

PANORAMA



Past and Future

We must welcome the future, remembering that soon it will be the past; and we must respect the past, remembering that once it was all that was humanly possible.
(George Santayana)

I like the dreams of the future better than the history of the past.
(Thomas Jefferson)

We are made wise not by the recollections of our past, but by the responsibilities of our future.
(George Bernard Shaw)

VOLUME XII, No. 4

JANUARY 1985

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday,
January 16, 1985
8:00 p.m.

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Hall
Brooklyn Avenue & 7th Street
Valley Stream

Program

"EGYPTIAN ART AND THE BROOKLYN MUSEUM"

What a wonderful opportunity for us! Dr. Robert Bianchi, Assistant Curator of the Brooklyn Museum, will be giving a talk and showing slides of this world-renowned collection--an armchair trip to the Land of the Pharaohs and its magnificent artifacts! Don't miss out on this chance to learn first-hand about these precious items that others come from all over the world to see.

Refreshments for this evening will be donated by Agnes George, Jane Sutter, Adele Melillo, Elizabeth Kubarmann and Ruth Anholzer. Thank you!

VSHS member Anthony Melillo is on the staff of the Brooklyn Museum, so this meeting will be a sort of busman's holiday for him!

* * *

February meeting: Tuesday, February 19th.

* * *

BITS OF THIS AND THAT...

Al Mayernik would be interested in hearing of any out-of-the way historical markers that any of us spot while traveling around the Island...Members are asked to turn in a list of any items belonging to the Society which they are now holding... At the November meeting, Hank Anholzer and two other members of the Long Island Regional Group of the Early Ford V-8 Club of America presented a slide and show-and-tell program, which brought back many fond memories and illustrated the amount of work that goes into any form of restoration...Through George Wandel, we have received a donation by Roger Kipp of a number of clothes circa 1850-1900, among which are some exceptionally beautiful hats. There is a need for dress forms for the display of such items...Have you seen Al Mayernik's displays at the Library? Eileen Brennan is taking orders for the new notepaper which shows the Museum... Volunteers are being invited to help organize an itinerary for walking tours of Valley Stream. If you can help, please contact Claire McMahon...Agnes George has received a Certificate of Appreciation for monies collected and donated to the Statue of Liberty Fund...The facade of the Museum has been painted and Bert Keller arranged for a holiday wreath to be placed on the door.

* * *

Lack of pep is often mistaken for patience.
(Kin Hubbard)

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P. O. Box #22
Valley Stream, New York 11582

BITS OF HISTORY, MOSTLY LONG ISLAND

By Al Mayernik

The Coming of the Railroad (Part II)

The Southside Rail Road, LIRR's competitor, was completed from Jamaica to Babylon in 1867. Valley Stream was not a scheduled stop; trains were flagged down by passengers waving their handkerchiefs.

After the Civil War, Rockaway became a popular summer resort. The Far Rockaway Branch Rail Road was completed from Valley Stream to Far Rockaway in 1869. Valley Stream was now a junction and a tiny railroad station was built. In that year, Valley Stream appeared for the first time on a timetable.

In 1869 the Hempstead and Rockaway Rail Road built a branch line from Valley Stream to Hempstead. It operated for a few years only. In the 1890's the New York Bay Extension Rail Road was built from Valley Stream to Mineola, in part, to service the Country Life Press and other business interests. Today that line is open to West Hempstead only. In off-peak hours, a shuttle runs between Valley Stream and West Hempstead. During the rush hours, some trains from Jamaica begin or end their run in West Hempstead.

During the late 1800's, the LIRR bought out its competitors and, in turn, was bought by the Pennsylvania Rail Road in 1902. In 1910, the Penn tunnels under the East River opened for service and the LIRR now had a Manhattan terminal, in addition to the one in Brooklyn.

The growth of Valley Stream was influenced greatly by the railroad. Population grew; more businesses were operating. Before the railroad, Valley Stream's commercial activity centered around present-day Hendrickson and Central Avenues. After the railroad was built, this activity shifted southward to Merrick Road and Rockaway Avenue.

* * *

A FLOATING BOTTLE

By Jane Sutter

I threw a bottle in the ocean
With a little note inside
Now I wonder if it landed
Or is still floating in the tide.

I keep thinking who would find it
Will they smile with delight
Or is it lost in deep waters
Forever to be out of sight.

So I worry about my bottle
Did the cork perhaps pop out
Foolish little worries like this
Is what the world is all about.

In fact the note inside the bottle
Didn't have too much to say
Just four little words
"Have a nice day."

* * *

PANORAMA



Lincoln's Early Home—Elizabethtown, Kentucky. *Bryant's History*

VOLUME XII, No. 5

FEBRUARY 1985

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday,
February 19, 1985
8:00 p.m.

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Hall
Brooklyn Avenue & 7th Street
Valley Stream

Program

"150 YEARS OF LONG ISLAND RAIL ROAD
HISTORY"

RAY KENNY

Mr. Kenny, Manager of Timetable Schedules for the Long Island Rail Road, will present a slide/lecture depicting the close ties between the growth of Long Island and the Rail Road itself. All railroads throughout the world have contributed tremendously to the development of this old planet, and here we are with one of our very own. Come and enjoy this sure to be interesting program with all the railroad buffs in our midst.

The coffee hour following the program will be made possible by the generous cake donations of Maria Wendel, Dorothy Smith, Agnes George and Eileen Brennan.

* * *

March meeting: Tuesday, March 19th.

* * *

Congratulations to our friends at the Hicksville Gregory Museum on receiving a \$150,000 grant from the Federal government for the renovation of their building, a former courthouse, circa 1895.

* * *

It was with great regret that President Claire McMahon accepted the resignation of our Treasurer, Mildred Zulch. Mildred has been a dedicated and tireless worker for the Society since its establishment. We look forward to seeing her at the meetings as a member of the audience, leisurely enjoying herself without the chores that are a treasurer's lot!

BITS OF THIS AND THAT...

Eileen Brennan thanks all who have been shopping at our little "Country Store" table at the meetings. She turned over \$65 to President McMahon at the January meeting...Recording Secretary Helen Dowdeswell is vacationing "Down Under" and in other parts of the South Pacific. Perhaps she'll do one of her wonderful slide programs for us this year...VSHS member Otto Liebethuth is out and about again and recuperating nicely from his recent surgery. Otto is everyone's favorite on Cambridge Street...While snowstorms can be a bit of a nuisance, hasn't the Village looked beautiful after each snowfall?...We're glad to hear that Lois Ward is feeling much better again...Thanks to Elsie Fare for filling in as Recording Secretary...Our January meeting program was marvelous! Everyone was so impressed in hearing about the Brooklyn Museum and its wonderful exhibitions, "we just felt like hopping on a bus and going right in there!" said Claire McMahon. Our thanks again to the Assistant Curator, Dr. Robert Bianchi and VSHS member Anthony Melillo... We are always looking for members to help out with the various projects and interests of the Society. If you would like to become more active, please let us know.

* * *

WORDS FROM THE WHITE HOUSE

"I claim not to have controlled events, but confess plainly that events have controlled me." - Abraham Lincoln

"I sometimes think that the saving grace of America lies in the fact that the overwhelming majority of Americans are possessed of two great qualities--a sense of humor and a sense of proportion." - Franklin Delano Roosevelt

"The poet and the politician have this in common: their greatness depends on the courage with which they face the challenges of life." - John F. Kennedy

* * *

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BITS OF HISTORY, MOSTLY LONG ISLAND

By Al Mayernik

Jacob Ruehl

Philippine Rebellion Veteran
Resident of Valley Stream

Part I

The declared motive of the United States in going to war with Spain in 1898 was to secure Cuba's independence from Spain. Ironically, at the end of the war, the United States was richer by the acquisition of Puerto Rico, Guam and the Philippines.

In the battle that wiped out the Spanish fleet at Manila Bay, Admiral Dewey lost one man: a stoker--from heat stroke. But the Filipino natives had suffered great losses fighting against the Spanish. The insurgents were led by Emilio Aguinaldo, who declared himself President of the Philippine Republic. The Filipinos cooperated with the Americans and captured 2,500 Spanish prisoners and gained control of the countryside around Manila. Following the surrender of Spain, the Filipinos expected to rule their own land. But, this was not to be.

As President McKinley said in a speech a year after the war had ended, he prayed and God made up his mind for him. God told him, he said, "to educate the Filipinos and uplift and civilize and Christianize them, and by God's grace, do the very best we could by them." Of course, the Filipinos had been Christianized long before the Pilgrims stepped onto Plymouth Rock.

Some American leaders feared that, if the United States did not annex the Philippines, Japan or Germany might do so. Both countries were then expanding in the Pacific. American imperialism, led by Senator Albert Beveridge, was also on the rise. (There was a move in this country to annex Hawaii; we did so later in 1898.) By the provisions of the Treaty of Paris, the United States paid Spain \$20,000,000 for the Philippine Islands.

The Filipinos had no wish to have a new master, however pious and good-intentioned, and in February 1899,

they rose in revolt. Hundreds of Filipino and American lives were lost and a fearful period of atrocities followed: guerrilla warfare, kidnappings, assassinations. Torture was used on prisoners by both sides. Soon, 100,000 or more American soldiers occupied the Islands, four times the number used in Cuba.

One of these soldiers was a man who later became a leading citizen of Valley Stream: Jacob Ruehl of H Company, Third Infantry Regiment, United States Army.

(To be continued)

* * *

COMING EVENT - On March 12 at 7:30 p.m., the Waldinger Library and the Valley Stream Historical Society will co-sponsor a slide-talk by Al Mayernik at the Library. The title of his talk is "Plaques, Monuments and Memorials: A History of Long Island."

The plaque showing the earliest history is that marking the pre-historic Shelter Rock. Others commemorate the settlement of the Island, the Revolution, Civil War, etc.

Sounds like another great program by our hard-working Al. Be sure to mark this date on your calendar.

* * *

See, I told you he has been working hard! In addition to the above, during the month of February, Al will have a special exhibit for the VSHS in the childrens' room at the Waldinger Library. It will feature first day covers of Pope John Paul II's visits to countries of the world. (Did you know that John Paul II visited the United States on five separate occasions?)

* * *

FOOD FOR THOUGHT - "What a person thinks on his own without being stimulated by the thoughts and experiences of other people is even in the best case rather paltry and monotonous." - Albert Einstein (1879-1955)
Ideas and Opinions

"You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give."- Kahlil Gibran
The Prophet (1883-1931)

PANORAMA



NEWSLETTER



VOLUME XII, No. 6

MARCH 1985

N E X T M E E T I N G

Tuesday,
March 19, 1985
8:00 p.m.

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Hall
Brooklyn Avenue & 7th Street
Valley Stream

Program

JAMAICA BAY WILDLIFE REFUGE

DON RIEPE

This month we will be treated to a slide presentation/talk on the marshlands near Gateway National Park, presented by Mr. Don Riepe, a Forest Ranger with the National Park Service. With the approach of spring and the return of some many birds to the area, what better way to learn about this marvelous refuge by way of a little "armchair birdwatching" with your fellow members and guests.

And, Lillian Weaver, Marge Dalton, Happy Hering and Audrey Boerckel are the nice ladies supplying cakes for our coffee hour following the program.

The business meeting portion of the evening will include the presentation of proposed By-law changes.

COME, JOIN US, MR. LEACOCK

I am free to admit that I am the kind of man who would never notice an oriole building a nest unless it came and built it in my hat in the hat room of the club.

Stephen Leacock

UPCOMING MEETINGS & PROGRAMS

Wednesday, April 17 - "Finding Your Roots" - Robert Kassner
Wednesday, May 15 - Richard Welch,
author of Memento Mori, The Grave-
stones of Early Long Island--1680-1810.
Wednesday, June 19 - Chinese Auction

BITS OF THIS 'N' THAT...

Ray Kenny's program last month on the Long Island Rail Road was great fun, and we had a record number of 18 guests in attendance, in addition to a good turnout of members...Agnes George is still selling chances on a Hummel plate for the benefit of the Statue of Liberty Restoration Fund...It's Nominating Committee time again. Have you ever thought you'd like to become active in the Society? We do hope many will consider doing so. If you do decide in the affirmative, make your answer known to Alphonse Mayernik, Alan Dowdeswell or Henry Kroose... More Museum notepaper is being ordered, so if you were disappointed, bear with us and you'll soon have some...We will not be having a Flea Market again this year, so if anyone has any ideas for an alternate way of raising funds, please let us know.

* * *

WHEN I GET TIME

When I get time--

I know what I shall do:
I'll cut the leaves of all my books
And read them through and through.

When I get time--

I'll write some letters then
That I have owed for weeks and weeks
To many, many men.

When I get time--

I'll pay those calls I owe,
And with those bills, those countless bills,
I will not be so slow.

When I get time--

I'll regulate my life
In such a way that I may get
Acquainted with my wife.

When I get time--

Oh glorious dream of bliss!
A month, a year, ten years from now--
I can't finish this--
I've no more time.

Thomas L. Masson

Valley Stream, N. Y. 11580

41 Parkwood Drive East

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BITS OF HISTORY, MOSTLY LONG ISLAND
by Al Mayernki

Jacob Ruehl
Philippine Rebellion Veteran
Resident of Valley Stream

Part II

Jacob Ruehl was born in Mainz on the Rhine River, Germany, on September 23, 1878. His father had been a barber and, after receiving a formal education and Lutheran religious training, young Jake, at the age of 14, was apprenticed to a barber school. Jake was still a teenager when he came to America at the suggestion of his brother Heinrich, who had arrived in the States a few years earlier.

Jake came to America primarily to avoid being conscripted into the Imperial German Army, but he was quick to see the advantage of enlisting in the American Army: it would shorten the time required to become an American citizen. He enlisted on August 13, 1899. Jake liked the Army and, being a barber, he was always able to earn extra money by cutting hair and trimming beards and "soup-strainer" mustaches popular in those days. He was particularly busy before the weekly inspections. He served with Company H of the Third Infantry Regiment for three years in the Philippines. He was appointed Corporal in 1900 and received the three stripes of Sergeant in 1901.

Company H, Third Infantry was part of General Grant's expedition to the west coast of Luzon, December 3-20, 1899. (By coincidence, Jake's son, Howard, was also stationed in Luzon, forty-five years later during World War II.) Luzon was an island of few roads, intense tropical heat, dense jungle growth, mosquitoes and fevers, and heavy rains and mud during the monsoon season. The deep forests and caves sheltered the Filipino fighters; the natives who appeared to be peaceful farmers during the day were often fanatical patriots at night. Innocent-looking children warned the fighters of approaching American troops.

As time went on, the fighting became more cruel and inhumane. American prisoners were mutilated and sometimes buried alive. Filipino wounded were sometimes bayoneted by the Americans.

It was a "no win" situation, particularly for the civilians, almost 200,000 of whom died from hunger and disease.

More than 1,000 skirmishes occurred before Aguinaldo was captured by General Funston and peace was restored. In one of these skirmishes, a bullet went through Jake's hat; fortunately, he was unhurt. For many years Jake treasured that hat as a reminder of the narrow escape he had from death.

Jake was also fortunate in that he was never stricken with malaria, but he did suffer from dysentery, itself a serious disease. For most of his enlistment, he served near Manila. Once Jack went to Manila on a pass, and while there was able to buy a large amount of beer. In the city, he found, of all things, a Park and Tilford store, a specialty shop dealing in fine imported food. Here Jake bought some Limburger cheese from Germany. That night Jack was the most popular man in camp...a large number of soldiers in Company H came from Germany also.

(to be continued)

* * *

(Editor's Note: I am deeply grateful to Al Mayernik for the articles he submits each month for PANORAMA. They are of invaluable assistance to me in getting this newsletter out, and from the "feedback" I receive, our readers find great enjoyment in these "bits of history." This current series on Jake Ruehl is certainly a gem. Thank you, Al!)

* * *

HE WHO KNOWS

He who knows not, and knows not that he knows not, is a fool, shun him;
He who knows not, and knows that he knows not, is a child, teach him.
He who knows, and knows not that he knows, is asleep, wake him.
He who knows, and knows that he knows, is wise, follow him.

(Persian Proverb)

GROUCH

A grouch escapes so many little annoyances that it almost pays to be one.
(Kin Hubbard)

PANORAMA



VOLUME XII, No. 7

APRIL 1985

N E X T M E E T I N G

Wednesday,
April 17, 1985
8:00 p.m.

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Hall
Brooklyn Avenue & 7th Street
Valley Stream

Program

"FINDING YOUR ROOTS"

ROBERT KASSNER

Now, who else, but VSHS could find someone to point you in the right direction to "make your family tree bear fruit"! Our guest speaker for this evening, Mr. Robert Kassner, is a well-known, certified genealogist, who is sure to get all of us a 'thinkin' about our ancestors and how to go about researching them. This is something so many of us have thought about over the years; now is the time to learn firsthand how to start...and get going!

Refreshments for the coffee hour will be supplied by Agnes Libath, Jane Simon and Evelyn McQuade.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & PROGRAMS

Wednesday, May 15 - Richard Welch, author of Memento Mori, The Gravestones of Early Long Island -- 1680-1810.

Election of officers and trustees will also take place on May 15.

Wednesday, June 19 - Installation of officers and trustees, Chinese Auction, Strawberry Festival

* * *

We are scheduled to march in the Memorial Day Parade on May 27th.

* * *

Be sure to see Agnes George at the meetings. She still has some chances left on the Hummel plate for a most worthy cause--The Statue of Liberty Restoration Fund.

BITS OF THIS 'N' THAT

Edwin Fare has volunteered to take over the Treasurer's spot--thank you!...The Nominating Committee will present their slate at the April meeting, to be voted upon at the May meeting...We are grateful to Lillian Weaver for taking over the hospitality table at the March meeting and also for folding and labeling PANORAMA and getting it to the post office. When in need, Lil's the gal to call!

RECOMMENDED READING

At the meeting last month, President Claire McMahon recommended the book, "The Lord's Woods" by Robert S. Arbib. Agnes Libath has told us that there are a few copies of it at the Waldinger Library and the reference number is 333.75A. This is must reading for anyone who remembers the woods in the south end of Valley Stream and extending on through the Five Towns area.

* * *

MAN'S BEST FRIEND

When dog owners were asked if they praised their dogs, one man replied:

"My dog nudges me all the time for praise, so I wind up with a hand stroking him 99% of the time. We look like a couple going steady."

(From the book, "How to Be Your Dog's Best Friend" by the Monks of New Skete.

* * *

MUSEUM - members are urged to attend the Village Board meeting on April 8th, at which time a resolution on the Museum will be on the agenda.

* * *

NOT KNOWING -"I was nearly 40 before I felt how stupid it was to pretend to know things I did not know, and I still often catch myself doing so. Not one of my schoolmasters taught me this, but otherwise."
- Samuel Butler

"I was gratified to be able to answer promptly and I did. I said I didn't know."
- Mark Twain

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BITS OF HISTORY, MOSTLY LONG ISLAND

by Al Mayernik

Jacob Ruehl
Philippine Rebellion Veteran
Resident of Valley Stream

Part III

In 1902 Jacob Ruehl returned to the United States and was honorably discharged from the Army at Columbus Barracks, Ohio, on August 29, 1902. For his military service, he received the Spanish War Medal (1898-99) and the Philippine Insurrection Medal from the U. S. Government and a medal from New York State. The proud event by which he became a citizen of the United States of America took place in New York City one year later, on July 30, 1903.

For several months, Jake operated his Uncle Joe's barber shop on City Island while his uncle visited Germany. At City Island, Jake met Miss Bertha Yorashek. When Uncle Joe returned, Jake took rooms with the Friedenbergs family on 86th Street in the German-speaking Yorkville section of New York City. The Friedenbergs took Jake in as one of their own children. Bertha left City Island and took rooms in Manhattan so she could be near Jake. As was expected of him, he brought Bertha to Mrs. Friedenbergs for her blessing. Bertha and Jake were married on Sunday, April 9, 1905.

His wife's cousin, Charlie Yorashek, had a farm in Massapequa. It was Charlie who convinced Jake of the opportunities to be had of setting up a barbershop in Valley Stream, even then a growing community, close to the newly-formed boundary of Nassau County and New York City. On May 29, 1907, Jake bought Krauss's barbershop in the Miller Building on Rockaway Avenue for the magnificent sum of \$200.

Haircuts before World War I were 15¢; a shave cost 10¢. Recall the old ditty:

"Shave and a haircut, two bits!"

Our present Village Historian was born to Bertha and Jake on July 26, 1910 and named Howard.

After a short illness, Jake died on June 1, 1946. Services were held for him by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion and Spanish-American War Veterans. His death was a great loss to his many friends.

* * *

REAR WINDOW

On March 12th, many activities took place concerning the Society...Alphonse Mayernik presented his Fourth-Grade Program at the AARP meeting in the afternoon and his program on Plaques, Monuments and Markers at the Waldinger Library in the evening. Also in the afternoon, Audrey and Jim Boerckel, Helen Zang, Madeline Kappauf and Alan Dowdeswell were interviewed by the 4th grade students of the Brooklyn Avenue School. The program was video-taped, so perhaps we'll have a chance to view what was reported to have been a thoroughly delightful session for our Society members and the children and members of the school staff.

At the March 12th presentation at the Library, VSHS President Claire McMahon gave our annual donation of books to Mr. Marshall Botwinick. The books were #3 and #4 of Vincent Seyfried's History of The Long Island Rail Road, The Huntington to Amityville Trolley, and Diesels of the Sunrise Trail.

The Library, in turn, has presented us with an up-to-date bibliography of material--Long Island Local History - A Bibliography, compiled by Mamie Eng and Joanne Lynn of the Library staff - and we thank them very much!

At the regular meeting on March 19th, the membership unanimously approved the following amendments, after motions by Al Mayernik and seconded by Ted Libath:

"To operate a museum for the Village of Valley Stream and to control all of its activities and whenever necessary raise funds to support and maintain it."

"In addition to the Society Treasurer, there shall be appointed a treasurer specifically for the museum to maintain separate museum accounts and to report on a regular basis to the Executive Board of the Valley Stream Historical Society."

Also at this meeting, Al Mayernik exhibited a photograph of President Reagan taken during his visit to a temple in Valley Stream during the Presidential campaign.

PANORAMA



Epitaph

Underneath this wooden cross there lies
A Christian killed in battle. You who read,
Remember that this stranger died in pain;
And, passing here, if you can lift your eyes
Upon a peace kept by the human creed,
Know that one soldier has not died in vain.

(From Elegy For A Dead Soldier by Karl Shapiro, Corporal, U.S. Army, Pacific Area)

* * *

We have been invited to march in the Memorial Day Parade on May 27. We are to meet at 9:00 at Virginia St. (south of Wheeler Ave., off Rockaway Pkway). The Parade starts at 9:30. Please join us.

VOLUME XII, NO. 8

MAY 1985

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday,
May 15, 1985
8:00 PM

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Hall
Brooklyn Avenue & 7th Street
Valley Stream

Program

"THE GRAVESTONES OF EARLY LONG ISLAND
1680 - 1810"

RICHARD WELCH

Another program enabling us to step back into the pages of history, with this most interesting slide/talk by Mr. Richard Welch, author of "Memento Mori."

In the business meeting portion of the evening, the election of officers and trustees will be held. The slate presented at the April meeting by the Nominating Committee is as follows:

President	Walter Savery
Vice President	Robert Presbrey
Secretary	Helen Dowdeswell
Corresponding Secretary	Margaret Dalton
Treasurer	Edwin Fare

(cont'd in next column)

Trustees for 3 years: Emma Bitowski, Clare McMahon
Trustees for 2 years: Audrey Boerckel, Bert Keller, Evelyn McQuade
Trustees for 1 year: Henry Krooss, Adele Hagmann, Ted Libath, Anthony Fiero

Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor prior to time of voting.

Refreshments will be served following the program, courtesy of the generosity of Happy Hering, Mog Wellington, Helen Zang, Eileen Brennan and Louise Carducci.

SOS, SOS, SOS! Audrey Boerckel is in dire need of articles for MEMORY LANE; her supply is just about out! ←

LOOKING BACK... There was a fine turnout for the April meeting and our program, "Finding Your Roots," presented by the personable genealogist, Robert Kassner.

Mog Wellington also told of her recent tour of the Valley Stream Post Office, conducted by a former student of hers, Mr. Marty Kialawa, and Mr. Joseph Schrauffl, Sup't of Postal Operations. She learned that the Post Office delivers to 20,230 homes in Valley Stream, covered by 64 routes. Personnel number 150 and 30 clerks start at 4:00 a.m. to begin the monumental task of distributing the mail. There are special sections for junk mail, registered mail, box holders, etc. This fine group of people provides a great service to all of us. Mr. Tony Corso is our Postmaster. (Ed. Note: A special thanks to Mr. James Phair, who starts PANORAMA on its way.)

MEMBERS URGED TO ATTEND SPECIAL VILLAGE BOARD MTG. ON MUSEUM RESOLUTION - MAY 23 -8:15 -VILLAGE HALL

We can't believe it either--it's membership renewal time again. Kindly fill out this form and mail it to the address shown below or bring it to the meeting. Please make checks payable to Valley Stream Historical Society. (Individual memberships--\$5.00.)

VALLEY STREAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P. O. Box 22
Valley Stream, New York 11582

1985 MEMBERSHIP FORM
EXPIRES JUNE 1986

I have marked my category below. Please send my

New Renewal

TO: Name _____
Address _____

Telephone _____
Introduced by _____
Hobbies and/or special interests _____

- | | |
|---|---------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual..... | \$ 5.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student..... | 2.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing..... | 7.50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family.....
(four or more members of one family) | 12.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organizational.....
(clubs, business organizations, etc.) | 25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining.....
(tax exempt gift) | 50.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life.....
(tax exempt gift) | 100.00 |

Membership paid by Cash Check

ODDS 'N' ENDS - by Al Mayernik

This clipping from The Nassau Daily News (Rockville Centre), February 5, 1942, was one of many news items donated to the Valley Stream Historical Society. Though I had been in the Army almost five years, most of the terms are new to me.

Going into the Army, Buddy?
Better Brush Up on Its Lingo

by the Associated Press

Army brat -- officer's daughter;
army banjo -- shovel;
belly robber -- mess sergeant;
Bible -- army regulations;
battery acid -- coffee;
blisterfoot -- infantryman;
boodle -- cakes, candy, sweets;
bowlegs -- cavalryman;
boudoir -- squad tent;
bubble dancer -- dish washer;
bunk fatigue -- sleep;
buzzard -- chicken;
China clipper -- man on kitchen
police duty;
goldbrick -- duty shirker;
glamor boy -- selectee;
gold fish -- salmon;
grass -- salad;
hashburner -- cook;
Holy Joe -- chaplain;
swacked -- plastered;
scandal sheet -- the payroll;
serum -- liquor;
skirt patrol -- search for
feminine company;
slipping the clutch -- talking
or criticizing too much;
sky scout -- chaplain;
soft money -- paper currency;
spin it -- go to bed;
street monkeys -- members of the
band;
sweating -- anticipating (a letter,
for instance);
throw the book -- maximum punishment;
up the pole -- on the wagon;
sugar report -- letter from girl
friend;
swanks -- soldier's best clothing;
short circuit between the ears --
mental lapse;
tiger meat -- beef;
see the chaplain -- stop grouching;
blind flying -- date with a girl
you never met;
barracks 13 -- guard house.

A letter of thanks to Al Mayernik

Thank you for the interesting, but brief history of my father. I read with great interest how you covered his life as a boy on the River Rhine to the time he came to America and enlisted in the U. S. Army. His life as a sergeant in Co. H, Third Infantry, Luzon, P. I. His return to become an American citizen and how he met my mother. How they both came to Valley Stream in 1907 and how yours truly entered the story in 1910. And, finally, his demise in 1946.

I think this is the first time I could sit back and enjoy with great pleasure reading something about my Dad.

Al, you did a fine job and made an old man happy.

Sincerely,

Howard Ruehl

* * *

SOLDIER

The most advantageous position in life and society is that of an educated soldier.

Goethe

You can always tell an old soldier by the inside of his holsters and cartridge boxes. The young ones carry pistols and cartridges; the old ones, grub.

George Bernard Shaw

It is the man who is afraid of the enemy's General Staff that is a coward; the man who is afraid of his own is merely an old soldier.

Aubrey Menen

* * *

PLEASURE

'Tis a wrong way to proportion other men's pleasures to ourselves; 'tis like a child's using a little bird, O poor bird thou shalt sleep with me; so lays it in his bosom and stifles it with his hot breath; the bird had rather be in the cold air.

John Selden

Every perfect action is accompanied by pleasure. By that you can tell that you ought to do it.

Andre Gide

Valley Stream Historical Society
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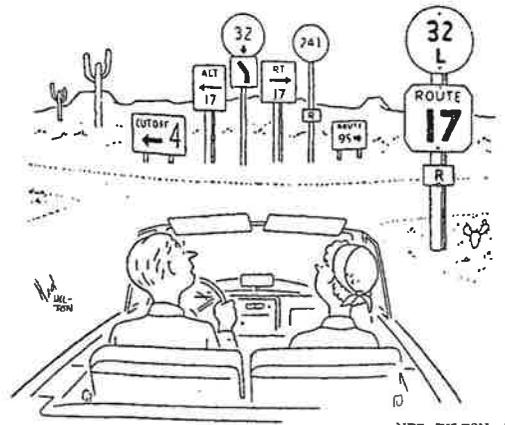
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Valley Stream, N. Y. 11580

PANORAMA



NEWSLETTER



NED HILTON, LOOK

"Fifty years ago people would just have let the horse decide."

VOLUME XII, NO. 9

JUNE, 1985

N E X T M E E T I N G

Wednesday,
June 19, 1985
8:00 PM

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Hall
(Williams Hall)
7th Street off Brooklyn Avenue
Valley Stream

Program

1. Short Business Meeting
2. Installation of Officers and Trustees
3. Chinese Auction
4. Strawberry Festival

Come one, come all - join in the fun at this last meeting of this season. Jim and Audrey Boerckel are once more hard at work setting up our annual Chinese Auction. And, it's time for all of us to look over our shelves, cupboards, jewelry boxes, etc. for items to donate to the Auction. As usual, Jim Polychron has donated les pièces de résistance, which alone are worth the nominal price of \$2 for 100 chances! And the more items we have, the more fun for all. They can be given to Jim and Audrey the night of the meeting.

Finger cakes and cookies will be provided by Agnes George, Vera Totten and Marion Raeder, to be

enjoyed with the strawberries and ice cream lined up by Emma Bitowski. Extra hands will be needed in the kitchen that night, too.

* * *

SINCEREST SYMPATHY to President Claire McMahon and her family on the loss of their beloved husband and father, Tom McMahon, who passed away on June 3rd.

* * *

BITS OF THIS 'N' THAT

We had a nice turnout for the Memorial Day Parade - about 25 marchers, 2 old-time cars and 3 generations of McMahons striding down the Avenue.

Don't forget the Village Picnic on July 7 (raindate July 14) on the Village Green. We will have our usual tent and will be selling Valley Stream and Long Island items and cup cakes. We would appreciate donations of cup cakes, books and magazines. (Please bring the books and magazines directly to the Village Green; we cannot accept them ahead of time as we have no storage space.)

We were sorry to learn of the recent passing of Eileen Brennan's beloved "Aunt Nell," at the age of 101.

The next issue of PANORAMA will be in September. Our September meeting will be on Wednesday, September 18th, and I'm sure Jim and Audrey will have interesting programs lined up for us for the next season. 'Til then, enjoy a happy summer!

To renew your membership, kindly fill out this form and mail to the address shown below, or bring it to the meeting. Please make checks payable to Valley Stream Historical Society. (Individual members still only \$5.00.)

VALLEY STREAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P. O. Box 22
Valley Stream, New York 11582

I have marked my category below. Please send my

New Renewal

TO: Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Introduced by _____

Hobbies and/or special interests _____

1985 MEMBERSHIP FORM
EXPIRES JUNE 1986

- Individual.....\$ 5.00
- Student..... 2.00
- Contributing..... 7.50
- Family..... 12.00
(four or more members of one family)
- Organizational..... 25.00
(clubs, business organizations, etc.)
- Sustaining..... 50.00
(tax exempt gift)
- Life..... 100.00
(tax exempt gift)

Membership paid by Cash Check

BITS OF HISTORY, MOSTLY LONG ISLAND
By Al Mayernik

Indian Place Names of Long Island

There are no pure-blood Long Island Indians living today, so our knowledge of their language must depend upon the erratic spelling of the early colonists, most of whom were totally uninterested in things Indian. It is difficult and frustrating to investigate the meaning of the Indian place names. Meanings and spellings vary, depending upon the authority consulted.

The Indians had three different names for Long Island:

Meitowax - the land of the periwinkle shell (from which wampum was made)

Faumanok - land of tribute (The eastern tribes of Long Island paid tribute to the Pequots of the mainland.)

Sewanhaka - island of shells

The spellings and meanings of the following places are somewhat accurate.

1. Amagansett - near the fishing place
2. Apaquogue - where the cat-tails grow
3. Agebogue - head of the bay
4. Canarsie - at the fenced place
5. Caumsett - near the sharp rock
6. Commack (Winnecomac) - a pleasant field
7. Connetquot - tidal river or creek
8. Copiague - sheltered place; harbor
9. Coram - valley (??)
10. Corchogue - great meeting place
11. Cutchogue - the principal place
12. Gowanus - he rests; sleeper
13. Hauppauge - swampy place; sweet water
14. Jamaica (Yemacah) - a beaver; beaver pond
15. Kissena - not a Long Island name; from the Chippewa, "It is cold."
16. (Lake) Success - from "Sacut" outlet of a pond
17. Madnans (old name for Great Neck) - hilly place
18. Manhasset - an island sheltered by islands (refers to Shelter Island)
19. Mannelto - the wonderful hill
20. Maspeth (Mespaetches) - bad water place; flooded by the tide

21. Massapequa - the great water land
22. Mastic - great river; tidal river
23. Matinecock - at the hilly place
24. Mattituck - place without trees
25. Merrick (Merioke) - at the barren place
26. Montauk - at the fortified place
27. Napeague - water land
28. Nissequogue - the clay or mud country
29. Noyack - a corner or angle
30. Patchogue - two rivers meet
31. Peconic - small plantation
32. Pentaquit (old name for Bay Shore) - at the crooked creek
33. Ponquogue - cleared land
34. Poosepatuck - union of two rivers into tidal waters
35. Poquott - open country
36. Quogue - salt meadow
37. Rockaway - at the sandy place
38. Ronkonkoma - boundary fishing place
39. Secatogue - dark-colored land
40. Setauket - land at the mouth of the river
41. Shinnecock - at the level place
42. Speonk - high land near water
43. Wickapogue - at the end of a pond
44. Wyandanch - a chief of the Montauks whose name means "wise speaker"
45. Yaphank - bank of a river

* * *

WORTH REPEATING

Don't cling to the old because it made you glad once: go on to the next, the next region, the next experience.

Alfred North Whitehead

When I was young I was amazed at Plutarch's statement that the elder Cato began at the age of eighty to learn Greek. I am amazed no longer. Old age is ready to undertake tasks that youth shirked because they would take too long.

W. Somerset Maugham

* * *

"PEOPLE TO PEOPLE BOOK SERVICE" - Marshall Botwinick, Library Director of the Henry Waldinger Memorial Library and VSHS member, has advised us that the Library is participating in this new program to deliver books to any homebound residents of Valley Stream, young or old, who are handicapped or unable to get to the Library because of a temporary disability. The only requirement is that the person live within the Henry Waldinger Memorial Library Service Area. To apply, call Mrs. Strona or Miss Eng at 825-6422.

Valley Stream Historical Society
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P. O. Box #22
Valley Stream, New York 11582

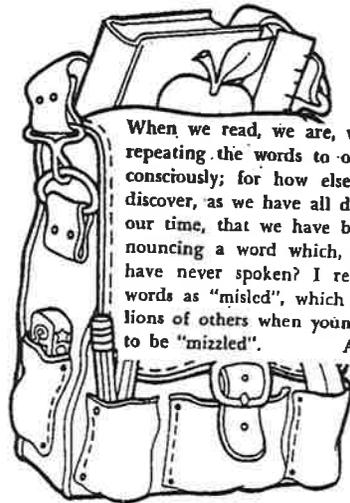
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PANORAMA



NEWSLETTER



When we read, we are, we must be, repeating the words to ourselves unconsciously; for how else should we discover, as we have all discovered in our time, that we have been mispronouncing a word which, in fact, we have never spoken? I refer to such words as "mised", which I, and millions of others when young, supposed to be "mizzled".

A. A. MILNE

VOLUME XIII, No. 1

SEPTEMBER 1985

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday,
September 18, 1985
8:00 P.M.

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Hall
Brooklyn Avenue & 7th Street
Valley Stream

Program

"WPA ART"

Mrs. Joan Chambers will present the last of the Camberwell Collection at this our kick-off meeting of the season. These programs, presented over the years by Ray and Joan Chambers are always so interesting and informative. If you've seen the others, you certainly won't want to miss this one. If you've never seen them, please do try to attend this final slide/presentation.

The refreshments for this meeting will be supplied by the Executive Committee.

We are so grateful to Lil Weaver for graciously agreeing to be our hostess this season. But then, doesn't she always come through for us?)

MEMBERSHIP

For those who haven't renewed their memberships for the 1985/86 season, it's still not too late. Individual Memberships are \$5.00; Students - \$2; Contributing - \$7.50; Family - \$12; Organizational - \$25; Sustaining (tax-exempt gift) - \$50; Life (tax-exempt gift) - \$100. Make checks payable to the Valley Stream Historical Society.

LIFE MEMBERS

At our June meeting, outgoing VSHS President Claire McMáhon awarded a Life Membership to Mildred Zulch, for her many years of faithful service to the Society, most recently as our Treasurer. We were sorry Mildred couldn't attend the meeting and we offer our congratulations and thanks to her.

The latest to join the ranks of Life Members are Mr. and Mrs. Roger Gillen, formerly of Valley Stream and now residents of Ocean-side. Thank you, Roger and Carol!

BITS OF THIS 'N' THAT...

At our October meeting we will hold our annual **Covered Dish Supper**. Details for the evening will appear in next month's PANORAMA. Be sure to mark the date...October 16th. Following the supper, Al Mayernik will show pictures of Valley Stream that have been donated to the Society.

At our November meeting on the 20th of that month, our program will be on the timely subject of Halley's Comet.

We look forward to seeing our Membership Chairman, Margaret Warrel back with us again after her recent hospital stay. Thanks to Dot Smith for filling in to help Allan Dowdeswell with collecting dues.

Our Agnes George is some great gal! After donating and raffling off her own Hummel for the Statue of Liberty Fund, she then raffled a Hummel plate and donated the \$40 proceeds and \$100 to the Museum!

Our sales table at the Village Picnic in July netted \$273.35.

Audrey Boerckel's supply of Memory Lane articles has just about run out again. Time to don those thinking caps and try to help her out.

If you're looking for a bit of fun and adventure and are...er, over let's say 39, talk to Helen Dowdeswell, Mog Wellington, Adele Hagmann and Evelyn McQuade about Elderhostel.

We were sorry to learn of the death of Alfarata M. Gross, 89, the widow of Harry W. Gross, former Superintendent of Schools, in St. Petersburg, Florida on June 10th. In recent years, Mrs. Gross had set up a scholarship fund at Central High in honor of her husband, who had been Principal there for many years.

1158

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BITS OF HISTORY, MOSTLY LONG ISLAND

By Al Mayernik

America - A Nation on Wheels (Part I)

The first road vehicles that could travel by themselves were powered by steam engines. As early as 1769, a French Army officer, Captain Nicholas J. Cugnot, built a steam-driven three-wheeled tractor for hauling cannon; the auto could go three miles an hour. The most of various nations experimented with the steam auto. The most famous Americans to do so were the Stanley twins who built the Stanley Steamer in 1897 and whose later models were still popular in the 1920's.

The electric car, believed by many to be the car of the 21st century, came into being about 1890. There were many models and manufacturers, but the electric car never became popular because of its slow speeds and limited driving range.

The gasoline engine, because of its great power, became the standard for the automobile. Two Germans, Gottlieb Daimler and Karl Benz, experimented separately, circa 1885, to develop a gasoline engine. The Duryea brothers built the first successful American gasoline-powered automobile and established in 1895 the first American company for the manufacture of gasoline automobiles. Up to this date, automobile parts were individually made; the concept of interchangeability of parts was not yet introduced into the industry.

In the early years, the automobile was a "rich man's toy." Autos, considering the low salaries of the time, were very expensive. The 1904 Packard sold for \$3,000; models of the 1904 Peerless (Direct Drive) Touring Cars were priced from \$2,800 to \$6,000. The 1904 Ford, with tonneau, went for \$900; the Runabout sold for \$800.

Though the population of Valley Stream numbered slightly over 800 persons in 1904, and in spite of the high prices of autos, Valley Stream had its first gas station shortly after that year--Raustein's on Corona Avenue, which operated for 80 years before it closed in 1984. In 1904 Raustein's sold gasoline for 16 cents a gallon.

(To be continued.)

WORTH REPEATING

"When everything has to be right, something isn't." - Stanislaw J. Lee (1906-1966)
Unkempt Thoughts

ACTRESS JOINS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Fern Fitzgerald, Central High class of 1965 and TV actress, joined the VSHS and it came about in this way:

In January 1984, Agnes and Ted Libath visited their daughter Marsha in California. They had tickets to see the TV show "Match Games, Hollywood Squares." Marsha thought she knew one member of the panel, Fern Fitzgerald. At the question period during intermission, Marsha asked Fern, "Did you go the Central High School, Valley Stream?" Fern was delighted to know that friends from home were in the audience.

Ted later wrote to Fern for her resume for inclusion in the program of the Central High School Alumni Reunion. He then passed the resume on to Al Mayernik, who is developing the "Who's Who in Valley Stream" slides and notebooks.

Al wrote to Fern asking whether slides were available for "Who's Who." Shortly after, several slides and prints arrived from her agent and a nice letter from Fern.

Al then thought, "Why not? Perhaps she'd like to join the Society." So he sent Fern a thank you letter and application. Sure enough, she was pleased to join. Welcome aboard, Fern!

Fern Fitzgerald appeared in several Broadway shows and many TV productions. She is best known for her role as Marilee Stone in TV's "Dallas." And, several seasons ago, she appeared in the role of the lovely bartender in "Archie Bunker's Place."

MUSEUM NEWS

The Museum Fund Raising Committee has six to nine months in which to raise \$200,000. While urging members to support this drive, our new President, Walter Savery, set an example by announcing that he and his wife, Lena, were giving \$500 in memory of his brothers John and George.

VSHS member Carol Gladky has made a very beautiful afghan for which she is selling raffle tickets. The proceeds are to be given to the Museum Fund.

PANORAMA



NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XIII, No. 2

OCTOBER 1985

Rejoice in The Lord: for praise is
comely for the upright.

Psalm 33

Surely goodness and mercy shall
follow me all the days of my life;
and I will dwell in the House of
the Lord forever.

Psalm 23

In Memorium

It is with profound sorrow and regret that we record the death of

WALTER B. SAVERY
President,
Valley Stream Historical Society

on Friday, September 27, 1985, as the result of head injuries sustained when he was
fatally struck by a falling tree limb while cleaning up his yard after Hurricane Gloria.

Utter disbelief and shock were expressed by Executive Board members when word of Walter's
death was received. Many of us had attended a meeting at Walter's home only the previous
Tuesday evening, when, in his earnest, conscientious, thoughtful way, Walter was busily
engaged in finalizing plans for the Covered Dish Supper. He regretted that he would
have to miss the supper, but was eagerly looking forward to a reunion with his World War
II buddies that was scheduled for the same time in California.

Walter was a very fine man, actively involved in many worthwhile organizations and
projects. He will be sorely missed. Our sincerest sympathy to his devoted wife Lena
and daughter Diane for their irreparable loss.

N E X T M E E T I N G

Wednesday,
October 16, 1985
6:30 p.m.

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Hall
Brooklyn Avenue & 7th Street
Valley Stream

C O V E R E D D I S H S U P P E R

The door opens at 6:15 and members and guests
are invited to enjoy visiting time while
munching snacks and sipping tasty beverages.
Supper will follow at 7:00 p. m. and your
covered dishes should be according to the
alphabetical assignment below:

A - G - Dairy-type foods (eggs, cheese);
gelatins, fruit; fish, hot or
cold.

H - O - "Starchy"-type, hot or cold.
This might be potatoes, beans,
rice, noodles, etc.

P - Z - Vegetable content, hot or cold,
such as salads, casseroles, etc.

Please bring hot foods fully cooked and
hot--kitchen facilities are limited.

The Executive Board will provide cakes
for dessert in lieu of covered dishes.

DO NOT BRING MEAT OR MEAT-CONTENT DISHES.
The Society will provide these items, as
well as bread, butter, tea and coffee.

Guests are welcome; however, they
will be expected to adhere to the fore-
going requirements, unless you under-
take to do this for them.

A minimum donation of \$2.00 per
person will be collected at the door.
The pleasure and popularity of this
annual event merit your generosity in
food and funds.

A short business meeting will follow
the supper, and then Al Mayernik will
show slides of photographs pertaining
to Valley Stream that have been donated
to the Society.

This is always a very popular even-
ing and we look forward to another fine
representation of the membership and
their guests. Three members of the
Baldwin Historical Society will be our
guests for this evening and we look
forward to meeting them, too.

* * *

Our November meeting will be held on
Wednesday, November 20th. Our program
will have Halley's Comet as its topic.
This will be our last meeting for this
year as there is no December meeting.

* * *

11580

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BITS OF HISTORY, MOSTLY LONG ISLAND

By Al Mayernik

America - A Nation on Wheels (Part II)

The automobile truly became a part of American life in the period following World War I, as did the increased use of electricity. In 1900, the manufacture of automobiles in America was just beginning; there were about 8,000 cars, owned mostly by wealthy sportsmen. In 10 years there were about 50 companies producing automobiles. By 1928, there were 26,500,000 registered motor vehicles--America truly became "a nation on wheels."

The man who changed the automobile from "a rich man's toy to every man's necessity" was Henry Ford. The Model T, introduced in 1908, was fondly called the "tin lizzie." It was so simple to operate that almost anyone could learn to drive, and so cheap that almost any workingman's family could afford it.

Ford's success was due to greatly advanced techniques of manufacture. He developed the assembly line to a high degree of speed and efficiency. Conveyor belts brought the parts to the workers, and operations were broken down into such simple jobs that most of the work could be done by semi-skilled labor. The Ford Motor Company boasted that "raw iron at the docks at eight Monday morning could be marketed as a complete Ford on Wednesday noon, allowing 15 hours for shipment."

The assembly line so reduced costs that, while the average price of an American auto in 1900 was \$2,123, Ford sold a model for \$850 in 1908, \$540 in 1914 and \$290 in 1924. In 1914 Ford paid his workers a minimum wage of \$5 for an 8-hour day--double the standard wage at that time. But Ford believed that high wages provided a greater buying power, which combined with mass production and low prices, created a greater market for consumer goods.

Detroit became the center for auto manufacturing, although cars

were, and are, made in other parts of the country. At one time, more than a dozen makes of cars were manufactured on Long Island, including the American Mercedes, which was made in Long Island City.

(To be continued.)

* * *

There were so many favorable comments about the delicious cake brought to the September meeting by Lena Savery that she has graciously given us the recipe.

CHOCOLATE ECLAIR CAKE

- 1 box Graham Crackers
- 2 3/4 oz. boxes French Vanilla Instant Pudding
- 3 cups Milk
- 1 8-oz. Cool Whip, thawed

Cover bottom of 9"x13" pan with crackers (3x5). Put cracker halves all around edges. Make pudding with 3 cups of milk. Fold in Cool Whip. Pour 1/2 of pudding mix in pan. Cover with crackers (3x5). Pour in remaining pudding mix and cover with crackers (3x5).

Icing: Mix together:

- 3 Tbsp. Butter or Margarine
- 1 Tbsp. Boiling Water
- 1/4 cup Cocoa

Keep cake refrigerated uncovered. Best if made the night before or early morning for dinner.

* * *

WORTH REPEATING

The Mark of a Gentleman

"My boy," a father advised his son, "treat everybody with politeness, even those who are rude to you. For remember that you show courtesy to others not because they are gentlemen, but because you are one."

--Alabama Times

Getting

In this world there are only two tragedies. One is not getting what one wants and the other is getting it. Oscar Wilde

(This was typed prior to Walter's death.)

PANORAMA



VOLUME XIII, No. 3

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1985

N E X T M E E T I N G

Wednesday,
November 20, 1985
8:00 p.m.

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Hall
Brooklyn Avenue & 7th Street
Valley Stream

Program

"RETURN OF HALLEY'S COMET -
ASTROLOGY AND VALLEY STREAM"

FRANK MELILLO

A most timely subject for our program this month. Amateur astrologer Frank Melillo will present a slide lecture on this fascinating comet that has captured the interest of people from every continent. (Frank is the son of VSHS members, Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Melillo.) Do plan to attend and learn first-hand about this amazing phenomenon, observed by astronomer and mathematician, Edmund Halley in 1682. He identified it as the one observed in 1531 and 1607. Professor Halley did not live to see its return early in 1759, close to the time he predicted it would. It reappeared in 1910 and now, of course, this year. Mr. Halley also discovered the acceleration of the motion of the moon and the law which governs the return of comets.

Refreshments for this evening will be provided by Rachel Dann, Shirley Siegl, Marion and Phyl Raeder, Marion Clinchy and Caroline Young. Thank you, one and all!

* * *

The program for our January 15, 1986 meeting will be "The Wonderful Flying Boats" with our friend Hank Anholzer telling us of the Clippers that used to fly across the Atlantic and Pacific, and flew out of Port Washington, North Beach and LaGuardia. Another bit of Long Island's historic involvement in the world of aviation.

BITS OF THIS 'N' THAT...

Last month's Covered Dish Supper was most enjoyable and, as usual, the food was just wonderful! About 80 members attended and stayed on to also enjoy Al Mayernik's slides of old time Valley Stream. Bert Keller gave a moving tribute to our late President Walter Savery preceding the dinner and Reverend Torrey of Holy Trinity asked the blessing on the food.

Vice President Bob Presbrey has agreed to serve out Walter's term as President and Claire McMahon will serve out Bob's term as Vice President.

Marion Raeder has offered to be the hostess for the November meeting.

Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Melillo are in the process of repairing our 1860's flag. This is a very painstaking and tedious job, and we are most appreciative of the Melillos' offer to undertake it.

We have received a request for information on the history of the Roeckel family. If you can help on this, please contact Adele Hageman.

* * *

WORTH REPEATING

"Most men think they are immortal--until they get a cold, when they think they are going to die within the hour."

(Norman Cousins - Human Options)

"What wisdom can you find that is greater than kindness?" (Jean-Jacques Rousseau - Emile, or Education)

"To vacillate or not to vacillate, that is the question--isn't it?"

(Bruce Wallace - "Fixiones")

"Increased means and increased leisure are the two civilizers of man."

(Benjamin Disraeli - Speech to the Conservatives of Manchester, April 3, 1872)

* * *

The Officers and Board of Trustees of the Valley Stream Historical Society extend very best wishes to all members and their families for a very Happy Thanksgiving, Happy Chanukah, Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year!

Valley Stream, N. Y. 11580
41 Parkwood Drive East
Mr. William P. Striss

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BITS OF HISTORY, MOSTLY LONG ISLAND

By Al Mayernik

America - A Nation on Wheels (Part III)

The effects of the automobile on American life was revolutionary. Track mileage of passenger railroads declined as automobiles and buses cut into rail passenger income. Trucks competed with railroads for hauling freight.

Horses disappeared from the cities, and later from the farms as tractors took their place.

The old poorly-maintained dirt roads were inadequate and, throughout the nation, roads were improved and new highways were built. The old Merrick Road was widened and paved; in the 1920's, Sunrise Highway was completed. The first section of Southern State Parkway, which passed through North Valley Stream, was dedicated by Governor Alfred E. Smith on 6 November 1926.

New fields of business appeared: garages, gas stations, diners, tourist homes. New vacation resorts opened as the automobile gave the average American family greater mobility. America was quickly becoming a nation on the move.

More and more people were able to leave the crowded cities and move to the suburbs as the auto provided (for a time) quicker and more reliable transportation. Valley Stream's population increased dramatically.

And, the number of cars increased every year and the traffic in the cities got worse every year; the number of cars increased further and the traffic in the cities slowed to a standstill: grid-lock.

* * *

WHY WE SAY...

By Al Mayernik

a "Gibson" Martini--A Gibson is a martini in which a small onion or two is substituted for the olive. The story goes that Charles Dana Gibson, creator of the "Gibson Girl," ordered a martini at New York's Players Club. The bartender was temporarily out of olives and substituted a tiny onion. He named the drink after the famous illustrator, who was once a resident of Blushing Queens



a "Mae West"--The Mae West was an inflatable life jacket worn by American flyers in World War II who might be forced to ditch at sea. It was so named because of its resemblance to the generous silhouette of the Brooklyn-born actress, Mae West.

* * *

FAREWELL, ELSIE AND WILBUR FARE

Elsie and Wilbur Fare will be sorely missed, not only by the Valley Stream Historical Society, but by the Village of Valley Stream as well. They have continuously given of themselves in service to the community.

Wilbur was a vice president and then president of the VSHS; Elsie served as secretary during Wilbur's term, in addition to "pinch-hitting" when the need arose. And, she did her share of "kitchen duty" at refreshment time for many a meeting. Dependability has been the chief attribution of Wilbur's character, between donating many hours in the carrying out the duties of the offices he held to the special events of the Society--flea markets, the Village Picnics, Covered Dish Suppers, etc.

Wilbur's service to Holy Trinity Episcopal Church has been constant. In addition her service to the church, Elsie has donated more than 1,000 hours of volunteer work at Franklin General Hospital.

Although Elsie and Wilbur have been longtime residents of Valley Stream, they are beginning a new life in New Bern, North Carolina (once the capital of the Carolina Colony). Our loss, New Bern's gain.

Our best wishes and prayers go with them.

Al Mayernik

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Elsie and Wilbur's son, Edwin, will remain in Valley Stream and continue in the office of Treasurer for the Society, we're happy to say! He will, of course, be in need of new living quarters, so if any members know of an apartment or house to rent, please do let Ed know.

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LEST WE FORGET - Veterans' Day - November 11

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Our sympathy to Eleanor Bayardi on the recent death of her husband, Armand. Their son, Armand, Jr. is married to the former Betsy