



PANORAMA

VALLEY STREAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

Volume 5, No. 4

January 1978

NEXT
MEETING

WEDNESDAY
January 18, 1978
6 p.m. Supper
8 p.m. Talent Show

HOLY TRINITY
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH HALL
7th Street
Valley Stream

It's time again for our very popular annual eating adventure - - our Covered Dish Supper, details of which are given in the accompanying flyer. The welcoming punch bowl at 6 p.m. will allow some extra time for those who, of necessity, must arrive later than the scheduled hour. The buffet will begin about 6:30 p.m. Following the Supper, there will be several announcements after which we will all enjoy performances by Bert Keller's current troupe of talented Central High School students. This is one meeting you shouldn't miss, even if it snows!

- - EDITORIAL - -

News of our November meeting, being somewhat stale by now, will not be given in this issue. Instead, let's all think about the future and the wonderful happening which should excite all Valley Streamers (not just our members).....the acquisition by our Village of the Fletcher (Fairchild) House which can lay claim to being our most historic local site. We in the Society are especially pleased, and grateful too, since this makes possible an almost impossible dream we have nurtured since our Society was officially organized in February 1973 - a museum in which to house so much of the memorabilia made available to us by residents, and thus preserve much of our Village's beginnings. All indications are that our Society will be given jurisdiction over museum operations in conjunction with a soon-to-be-formed Museum Committee which Mayor Minerva plans to activate. This project will insure a perpetuity for local history that might otherwise be lost to future residents as many of our old-timers who watched Valley Stream grow over several generations move on.

To restore, renovate, and reactivate this charming homestead will require not only funds but resourcefulness and diligence - not to mention sincere interest in preservation. We are sure our residents and other friends will stand up and be counted when needed. Valley Stream will, at long last, have its very own historical site and a museum which will be a credit to the community. Sounds good to me!

Lillian Weaver, Editor

READ ON THE REVERSE HEREOF DATA RELATING TO OUR FIFTH ANNIVERSARY DINNER - - THEN, IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO, SIGN UP IMMEDIATELY ON THE ACCOMPANYING RESERVATION FORM. TICKETS ARE LIMITED, SO DON'T DELAY!



NEWS ALERT.....VALLEY STREAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY TO CELEBRATE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY!!

Yes, members and friends, our Society, which held its Inaugural Meeting on February 28, 1973, will be five years old in 1978. To commemorate this very significant achievement, accomplished through the dedication of the founders and the untiring efforts of hard-working members, plans for a catered dinner, Smorgasbord style, are well under way. A wonderful evening is in store for participants and the Committee sincerely hopes you will be among them. A fine program has been planned to befit the occasion and our own Bert Keller will be Master of Ceremonies. A special memento of the evening will be yours to keep.

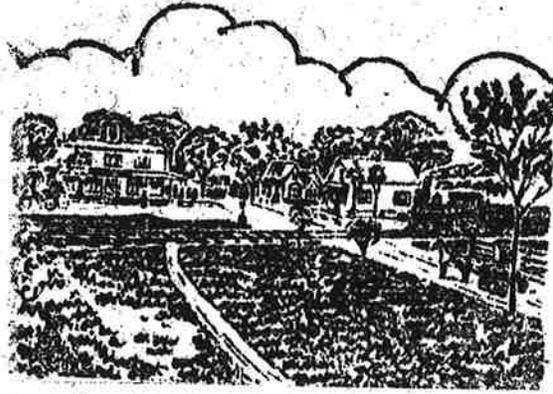
The date is Saturday, February 25, 1978; the place is Masonic Temple, West Jamaica Avenue, Valley Stream. There will be a Hospitality Hour beginning at 6 p.m., during which each diner will enjoy two cocktails and snacks. (Note: Members who prefer to eliminate cocktails will be able to do so at a reduction of \$1.50 in ticket cost. A non-alcoholic punch bowl will be available to everyone present.)

Our caterer, who has pleased a number of local groups, will provide a tasty array of popular buffet dishes (six meat items, hot casseroles, cold salads, fruit molds, egg dishes, cheeses, a relish tray) and a very special decorated Anniversary Cake for our dessert. Sounds good, doesn't it?

If you want to be included in this Fifth Anniversary celebration, a once-in-a-lifetime event, please complete the accompanying ticket order form and mail it with your check as instructed thereon. Orders will be filled on a "first come-first served" basis. Tickets will be mailed within a week of receipt of orders, until limit is reached.

See you there.....
LILLIAN WEAVER
Fifth Anniversary Dinner Chairman

61 Berkley Street
Valley Stream, N.Y. 11581
791-5030



PANORAMA

VALLEY STREAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

Volume 5, No. 5

February 1978

NEXT
MEETING

TUESDAY

FEBRUARY 14, 1978

8 p.m.

HOLY TRINITY
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Brooklyn Ave.
& 7th Street
Valley Stream

Be sure to note change in meeting schedule (due to religious observances) and then be sure to attend our fabulous slide presentation on Ellis Island by Mr. Frank Duffy, a Village resident. Many of us are first-generation Americans and the story of this gateway to America, busy as it was with thousands of immigrants seeking a better life here, will surely be inspiring. We'll be seeing you there! Maria Wendel's hospitality crew will have "coffee and...." as usual, following the program.

REAR WINDOW

The weather wasn't the best, ice all around, but about 90 members and friends, covered dishes in hand, attended our annual supper in January, ably chaired by Maria Wendel and a willing team of assistants. The food array was worthy of several of Barbara Rader's chef hats. Good companionship added to this good eating was a wonderful prelude to the enjoyable performance by Bert Keller's Troupe of talented Central High School students. It was by any standard a great evening! (Business matters were dispensed with for this meeting.)

ABOUT THE MUSEUM...

The first meeting of the Museum Committee appointed by Mayor Minerva was held on January 19th. This group of interested local residents and Village

employees, with the full support and cooperation of the Village Board of Trustees, will handle the gigantic task of restoration and/or preservation of the proposed Valley Stream Museum at the Fletcher House site on Hendrickson Avenue, a building recently acquired by the Village for such purpose.

A tour of the premises by the entire Committee, accompanied by an architect skilled in restoration work, is one of the first activities planned. Sub-committees in a number of different areas of museum work are in various stages of operation. We are hoping that a good number of our Society members will volunteer to work on them when help is sought. This is what our Society is all about and the museum must be considered a dream-come-true! Keep alert to all Museum items in local newspapers. Drive by the Fletcher House on Hendrickson Avenue some time, and visualize what a fine historic site it can become.

1978-79 MEMBERSHIP

An application for new and renewal membership accompanies this issue. Our year begins March 1, 1978. After our March meeting anyone not signed up will not receive our newsletter or other mail releases. This is not the year to forfeit membership. The Society plans to keep its members advised of much of the new Museum activity and progress through the newsletter. Our Executive Board is very busy considering a few Society projects for the year ahead such as a Flea Market, Spring House and Garden Tour, Field Trip, and others, all guaranteed to be enjoyable. PANORAMA will bring you all the details. Our membership has been about 250... shall we try for 500 members this year? If so, we'll need you!

HISTORICALLY SPEAKING

Uncovered among some old books in our local library is a Long Island Railroad Company souvenir-type of soft-cover booklet entitled LONG ISLAND 1905. It contains a variety of information about the scenic delights of all of the towns on Long Island from the city end to Montauk Point. Part of the Valley Stream data explains that the train trip to New York or Brooklyn is 16 1/2 miles and that there are 24 trains each way daily. 19 run each way on Sundays. Sleeping accommodations in Valley Stream are listed as being available at Central Hotel owned by Charles Miller (\$7 per week); Schreiber's Hotel owned by Chris Schreiber (\$10 per week); and a private residence of Mrs. Sarah Smith (\$5 per week). It's a bit puzzling that none of the other hotels in Valley Stream then were listed. But, those prices..... The Good Old Days they surely must have been!

V.S.H.S. "PANORAMA"
c/o 61 Berkley Street
Valley Stream, N.Y. 11581

FIFTH ANNIVERSARY DINNER

As of this writing, there are still some vacancies on the Reservation list BUT every mail brings a few more orders. If you have not signed up for this celebrative event, don't delay! It's on Saturday, February 25th, 6 p.m., at Masonic Temple, West Jamaica Avenue, Valley Stream. Tickets are \$10 per person which includes hospitality privileges; otherwise \$8.50. Call Lil or Drew Weaver (791-6030) if you do not have a reservation form.

COMING IN MARCH

Margaret Wellington, one of our most enthusiastic members, will bring to our March 14th meeting (note change in date for this month also) a considerable amount of memorabilia relating to Winston Churchill from a fabulous collection amassed by her husband. With her own knowledge of the subject, history-lovers will certainly enjoy a rather complete presentation by Margaret.

LOOKING AHEAD

With snow, ice, and cold so much in evidence, it's nice anticipating Spring when we can get outdoors to enjoy previously unexplored corners of Long Island. Lest you have overlooked any, keep in mind these:

Muttontown Nature Center, East Norwich

Old Grist Mill Museum, East Rockaway

U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, Kings Point (see the Chapel's revolving altar)

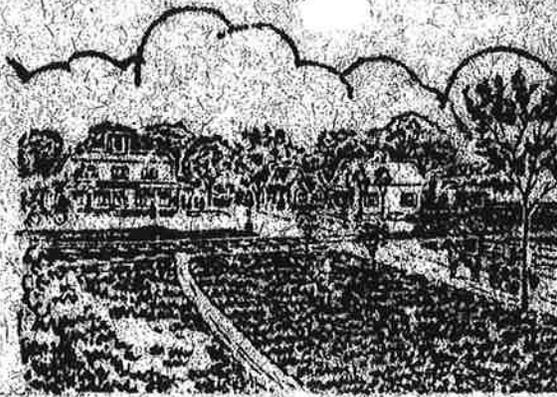
L.I. Game Farm & Zoo, Manorville.

And don't forget to include a ride along the shore road at Westhampton Beach. Some eye-opening beach house architecture awaits you.

It is nice thinking about Spring, isn't it?

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R. Presbrey
159 New York Ave.
Valley Stream, NY 11580



PANORAMA

VALLEY STREAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER

Volume 5, No. 7

April 1978

NEXT
MEETING

WEDNESDAY
APRIL 19, 1978
8 p.m.

HOLY TRINITY
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
HALL
BKlyn Av/7th St.
Valley Stream

Mr. George Dornes, horologist (clock maker), will be our guest for this meeting, telling us about his experiences in creating antique clock reproductions. Mr. Dornes is an expert craftsman, and during his career of many years has been involved with cabinet-making and interior design for Rolls-Royce vehicles. Be with us as we explore Mr. Dornes' world of clocks. Hospitality hour will follow the program as usual.

REAR WINDOW

It was a London-fog kind of night for our March meeting, most appropriate for Marge Wellington's very special "Winston Churchill" program witnessed by 53 members, weather notwithstanding. Assisting Marge during the evening were Eileen Brennan, Mary Graham Smith, Emma Bitowski, Mary Gear, Grace Myers, and Al Mayernik. (See elsewhere in this issue for an announcement about the Churchill Memorial in Missouri.)

Preceding this slide-talk-exhibit presentation, the following reports were given:

***Treasury stands at \$5,685.44 which reflects an outlay of funds for a supply of souvenir plates to be sold throughout the year, and a gift of \$1,000 to the Valley Stream Museum Committee.

***Life Membership has been purchased by Maria Wendel.

***Thanks was extended to Marion and Philomena Raeder for assisting President Bitowski in going through County records for

historical data.

***A Traveling Exhibit for placement in schools is on the drawing board. President Bitowski seeks potential exhibits for short periods of time, all materials loaned to be kept in locked display cases.

***Our Society logo (Gateway-to-Long Island design) will soon grace the organizations displays at the east and west ends of our Village on Sunrise Highway. The proper procedure for installation of the signs is being investigated.

***Anthony Fiero is Chairman of the Nominating Committee for the election of 1978-9 officers. A slate of candidates should be complete for the April meeting.

***It is expected that our Society will have representatives marching in the Memorial Day Parade scheduled for May 28th.

***An Attic Sale (flea market) will be held on *May 13/13* at 8 Sylvan Place, daytime hours. Donations of bric-a-brac, small furniture and appliances, cookware, etc. are needed. (Clothing not accepted.) In event of

rain, sale will be held at 15
Sylvan Place.

***Lil Weaver reported on the
Fifth Anniversary Dinner, deemed
a most successful one. (Slides
of "table-hopping" were shown.)

***Plant winners were Mary
Smith and Tony Fiero.

MEMBERSHIP

Anyone who has not renewed
membership for 1978-9 will not
receive further issues of
PANORAMA. Frank Mayernik reports
fair activity in renewals and a
few new members. He's hoping for
a 500 membership total...how
about helping that along!

SOUVENIR PLATES

With everyone so pleased to
receive a souvenir plate of our
Society at the Dinner (candy dish,
ash tray or conversation piece),
we believe it worth mentioning
that a good supply is on hand
for purchase. They will be
featured at the Village Family
Picnic and are sure to be sold
out, so BUY YOURS NOW! See our
Souvenir Table at meetings.

CHURCHILL MEMORIAL AND LIBRARY

As a result of the March
program, we learned about this
remarkable institution within
our own United States. Located
at Westminster College in Fulton,
Missouri, it is a place of wor-
ship for all denominations, and
numerous weddings, lectures, and
concerts are held there. Many
pieces of Churchill memorabilia
are on display in the Museum.
Scholars and writers are able to
obtain here much data not avail-
able anywhere else in this coun-
try. If a visit for you is out
of the question, your financial
support will be greatly appreci-
ated. Contributions may be sent
to: Winston Churchill Memorial
& Library, Westminster College,
Fulton, Missouri 65251.

V.S.H.S. "PANORAMA"
c/o 61 Berkley Street
Valley Stream, N.Y. 11581

SOCIETY OF DESCENDANTS OF WASHINGTON'S ARMY AT VALLEY FORGE

That's the name of the newest
hereditary group which has dedica-
ted itself to uncovering the names
of every one of the unfortunate
soldiers who served that famous
winter at Valley Forge. Most of
the group's members claim to be
descendants of survivors. The
founder is a Long Island man,
Donald Cronan of Westbury. Cronan
advertised in patriotic organiza-
tion publications about two years
ago and in short order received
1,500 letters from interested
descendants. The requirements
are "very narrow," says Cronan.
"We include anyone who was there,
soldier or civilian (one member's
ancestor was a clothier with the
Army), but the person must have
been at Valley Forge some time
between December 19, 1777, and
June 19, 1778, when the Army left.

ABOUT OUR STATE, NEW YORK....

It produces some of the finest
cheeses in America (first cheese
factory in America was built in
1851 near Rome, New York), and of
800 types of cheese known around
the world, we produce 400. New
York also excels in production
of apples, grapes, honey, milk,
and butter; produces more maple
syrup, sauerkraut and cottage
cheese than any other State; is
right up on top with cucumbers,
cauliflower, onions, sweet corn,
cherries, and ice cream! Now
about that diet.....

MUSEUM NEWS

A call has been issued to all
readers of this and other local
publications to turn over to the
newly-formed Museum Committee
any information concerning the
Fletcher House as it existed in
days past. Changes made within
the structure over the past
decade or two have made the work
of restoration rather difficult.
You can help if you remember and
write the Committee c/o Village
Hall, Att: Bert Keller, Chairman.

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R. Presbrey ✓
159 New York Ave.
Valley Stream, NY 11830



PANORAMA

VALLEY STREAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER

Volume 5, No. 8

May 1978

NEXT
MEETING

WEDNESDAY
MAY 17, 1978
8 P.M.

HOLY TRINITY
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
HALL
Bklyn Av/7th St.
Valley Stream

On May 17 our own Flo and Mary Gear will share their pictures and anecdotes of a Tour of the Upper Middle West, an armchair travelog we all should enjoy.

REAR WINDOW

We are fortunate to have as Program Directors such imaginative members as Jim and Audrey Boerckel. They provide us with a great variety of subjects calling on our own members as well as outside talent.

More than fifty of our hardy members braved a Spring down-pour to attend the meeting of April 19 and were treated to an unusual hobby lecture by Mr. George Dornes. Since his retirement, seven years ago, Mr. Dornes has become an horologist of amazing skill. Most of his creations are reproductions of 17th century clocks and are made with such precision and beauty that they are considered to be Collector's items. He has even invented a combination inclined plane and water clock which has caught the interest of horologists in other countries. The members crowded around after the lecture to examine and admire sixteen wall and table models, each worthy of a place in a museum.

THE FLETCHER HOUSE

Howard Ruehl confided that he is having difficulty getting historical information on the Fletcher house. If you know anyone who recalls anything about it, call Howie at 825-5813.

A TRIBUTE TO LIL

It is with regret that we announce Lillian Weaver's retirement from Panorama in June. This newsletter was her baby. She conceived it, gave birth to it five years ago, named it and single-handedly nurtured it. She was editor, reporter, researcher, typist, mimeographer, addresser and mailer - a one-woman staff.

For these years of devotion to an enterprise that has been one of the most important contributions to the success of our Society, we extend to Lil our sincere thanks and look forward to many years of her energetic service in other capacities.

A STAFF FOR PANORAMA

No one person could replace the founder of Panorama. We therefore are calling on the members to volunteer to help put out the newsletter each month. If you can write, type, sort for mailing or act as coordinator of activities, please volunteer. If you can't agree to do it for an extended time, how about volunteering to work on at least one issue? Emma Bitowski will be happy to hear from you. Call 825-4002 or tell her at the next meeting.

VISITORS AND NEW MEMBERS

At the April meeting we had five visitors. Membership Chairman, Frank Mayernik, introduced two new members: Mrs. Lydia Mallonee and Mrs. Lillian Lindman, both of whom have offered to help with Panorama.

DOWN MEMORY LANE

Audrey Boerckel continues to edit the Down Memory Lane column for the Maileader. Several members' articles have already been published. Keep your contributions coming to Audrey at 127 E. Carpenter St., 11580 and then let the Maileader know that you miss the column on the weeks when they omit it.

HENRY WALDINGER LIBRARY

Al Mayernik has taken charge of the Historical Society Bulletin Board in the Library. He asked us to save cardboard on which he can mount his materials. Bring your shirt cardboards to the meeting. And stop off to see the displays at the Library. Our mannequin is sporting a new outfit, circa 1913.



ATTIC SALE

The Attic Sale date was changed to Friday, May 12 and Saturday, May 13. Please take all donations to the Bitowski residence, 8 Sylvan Place by May 11. Spring clean your attic, cellar, garage and closets and give us the things you no longer need. Someone else could use them and we could use the money to build our treasury.

WE NEED DONATIONS

V.S.H.S. "PANORAMA"
c/o 61 Berkley Street
Valley Stream, N.Y. 11581

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This issue is being put together by Dale and Emma Bitowski, Helen Dowdeswell, Lillian Lindman, Lydia Mallonee and Marion and Phyl Raede. Lil Weaver will be back from her southern vacation to do the June issue. After that: HELP!

NOMINATIONS

Ted Libath, chairman of the Nominating Committee, announced a partial slate of officers for next year and made a plea for volunteers to fill the remainder. Nominated were:

Pres.: Emma Bitowski
V.P.: Wilbur Fare
Three-Year Trustee: Al Mayernik
Two-Year Trustee: Jim Boerckel
One-Year Trustee: Audrey Boerckel, Helen Dowdeswell and Mary Gear

Further nominations are in order at the May meeting for these offices and for Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer.

For any organization to stay healthy it needs continual transfusions of new blood. If you haven't been active before, now is your chance. Call Ted at 825-2759 and offer to serve. Don't wait to be asked. This is your Society.

RCOTS

We have been receiving request from people trying to trace relatives who at one time, lived in Valley Stream. If you have any information regarding the following, please contact PANORAMA VA 5 4002

STARO, no first name
(cousin of Crescente Staro)

LOHNES, no first name

SCHOOL EXHIBITS

We are still looking for exhibits to be displayed in the libraries of the Valley Stream Elementary schools. Contact Emma Bitowski if you can contribute.

*Mrs. D. Proskrey
159 New York Ave
Valley Stream, N.Y. 11580*



Sunrise Highway and Rockaway Avenue in 1942.
Valley Stream

PANORAMA

VALLEY STREAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 6, NO. 1

SEPTEMBER 1978



PRESIDENT'S PEN

We are starting our sixth year as a Historical Society and have come a long way in a short time. The coming months will demand much of the members of this Society. We have a museum opening to think about; we need active, dependable workers who will get started. Sure, everyone jumps on the bandwagon when things have been accomplished; this requires little effort. However, there are people who like to get in on the ground floor and help in any way they can to bring something to a fruitful conclusion. No matter which type you are, we have a job for you. For the Bandwagon Jumper, we offer an active part in an established organization, the Valley Stream Historical Society. We need willing, dependable workers to fill the shoes of those who have built up this society. Many of your former officers, will have to step down next June and we need new Executives. Tired of the same faces, the same ideas? Do something about it. Get active!!!

Now for those "ground floorers" we offer the opportunity to help work at establishing a Museum we can all be proud of. You may be asked to do anything from wallowing in dust and dirt to greeting visitors. First comes the dust. Get Active!!! Then, of course, there are some lovely people; I know quite a few. I've worked with these "finger in the pie people" for the past six years; they get involved in everything. They are the most rare and most loved by organizations and surely there must be more of this type in our organization. Make yourselves known--don't be shy. Get ACTIVE NOW! Help us grow, not shrivel up and die.

"Someone has said that there are four kinds of 'bones' in every organization.

There are the wishbones, who spend their time wishing someone else would do the work.

There are the jawbones, who do all the talking, but very little else.

Next, there are the knucklebones, who knock everything anyone ever tries to do.

And finally, there are the backbones, who get under the load and do the work."

Next Meeting
Wednesday
SEPTEMBER
20
1978
8:00 P.M.

HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL
CHURCH HALL BKLYN AV/7TH
VALLEY STREAM

Old
Radio
PROGRAM

September has come upon us. This is the start of a new year for the Valley Stream Historical Society. To familiarize you with our new Committee Chairpeople this year 1978-79, Panorama has taken the opportunity to introduce them to you.

President - Emma Bitowski
Vice-President..... Wilbur Fare
Recording Secretary.. Clair McManon
Treasurer..... Dagmar Ficken
Corresponding Sec'y.. Elsie Fare

Membership

There will be two smiling faces behind the Membership Table this year. Both Lil and Drew Weaver have taken on the challenge. Remember to send in their direction your friends who are not members of the V.S. H. S.

Sunshine

From our Sunshine man, Frank Mayernick, we hear two of our members, Drew Weaver and Anthony Fiero were very ill this past Summer. Latest reports indicate both are feeling much better.

Also, CONGRATULATIONS are in order for Jim and Audrey Boerkel; they became the proud grand parents of Adrian Bayardi born Aug. 5th, 1978, weighing in at 7 lbs. 8 Oz.

Valley Stream Historical Society

PANORAMA

8 Sylvan Place, Valley Stream
New York, 11581

Hospitality

This year I hope to pick up a few recipes for some of those goodies provided by the Hospitality Committee. The hostess for the coming year is Carlyne Cary.

Program

Our Program Committee--Jim and Audrey Boerkel seem to have quite a year lined up for us. The program for our first meeting will be about old radio programs. The slide and record show will be given by Ray Chambers - Sponsored by N.Y. Telephone Company Old Radio Program Audio and Visual

Other Committee Chairmen are:

Sales.....E.Mayernis
Publicity.....Jene Simon & Helen Zeng
Roots Tracer..... Adel Hagman
Curators..... David Hochberg
Marjorie Kraengel
Maria Driscoll

We are still looking for someone to head the Ways and Means Committee. For more information please contact President Bitowski.

A Board meeting was called by President Emma Bitowski on Thursday, August 31 at eight o'clock. The members of all the committees were gathered for a get-to-know each other. Plans for the current year and ways we could help each other were the subjects for discussion.

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Mrs. D. PRESBREY
159 N.Y. AVE.
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