

Doolan's 10/15/54 – 10/01/08

Doolan's, as we know it today is a restaurant, banquet, and motel facility. However there is much history involved in the original building, which Mike Doolan purchased in 1954.

It has been said that the original Doolan's building may go back to the late 1800's. It was at that time located on the Thompson Farm. The Thompson Farm, which was part of Wall Township at that time, was purchased in 1909 by the Spring Lake Real Estate Co., which was to become the Spring Lake Golf Club. In 1911 the Thompson home became the clubhouse for the Spring Lake Golf Course. President Woodrow Wilson whose summer residence was located at the National Guard in Sea Girt also used the clubhouse when he played golf. By 1915 the clubhouse outlived its usefulness and members felt a more updated facility was needed. It was eventually sold and through the years there were many different owners.

In 1954 when Mike Doolan and his father arrived in Spring Lake Heights the Thompson Homestead was known as the Village Barn. A Lovely Irish lady and gentleman were the owners and wanted to sell. The owners' names were Kitty and Michael Bayle. After a bit of conversation it was agreed that they would sell to Michael Doolan and he was to come with a deposit the next day. Mike arrived early the next day with his check for \$25.00. Of course Kitty and Mike expected a deposit of \$250.00, but with her great Irish smile Kitty accepted the check. Mike passed away shortly after the sale but Kitty would continue working for the Doolan's for 40 years.

With no change of name the Village Barn opened with a bar and a new addition started. This became a room for dancing featuring many different types of bands. During this time it was also used for Saturday afternoon wedding receptions. Our first wedding was on October 15, 1955 with the bride being Maryann Gulas Kislowski. Maryann is still a regular luncheon or dinner customer in our restaurant.

Through the years the Village Barn sign became outdated and a new sign with the name Mike Doolan's appeared. It has been a family affair with Mike's wife, Joan and their three daughters Susan, Ann, and Joanie assisting.

Besides the change of name there have been many additions to the "old clubhouse or Village Barn." In 1966 a motel was added. In 1971 several banquet rooms were added to the main building. Later a third floor on the motel and an atrium. Several additions of land were also added so that there would be enough parking for the guests.

An air of elegance welcomes you in the reception hall of Mike Restaurant and Motor Lodge. Handsomely designed with high ceiling, sparkling crystal chandeliers, mirrored walls, and winding staircases lead to a balcony and suites creating an air of ambiance. Our atrium under sun and stars an outside gazebo offers a wonderful area for a ceremony or cocktail reception.

Doolan's has been a member of the Southern Monmouth Chamber of Commerce since 1990.