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Discovering the families who settled on the farmland that became the FourWinds Country Motel takes us back more than two hundred years. Jonathan Benedict, who was born in 1723, moved from Connecticut in 1785 to settle on this land two miles north of Manchester Center on what was known as the Rutland Road. (now Historic Route 7A). The original house, a Greek Revival built in 1854, stands on a marble foundation which is a good example of early stone work. Jonathan had a very large family (twelve children), and the farmlands were passed down through the family for three generations when in November 1866, they became the property of William H. Benedict. William was Jonathan's grandson.



A Pre-World War II aerial view of The FourWinds

another \$1.00. The food was fabulous: pancakes, Irish oatmeal, eggs, bacon, ham, homemade bread, and coffee from Africa. In the back of the kitchen stood a huge black iron wood stove. When this giant was fired up there was nothing that compared to the embracing warmth and smell of maple and birch. The guests were very well fed, and a few made second and third visits. Mrs. Richardson did no major advertising, so all of her visitors came by word of mouth or they were stranded in storms. On the north side of the FourWinds was a vegetable garden that had the reputation of growing the best cucumbers in town. People would stop by to try to buy them. There was also a raspberry patch that produced berries the size of your thumb. The wood shed was about fifteen feet in back of the house behind the cold room in the back of the kitchen. It was always loaded with many cords of stove wood. Near the wood shed was the chicken coop. It held about twenty unhappy and frustrated Rhode Island Reds that laid so many eggs, that Mrs. Richardson could take the surplus and sell them to Healey's Market in the Manchester Depot (now an Italian deli known as Al Ducci's). (continued on the other side)

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FOURWINDS COUNTRY MOTEL

Harry Way purchased sixty acres, and named the present property the FourWinds. The mountain behind the property-Mount Aeolus- is named after the Greek God of the Four Winds. Harry took his inspiration from the meaning of the mountain's name. In the late 1930's, he was the first to run a tourist house on the property. Thirty acres across Route 7 were filled with meadows, a small apple orchard way down near the Barnumville Road, barns, and carriage sheds. There were thirty acres on the main house side; 20 acres in meadows and ten in woods, a wood shed, chicken coop and a small spring house. Harry sold the FourWinds to Helen Richardson in September 1945. At that time the size of the property was 28.5 acres.



FourWinds with Mt Aeolus in the distance

Three years after William died in April 1927, what was known as the Old William Benedict Farm was purchased by Orrin and Mildred Buell of Springfield, Massachusetts. Over the next nine years the farmlands and buildings were divided up into separate properties.

David Richardson remembered that his mother continued to run the residence as a tourist house. She charged \$4.00 a night per person and should they want breakfast, that was

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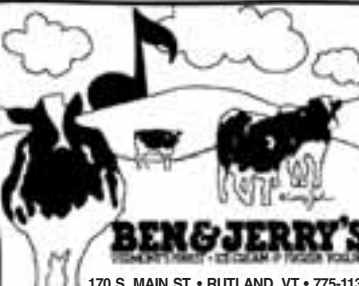


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(Continued from the other side) All of the activities became too overwhelming for Mrs. Richardson, and she sold to Colonel Warren Nichols and his wife, Nana, in June 1947. They were the first to run the FourWinds as an Inn, and did so until October 1950.

Next came Philip and Maude Gass who continued to run the Inn for two years.

By far one of the most colorful characters came next and purchased the FourWinds November 1952. His name was Nicholas Lemtugov. He and his wife, Eleanor, were the first to turn the Inn into a country motel by having five units built.

Nicholas was Russian and spoke seven languages. He was always very presentable; even when he was out gardening, he would be wearing a well pressed shirt and a bow tie. He and Eleanor took great pride in the property.

In July of 1960, Sara Mary Robinson appeared on the scene and bought the FourWinds from the Lemtugovs. She was very wealthy and bought the property as an investment. Sara never lived at the FourWinds, but brought in her sister-in-law, Lee, to manage the country motel with Anne Harris. Lee and Anne were great friends, and during the time they managed the FourWinds, it flourished. Six more units were built and there was a lot



FourWinds Winter '99



Autumn late 1960's

of redecorating and winterizing.

Over the next few years Sara's health declined and her lawyers suggested she sell. She did so in August of 1963 to Richard and Charlotte Bartholomae.

The Bartholomae's made a lot of improvements to the motel, including adding six more units. One day in the Spring of 1964, while they were living in the main house, there was a knock at their door. On their doorstep was an old man in his seventies. He was about six feet and fairly thin. Behind him on the drive was a horse and buggy. He introduced himself as Mr. Frank Benedict! He had wanted to stop by and see the house he had lived in as a boy. At that time he was living with his wife in East Dorset. Here was William Benedict's Grandson, and he told Richard and Charlotte how as a boy he used to bring in wash water for his Grandmother that he carried from a cistern that had been designed to collect rain water in the cellar. Mr. Benedict enjoyed walking about the house and talking about how things used to be. The Bartholomae's two sons grew up at the Country Motel and they enjoyed it very much. They would play with other children that came to visit the area with their parents,

and with some, became good friends and would have adventures together skiing in the winter and exploring in the summer.

The acreage size of the FourWinds was reduced to seven and a half, when Richard and Charlotte sold the Country Motel to Jeremiah and Carolyn Little in September 1978. The Littles had the upstairs of the main house changed into living quarters, remodeled the kitchen, closed in the front porch and made it an office, turned the first floor of the main house into a restaurant and bar, and made even more improvements until they retired.

In July of 1998, Ron and Beth Naples became the owners of the FourWinds. Once again they put in a garden on the north side of the house, and they restored the main house to a residence were they also raised their two boys.

On March 25, 2002, Ali Akbar and Sana Evaji purchased the FourWinds from the Naples. For ten years in Connecticut, they devoted all their time to running two family owned grocery stores. Their four children helped every day after school. The Evajis decided they wanted a change. After looking at several different locations, they were very happy to find the FourWinds Country Motel.

Ali and Sana delight in the joy of offering oversized rooms featuring Hitchcock furnishings accented with country antiques. Each of the eighteen rooms overlooks the breathtaking Green Mountains. There is an in ground pool as well as a cottage designed for recreation and special events. The FourWinds offers elegant country lodging in a family friendly environment.



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