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Posting: They are tearing down Uncle Ken's... Poster: Walker Date: 8 March 2006 9:00 AM	Posting 1
<p>...right now! I thought they had just removed the front, perhaps for resale purposes. I imagined maybe someone would restore Uncle Ken's to it's former Ice Cream Stand glory, what with the big plate glass windows visible again. But right now, as I type this, they are ripping down the entire building...</p> <p>I know it is just an old Tasty Freeze but still, it is painful.</p> <p><a href="http://www.agilitynut.com/eateries/chain.html">http://www.agilitynut.com/eateries/chain.html</a></p>	
Posting: Re: They are tearing down Uncle Ken's... Poster: mammabear Date: 8 March 2006 9:10 AM	Posting 2
<p>Like you, I thought they were just removing the ugly plywood front. It's sad that they are tearing it down... I wonder if someone bought the property and is planning to build something new...</p> <p>mammabear</p>	
Posting: Re: They are tearing down Uncle Ken's... Poster: Sam Date: 8 March 2006 10:38 AM	Posting 3
<p>Did Ken pass away?</p> <p>I remember the Pig Roasts he used to have at the Hebron Fair ... or the Lebanon Fair, I cannot remember which one.</p>	
Posting: Re: They are tearing down Uncle Ken's... Poster: Walker Date: 8 March 2006 5:44 PM	Posting 4
<p>I caught it in mid-destruction-</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">  <a href="#">Tastee Freez</a> </div>	
Posting: Re: They are tearing down Uncle Ken's... Poster: Tina Date: 8 March 2006 7:24 PM	Posting 5
<p>How heartbreaking.          I hope someone rescues the sign.          I have lots of happy memories of Uncle Ken's.          Thanks for the photo.</p>	
Posting: Re: They are tearing down Uncle Ken's... Poster: Walker Date: 9 March 2006 11:06 AM	Posting 6



Posting: Re: They are tearing down Uncle Ken's...  
 Poster: Sam  
 Date: 9 March 2006 11:31 AM

Posting 7

That is a great Zippy Cartoon. How long ago was it done? He has done others in Connecticut. I remember the one he did about a church in Vernon that is shaped like a volcano.

Does anyone know if the author of Zippy is from Connecticut?

Posting: Re: They are tearing down Uncle Ken's...  
 Poster: Walker  
 Date: 9 March 2006 12:05 AM

Posting 8

Hi Sam, that strip is from 6/21/2001. You can find it archived on Zippy's website <http://www.zippythepinhead.com>

Bill Griffith moved to Connecticut from California several years ago and now lives in Hadlyme, I believe. About the same time as his move, he started featuring "real" places to contrast Zippy's strange universe with something more concrete. Zippy seems particularly fond of huge roadside icons, such as the Muffler Man (in front of Surplus Unlimited Norwich) and the Giant Bowling Pin at the bowling lanes in Norwichtown.

Of course, he's talked to the Frogs on the Bridge, and even the Painted Frog just off of Rt. 44 up there past Willington.

You can search the archive by "Roadside Attractions" but not all local scenes are listed. In fact, Uncle Ken's is not listed there - I just happen to be fond of that one and remember the date...

Posting: Re: They are tearing down Uncle Ken's...  
 Poster: Ernie E  
 Date: 9 March 2006 4:04 PM

Posting 9

Uncle Ken is fine, just saw him two weeks ago, he is part of a model A ford auto club. I believe he had leased the building to Lou for the last 30yrs. Lou left and ken sold to another party that didn't make it. have no idea what is now going on. But I also have great memories of Uncle Ken's like talking my dad in to buying me a milk shake that cost a whole 15 cents and then dropping it on the floor of the familys 56 dodge station wagon. when it got hot in the summer the smell would return.

Posting: Re: They are tearing down Uncle Ken's...  
 Poster: Andrew Gutt  
 Date: 10 March 2006 5:19 PM

Posting 10

The large house and storefront adjacent to Uncle Ken's was demomolished today (Friday).

Posting: Re: They are tearing down Uncle Ken's...  
 Poster: Dagmar Noll  
 Date: 11 March 2006 6:22 AM

Posting 11

Andrew -

The building behind Ken's in the photo?

Dagmar

Posting: Re: They are tearing down Uncle Ken's...  
 Poster: MJS  
 Date: 11 March 2006 8:03 AM

Posting 12

Uncle Ken's used to make the worlds best clam fritters; although Tiny Bellerose at Liberty's was a close second. both gone now..how sad..

Posting: Re: They are tearing down Uncle Ken's... Posting 13  
 Poster: Walker  
 Date: 11 March 2006 1:44 PM

Does anyone remember/have pictures of the original Tastee-Freez?

Apparently it had been Uncle Ken's for a long time but, from my online research, it would have been originally constructed in the mid-1950's as part of the Tastee-Freez franchise, featuring soft-serve ice cream.

The Tastee-Freez name still survives, and has locations in 22 states, along with 2 locations in the Central-American country of Panama. Huh?

Kinda like our own Bee-Bee's Dairy, based in Norwich, which had several locations in CT as well as one in the Caribbean - St. Thomas or somewhere? What's up with that LOL

Well, they still have one store down in the Norwichtown Mall...

Posting: Re: They are tearing down Uncle Ken's... Posting 14  
 Poster: Andrew Gutt  
 Date: 11 March 2006 6:51 PM

Yep, the yellow house as seen in the above photo is now more. Along with the other houses that were torn down before my time here. Something must be going on it is quite a large lot that has opened up. Hopefully not another gas station, fast food, or box chain.

Posting: Re: They are tearing down Uncle Ken's... Posting 15  
 Poster: Ernie E  
 Date: 11 March 2006 7:10 PM

Do you remember the very early house on the right side of uncle Ken. it was taking apart piece by piece, numbered and put back together. I think it is at a place like STURBRIDGE VILLAGE. Was taking about 1972. I use to go to lunch on wed a Uncle Ken's when I work for VW and saw it get removed

Posting: Re: They are tearing down Uncle Ken's... Posting 16  
 Poster: John B  
 Date: 11 March 2006 8:12 PM

My grandfather George Boudreau owned Boudreau's Market which just up the street ( west ) on the corner . That building must be gone by now , no ?

Posting: Re: They are tearing down Uncle Ken's... Posting 17  
 Poster: MJS  
 Date: 12 March 2006 9:08 AM

I drove by the site yesterday, and Uncle Ken's ALL gone for sure. The little building next to Uncle Kens is also gone, but not the building Boudreau's Market was in. I think there was a barbershop in there when I was a kid, but memory is a bit foggy on that one. Now that Uncle Kens is gone, and Libertys died a long time ago, I dont know where to get clam fritters, except down at Sacrborough Beach at Aunt Carries...any suggestions???

Posting: Re: They are tearing down Uncle Ken's... Posting 18  
 Poster: Tina  
 Date: 12 March 2006 10:26 AM

Murphy's is pretty good, although they're a seasonal business. They have really good clam rolls and serve Hosmer Mountain Soda. Their onion rings are interesting, sliced really thin.

Murphy's Route 66 Drive-In  
 94 Route 66 E, Columbia, CT  
 (860) 228-6677

Posting: Re: They are tearing down Uncle Ken's... Posting 19  
 Poster: rd  
 Date: 12 March 2006 11:53 AM

Which Murhpy is that runs the drive-in?

Posting: Re: They are tearing down Uncle Ken's... Posting 20  
 Poster: dekker  
 Date: 12 March 2006 12:15 AM

Murphy's is good.

Have been there a few times. I like the onion rings like that.

Do they have clam fritters? If not, I sure would like if they did.

I'll have to check it out when they open and suggest the fritters if they don't have them.

Posting: Re: They are tearing down Uncle Ken's... Posting 21  
 Poster: John B  
 Date: 12 March 2006 4:46 PM

" drove by the site yesterday, and Uncle Ken's ALL gone for sure. The little building next to Uncle Kens is also gone, but not the building Boudreau's Market was in. I think there was a barbershop in there when I was a kid, but memory is a bit foggy on that one. "

Thanks for the report . Is the old Boudreau's building vacant ? The building next to my Grandpa's store did house a babershop back in the early 60's , and possibly before that .

Posting: Re: They are tearing down Uncle Ken's... Posting 22  
 Poster: Scorpio  
 Date: 13 March 2006 1:40 AM

Hey John:  
 Is Norman your dad or your uncle? Norman and I joined the USAF together on September 11, (a few year prior to the infamous 9/11).

I hope they're all well.

Posting: Re: They are tearing down Uncle Ken's... Posting 23  
 Poster: Ernie G  
 Date: 13 March 2006 1:49 AM

Didn't the Elliott family live above Boudreau's Market in the 40's?

Posting: Re: They are tearing down Uncle Ken's... Posting 24  
 Poster: Tom  
 Date: 13 March 2006 7:01 AM

I am told they are just clearing the lot and no plan is in place for anything at this time. I think the sea food market has clam fritters. I know there take out sea food is great.

Posting: Re: They are tearing down Uncle Ken's... Posting 25  
 Poster: John B  
 Date: 13 March 2006 8:55 AM

" Hey John:  
 Is Norman your dad or your uncle? Norman and I joined the USAF together on September 11, (a few year prior to the infamous 9/11).

I hope they're all well. "

Norman Boudreau is my uncle ! Last I heard he was fine . He's been living in Florida for many years now .

My grandmother Alice , God rest her soul , passed away a couple of years ago at the age of 100 !

Cheers ,

John

Posting: Re: They are tearing down Uncle Ken's... Posting 26  
 Poster: John B  
 Date: 13 March 2006 8:57 AM

" Didn't the Elliott family live above Boudreau's Market in the 40's? "

That was way before my time ...but the name sounds familiar to me ...

Posting: Re: They are tearing down Uncle Ken's... Posting 27  
 Poster: JayJay  
 Date: 13 March 2006 12:46 AM

To John B:  
 Where does Juliet fit into your family tree?

Posting: Re: They are tearing down Uncle Ken's... Posting 28  
 Poster: John B  
 Date: 13 March 2006 4:59 PM

Juliet is my aunt ! She's down in Florida as well . In fact , so is my uncle Bernard . I haven't seen Juliet in a long , long time . Did you go to school with her ?

Posting: Re: They are tearing down Uncle Ken's... Posting 29  
 Poster: JayJay  
 Date: 13 March 2006 5:49 PM

Yes, St. Joe's, Class of '41, and WHS, Class of '45.

Posting: Re: They are tearing down Uncle Ken's... Posting 30  
 Poster: Bruin  
 Date: 13 March 2006 8:58 PM

Great picture!! A picture book of the business that have come and gone over the years would be very interesting. Seafood Excreta on Route 12 in Norwich (Greenville section) has good clam fritters. I kind of miss living down there. They have a wide variety of fresh seafood and dinners, take out only.

Posting: Re: They are tearing down Uncle Ken's... Posting 31  
 Poster: John B  
 Date: 14 March 2006 9:04 AM

" Yes, St. Joe's, Class of '41, and WHS, Class of '45. "

Interesting . I thought my whole family went to St. Mary's !

John B in Japan

Posting: Re: They are tearing down Uncle Ken's... Posting 32  
 Poster: William Brainard  
 Date: 14 March 2006 11:26 AM

Sad to see Uncle Ken's go away; regarding Bee Bee's in Norwichtown Mall, was there about 6 months ago and it was just like the old days. Weren't they owned by Newport Creamery for awhile?

Posting: Re: They are tearing down Uncle Ken's... Posting 33  
 Poster: Walker  
 Date: 14 March 2006 7:21 PM

>Sad to see Uncle Ken's go away; regarding Bee Bee's in Norwichtown  
 >Mall, was there about 6 months ago and it was just like the old days.  
 >Weren't they owned by Newport Creamery for awhile?

I do believe Newport Creamery bought Bee Bee's in the early 90's. Then, when Newport creamery itself was going through near-bankruptcy contraction, it sold off Bee Bee's as well as shutting down some of it's own eateries.

At that point, the original owners of Bee Bee's decided to bring back a single location in the Norwichtown mall. I am sure glad of that, for I love their BeeBeeFurter (topped with bacon & cheese) followed by the "Dusty Road" sundae crowned with Malt Powder for the finishing touch.

Posting: Re: They are tearing down Uncle Ken's... Posting 34  
 Poster: Bruin  
 Date: 14 March 2006 8:42 PM

The Norwichtown mall is a forgotten mall, the stationary store closed or is closing. This "mall" makes East Brook look like Buckland Hills. In Franklin Treat's Bakery is closing. Don't know about the creamery, which is in the same building. Dunkin Doughnut's opened down the street at a gas station on Route 32. Dixie Doughnuts in Yantic still has the area's best doughnuts. Billy's Seafood on Route 138 (Jewett City) has many flavors of soft serve and a wide variety of fried food. Kind of like a big Uncle Ken's.

Posting: Re: They are tearing down Uncle Ken's... Posting 35  
 Poster: JayJay  
 Date: 14 March 2006 9:18 PM

To: John B. in Japan

Try contacting me at: JayJay@cox.net I have a photo you might get a kick seeing.

To Whomever: There are many references in various posts to "BeeBee's". My recollections of the "original" in Norwichtown was Beebe's Dairy. Are they one and the same? When and under what circumstances did it get "renamed"?

Posting: Re: They are tearing down Uncle Ken's... Posting 36  
 Poster: Walker  
 Date: 14 March 2006 9:46 PM

I guess I'm too young to remember Beebe's, but BeeBee's Dairy had, at one point, 5 or 6 locations. I remember Norwichtown, Mystic, Niantic, Waterford, Groton, and the one down in the Caribbean.

Posting: Re: They are tearing down Uncle Ken's... Posting 37  
 Poster: Walker  
 Date: 14 March 2006 9:48 PM

Quick update, thanks to archive.org - this is off of an old, no longer online, page from Newport Creamery's web site, ironically enough-

Bee Bee Dairy has a rich history in Connecticut. Dino Pappas of Norwich, the father of Peter and Christopher Pappas, founded Bee Bee Dairy in 1963, when he purchased the restaurant operation of the former Beebe's Dairy and slightly changed the name. (The dairy operation had been previously purchased by what is now Guida Dairy.) The Norwichtown Mall is on the site of the original dairy farm.

Posting: Re: They are tearing down Uncle Ken's... Posting 38  
 Poster: JayJay  
 Date: 14 March 2006 10:32 PM

Thank you, Walker. You have reinforced my confidence in my memory faculties. My recollections of Beebe's goes back to the late 30's. There were occasional stops there for an ice cream soda when my folks drove down to Norwich from Willimantic to visit the cousins. Guess you are too young.... enjoy your "youth"! It's hell when you have to consider anyone under 70 a kid! (Just kidding, of course). Thanks again.

Posting: Re: They are tearing down Uncle Ken's... Posting 39  
 Poster: JayJay  
 Date: 17 March 2006 11:19 PM

To: John B. in Japan  
 "Try contacting me at: JayJay@cox.net ....."  
 Correction: Try jayjayjr@cox.net

Posting: Re: They are tearing down Uncle Ken's... Posting 40  
 Poster: RR  
 Date: 23 March 2006 3:35 PM

Yes, the Elliott family lived above Boudreau's Market...the reason I know this is because my mom was one of them..... :)

Posting: Re: They are tearing down Uncle Ken's... Posting 41  
 Poster: John B  
 Date: 24 March 2006 9:32 AM

In what years did your Mom live above my Grandpa's store ? I have a vague recollection of the name / family . Cheers ...John Boudreau

Posting: Re: They are tearing down Uncle Ken's... Posting 42  
 Poster: mailman  
 Date: 25 March 2006 8:26 PM

We used to get grinders from there years ago. Fantastic! The ice cream was a treat our mom would give us after mass on Saturdays. What a treat it was! Great memories.

Posting: Re: They are tearing down Uncle Ken's... Posting 43  
 Poster: John  
 Date: 25 March 2006 8:29 PM

My Grandpa sold the store to the Dusheaneau's ( sp. ? ) in the late 60's and they are the ones who started the grinder business . They were good , weren't they ?

Posting: Re: They are tearing down Uncle Ken's... Posting 44  
 Poster: mammabear  
 Date: 27 March 2006 2:14 PM

Whatever Uncle Ken's may have become, many of us have fond memories of the original Tastee Freeze... There is nothing wrong with taking a trip down memory lane...

mammabear

Posting: Re: They are tearing down Uncle Ken's... Posting 45  
 Poster: David Colby  
 Date: 27 March 2006 2:46 PM

I agree momma, I too have fond memories of walking over from rec park to hang out around the tastee freeze.

I'd have to say it's a pretty funny put down from a guy who runs an antique shop.

Posting: Re: They are tearing down Uncle Ken's... Posting 46  
 Poster: phd  
 Date: 27 March 2006 6:37 PM

what is going to be put on the Uncle Ken's site?

Does anyone know?

Posting: Re: They are tearing down Uncle Ken's... Posting 47  
Poster: Leatherneck  
Date: 29 March 2006 11:13 AM

The earliest I can remember what is now Uncle Ken's was when it was a Gas Station owned by a man named Moran. The yellow house next door was owned and lived in by an elderly widow and was one of the nicest homes in Sodom.

On the west side was Gamache's Barber Shop run for many years by Mo Gamache's father. Mo became a barber after returning from duty in the Air Force at the end of the Korean War and eventually moved his shop to Willowbrook Street where, I think, it still stands today run by Mo's son.

In the next building to the west, it was Boudreau's grocery store and later Duchesneau's Store.

Long time ago. . .

Posting: Re: They are tearing down Uncle Ken's... Posting 48  
Poster: Walker  
Date: 29 March 2006 1:02 PM

Having moved to Willimantic just over a decade ago, I only know of the place as Uncle Ken's, where I took my kids for many years. We especially enjoyed the Monster Malted Milkshakes.

Can anyone recall the Tastee Freez days? I'd love to hear about it. Especially the years of operation, when Tastee Freez first opened, when it became Uncle Ken's etc.

Posting: Re: They are tearing down Uncle Ken's... Posting 49  
Poster: John B  
Date: 29 March 2006 6:21 PM

Thanks for the post . Gamache's Barber Shop ; I'd forgotten who owned that barber shop .

My Grandfather George Boudreau owned the market for several years . I've so many fond memories of the place ...Walking down to the store with my buddies from Jackson Street where we lived to get a bunch of freebies from Grandpa ! Never had a shortage of pals when I announced I was going down for a visit . Hehehe...My grandfather's heart was TOO kind at times , though . He let too many folks charge their groceries and some never paid . There were some poor folks down in Sodom , and he just didn't have the heart to see them go hungry . I vividly recall him stuffing candy in the poor neighborhood kids' pockets when my grandmother ( who chided him ! ) wasn't looking !

Posting: Re: They are tearing down Uncle Ken's... Posting 50  
Poster: RR  
Date: 4 April 2006 12:53 AM

John,  
I asked my mother she can remember being 10-11 and living there and that was in 1943-44.