

Trees Uprooted & Moved

By John Riordan

Few things in the world appear to be as fixed and permanent in their location as a tree. The larger ones, often a hundred years old or more, give an observer a sense of time, place, continuity, and even mortality as he contemplates a thing that has long preceded him and will long outlast him in that spot.

East End landscapers, however, are literally uprooting such existential reflections by moving some very large and sturdy trees to new locations.

Marders of Bridgehampton recently acquired a 30-foot-tall sheared European beech tree which had grown too large for its original site in New England. The tree was transported over Long Island Sound on its journey to Bridgehampton. Marders founder, Charlie Marder, said the undertaking was a familiar one.

"Over the years we've been called on to move trees from such diverse areas as Connecticut, Martha's Vineyard, Ohio, and Canada, as well, of course, as right here on Long Island."

Mr. Marder said the process is an ardu-

ous and complicated one. "All branches must be carefully secured, the root ball properly wrapped, and permits obtained from several agencies," he said.

Hampton Rustic of Southampton recently moved two even larger trees, both lindens, from one section of a property on Little Plains Road in Southampton Village to another. One of these was the biggest tree ever moved on the East End, according to Hampton Rustic partner Matthew Stengel. The latter tree is 70 feet tall, 45 feet wide, and has a root ball of 22 feet. Hampton Rustic was engaged to move it 200 feet to make room for new construction. The other tree is 50 feet tall, 30 feet wide, and has a root ball of 16 feet.

Mr. Stengel said Hampton Rustic can not only relocate trees, but reposition them so that they can face whichever direction the client wishes. Good, solid soil is needed for moving a tree, he said. Because much of the earth beneath the East End is sand, such soil can be difficult to find. "Luckily," he said, "we had it on this property."



Two huge lindens, above left and center, are moved across a property on Little Plains Road in Southampton Village.