

QUICK BITE

Riverhead

*Scoops
Of Sweetness*

Not much has changed at the Snowflake Ice Cream Shoppe in Riverhead since Herb and Joan Kunitz opened it in 1953. A neon ice cream cone still glows on its roof. Customers inch along single file at the inside counter and emerge to sit on pink wooden benches or lean on car hoods, sugar cone in hand. And, according to the current owner, Stuart Feldschuh, everyone tells the same Snowflake story.

"They all remember when they were little kids and dropped their ice cream cones and Herb came out and gave them another one for free," said Mr. Feldschuh, Snowflake's proprietor since 1988, when he and his wife, Carolyn, left Wall Street to move out east and make ice cream.

The dropped-cone tradition lives on at Snowflake, along with the Kunitzes' original soft and hard ice cream recipes. The hard ice creams, made fresh several times a week, include classics like mint chocolate chip and strawberry (using local berries in season), as well as rotating flavors like cannoli and apple cobbler. Peconic Swamp Thing, a blend of chocolate ice cream, fudge and brownies with ribbons of raspberry purée, once a special, became so popular that it now appears daily on the regular menu (\$2.99 for a small cup or cone, \$4.49 for a large). (Prices include tax.)

There are soft-serve specials like Irish cream, blueberry and pistachio in addition to chocolate and vanilla; fat-free and sugar-free options are also available (\$2.75 for a small cup or cone, \$3.50 for a large).

To pull out all the stops, you can order a large sundae, with a topping like hot fudge, black cherry or marshmallow, as well as whipped cream and nuts for \$5.50 (soft serve) or \$6.50 (hard), and remember the days when calories didn't count.

Snowflake Ice Cream Shoppe, 1148 West Main Street, Riverhead; (631) 727-4394. Open year round. Summer hours: 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. daily.

SUSAN M. NOVICK