

# Fairway chain buys Lambert's Market

Lambert's Market in Watsonville's East Lake Village shopping center will be closed down for inventory Tuesday. When it reopens Wednesday morning, it will be under new ownership.

Mary Lee Lambert, who has managed the store since the death of her husband Carl two years ago, has sold it to Fairway Stores Inc., a Pacific Grove-based firm that operates five other supermarkets in the Monterey Bay area.

Mrs. Lambert said she felt it was "just not feasible" for her to continue bearing the burden that she had shared for so many years with her husband and his brother Clive, who had been a partner before his death in 1974.

Carl and Mary Lee Lambert first started their business 30 years ago when they took over the Menu-Mart on Union Street, on the Plaza where Valley National Bank is now located. About five years later, Clive Lambert joined them as a partner, and in 1964 they moved

their operation to the much larger market space that Lambert's now occupies in the East Lake Village shopping center.

The new owners intend to continue running the business as a "family-oriented" operation, said Mark Futch, vice president of Fairway Stores. He said the name of the store would be changed sometime soon to the Fairway Mart, and that meanwhile a project of remodeling and updating of equipment will be taking place.

Futch said that while there would be little change in the method of operation, he believed the store would benefit from the "better buying power" that his company would bring to the business.

"We have our own produce buyers," he said, as an example.

Futch said that "about 85 percent" of the current employees of Lambert's would be retained. The manager will be Wayne Clough, who was the assistant manager of Heights Market before it was sold last year.

Futch said that Fairway Stores Inc. is a family-owned business (his father is president) that began 40 years ago when they opened the Seaside Market in Seaside. It's still in operation under that name, and the company operates Fairway Markets in Pacific Grove, Castroville, Prunedale and King City.

As for Mrs. Lambert, she said, "I'm just going to retire and travel a lot."