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MORTONS RESTAURANT GROUP INC
Form DEFA14A
June 17, 2002

SCHEDULE 14A
(RULE 14a-101)

INFORMATION REQUIRED IN PROXY STATEMENT

SCHEDULE 14A INFORMATION

PROXY STATEMENT PURSUANT TO SECTION 14(a) OF THE
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 (AMENDMENT NO.)

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material Pursuant to Section 240.14a-12

MORTON'S RESTAURANT GROUP, INC.

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

Not Applicable

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required.
- Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.

(1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies: _____

(2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies: _____

(3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (Set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):

(4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction: _____

(5) Total fee paid: _____

- Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.
- Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.

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- (1) Amount Previously Paid: _____
- (2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.: _____
- (3) Filing Party: _____
- (4) Date Filed: _____

From: SANFORD TELLER COMMUNICATIONS
1365 York Avenue
New York, NY 10021
(212) 717-0332

June 17, 2002

For: MORTON'S RESTAURANT GROUP, INC.
3333 New Hyde Park Road
New Hyde Park, NY 11042
(516) 627-1515
www.mortons.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: THOMAS J. BALDWIN, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER,
MORTON'S RESTAURANT GROUP, INC.

MORTON'S RESTAURANT GROUP AND CASTLE HARLAN AMEND MERGER AGREEMENT TO INCREASE
MERGER CONSIDERATION TO \$13.50 PER SHARE, ELIMINATE MINIMUM LEVEL OF EARNINGS
CONDITION.

New Hyde Park, NY.... Morton's Restaurant Group, Inc. (NYSE:MRG) today announced that its merger agreement with Castle Harlan had been amended to increase the merger consideration to \$13.50 per share and to remove the closing condition that would have otherwise required Morton's to achieve a minimum level of earnings. On the evening of June 14, 2002, Carl Icahn delivered to Morton's Special Committee a signed merger agreement substantially similar to the pre-existing merger agreement with Castle Harlan, but with a price per share of \$13.50. As required under the Castle Harlan merger agreement, Morton's promptly notified Castle Harlan of the Icahn binding offer. Castle Harlan then offered to raise the price per share in its merger agreement to \$13.50 and to remove the closing condition that would have otherwise required Morton's to achieve a minimum level of earnings. On June 15, 2002, Morton's Special Committee and Board of Directors approved these changes, and Morton's signed the related amendment to the Castle Harlan merger agreement.

Completion of the merger is subject to various closing conditions including, but not limited to, approval of Morton's stockholders, customary industry regulatory approvals and receipt of third party consents.

FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

EXCEPT FOR THE HISTORICAL INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS NEWS RELEASE, THE MATTERS ADDRESSED ARE FORWARD - LOOKING STATEMENTS THAT INVOLVE CERTAIN RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, GENERAL ECONOMIC CONDITIONS, COMPETITIVE ACTIVITIES, THE COMPANY'S EXPANSION PLANS AND RESTAURANT PROFITABILITY LEVELS AND OTHER MATTERS IDENTIFIED FROM TIME TO TIME IN THE

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COMPANY'S PUBLIC REPORTS AND SEC FILINGS. ACTUAL RESULTS MAY VARY.

ADDITIONALLY, THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS THAT INVOLVE RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES RELATING TO THE PROPOSED MERGER AND OTHER FUTURE EVENTS, INCLUDING WHETHER AND WHEN THE PROPOSED MERGER WILL BE CONSUMMATED. A VARIETY OF FACTORS COULD CAUSE ACTUAL EVENTS OR RESULTS TO DIFFER MATERIALLY FROM THOSE EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED BY THE FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS. THESE FACTORS INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO, RISKS THAT STOCKHOLDER APPROVAL AND REGULATORY AND THIRD PARTY CLEARANCES MAY NOT BE OBTAINED IN A TIMELY MANNER OR AT ALL, THAT AN ORDER OR INJUNCTION MAY BE IMPOSED PROHIBITING OR DELAYING THE MERGER AND THAT ANY OTHER CONDITIONS TO THE MERGER MAY NOT BE SATISFIED OR WAIVED. THE COMPANY ASSUMES NO OBLIGATION TO UPDATE THE FORWARD-LOOKING INFORMATION.

INFORMATION CONCERNING PARTICIPANTS

MORTON'S RESTAURANT GROUP, INC. AND ITS DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE OFFICERS MAY BE DEEMED TO BE PARTICIPANTS IN THE SOLICITATION OF PROXIES FROM MORTON'S STOCKHOLDERS TO APPROVE THE MERGER. THESE INDIVIDUALS HAVE INTERESTS IN THE MERGER, SOME OF WHICH MAY DIFFER FROM OR MAY BE IN ADDITION TO THOSE OF MORTON'S STOCKHOLDERS GENERALLY. THOSE INTERESTS, WHICH WILL BE DESCRIBED IN GREATER DETAIL IN THE PROXY STATEMENT WITH RESPECT TO THE MERGER, INCLUDE INTERESTS RELATED TO THE AFFILIATION OF CERTAIN MORTON'S DIRECTORS WITH THE ACQUIRING ENTITY, POTENTIAL EMPLOYMENT RELATIONSHIPS AND INDEMNIFICATION.

AVAILABILITY OF PROXY STATEMENT

ON JUNE 17, 2002, MORTON'S RESTAURANT GROUP, INC. FILED A PRELIMINARY PROXY STATEMENT CONTAINING INFORMATION ABOUT MORTON'S, MORTON'S ACQUISITION COMPANY, MORTON'S HOLDINGS, LLC, CASTLE HARLAN PARTNERS III, L.P., THE MERGER AND RELATED MATTERS. THE COMPANY ANTICIPATES RELEASING ITS DEFINITIVE PROXY STATEMENT AS PROMPTLY AS POSSIBLE, SUBJECT TO SEC REVIEW. MORTON'S PLANS TO SEND A COPY OF THE DEFINITIVE PROXY STATEMENT TO STOCKHOLDERS TO SEEK THEIR APPROVAL OF THE MERGER. STOCKHOLDERS ARE URGED TO READ THE DEFINITIVE PROXY STATEMENT CAREFULLY WHEN IT IS

AVAILABLE, AS IT WILL CONTAIN IMPORTANT INFORMATION THAT STOCKHOLDERS SHOULD CONSIDER BEFORE MAKING A DECISION ABOUT THE MERGER. STOCKHOLDERS WILL ALSO BE ABLE TO OBTAIN THE DEFINITIVE PROXY STATEMENT, WHEN AVAILABLE, AS WELL AS OTHER FILINGS CONTAINING INFORMATION ABOUT MORTON'S WITHOUT CHARGE, AT THE SEC'S WEB SITE ([HTTP://WWW.SEC.GOV](http://www.sec.gov)). STOCKHOLDERS MAY ALSO OBTAIN COPIES OF THESE DOCUMENTS WITHOUT CHARGE BY REQUESTING THEM IN WRITING FROM MORTON'S RESTAURANT GROUP, INC., 3333 NEW HYDE PARK ROAD, NEW HYDE PARK, NEW YORK 11042, ATTENTION: CORPORATE SECRETARY, OR BY TELEPHONE AT (516) 627-1515.

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