

Keepsakes in restaurant rubble?

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SAYREVILLE: The Red Robin Restaurant on Route 9 is finally being demolished, after standing dormant for more than a decade.

The building was home to several different establishments over the years but was best known as Razz Ma Tazz, a Chuck E. Cheese-type children's restaurant that also had a liquor license.

The walls of the Red Robin

have been torn down, but a red biplane can be seen hanging by a cable from what used to be the restaurant's ceiling. The front propeller of the plane was turning in the breeze as it hung high above the rubble yesterday.

Several curious people stopped at the construction site yesterday to inquire about the plane, but none made an offer to buy it, said Danny Matarese, president of Danco General Contracting of Morganville, the company that

was hired by National Amusements to take down the structure. National Amusements Inc., of Dedham, Mass., owns the site where the former Amboy Cinemas and the restaurant are located.

"Four people in the last few hours asked me about the plane," said Matarese. "I don't want it. I just want it gone. If I can get it out in one piece, I'll

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■ A red biplane hangs from the ceiling of the partly demolished Red Robin Restaurant on Route 9 in Sayreville yesterday.

AUGUSTO F. MENEZES/Staff photographer

RUBBLE

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sell it to somebody. The first person who wants it gets it. I have no use for it — what am I going to do with it — park it on my front lawn?"

Matarese said if no one buys the plane in the next day or two, it will wind up in the scrap heap with the rest of the twisted metal in the rubble.

In addition to the plane, Matarese found some life-size mechanical puppets inside the building that were left over from the Razz Ma Tazz days.

The motorized characters would perform stage shows for children's parties.

Demolition on the 15,000-square-foot restaurant began on Tuesday and will be completed by next week, Matarese said. The theater is also slated for demolition. The multiplex closed on May 25 after a routine inspection detected settling problems with the lobby floor. National Amusements decided it was too expensive to repair the cinema's floor and decided to shut the theater down. The 19.5-acre site, located between routes 9 and 35, is slated for redevelopment.