAST

Jane Peterson Bouley

operating Branford Lunch, purchased Mitchell's Grill in 1936 and renamed it The Summit House because of its location.

The Summit House became one of the most popular spots along the east shore noted for its fine food and nightly entertainment with dancing. Owners George and Rita Carter continued to operate the restaurant until 1971 and the Summit House closed its doors in 1979.

Back on Main Street, Branford Lunch - later called Branford Restaurant - was operated for nearly 20 more years by the Morris family.

The former Summit House continued to house various restaurants through the 1980s and was remodeled into a retail complex. The building was partially destroyed by fire Oct. 6, 1994.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Jane Peterson Bouley is the town historian of Branford.

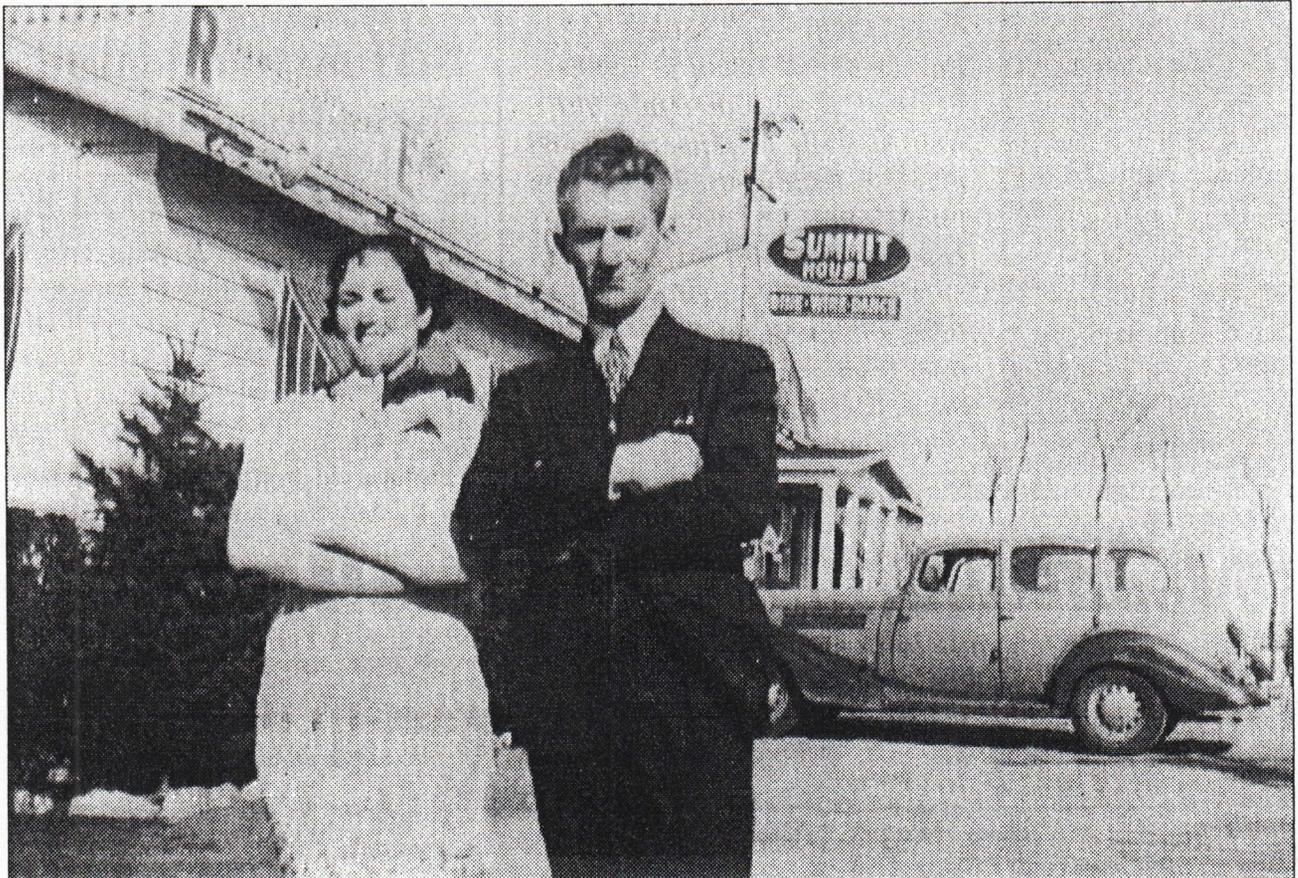


Photo courtesy of the Branford Historical Society
George and Rita Carter stand outside their establishment The Summit House in 1937. The restaurant soon became one of the most popular night spots along the shoreline.