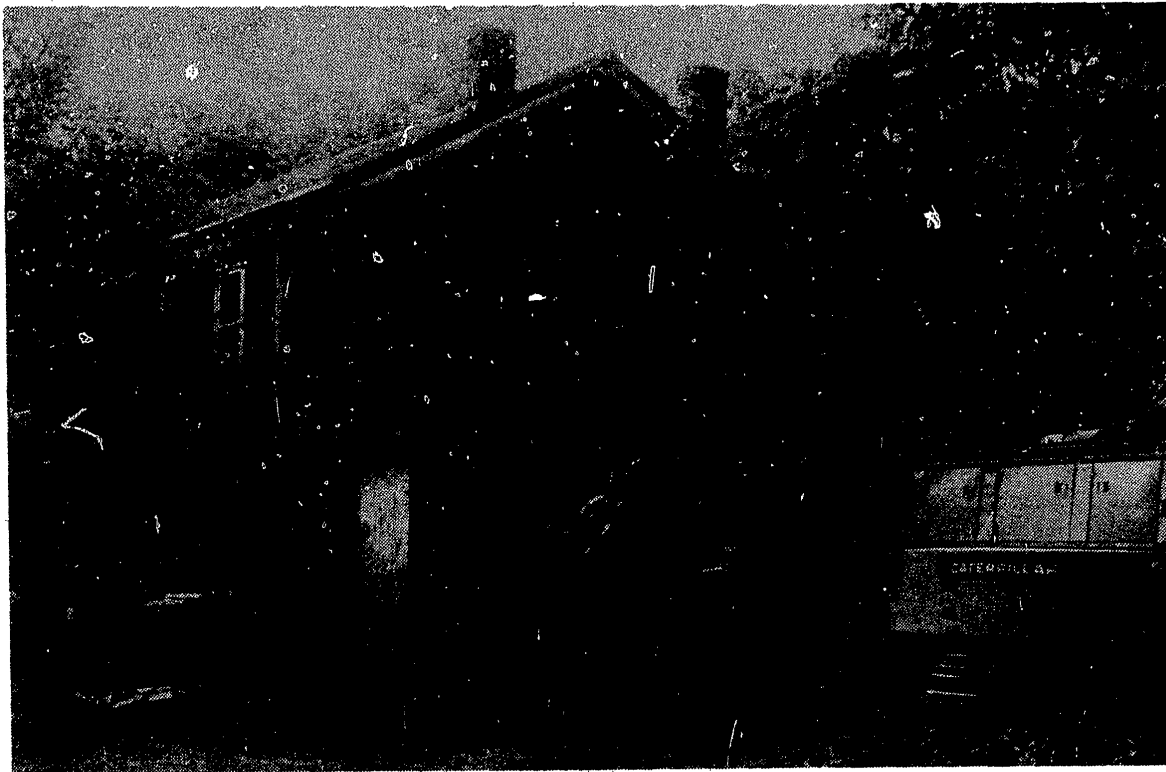


*The Altamont Enterprise — Thursday, August 22, 1996*



*The Enterprise — Andrew Schotz*

*Brendan Murphy of Guilderland has been working this week to save the former Jackson Tavern from demolition. He is moving the historic building to Cooperstown.*

## *From the historian's desk*

# Out with the new, in with the old

**By Alice Begley**

No one else in town thought it was worth saving, but Brendan Murphy did. With the big dozers poised to reduce the old Jackson Tavern on Route 20, across from Prospect Hill Cemetery, to rubble, the stalwart former Dublin resident stepped in to rescue the nearly 200-year-old building.

Murphy is a building contractor now living on Lydius Street in Guilderland. His son, Conor, owns 92 acres of land near Cooperstown where they plan to set up a small hamlet of historic buildings that will be rescued from demolition. They hope to preserve them in order that future generations might see what early American buildings looked like.

William Lia, owner of the Jackson Tavern property and 20 Mall, has donated the aged structure for Mr. Murphy's

project, which will carry over at least until next week.

Rick Theriault, deputy building inspector for the town, aware that the building would be demolished, asked if Mr. Murphy wanted to intervene.

The Jackson Tavern, built in the early 1800s became the McKown Hotel in 1854, run by James McKown, son of "Billy" McKown, a Guilderland supervisor in the mid-1800s. (See the Aug. 8 *Enterprise* for a story about Billy McKown's gravestone found in the same vicinity as the Jackson Tavern.)

A state highway map indicates that in 1908 the Jackson property was owned by John Kelderhouse. In 1930, the farmhouse and land was purchased by Edward Smith and his son, Ward Smith. They operated the Prospect Hill Dairy from the site. Until fifteen years ago, cattle could be seen grazing on

the lush hills and dales behind the aged farmhouse. The building has been abandoned for the past 12 years.

Murphy's sentiments about the "historic look" mirrors that of an historian. "Guilderland's an old town," he said, "from the 1700s, and most of the look is gone. It's an American philosophy, tear down the old and build new." In Europe they rebuild the old, Murphy said.

He's observed that there are but a few remaining historic buildings in the town, unlike Boston and some other New England towns that have kept their early American look. He's pleased that the Guilderland building will remain in New York State.

Plans for the future use of the acreage after the Jackson Tavern has been removed have not yet been made.