



Shmuel Thaler/Sentinel file photos

The familiar East Cliff Drive windmill will no longer be the home of Buckhart's Candy. The company is moving to Capitola.

Buckhart's Candies moving to Capitola

By **MICHAEL DE GIVE**
SENTINEL STAFF WRITER

LIVE OAK — Buckhart's Candies — which since 1936 has been making and selling sweets at an East Cliff Drive building that looks like a windmill — is taking up residence in another distinctive location.

The 100-year-old candy maker plans to open at the Capitola Mercantile in early May, said Stephen Ide, who bought the company last year.

The first Buckhart's opened in Watsonville in 1902, moved to Pacific Avenue in 1922, and to the windmill building in 1936. The last day to buy Victoria Creams, Sea Foam and Buckhart's handmade rocky road at the East Cliff Drive store is Saturday.

"My plan is to make Buckhart's what it truly should be: successful," said Ide, whose father built the Capitola Mercantile in 1950.

While his rent will increase substantially, Ide believes the Mercantile building will give Buckhart's more exposure, especially among tourists. He hopes to hold onto his longtime customers, as well, which have been buying Buckhart's Candies for four generations.

"All our candies are handmade,



Stephen Ide is moving his candy business to Capitola.

with recipes dating back a hundred years," Ide said.

Those tried-and-true creations will remain, but Ide will add new offerings.

"In Capitola I'll be going into candied apples, rocky road apples and caramel apples," he said.

One of Buckhart's most popular candies are Victoria Creams, which are walnuts soaked in rum and brandy, covered in chocolate. Another

Buckhart's Candies

FOUNDED: By Harry and Dick Buckhart in 1902 in Watsonville.

LOCATIONS: Moved to Pacific Avenue in Santa Cruz in 1922. In 1936, moved to the distinctive windmill building on East Cliff Drive.

NEW LOCATION: 115 San Jose Ave., Capitola Mercantile.

OWNER: Stephen Ide.

OPEN: Saturday is the last day on East Cliff; store will open in new location in early May.

er favorite is English toffee. Buckhart's also makes its own marshmallows for its handmade rocky road.

Ide is looking forward to moving into the Mercantile, which his father built as Capitola Bowling Alley in 1950. Robert Ide also built Surf Bowl in 1961 and the Oscales Theater in Soquel in 1948, Stephen Ide said.

Buckhart's Candies can be found on the Internet at www.buckhartscandies.com.

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