

## Westford Recollections

By Mrs. Charles S. Kennedy  
Polly's Landmark Restaurant

"You know the spot with the plan of the roof!" -- how often this past year do we realize the landmark Polly's Restaurant was for the giving of directions to just everyone -- certainly it was unique with the plane perched on the roof. When the Captain Minot homestead was torn down in 1940, Mr. Polly built his restaurant on the same site, moving in during the Spring of 1941; and bringing with him from his former restaurant in Bedford, the States Monoplane.

The following is an account written by Norma Polly which concerns itself with the story behind the plane. "Due to the shortages of food, gasoline and help during World War II, the restaurant closed its doors.

However, a precedent had been set -- history continued to be made. From the ground as well as the air, the place with the plane was known and revered by servicemen. Immediate recognition and often relief quickened the pulse of many flyers whom we have been told dipped their wings in grateful salute. Often planes may be seen circling or dipping as 'like attracts like.'

In 1946, having been closed for FOUR years during the war, Polly's reopened for business. Since the place was given a face-lifting inside and out, the time-worn States had to be replaced. Nothing ordinary would do. Polly scouted around for something special to carry on the traditionally known "Spot with the Plan on the Roof!" In Hartford, Conn., Polly found the present BT 13 (Basic Trainer 13). He fell in love with it and wanted it. But, as with the very first plane, it couldn't be flown for it too had no engine. Undaunted, Polly secured permits and with the help of relatives and friends, he moved the wings and loaded them on a truck for the seemingly endless journey in the wee hours of the morning to its present home. The question has been asked many times, how the plane GOT on the roof. After it was reassembled, a huge crane appeared. There were quite a few spectators awed by the sight of the plane being picked up as though it was no heavier than a feather. Gently it was swung into place on the roof, hesitating there on

its last life into space. Polly and his helpers scrambled over the roof securing the guy wires that still hold the plane in perfect position. The beautiful propeller started to turn ever so slowly, for it was a calm day in the bright sunshine, as it was eased onto its final resting place. As befitting a champion, it was not to be forgotten or unnoticed at night. All it's lights were connected with one added to encircle the propeller's cowlings. Day and night the propeller is seen to turn symbolically -- a legendary welcome to ALL."

The BT 13 remained in place until the restaurant was torn down last year. The new Mobil Station is now located on the site and houses the Captain Minot plaque as mentioned in last week's column. It will be many years, however, before the "Spot with the plan on the Roof" is erased from memory.

1. Captain Jonathan Minot House

2. Polly's Restaurant

3. Polly's Restaurant with airplane on the roof.

All at same location.