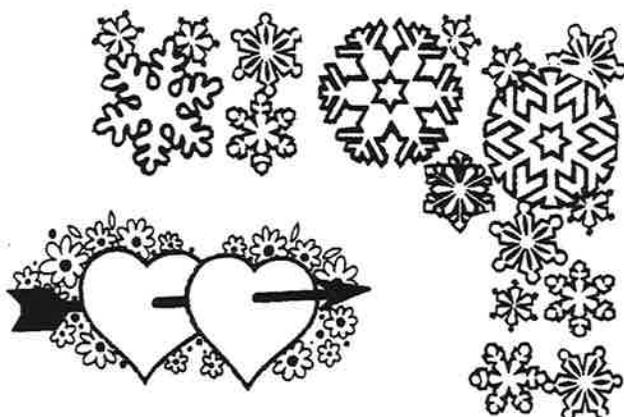


PANORAMA



NEWSLETTER



VOLUME XIII, No. 5

FEBRUARY 1986

N E X T M E E T I N G

Tuesday,
February 18, 1986
8:00 p.m.

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

Program

THE VALLEY STREAM FIRE DEPARTMENT

IN ACTION

LARRY FOX

The official photographer of the Valley Stream Fire Department, Mr. Fox will display many of his photographs, in addition to telling us of his many experiences with the Fire Department. A past president of the VS Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Fox is also president of his own company here in town. Don't miss this chance to see and hear about our wonderful volunteer firefighters.

Our hostess for our refreshment table this evening is Shirley Siegl, and we do thank her and the ladies who will be supplying cakes--Maria Wendel, Peg Keller and Marge Finkensadt.

* * *

Be sure to note that both the February and March meetings will be held on Tuesday evenings; in April we'll return to our usual Wednesdays.

* * *

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

"The good old days" are in our hearts, not on the calendar. The good old days are now. Distance, time and memory have lent a false enchantment to our view. There never was a better time than now unless we think otherwise. If modern invention, science, art, literature, efficiency and cooperative effort

have not served and do not now serve to make these days the best days the world has seen thus far, then all our aspirations have been for naught and ambition may be cast aside for the mortality and learning of least resistance.

If wars, saloons, wild-westiness, coal oil lamps, uninspected meats, unpasteurized milk, strangling competition, mud roads, hand-cranked flivvers and one-dollar-a-day labor were the good old days, then the advocates of modernism are laboring under a gross misconception. The good new days are far preferable to the bad old one.

from the Valley Stream Record
Friday, May 29, 1925
(submitted by Al Mayernik)

BIT OF THIS 'N' THAT...

A great time was had by both the audience and Hank Anholzer and his fellow participants at our January program on the Clipper Flying Boats.

Also at that meeting, Mrs. Louise LeJeune Quinn, who at one time had worked on the history of Valley Stream, donated her collection of articles and maps to our Society.

Eileen Brennan now has note pads in addition to our towels and notepaper, all for sale at our little "Country Store" table.

Bert Keller announced that the January meeting was the last to be attended by Elsie and Wilbur Fare before their move out of Valley Stream. Much praise and deep appreciation for their many years of work for the Society were expressed to them.

Carolyn Gladky's lovely handmade afghan was won by a guest, Mr. Andrew Simms, a former Pan-American flying boat captain. The raffle tickets netted \$530, which was turned over to the Museum Fund by Carolyn.

* * *

HYACINTHS TO FEED THY SOUL

If of thy mortal goods thou art bereft,
And from thy slender store two loaves alone
to thee are left,
Sell one, and with the dole
Buy hyacinths to feed thy soul.

(Attributed to the Gulistan of Moslih Eddin Saadi, a Mohammedan sheik and Persian poet who lived about 1184-1291.)

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BITS OF HISTORY, MOSTLY LONG ISLAND

By Al Mayernik

The Golden Twenties (Part II)

In the Twenties, movies were becoming the major form of entertainment, even though they were "silent." Often piano players accompanied the showings in local movie houses to provide sound effects and mood music. Movie studios existed in Brooklyn (Vitagraph) and Astoria (Famous Players-Lasky, later Paramount), as well as in Hollywood. The stars were worshipped by the public. Famous were Charlie Chaplin, W C Fields, Laurel and Hardy in their two-reelers, Rudolph Valentino, Al Jolson, who made the first talkie, "Jazz Singer" in 1927, Brooklyn's "It Girl" Clara Bow, the dog Rin Tin Tin. When Mary Pickford and Douglas Fairbanks toured Europe, they were treated as royalty. Valley Streamers who wanted to see a motion picture had to go to the Arcade Theatre in Lynbrook or to Jamaica. With the coming of talkies, movie attendance increased markedly.

The Twenties was a period of fads and wacky entertainments. Shipwreck Kelly sat on a flagpole for 145 days and nights. One record for marathon dancing went to 3,327 hours. Mah Jong and contract bridge were played with great intensity and the popular crossword puzzle of today started as a craze in 1923.

The 19th Amendment to the Constitution granted women suffrage and the 1920 election was the first in which women could vote for the president. There was also a feeling of rebellion against the "Puritanism" of the pre-World War I period: short skirts, skimpier bathing suits, bobbed hair, use of cosmetics, women smoking in public, cheek-to-cheek dancing, "petting" parties, greater freedom in dating. The Twenties saw the introduction of the Miss America Beauty Pageant at Atlantic City. The "flapper", the emancipated woman doing her "thing", became a national heroine of sorts.

The Golden Twenties were the "Roaring Twenties" in which prohibition from alcohol was tried as a social experiment. The 18th Amendment to the Constitution was a failure because most Americans felt they had an "inalienable right" to drink. It was, therefore, a period of organized crime which seized control of the il-

legal alcohol trade. Gangsters and bootleggers controlled big city politics; the worst example was Chicago. Al Capone was the most notorious.

Speak-easies existed throughout the country. Texas Guinan greeted her patrons with, "Hello, Sucker!" and charged outlandish prices. For a short time, she operated at Hoffman's on the northwest corner of Central Avenue and Merrick Road, Valley Stream. No sooner was she shut down by the police when she opened up someplace else nearby. A ditty recited by Texas at one of her nightclubs refers to her appearance at court:

Judge Thomas said, "Tex, do you sell booze?"
I said, "Please, don't be silly.
I swear to you my cellar's filled
With chocolate and vanilly."

(To be continued)

WEY WE SAY: NASSAU - by Al Mayernik

During the 17th century, Nassau was the name of one of the states of a disunited Germany.

William of Orange, the ruler of The Netherlands, inherited the title, Duke of Nassau, as well as several others. He was the son of the oldest daughter of the Stuart King, Charles I. William had married Mary Stuart, daughter of James II of Britain.

When Parliament forced the British king, James II, to flee, William and Mary were invited to be rulers of Britain. This glorious Revolution (1689) was accomplished without bloodshed. William is known to history as William III.

In 1692, the official name of Long Island was changed to Nassau, after William, but the name never proved popular. Nassau was chosen when the eastern townships of Queens County refused consolidation with New York City. The new County of Nassau was formed in 1899.

Today, Nassau, Germany, is known as Hesse and Frankfurt-am-Main is its chief city.

* * *

MOMENT BY MOMENT - There is only one world, the world pressing against you at this minute. There is only one minute in which you are alive, this minute--here and now. The only way to live is by accepting each minute as an unrepeatable miracle. Which is exactly what it is--a miracle and unrepeatable.
(Storm Jameson)

PANORAMA



VOLUME XIII, No. 6

MARCH 1986

N E X T M E E T I N G

Tuesday,
March 18, 1986
8:00 p.m.

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

P R O G R A M

THEODORE ROOSEVELT AND THE U.S. NAVY
(First President to Ride in a Submarine)

WILLIAM D. JOHNSTON

Our slide/lecture program for this month will be presented by William D. Johnston, President of the Theodore Roosevelt Association. An expert on the subject of this colorful former President of the United States, Mr. Johnston is also very much involved with the Commissioning Committee of the new aircraft carrier, Theodore Roosevelt. Don't miss out on this most informative and interesting evening.

Refreshments following the program will be donated by Audrey Boerckel, Agnes Libath, Evelyn McQuade, Elizabeth Mulholland and Mrs. Bob Presbrey-- and we do thank them.

* * *

Our April 16th meeting (back to Wednesday night) will feature Bernie Bookbinder, who will speak to us about his book, Long Island: People and Places, Past and Present.

* * *

"A NATION OF IMMIGRANTS"

As part of Al Mayernik's slide presentation, "A Nation of Immigrants," at the Waldinger Library at 7:30 p.m. on March 20, there will be a recording of the new song, "The Faded Copper Lady," written by Bennet Rinaudo and Mark Hogan. The song recalls the story of the immigrants who came to America and were welcomed by the Statue of Liberty. The song has been accepted by the National Park Service and will be part of the program for visitors

at the Statue of Liberty. Mr. Rinaudo was a graduate of Valley Stream Central High School, class of 1972.

* * *

WHY WE SAY: TEDDY BEAR - by Al Mayernik

A stuffed toy bear with movable arms and legs, usually of plush, was named for President Theodore Roosevelt, who is shown in the 1902 cartoon above as sparing the life of a bear cub.

The cartoon was based on a real-life incident, in which Roosevelt, out hunting, saw a bear cub walk across his path. He lowered his rifle and said to his friend, "I'll hold my fire for anything that cute." Washington Star cartoonist Clifford Berryman heard the story and drew this cartoon. When the manufacturer saw the cartoon, he asked permission from the President to use his nickname for the toy; permission was granted. After 80-plus years, the Teddy Bear is still one of the most popular of toys.

* * *

MUSEUM UPDATE

At our February meeting, Claire McMahon reported that the Museum Committee had held a special meeting on January 20th, at which 50 volunteers turned out despite the bad weather. They were assigned to different work crews in a variety of categories, from accounting and publicity to painting and gardening. Laco Service has volunteered spring and fall heating service. Claire and other members of the Museum Committee are greatly encouraged by the enthusiasm of these volunteers.

* * *

WORTH REPEATING

"There is some irony in the fact that children imagine that parents can do what they want, and parents imagine that children do. 'When I grow up...' parallels 'Oh, to be a child again...' - (Shulamith Firestone)

"No race can prosper until it learns that there is as much dignity in tilling the field as in writing a poem." -(Booker T. Washington)

"Thrust ivrybody--but cut th' ca-ar'ds." - (Finley Peter Dunne)

Valley Stream, N. Y. 11580

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BITS OF HISTORY, MOSTLY LONG ISLAND

By Al Mayernik

THE GOLDEN TWENTIES (Part III)

Though American comics started in the 1890's with R F Outcault's "Yellow Kid" and "Buster Brown" and with Rudolph Dirk's "Katzenjammer Kids" (the longest run comic of all), The Twenties and Thirties were a period in which the "funny sheets" had their greatest growth.

Harold Gray drew a story in 1924 about the adventures of "Little Orphan Annie," a girl about 12 years old; some 60 years later, she is still a girl of 12 years and usually wears the same red dress that she wore in the 20's. Her dog Sandy must hold some sort of record: he's more than 60 years old.

Quite different is "Gasoline Alley." Originally drawn by Frank King, the foundling Skeezix was left on Uncle Walt's doorstep in 1921. Over the period of 60 years, Skeezix grew up to young manhood, served in the Army during World War II, married his childhood sweetheart, became a father and, finally, a grandfather.

The very popular comic strip character Popeye was introduced to fans worldwide in E C Segar's "Thimble Theatre" in 1929.

The general purpose of the Twenties' funny sheets was to be funny; rarely was a continuous or serious story told. Even Little Orphan Annie originally featured a new gag everyday. It was not until the last years of the decade that the funny sheets turned to serial stories of crime and adventure.

The Twenties was a period of great expansion in real estate development and the great real estate developer in Valley Stream was William R. Gibson.

Gibson had built apartment buildings and homes in Queens: Elmhurst, Richmond Hill and Ridgewood. In 1922 Gibson built some homes on Roosevelt Avenue, Valley Stream and on the connecting streets: Avondale, Berkley and Cambridge.

Gibson bought an area of more than 700 acres south of the Brooklyn Aqueduct. In all, there were fifteen designs of houses; a few were attached residences; there was even a Depression special,

built without a cellar: the Nantucket model which sold for \$3,890.

Since most of the breadwinners commuted to New York City, a convenient railroad station was needed. Gibson negotiated with the Long Island Rail Road, which was reluctant to build a new station on the Far Rockaway line. The New York State Public Service Commission decided in favor of Gibson and the commuters. Gibson offered to donate the land, to build the station and to turn it over to the Long Island Rail Road. The station cost the Gibson Corporation \$54,000. Ninety-two trains a day stopped at the Gibson Station; Gibson was only 32 minutes from Penn Station, Manhattan.

(To be continued)

* * *

BITS OF THIS 'N' THAT

At the February meeting, Mr. and Mrs. Anthony Melillo brought in and showed our 1860's flag which they had repaired, and they were heartily thanked for the long and difficult task. The flag is too delicate to be carried in parades again and will be stored until it can be properly displayed in the Museum.

Our speaker at the meeting was Larry Fox, the official photographer of the Valley Stream Fire Department, and his witty and informative talk was greatly enjoyed by all. He has a remarkable set of photographs, many of them award-winners.

Agnes George sold \$56 worth of raffle tickets for her Hummel plate and donated the money to the Museum Fund. Adelaide Donaruma was the lucky winner.

Jim Boerckel, Chairman of the Trustees, will soon be appointing a Nominating Committee. If you would like to become more involved with the Society, please do let Jim or members of the Committee know. (Their names will be published in PANORAMA when the appointments are completed.)

Anthony Melillo is the latest welcome addition to the VSHS Board of Trustees, filling the spot left vacant by Wilbur Fare's move from Valley Stream.

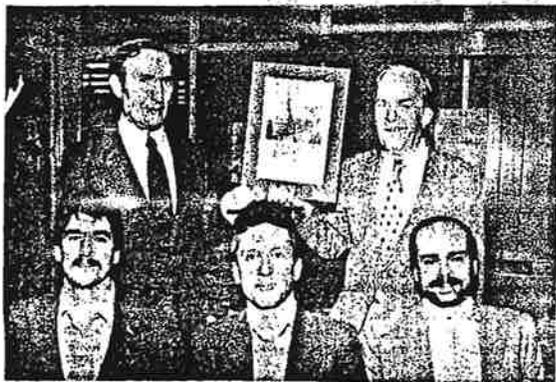
* * *

EASY SOLUTION - Two cannibals were having dinner and one said to the other, "I really hate my mother-in-law." To this his friend replied, "So, then just eat the noodles."

PANORAMA



NEWSLETTER



Top Row: Left, Bob Presbrey, VSHS President and Al Mayernik, VSHS Historian

Bottom Row: Left to Right, Kerry Dito, Mark Hogan, Bennet Rinaudo

VOLUME XIII, No. 7

APRIL 1986

N E X T M E E T I N G

Wednesday,

April 16, 1986
8:00 p.m.

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

P R O G R A M

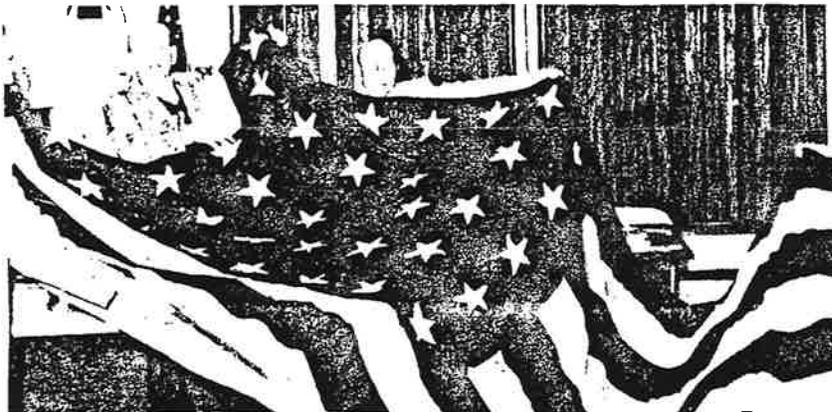
"LONG ISLAND, PEOPLE AND PLACES,
PAST AND PRESENT"

BERNIE BOOKBINDER

So many of us have copies of his book and we've been enjoying his articles in NEWSDAY for ages. NOW, we will have him in person to tell us about our Long Island--a subject he knows so well. Mr. Bookbinder is the Senior Editor of Special Projects for NEWSDAY, so we are lucky indeed that he is to be our guest speaker for this meeting. Don't miss it!

Following the program, we'll all enjoy refreshments supplied by Margaret Dalton, Adele Melillo and Alvaro Adams. Thank you, ladies!

* * *



AN 1867 37-STAR FLAG, donated by the late Mable Ackertly to the Valley Stream Historical Society at its founding in 1973, has been lovingly repaired by Adele Melillo of Valley Stream, and presented back to the Society at its February 18 meeting. Husband, Anthony Melillo, left, and Valley Stream old-timer Jim Boerkel hold it up for display. Adele, 45 years in the United States, works in the Ruby Costume factory in Jamaica, sewing costumes for the Metropolitan Opera and Broadway shows. "When they first showed the flag to

The photo above was taken at the Waldinger Library on March 20 at Al Mayernik's slide presentation, "A Nation of Immigrants." Appearing with Al were Bennet Rinaudo and Mark Hogan, VSHS graduates, and writers of the song "The Faded Copper Lady." (See lyrics on reverse side.) The song celebrates American freedom on the 100th birthday of the Statue of Liberty. They have presented a copy to the Society, as shown above, and a documentary video will be filmed this month, using the song as musical narration as it depicts the ever-changing face of American immigration. Mr. Dito, also a VSHS graduate, helped perform the song, which was arranged and produced by Anthony Petosa (not shown). The photograph was taken by Sheree Lynn Brown and appeared in the March 27th issue of the MAILleader, as did the above information.

* * *

SPECIAL GUEST: We are looking forward to a visit at our April meeting by Mr. Ira Mummert, former principal of District #13. He will be 101 years old shortly and we are delighted he is coming on the 16th.

* * *

Dr. John A Gable of the Theodore Roosevelt Association did a splendid job substituting for William D. Johnston last month. (Mr. Johnston was called to Washington on business.)

This photograph was taken by Larry Fox (VS Fire Dept. photographer) at our February meeting and appeared in the February 27 issue of the MAILleader, along with the accompanying article.

We are much indebted to Mrs. Melillo for taking on this project for us and doing such a wonderful job.

had mouldered...but I said, 'I can do that!'" Adele told the MAILleader. She removed the lining, washed it, (it shrank) and plected it back; she fixed the tears "one by one", doing "a little in summer, and a little at night," using stiff backing. "No more parades," she says. But never mind, the 113-year old flag is set to hang in the projected Valley Stream Museum building. Speaking of which, funds continue to come in, many recently in memory of Walter B. Savery, Historical Society late president who was killed

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BITS OF HISTORY, MOSTLY LONG ISLAND

By Al Mayernik

THE GOLDEN TWENTIES (Part IV)

Beneath the facade of pleasure-seeking and apparent lack of worries, the Twenties were a period of extreme bigotry, particularly against Blacks, Italians and Jews. The last two groups found it difficult to enroll in medical schools, to get good jobs or decent housing. Blacks found all of these goals impossible to attain. The Ku Klux Klan was active throughout the South and North. On October 12, 1923 the KKK burned crosses at Garden City, Huntington, Cold Spring Harbor, Valley Stream, Lindenhurst and Babylon. Lynchings of Negroes were common in the South. Bigotry reached new heights in 1928 when Alfred E. Smith, a Catholic, ran for President of the United States.

It was a period of literary achievement. Edna St. Vincent Millay and F. Scott Fitzgerald spoke for the disenfranchised of the "Lost Generation." Eugene O'Neill wrote plays about the tragic struggles of man against fate, his fellow man and his conscience. Ernest Hemingway wrote of a war-weary mankind. Sinclair Lewis focused on the prim and narrow-minded makeup of American society.

It was a period which saw the rise of dictators in Europe: Stalin in the Soviet Union, Mussolini in Italy, Pilsudski in Poland, Admiral Horthy in Hungary. Hitler was yet to come.

It was a period of false peace, international apathy and isolationism. The United States felt that it could avoid involvement in European wars by not joining the League of Nations. Americans were confident that the 3,000 mile width of the Atlantic Ocean was security enough.

It was a period of great wealth, mostly on paper, and extreme poverty. Low taxes and financial optimism produced an aura of false prosperity. Most Americans believed they could become rich by investing in the stock market. President Calvin Coolidge himself said, "The business of America is business," and the government failed to recognize signs of an impending disaster.

The end of the Golden Twenties saw the beginning of the Great Depression.

* * *

"Now 'tis the spring, and weeds are deep
routed; Suffer them now and they'll o'er-
grow the garden." (Shakespeare)

DON THOSE THINKING CAPS!!

Al Mayernik is researching for the VSHS a new slide-show "V.I.P. Visitors to Valley Stream." Of record, we know that President Reagan visited us, as did Charles Lindbergh, Amelia Earhart, Guy Lombardo and others. Please give the info to Al at the meetings or mail to the Society, Box 22. We would like a write-up somewhat similar to the following submitted by Helen Dowdeswell:

"IKE"

After World War II, General Eisenhower, affectionately called "Ike," ran for the office of President of the United States. One day, during his campaign, he came to Nassau County.

We were living then at the junction of North Corona and Franklin Avenue in North Valley Stream. He was riding in the back seat of an open car and I could see him very plainly as the cavalcade went slowly past our house toward Lynbrook.

* * *

THE FADED COPPER LADY Bennet Rinaudo
Mark Hogan

His pockets were empty, but his mind was
full of dreams
As he sailed into the harbor of The Faded
Copper Lady

He knew all his chances would rely on
self-esteem

For there was no other answer but The
Faded Copper Lady.

But I was luckier than he, I was born to
be free

Never had to cross the sea 'cause she was
standing

Standing here for me, standing for the free
She was standing here for me, standing for
the free.

Unfortunate victim of a world in jeopardy
Where the feeling of seclusion was the
only compensation

The cry of the eagle and the crashing of
the steel

Was the song he heard incessantly through-
out a dying nation.

But I was luckier than he, I was born to
be free

Never had to cross the sea 'cause she was
standing

Standing here for me, standing for the free
She was standing here for me, standing for
the free.

PANORAMA



NEWSLETTER

IN FLANDERS FIELDS

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe;
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields. (John McCrae)

VOLUME XIII, No. 8

MAY 1986

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday,
May 21, 1986
8:00 PM

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

Program

THE WAYSIDE HOME SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

MAJOR MARGARET WORTHY

While most of us have been aware of the Wayside Home for many years, tonight we will learn first hand of the wonderful work done by the Salvation Army in maintaining this school. Major Worthy is the Director of Wayside and she will tell us of its history, services and activities, as well as other information about the services of the Salvation Army itself. A most interesting and enlightening evening is in store for us. Do come.

Refreshments following the program are through the courtesy of Mog Wellington, Fran Holz, Shirley Siegl, Aharo J. Adams and Emma Bitowski.

IMPORTANT!

Please note that the date of our June meeting has been changed to the 4th Wednesday, June 25th because of the dinner in honor of Bert Keller that is being held on the 18th. We will have our usual Chinese auction and

Strawberry Festival. Be sure to look around for any "white elephant" items you can donate. (You can give them ahead of time to Jim and Audrey or else bring them on the 25th.)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE - At the April meeting, the Nominating Committee, consisting of Claire McMahon, chairman, Bert Keller and Evelyn McQuade, presented the slate to be voted on at the May meeting:

President.....	Robert Presbrey
Vice President.....	Edwin Fare
Recording Secretary.....	Helen Zang
Corresponding Sec'y.....	Margaret Dalton
Treasurer.....	Kevin Egan
Trustee - 3 Yr.....	James Boerckel
	Alphonse Mayernik
	Helen Dowdeswell
Trustee - 2 Yr.....	Allan Dowdeswell
	Elizabeth Mulholland
Trustee - 1 Yr.....	Anthony Fiero
	Adele Hagmann
	Henry Krooss
	Ted Libath
	Anthony Melillo

* * *

BITS OF THIS 'N' THAT

Bernie Bookbinder of NEWSDAY presented a very fine illustrated lecture at the April meeting - he sure does know Long Island! Claire McMahon thanked Al Mayernik on behalf of the Society for his wonderful program "A Nation of Immigrants" at the Waldinger Library. She quoted her mother, Mrs. Donahue, as saying it was not just a program, but a "happening." Al is now working on a World War II section of his history of Valley Stream and would appreciate appropriate items

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

1986 MEMBERSHIP FORM
EXPIRES JUNE 1987

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..... | 12.00 |
| (four or more members of one family) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Organizational..... | 25.00 |
| (clubs, business organizations, etc.) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining..... | 50.00 |
| (tax exempt gift) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life..... | 100.00 |
| (tax exempt gift) | |

Membership paid by Cash Check

BITS OF HISTORY, MOSTLY LONG ISLAND

By Al Mayernik

Albert H. Rhodes, Civil War Veteran

(Part I)

(After years of negative research and frustrating dead-ends, I finally found information on a Civil War veteran who lived in Valley Stream. The Historical Society is most desirous of obtaining further information and pictures of Albert H. Rhodes. - A.M.)

The following is taken from the Valley Stream Mail, April 30, 1926 issue.

Civil War History of Albert H. Rhodes
One of High Honor and Action
Portraying Many Valiant Deeds

In last week's issue of The Mail, an obituary was mentioned concerning Albert H. Rhodes, a Civil War Veteran, 83 years old, and who had lived in Valley Stream his entire life. This was a news item concerning the old soldier's death, but during those four score of years that the soldier had lived, was not thought of at the time.

Sixty years ago, when Albert H. Rhodes had reached his maturity, Valley Stream, and in fact the United States was not the country it is today, so conveniently traveled hither and thither, or talked across the continent. Listen.

Back in January 17, 1862, a tall, lanky Yank, typical of the true American in physique, not unlike the beloved Abraham Lincoln, blustered into the armory of the 95th Regiment, New York Volunteer Infantry, and asked for a uniform, guns and other essentials necessary to assist the President in his emancipation of the slaves and to do his bit to make all things equal. Of course, such specimens as Albert H. Rhodes were what the Army of the Union needed so urgently at the moment.

He was mustered into the United States Services, January 19, 1862 in New York City, as a private to serve three years in Company A, 95th Regiment, New York Volunteer Infantry. Albert H. Rhodes did his share of the fighting, and served under many officers of fame; among them were Captain Samuel P. Harrison, William A. Permoyer and Colonel George H. Biddle.

The Regiment was attached to the

First Corps, Army of the Potomac, until March 1864, then the Third Brigade, Second Division, Fifth Corps, Army of the Potomac. He participated in the Battle of the Rappahannock, August 21st to 23rd in 1862; then at Sulphur Springs, August 26th of the same year; and Gainesville and Grovet on August 28th and 29th, 1862. Following this, he entered the Second Battle of Bull Run on August 30, 1862 and South Mountain, Maryland, September 14th; Antietam, Maryland, September 17th and Union, November 2nd and 3rd, 1862; Fredericksburg, December 13th and Mud March, January 20th to 24th, 1863.

Later the soldier was transferred to the Battle of Fitzhugh's Crossing, April 29 to May 2, 1863; then on to Chancellorsville, Virginia, May 4th to the Battle of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, July 1st to 3rd; to Mine Run, Virginia, November 26th to 28th, 1863 and was honorably discharged January 25, 1864.

(To be continued)

* * *

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE - May 26, 1986

We have been invited to march in the Memorial Day Parade again this year. We are to meet at 9:00 a.m., Rockaway Parkway, north of Wheeler Avenue School. Details to be announced at the May meeting. We do hope everyone will give some thought to marching this year, especially in view of the fund-raising efforts for the Museum. Time to let our fellow Villagers see just how many we are! (Join in the line of march along the way, if that's easier.)

* * *

MUSEUM UPDATE

Bert Keller reported for the Museum Committee at our April meeting, stating that although a few large donations have been promised, many contributions are still needed to reach the goal.

MUSEUM FUND-RAISER

The Tom McMahon Benevolent Foundation, the Valley Stream Cultural Society and the Valley Stream Historical Society are holding a Bridal Fashion Show, featuring bridal gowns from 1900 to 1950, on Sunday, June 1st, at 3:00 p.m. on the Green at Central H.S. - indoors in case of rain. Tax-deductible tickets are \$10 each--proceeds to the Museum Fund.* Helen Dowdeswell will be selling them at the May meeting.*Price includes refreshments.

Valley Stream Historical Society

P A N O R A M A
P. O. Box #22

Valley Stream, New York 11582

Non-Profit Organization

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

PANORAMA



VOLUME XIII, No. 9

JUNE 1986

N E X T M E E T I N G

Wednesday,
June 25, 1986
8:00 PM

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

ANNUAL CHINESE AUCTION and STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

Our annual end-of-the season fun evening! Mogg Wellington will greet you at the door and she'll be happy to sell you as many chances as you would like at the nominal sum of just \$2 for each 100 chances. And, as usual, we'll need donations of any and all "white elephant" items you care to "clear out" at home. Mystery packages are most welcome, too. Jim and Audrey Boerckel will be glad to hear from you beforehand or you can just bring the items to them before the meeting.

A short business meeting and the installation of the new officers and trustees elected at the May meeting will precede the Auction. Strawberries and ice cream will be served at the end of the evening, with finger cakes and cookies donated by Dorothy Smith, Helen Zang, Marion Clinchy, Violette Pullis and Marge Finkenstadt. Thank you, ladies.

BITS OF THIS 'N' THAT

The Annual Village Picnic will be held on Sunday, July 6. We will have our tent again and would appreciate donations of cup cakes, cookies and books to sell.

Agnes George is selling chances on a pair of her Hummels, the proceeds of which she will be donating to the Museum Fund. Chances will be available at our June meeting and at the Picnic, and the drawing will take place at the Picnic. A wonderful prize for a wonderful cause! You're quite a gal, Agnes!

Al Mayernik is still seeking information about V.I.P. residents and visitors to V. S.

We had a respectable number of marchers in the Memorial Day Parade, in addition to a 1950 Plymouth Convertible owned and driven by Kevin Egan (passengers: Judith and Richard Egan), and a 1974 Cadillac Eldorado Convertible owned and driven by John Grande, with Eileen Healey and Rachel Dann as passengers. Our marchers ranged in age from 3 to 80 and included: Bert Keller, Jim Boerckel, Audrey Boerckel, Betsy (Boerckel) Bayardi and her son, Adrian, Lillian and Drew Weaver, Henry Krooss, Marion and Howard Clinchey, Helen and Allan Dowdeswell, Bob Presbrey, Claire McMahon and grandchildren Chris and Stephanie Ford, Louise Carducci, Caroline Gladky, Evelyn McQuade and Edwin Fare (who did double duty in marching with us and the VS Fire Department). Al Mayernik walked the whole distance as our photographer.

We will not have meetings during the summer; enjoy yourselves - see you in September!

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

I have marked my category below. Please send my

New Renewal

TO: Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Introduced by _____

Hobbies and/or special interests _____

1986 MEMBERSHIP FORM
EXPIRES JUNE 1987

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

Membership paid by Cash Check

BITS OF HISTORY, MOSTLY LONG ISLAND

by Al Mayernik

ALBERT H. RHODES, Civil War Veteran

(Part II)

[His impressive war record and subsequent honorable discharge] was not enough for this calibre of a man and the call of the excitement and that feeling of duty to his country bore upon his mind and he reenlisted as a veteran, January 26, 1864, as a private in the same company, to mingle once again with his buddies who were left and to again go into the heat of battle, serving under Captain S. C. Tipson and Colonel G. H. Biddle, and engaged in the Battle of the Wilderness, Virginia, May 5 to 7, 1864; Laurel Hill, May 8; Spotsylvania, May 8 to 21, which was a long siege for the Army at this point.

Then on to North Anna River went this redoubtable soldier on May 23 for a three-day battle; then on to Pamunkey River, May 26. He again battled at Topotomoy Creek, May 28; over to Cold Harbor on June 1 and enjoyed some fatigue duty at Bethesda Church, June 1st to 3rd.

The Army then proceeded to Petersburg on June 15 and participated in the historic Siege of Petersburg, June 16, 1864 to April 2, 1865. On June 22, his Company arrived at Weldon Railroad and after this battle, received some rest, until June 30.

The fact that Mr. Rhodes was shot in the arm and severely wounded at the Battle of South Mountain, September 14, 1862 and refused to go to the hospital for attention, showed conclusively at that early date that the man would live long with such a constitution and brave heart.

Valley Stream misses him and why shouldn't they? Such a man and such a record are seldom found and this village had one for eighty years. His heart was built around the Stars and Stripes and, to his dying day, was foremost in his mind.

He was a real soldier, this Albert H. Rhodes.

(The above article and Part I, which appeared last month, were reported in The Valley Stream Mail in the April 30, 1926 issue.)

ODDS AND ENDS...by Al Mayernik

From The Valley Stream Mail, April 23, 1926

ALBERT H. RHODES DIES
IN HIS 84TH YEAR
AT HOME

Passes Out of Life Devoid of
Pain After Lingerin
Three Weeks

After spending a life that had been offered to the aid of his country during the Civil War and always ready to do the same again, Albert H. Rhodes, aged 83, died at his home in this village last Wednesday morning, April 21st, from natural causes.

Mr. Rhodes was born in Valley Stream in 1843 and excepting during the Civil War, had been constantly within the village's domain. He had become a greater landmark than any standing object, and always had a pleasant smile of greeting to those who passed. Mr. Rhodes never failed to don the old uniform of blue, of which he was so proud, when any patriotic function was being held and the kindly public respected him in the highest, finding space for him on the platform of the honored ones.

The American Legion Post escorted the soldier to his last resting place this morning, acting as pall bearers, and the firing squad told those left behind that another knight had "gone west". Taps sorrowfully closed the incident, leaving heavy, but proud hearts behind.

Those left to dream with pain in his absence are his aged and faithful wife, Catherine, 81, whose companionship with her husband was inseparable during his life, and a son, William. Services were held at the home of the son, William Rhodes, Lehman Place, Lynbrook.

* * *

APPRECIATION

I would be sadly remiss if I did not take this opportunity to express my own sincere thanks and the appreciation of all of us for Al Mayernik's interesting and informative articles each month. It makes my job a little easier, as well as providing educational tidbits about Long Island in general in addition to Valley Stream historical data, such as the above story about Mr. Albert Rhodes. You're doing a great job, Al--thank you!!

Evelyn

Evelyn McQuade
Editor

Valley Stream Historical Society

P A N O R A M A

P. O. Box #22

Valley Stream, New York 11582

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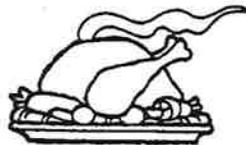
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PANORAMA



HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

VOLUME XIV, No. 3

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1986

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday,
November 19, 1986
8:00 p.m.

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

Program

BIRD WATCHING ON LONG ISLAND

JOE SHANNON

Our guest speaker for this evening is a teacher at North High School. His slide lecture will emphasize the fun of birding and tell us how to get started on this fascinating pastime. It's a wonderful way to learn about these marvelous creatures, as well as being introduced to places you never knew existed, which are teeming with migrating birds or the hiding place of a rare specimen, the sighting of which in itself makes the day worthwhile for you! Do plan to come to Mr. Shannon's talk.

Refreshments for this evening will be supplied by several members of the Executive Board.

* * *

We do not meet during the month of December, so our next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 21, 1987. The next issue of PANORAMA will also be sent out in January.

* * *

LAST CALL!

Members of the Society would be interested to know that the Quilt Raffle is going extremely well. All reports indicate that we shall go over the \$1,000 mark by a considerable margin. Everyone who has cooperated in this venture deserves a vote of thanks.

However, those members to whom books of raffle chances were sent and who have not responded are urged to return either the books or the money to Mrs. Audrey Boerckel, 127 East Carpenter Street, Valley Stream, N. Y. 11580 as soon as possible, for the drawing will take place at the November 19 meeting of the Historical Society. Of course we would prefer the money, but if that's not possible, we would appreciate having the unsubscribed chance books, for we can sell them elsewhere. The PIECEMAKERS of Malverne deserve our congratulations for assisting us to raise money for the Museum Building Fund.

Bert Keller

* * *

It is with deep regret that we must record the death last month of our former treasurer, Mildred Zulch. She was a charter member and served us well in many capacities throughout the years. She had worked in the Village Library for 45 years, having assisted with its formation, and was a well-known and highly respected member of the staff. Rest in peace Mildred.

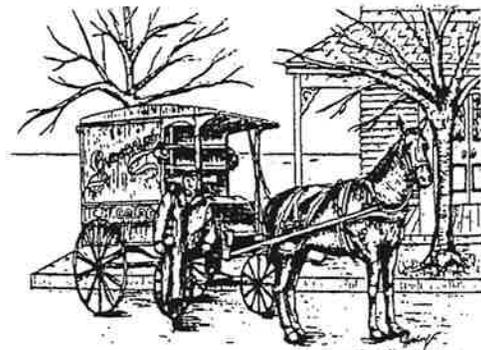
* * *

We are pleased to display a reduced reproduction of our postcard by artist, Eileen Healey. They can be purchased for 15¢ each or 12 for \$1.50. See Eileen Brennan at the meeting.

E.H. Golder, store at
Roosevelt and Rockaway
Valley Stream, c. 1910



Artist: Eileen Healey



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

Curtiss Airport (Part III)

To many Valley Streamers, particularly the young, Curtiss Field was pure joy. It meant Progress - with a big capital P. It was the Future. It was Valley Stream awakening from its sleepy past. Many people "just loved the place." It was a place of great excitement.

A Navy Day program was held at Curtiss in October 1930. In December 1930, a tremendous air circus was held there to help those made jobless by the Great Depression. Formation flying, plane acrobatics, stunt flying and parachute jumping thrilled the crowd. In May 1932, Valley Stream Central High School was host to 200 students to learn airport operations at Curtiss. Casey Jones, the new manager of the field, was host to thousands of Boy Scouts in July 1932. In the same month, an air race, a 16-mile free-for-all speed contest, was held over Curtiss to benefit the Bellevue Hospital Convalescent Fund.

Many times famous flyers were seen at Curtiss: Charles Lindbergh and his wife Anne, Wiley Post, Harold Gatty, Elinor Smith, Jimmy Doolittle, Amelia Earhart and many others. Several historic flights ended at Curtiss, particularly that of Coste and Bellonte, which brought thousands of spectators who waited for hours for their arrival.

In May 1931, the United States Army flew 672 planes, 797 officers and 637 enlisted men from Chicago via Dayton to Long Island. The planes landed at Roosevelt Field in Garden City, Mitchel Field in Mineola, Fairchild in Farmingdale, and several hundred landed at Curtiss Field. Thousands of spectators streamed to Valley Stream to see the planes.

Aviation records were made at Curtiss. On Friday, August 13, 1932, Frances Harrell Marsalis and Mrs. Louise McPhetridge Thaden surpassed the old refueling record of 123 hours; they had flown over 9,900 miles, circling Valley Stream. The fuel was passed down to them in cans on a rope from a plane flying overhead.

As for the young boys (and girls, too), they went to the Field to worship their heroes. Ted Libath recalls when he was a

boy of eight years, he walked to the airport to visit the flyers, who often enough would explain how the different airplane engines worked. He even got to ride in the planes.

(To be continued.)

* * *

BITS OF THIS 'N' THAT...

A heartfelt THANK YOU to Marge Dalton and Dot Smith for taking charge of our successful Covered Dish Supper last month. About 75 members and guests enjoyed a most delicious assortment of dishes brought in by attendees. The Mets' playoff game lent an unplanned-for note of excitement to the evening, courtesy of the Glatky's mini-TV set! Reverend Torrey once again asked the blessing on the food and we were pleased that Messrs. Brooks and Jones from the new A & S store in Green Acres were present to tell us about the history of the store and their plans for Green Acres. We do wish them well and welcome them to Valley Stream!

We are still in need of a hospitality coordinator. Any volunteers?

It's thinking cap time again -- Audrey Boerckel needs a new supply of Memory Lane items for the MAILleader.

On September 25th, the Boerckels were invited to the South Street Seaport to attend a celebration of the publication of THE NEW YORK HARBOR BOOK, written by Frank J. Duffy and William H. Miller. (Frank Duffy member of the Valley Stream Historical Society, has presented a number of programs for us over the past few years, and we are looking forward to another in early 1987.) The authors greeted guests in the Museum Book and Chart Store, after which those present were invited to Pier 15 on the East River for refreshments aboard the tug MIRIAM MORAN, an interesting and delightful spot for a wine and cheese party on a warm September evening.

We're sorry to learn that Anthony Fiero is in Franklin General Hospital and certainly do wish him a speedy recovery.

Member Charlotte Cass Lopez of Hampton Bays tells us that Mabel Ackerly's mother, Delia Dibble (nee Taylor) and Georgiana Bergen Cass (Charlotte's grandmother) were first cousins, rather than Mabel herself.

As the holiday season approaches, we wish everyone all the best for now and for the new year to come.