

Milford downtown promoter has 'last laugh'

By KENNETH R. WARREN

MILFORD — That she was irked at the downtown merchants and quit a local revitalization effort had no bearing on the giant welcome mat she developed at city expense to sell downtown.

When Patricia Calistro surfaced some months ago as the leader of a downtown revitalization effort to promote and upgrade the marginal downtown area, she came up with ideas galore. She, like others who have tried and failed to trigger any major interest among fellow merchants, suggested midnight sidewalk sales, giveaways and other novelties.

The ideas sailed as high as the balloons she hung from her Studio Three office in the downtown area, but burst when nobody picked up the ball.

IN THE AFTERMATH of her failed efforts, she blasted the downtown merchants for lack of coopera-

tion and resigned her post as chairman of the unit. She said the other merchants were not interested in the downtown area, and said many of her ideas were met with laughter.

Later the merchants denied her charges.

In what appeared to be, at first, an unrelated incident the city last week installed two mahogany signs that say "Welcome to Downtown Milford," which are situated at Cherry Street and Boston Post Road, and Bridgeport Avenue and the Post Road.

One sign is 4 by 5 feet and the other is 4 by 6 feet, and are chained on large posts. Underneath is the name of the mayor, Henry A. Povinelli, attached with screws for easy removal should the need arise.

THE IRONY, although unpublished, is that the signs at a cost of \$575 were made by Studio Three. Apparently the city contracted for the

signs before Mrs. Calistro resigned.

The signs were financed through the city's annual federal block grant, and signify the second beautification project in recent months. Earlier this year the city spent \$400 apiece for ornate wooden benches in the downtown area.

But the ironies of last week were not restricted to signs, since over in the Planning and Zoning Office staffers were faced with a unique situation involving a owner who never lived to see the outcome of a pending application.

THE LATE Sophie Reynaud of Laurel Avenue had filed an application with the Planning and Zoning Board for a day care operation. The issue recently went to public hearing where her boyfriend, David Spellman, spoke in favor of the application. He said he owned the structure. There was no opposition.

Although there was a good possi-

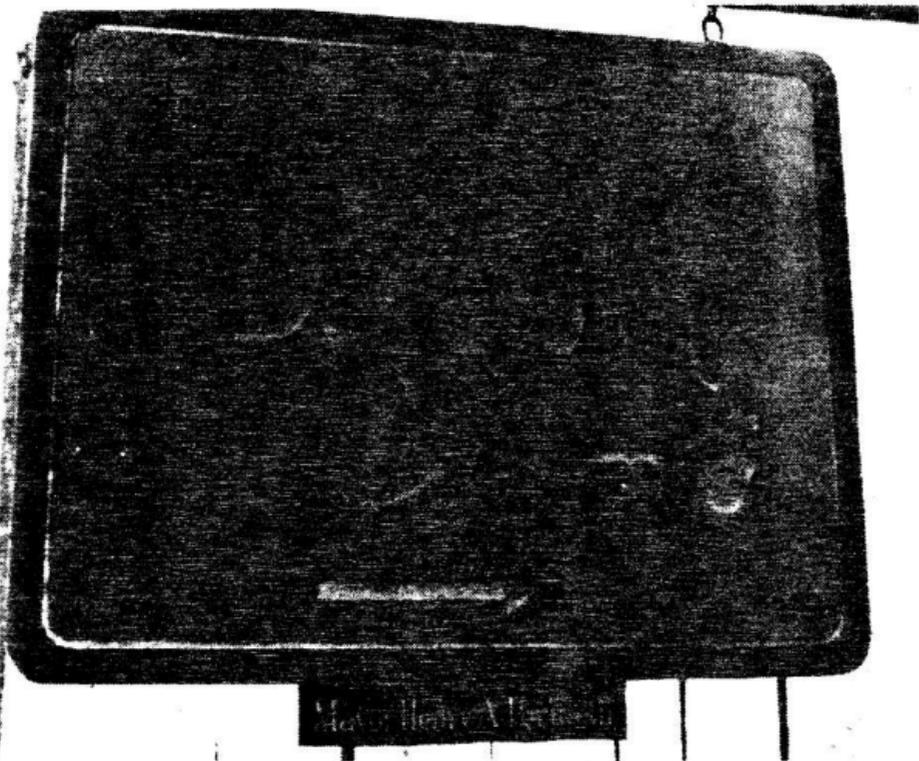
bility the application would have been approved, Miss Reynaud in the interim was struck and killed Oct. 1 by a tractor trailer on the Connecticut Turnpike.

Peter Crabtree, assistant planner, informed the PZB of this said he will write Spellman a letter asking what he wishes to do with the application. He said the office wants to know, at Spellman's convenience, what to do with the pending application.

Only once in the last decade Crabtree recall a similar incident.

A man from West Haven came to Crabtree's office about a year ago to discuss a certain application, left his telephone number for Crabtree to call at a later date. Days later Crabtree called to ask for the man when the secretary on the other end burst into tears.

She informed Crabtree her husband had died the day before.



SIGN UP — A new sign welcomes people to downtown Milford. (Sunday Post photo by Kenneth Warren)