



DENNIS PARKINS

Food Town To Open New Supermarket

A 33,000-square-foot Food Town supermarket is scheduled to open at 1800 Blanchard St. on Wednesday.

Among the features of this store will be a delicatessen and in-store bakery. In addition, there will be specialty departments, including fresh produce, houseplants, books and greeting cards.

The new Food Town incorporates several energy-saving features, such as a device to retrieve warm air from the refrigeration system and use the air to heat the store.

Also to reduce energy consumption, entrances and exits to the store — including stock receiving docks — are equipped with air locks to keep out cold winter air and warm summer air. Special compactors have been installed to compact wastepaper, cardboard cartons and other items for shipment to recycling centers.

In addition to the new store, Food Town will continue to operate its grocery at 101 Sixth St.

The manager of the new store is Dennis Parkins. The grand opening will begin with an official ribbon cutting ceremony at 9 a.m. Wednesday.

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Kash & Karry Store Closing

By **MIKE SOBCZYK**
Staff Writer

Findlay's Kash & Karry grocery on Tiffin Avenue will be closing its doors and going out of business within the next three to four weeks, according to Rich Iott, senior vice president of merchandising for Seaway Food Town, Maumee.

About 25 employees will be affected by the closing, which Iott confirmed Thursday. He said store employees and the United Food & Commercial Workers Local 954, which represents employees there, have been formally notified of the decision. Kash & Karry is a division of Seaway.

Just how quickly the store will close depends on how fast its merchandise can be liquidated, Iott said.

The store has been operating as Kash & Karry since 1979, and was operated under the Food Town name from 1967-1979. Food Town operates two other supermarkets in Findlay, at 101 Sixth St. and 1800 N. Blanchard St.

Iott said the main reason the store is being closed is that "it is no longer profitable to operate. ... The kind of competition we're facing is extremely price competitive." He said a store's biggest operating expense is labor and "it's tough to compete with other stores which are not paying the same wage."

Iott said it's difficult to determine how many employees will

lose their jobs since a lot will depend on an employee's seniority. He said employees will be allowed to transfer to any other store which Local 954 covers based upon their seniority. But employees at those other locations could then lose their jobs, if no openings exist and they have less seniority than those wishing to transfer.

The closing of Kash & Karry comes in the wake of the departure of its 1925 Tiffin Ave. neighbor, Cooks department store. Cooks is in the waning weeks of liquidation.

Both the Cooks and Kash & Karry buildings are leased from Isaac Corp., located in Bryan. An Isaac Corp. spokesman said he has received some inquiries about locating new stores in Findlay, so some of that interest may be directed to the 30,000-square-foot Kash & Karry location.

The Cooks store likely will be sub-leased to Schottenstein's of Columbus. Schottenstein's operates a number of retail stores in the Midwest under various names, such as Value City and Big Lots.

A Schottenstein's spokesman said Thursday that while a sub-lease agreement probably won't be finalized until early May, plans now call for a Big Lots store to occupy the 55,000-square-foot facility. This store would be in addition to the Big and Small Lots store already operating at 1311 Trenton Ave. under the Schottenstein's umbrella.