

## Bellardo Gallery Leases East End Restaurant



The Southern Mansion Restaurant at 404 Commercial Street has been leased for next summer to the Galleria di Bellardo, formerly located at Center and Commercial Streets. Bill Griffin, owner of the Mansion, has announced that he is closing the restaurant and is giving a five-year lease to the gallery.

Long a familiar sight in Provincetown to summer visitors and permanent residents alike are the stately white columns and wide veranda of the Southern Mansion house, where for the past 13 summers Mr. Griffin has run the restaurant specializing in southern dishes, in addition to renting the rooms on the second floor. In an interview with the New Beacon, he said that he was closing the restaurant because of the difficulty he has had in maintaining summer help, though he plans to continue to make the rooms available to tourists. The art gallery which will occupy the entire first floor is operated by Paul Bellardo and Hal Whittsitt and specializes in ceramics and goldwork by the owners in addition to painting, sculpture and graphic art works.

The Southern Mansion house was originally built by one of the old whaling captains over 100 years ago, though its exact age is not known. It

served as a home for the captain's family in that vanished time when whale oil was Provincetown's vital industry, when over 60 wharves stretched along the shore from the East End to Long Point to receive this oil from the sea, and the old English homes on the north side of what is now Commercial Street spread their lawns down to the open beach which served as a highway for the horse-pulled buggies and wagons. It was one of the captain's daughters who was born in that house and never married and lived there over ninety years and finally died, leaving it to an out-of-state cousin.

It was Bill Griffin himself, though, who gave the house its present name, the Southern Mansion. Mr. Griffin is from Georgia, and for many years was personal secretary to several wealthy men, a position which took him to many foreign countries. Then, visiting here one summer thirteen years ago, he was encouraged by a friend to buy the old house which he turned into a thriving business. Serving as his own chef, Mr. Griffin estimates that since 1949 he has cooked some 40,000 breakfasts and dinners. Over 4,000 meals were served this summer alone to his customers.



This house can be seen in panorama on next page.