

PANORAMA



NEWSLETTER



VOLUME XIV, No. 4

JANUARY 1987

N E X T M E E T I N G

Wednesday,
January 21, 1987
8:00 p.m.

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

Program

STATUE OF LIBERTY CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Frank Duffy
Guest Speaker

VSHS member, Frank Duffy, will present a spectacular slide show of views of the Fourth of July celebration taken from a helicopter. Relive "Op Sail" 1986 via Frank's wonderful pictures and commentary.

Copies of the book, "The New York Harbor Book" by Francis J. Duffy and William H. Miller will be on sale at the meeting. (I'm sure Frank will be glad to autograph your copy for you.) The prices are \$15 for the soft cover and \$22.50 for the hard cover edition. Frank will be donating profits from the sale of the books to the Society.

Refreshments for the meeting will be donated by Carolyn Gladky, Adele Melillo, Violette Pullis and Marge Finkenstadt - and, we do thank them!

* * *

MARK YOUR CALENDARS - future meeting dates are on the following Wednesdays:

February 18
March 18
April 15
May 20
June 17
September 16
October 21
November 18

(If the need arises to change any of these dates, you will be advised in future issues of PANORAMA.)

* * *

We're so glad to see Anthony Fiero out and about after his recent surgery, and we're delighted to hear that Jane Sutter is doing beautifully following her eye surgery.

BUS RIDE TO BROOKLYN MUSEUM

Claire McMahon is organizing a bus trip to the Brooklyn Museum for Saturday, February 7th. The cost will be \$15 per person and includes the admission fee to the Museum, as well as the bus fare.

This Museum is one of the finest in the country and well worth a visit. Its Egyptian collection is the largest outside of Cairo, to cite just one example of its outstanding exhibits.

To reserve a seat, please make your check payable to the Valley Stream Historical Society and mail it to P. O. Box 22, Valley Stream, New York 11582. The deadline is January 20. If you cannot get your check in by then, please see Claire at the meeting on the 21st to see if there are any seats left. But, it is hoped that all checks will be in by the 20th. And, invite your friends, too. This should be a delightful way to spend a winter's Saturday.

* * *

SINCEREST SYMPATHY to our Lillian Weaver on the death of her dear husband, Drew. We all share the loss of this gentle, pleasant man, who was always there to share Lil's many projects and works for the Society and their other interests. Our sympathy, too, to their son, Gary, and his family.

* * *

BITS OF THIS 'N THAT

The raffle of the beautiful quilt made and donated by the Malverne Piecemakers netted the Museum Fund \$1,305! The lucky winner of the quilt was Dorothy Hirsch.

Joe Shannon's talk on birdwatching was most enjoyable at the November meeting.

Also at the November meeting: Bertha Ballou was presented a gold card for Life Membership, and Eileen Healey was given an award for her drawings for our new postcard, which is now on sale. Jim Boerckel announced that our late treasurer, Mildred Zulch, has left to the Society her collection of Abraham Lincoln memorabilia and the sum of approximately \$45,000.

* * *

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

Non-Profit Organization
U. S. POSTAGE
P A I D
Valley Stream, New York
Permit No. 924

Valley Stream Historical Society
P A N O R A M A
P. O. Box 22
Valley Stream, New York 11582

BITS OF HISTORY, MOSTLY LONG ISLAND

By Al Mayernik

Curtiss Airport (Part IV)

The Flight of "The Land of the Soviets"

A unique event in aviation and in Soviet-American relations occurred at Curtiss Airport, Valley Stream, on November 1, 1929. An estimated 10,000 spectators were on hand to welcome the plane "The Land of the Soviets" after a flight of more than 13,000 miles. This was at a time when America was bitterly divided as to whether or not our country should officially recognize the Soviet Union as a nation.

Early in 1929, the United States government gave permission for a Soviet plane to fly from Moscow eastward, making several stops in Alaska and the continental United States and onward to Curtiss Field, Valley Stream. The Russian plane selected to attempt the flight was the "Strana Sovietov," "The Land of the Soviets," a twin-engine Tupolev metal monoplane. The plane had a crew of four: Commander Semyon Shestakov, 2nd Pilot Philip E. Bolotov, Navigator Boris Sterligov and Mechanic Dimitri A. Fufaev.

The Russians started from Moscow on August 23, 1929; they arrived at Valley Stream on November 1. The actual flying time was 141 hours and 23 minutes for a distance of 13,300 miles. Of this route, they flew 5,000 miles over the Pacific Ocean in 50 hours and 30 minutes. Much of this segment was flying blind through snowstorms, forcing the plane to fly scarcely a few feet above the waves.

From its very beginning, it was a pioneering flight. The itinerary was from Moscow to Kurgan, across Siberia, stopping at Novosibirsk, Irkutsk, Verkhneudinsk, Chita, Blagoveshchensk, and arriving at Khabarovsk, Siberia on September 3, where the plane was delayed nine days to replace the wheels with pontoons for over-the-water flying. The flight continued on September 12 and, after several stops and delays due to storms and fog, arrived at Petropavlosk, Kamchatka on September 18.

Three days later, "The Land of the Soviets" landed on American soil at Attu, the most western of the Aleutians, after a difficult flight across the Bering Sea. On September 24, the Russians reached Dutch Harbor, Unalaska Island, and on the 27th

made their first stop on the Alaskan mainland at Seward. The next stop was Sitka.

On October 3, the plane was forced down by motor trouble at Waterfall, Alaska; there was a ten-day delay so that a new motor could be installed. From Waterfall to Seattle, the crew battled storms all the way, flying more than 1,000 miles in and out among the islands, instead of the direct route of 600 air-miles. The plane arrived at Seattle on October 13.

After leaving Seattle, "The Land of the Soviets" was forced down at Vancouver, Washington, due to a leaky radiator and clogged oil valve. Oakland, California was the next stop on October 20; Salt Lake City; North Platte, Nebraska, and on to Chicago for a four-day stopover; Detroit and, success at last: Curtiss Field, Valley Stream.

(To be continued)

* * *

ABSORBED - It is a cursed evil to any man to become so absorbed in any subject as I am in mine. - Charles Darwin

ABSENT-MINDED - Lord Dudley was one of the most absent men I think I ever met in society. One day he met me in the street, and invited me to meet myself. "Dine with me today; dine with me, and I will get Sidney Smith to meet you." I admitted the temptation he held out to me, but said I was engaged to meet him elsewhere.

- Sidney Smith

ADVICE - Give me all the other advice you like, but don't tell me how to: bring up my children; train my dog; fish for trout; scramble eggs; cast my vote; select the right books; read a newspaper; keep regular; watch a football game; buy meat; eat lobster; appreciate good music; improve my disposition; relax; or prepare myself for heaven. - William Feather

AFRAID - "The trouble is, Sancho," said Don Quixote, "you are so afraid that you cannot see or hear properly; for one of the effects of fear is to disturb the senses and cause things to appear other than they are." - Cervantes

He who is too much afraid of being duped, has lost the power of being magnanimous. - Frédéric Amiel

PANORAMA



VOLUME XIV, No. 5

FEBRUARY 1987

N E X T M E E T I N G

Wednesday,
February 18, 1987
8:00 p.m.

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

Program

HEMPSTEAD LIEDERKRANZ SINGING SOCIETY

Another coup for VSHS! Tonight we will be privileged to hear a concert by this most talented group of about 50 singers. Their Men's Chorus was founded in 1909; the Women's in 1934 and today's group performs several concerts a year. The combined choruses have appeared twice in Carnegie Hall.

For our meeting, their Musical Director, Professor Walter Fischhoff, will lead them in a varied program, well-known German and English selections, with the classical songs sung just as they were written.

Don't miss this beautiful and entertaining evening!

This concert was arranged for us by VSHS President Bob Presbrey, whose wife, Ruth, is a member of the chorus.

Following the concert, refreshments will be served which have been provided by Fran Holz, Ruth Anholzer, Marge Chvatel, Anne Boyden, Marge Finkenstadt, Agnes Libath Audrey Boerckel, and Agnes George. Thank you one and all!

* * *

FOR YOUR CALENDARS...

On March 24 at 7:30 p.m. in the Waldinger Library, Al Mayernik will present his annual slide show. This year's topic is, "Nostalgia of the '60's--A Guessing Game."

The January issue of PANORAMA listed the meeting dates for this year. Due to Holy Week, the April meeting date has been changed from the 15th to the 22nd. Please make a note of this.

* * *

If you're planning a visit to the South Street Seaport during the month of February, be sure to stop by the Visitors' Center, 211 Water St., to see the photographic exhibit, "Working Vessels in New York Harbor". It includes photographs by Frank Duffy.

LOVE...

Love does not consist in gazing at each other, but in looking outward together in the same direction.

Antoine de Saint-Exupery

Love is to the moral nature exactly what the sun is to the earth.

Honore de Balzac

This is the miracle that happens every time to those who really love: the more they give, the more they possess of that precious nourishing love from which flowers and children have their strength and which could help all human beings if they would take it without doubting...

Rainer Maria Rilke

BITS OF THIS 'N' THAT...

Frank Duffy's slide presentation on the 4th of July Celebration in New York Harbor at the January meeting was super! We are so lucky to live so near to this historic and beautiful site.

Speaking of Frank, last week he was involved in making a commercial for Renault to be shown on French TV. It was made on a tugboat with Liberty Island and the Statue of Liberty in the background.

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Brown (formerly of Brown's Hardware) sent in a donation in memory of Drew Weaver, which has been allocated to the Valley Stream Historical Society Memorial Fund. Anyone wishing to remember a deceased friend or relative in this way, can make checks payable to the Valley Stream Historical Society and mail them to our box number shown on the back of the page.

Jules Rabin, advertising executive and successful businessman, is a graduate of our own Central High School. Jules writes the "Footloose and Fancy Free" column in the MAILleader.

MUSEUM UPDATE...

The Society has turned over \$70,000 as initial funding to get the work started on restoring the Museum. Also, a new Museum Finance Committee is being formed by Bert Keller to continue the funding of the restoration.

* * *

ADVENTURE - What a large volume of adventures may be grasped within this little span of life, by him who interests his heart in everything, and who, having eyes to see what time and change are perpetually holding out to him as he journeyeth on his way, misses nothing he can fairly lay his hands on! Laurence Sterne

BARK - One dog barks at something; the rest bark at him.

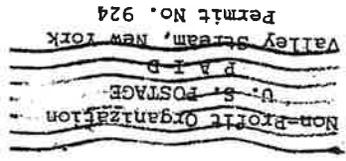
Chinese Proverb

BLUSHING - Man is the only animal that blushes. Or needs to.

Mark Twain

* * *

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



Valley Stream Historical Society
P A N O R A M A
P. O. Box 22
Valley Stream, New York 11582

BITS OF HISTORY, MOSTLY LONG ISLAND

By Al Mayernik

Curtiss Airport (Part V)

The Flight of "The Land of the Soviets"
(continued)

Crowds, perhaps as many as 10,000 people, had been arriving at Curtiss Field on the morning of that eventful day of November 1st, 1929. Among them were Communist sympathizers, some of whom wore the red armbands of the Friends of Soviet Russia and who shouted "Cossacks" at the police controlling the crowds. Others carried large bouquets of flowers for their heroes.

At 4:00 p.m., word spread through the crowd that the big Russian monoplane was sighted over New York City. Excitement grew. Then, at 4:12, three big planes appeared in the west: "The Land of the Soviets," escorted by two Ford tri-motor planes. The three giants roared over the field and a great cheer went up from the crowd. Twice "The Land of the Soviets" flew across the field in salute and then came down in a perfect landing in the corner farthest from the crowd. Pandemonium!

The crowd broke and ran toward the plane. Several of the airfield's ground crew warned, "Look out for the propellers!" The Russian pilot, Shestakof, immediately understood the danger to the crowd and wheeled the plane around so that the propellers drove great clouds of dust and sand into the faces of the spectators. The police rushed forward and were able to get between the plane and the crowd. The Soviet plane and its crew were escorted to safety at a convenient hangar.

The crowd tried to get past the police; angry cries of "Cossack!" were heard. It was only when the flyers made an appearance from the top of the hangar that the crowd quieted. At the height of the difficulty, Col. Charles A. Lindbergh landed at Curtiss for the purpose of greeting the Russians. The police formed a cordon to protect him and hurried him to the hangar aboard a commandeered truck. Lindbergh joined the Soviet flyers on the roof of the hangar. When Col. Lindbergh pulled off his flying helmet, the crowd recognized him, and joyous cries of "Lindy! Lindy!" were voiced.

Many receptions and dinners were given to honor the Soviets' achievements. One

such was the banquet given by the American-Russian Chamber of Commerce and the Aeronautical Chamber of Commerce at the Hotel Astor on November 6. Another reception, attended by 30,000, was sponsored by the Friends of the Soviet Union at the Polo Grounds on November 9.

But, the Soviet press expressed some dissatisfaction. Pravda wrote: "Hoover, the Chief Officer of the White House, didn't invite our flyers to Washington. He was afraid that this might be interpreted as a step toward recognition of Soviet Russia."

(To be continued)

* * *

THE WAY IS WAS...

There are so many things too good to forget to remember,
Like the last day of school in June and the first day of class in September.
How we used Palmer method for writing and we did learn how to spell
Naughty words not written in books just D dash dash N or H dash dash L.
Kirkman soap and washboards, laundry blowing on the line,
Stores closed on Sundays, but we got along just fine.
Gentlemen tipping hats, giving up their seats and holding doors,
White gloved ladies, frilly aprons and mothers scrubbing floors.
Icemen and junkmen and coal delivered down chutes,
Sneakers only worn gym days, galoshes and rubber hip boots.
Paper dolls, jump ropes, jacks, knees scraped climbing trees,
Scooters, checkers and marbles and kites flying in the breeze.
Socks that were darned, roller skating in the street for hours,
Berries growing wild in empty lots and fields filled with flowers.
Long strings of licorice and candy in a small metal dish,
Wading in a brook and see the first star-- make a wish.
Little things made us happy and I recall with a smile,
A life before pennies and nickels went out of style.

Helen Frering Zang
1/25/87

PANORAMA



VOLUME XIV, No. 6

MARCH 1987

N E X T M E E T I N G

Wednesday,
March 18, 1987
8:00 p.m.

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

Program

"TRADING TROPICAL OILS IN THE THIRD WORLD"

Tonight, Norma and Alex Klayman of Alnor Oil Co., Inc., Valley Stream will present an illustrated talk about the use of vegetable oils in industry and they will also tell us just how they got started in this interesting field.

Alnor is a family business. Norma had been a French teacher at North High School and left teaching to go into business with her husband. Their three daughters are graduates of North and one is working with them at Alnor, as is another daughter's husband.

We hear so much these days about career changes and entrepreneurship, now we'll learn first hand just how one Valley Stream couple has successfully accomplished their transition.

Refreshments for this meeting will be donated by Gladys Shaw and Emma Bitowski. Thank you, ladies.

* * *

REMINDER...

Don't forget Al Mayernik's annual slide show at Waldinger Memorial Library on March 24 at 7:30 p.m. It's entitled, "Nostalgia of the '60's--A Guessing Game."

Al works very hard on setting up these shows, as well as his monthly exhibitions at the Library. He's a real credit to VSHS!

* * *

PAINTER... There are painters who transform the sun into a yellow spot, but there are others who, thanks to their art and intelligence, transform a yellow spot into the sun. - Pablo Picasso

BUS TRIP RESCHEDULED...

The bus trip organized by Claire McMahon and originally scheduled for February, has been rescheduled for Saturday, April 25. The cost will be \$15 per person and includes the bus fare and admission fee to either the Brooklyn Museum or the Brooklyn Botanical Garden, whichever you select. Claire will collect the money for the trip at the March meeting.

As mentioned in January PANORAMA, the Brooklyn Museum is one of the finest in the country, and the Brooklyn Botanical Gardens should be a gorgeous sight to behold in late April. So, whichever your choice, you're bound to spend an enjoyable day.

* * *

BITS OF THIS 'N' THAT...

Approximately 115 members and guests attended our February meeting to listen to the wonderful concert presented by the Hempstead Liederkrantz Singing Society. We do thank them so much for such an enjoyable evening.

They did also provide us with a history of their group: In 1909, a group of German-American businessmen living in and near Hempstead founded the society to further the interest in German and American folk songs. They met and hiked to join other singers in Rockville Centre, Hicksville and Munson (now part of Franklin Square). By 1917, they met regularly at the old DeKalb Hotel in Franklin Square, which, unfortunately, burned down in 1924, along with all the society's records. They met in various places for the next 14 years, until finally setting up permanent quarters at the Plattdeutsche Park Restaurant in Franklin Square. They incorporated in 1928 and the ladies' chorus was established in 1934. By 1948, they became associated with the Northeast Singing Federation, which was 100 years old by 1950.

The Hempstead Liederkrantz invites you to attend their concerts, dances and festivals. If you enjoy singing, especially under professional direction, feel free to inquire, and let your talents provide you a most rewarding experience.

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

Non-Profit Organization
U. S. POSTAGE
P A I D
Valley Stream, New York
Permit No. 924

Valley Stream Historical Society
P A N O R A M A
P. O. Box 22
Valley Stream, New York 11582

BITS OF HISTORY, MOSTLY LONG ISLAND

By Al Mayernik

Curtiss Airport (Part VI)

The Ninety-Nines

In 1929, the already-established Cleveland Air Races added a Women's Air Derby, which started in Santa Monica, California on August 18, 1929 and ended in Cleveland, Ohio on August 26. About 20 women pilots entered the Derby and most finished the course.

The women pilots were enthused over the Derby's success. Phoebe Omlie suggested that they form an organization for women pilots. Amelia Earhart and several others agreed.

A letter signed by Frances Harrell Neva Paris, Marjorie Brown and Fay Gillis Wells was sent to all 117 licensed women pilots in the United States, calling for a meeting on November 2, 1929 at Curtiss Field in Valley Stream. Twenty-six women pilots came to the meeting, but many more expressed interest in such an organization. An organizational meeting was held on December 14 at the home of Opal Kunz. Opal also designed The 99's emblem.

Choosing a name was a problem that brought much discussion. Some of the suggestions, not seriously given, were, "The Climbing Vines," "Noisy Birdwomen," "Homing Pigeons and Gadflies." Amelia Earhart and Jean Davis Hoyt put a stop to this nonsense by recommending the name be taken from the sum total of charter members: 99, hence "Ninety-Nines."

Among the 99 charter members were such well-known names as Amelia Earhart, Ruth Elder, Britain's Lady Mary Heath, Ruth Nichols, Bobbi Trout and many others who had made or were about to make records in women's aviation.

Club eligibility and purpose were quickly decided upon. Membership would be open to any women with a pilot's license. The purpose of the Ninety-Nines was good fellowship, jobs and a central office and files on women in aviation.

Amelia Earhart became the first elected president in 1931.

(To be continued)



Emblem of "The Ninety-Nines"



Amelia Earhart

Learning to fly in California, she took up aviation as a hobby. While she was employed as a settlement worker in Boston, she was chosen to be a passenger on the trimotor Friendship, piloted by Wilmer Stultz, which flew from Newfoundland to Wales, landing at Burry Port on June 18, 1928. She thus became the first woman passenger on a transatlantic flight. Thereafter Miss Earhart made a career of flying. After a series of record flights, she made a solo transatlantic flight from Harbour Grace, Newfoundland to Ireland in 1932, and in 1935 she flew the first solo from Hawaii to the American mainland.

* * *

EDUCATION...

The wit was not wrong who defined education in this way: "Education is that which remains, if one has forgotten everything he learned in school."

Albert Einstein

PANORAMA



"I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils..."

William Wordsworth

VOLUME XIV, No. 7

APRIL 1987

N E X T M E E T I N G

(Please note new date)

Wednesday,
April 22, 1987
8:00 p.m.

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

Program

"LONG ISLAND HAS EVERYTHING!"

Our guest speaker for this evening is Janet Clark, an official of the Long Island Tourism and Convention Commission, who certainly is an expert on our Long Island. Her talk is sure to be interesting and informative, presenting highlights of visiting Long Island. And, how timely, with the summer and vacation plans in the offing. Now's the time for all us natives to really learn what we've been missing!

As usual, coffee and cake will be served at the end of the evening.

* * *

SINCERE SYMPATHY to Audrey and Jim Boerckel and Mrs. Helen Pierce on the death last month of Audrey's father, James Pierce. Mr. Pierce had devoted many useful years to the Valley Stream community during his long and active life.

* * *

COUNTRY STORE SALES TABLE

Eileen Brennan is doing a wonderful job at the sales table each meeting, turning in significant amounts to our treasurer each month. She is getting in a new and different supply of those beautiful linen dish towels, in addition to our stationery and postcards, and various and sundry other items. Nice going, Eileen!

BITS OF THIS 'N' THAT...

Norma and Alex Krayman's program on oils was most interesting and informative. It was fascinating to see the origins and uses of the oils they import and process.

Al Mayernik's program on the '60's was great fun. It was a most pleasurable evening at the Waldinger Library for all attendees.

At the conclusion of Al's program, Claire McMahon presented our annual donation to the Library for the purchase of books on the history of Long Island, in addition to a copy of the book, "The New York Harbor Book," co-authored by VSHS member, Frank Duffy. Mrs. Irene Levin accepted these donations on behalf of the Library.

We will be having our usual Chinese Auction and Strawberry Festival at the June meeting, so please keep this in mind for "white elephant" items you may care to donate.

The Nominating Committee will soon be presenting the slate of officers and new trustees for the 1987/88 year.

Al Mayernik will be leaving in May for his favorite vacation spot, Alaska. I'm sure he'll probably be showing us the beautiful slides he's bound to be taking. Enjoy a wonderful trip, Al!

As with every organization, there is always a need for members to help out on various committees. If you feel you would like to become more active with VSHS, please do mention it to Bob Presbrey, our President, or Jim Boerckel, Chairman of our Board of Trustees, or any other officer or trustee. You'll find you will get more out of your membership, meet nice people, and have that pleasant feeling that comes with being involved with something useful and fun, to boot!

FACT...A hangnail doesn't hang...it just hurts! The word comes from the Old English, ang, which means "pain."

FORGIVE ME FOR THIS ONE!

"Old lawyers never die, they just lose their appeal."

- Old Saw.

Non-Profit Organization
U. S. POSTAGE
P A I D
Valley Stream, New York
Permit No. 924

Valley Stream Historical Society
P A N O R A M A
P. O. Box 22
Valley Stream, New York 11582

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

BITS OF HISTORY, MOSTLY LONG ISLAND

By Al Mayernik

Curtiss Airport (Part VII)

The Ninety-Nines (continued)

Though the name of the organization is fixed at 99, membership continues to grow. Its members made, and continue to make, great contributions to aviation. At present, the membership is over 5,000, worldwide.

The most famous of The Ninety-Nines is Amelia Earhart, one of the founding members. In 1928, she became the first woman ever (as a passenger) to fly over the Atlantic Ocean, from Newfoundland to Wales. In 1932, she soloed across the Atlantic. In 1935, she soloed across the Pacific, from Hawaii to California. With her navigator, Fred Noonan, she attempted in 1937 to fly around the world, but her plane was lost over the Pacific between New Guinea and Howland Island. Her fate remains a mystery.

In 1917, from a potato field take-off in Hicksville, L. I., Elinor Smith rode a plane for the first time; she was six years old. She made her first solo flight at age 15 on August 27, 1928. She was the first to fly in one flight under all four bridges spanning the East River. In 1928 at age 18, she set the women's world solo endurance record of 26½ hours, a feat still unbeaten. On May 20, 1930, Elinor set a women's altitude record, flying to 27,419 feet in a Bellanca Pacemaker. In 1930, she was voted the best woman pilot in the United States--her competition: Amelia Earhart.

Laura Ingalls was a little woman who had been born to the good life. Having studied in Paris and Vienna, she was an accomplished linguist, a talented musician and dancer and a graduate from a nursing school. She learned to fly at Roosevelt Field, L. I. in 1928. She flew 980 loops over Muskogee, Oklahoma in 1930, after being promised a dollar for every loop over and above the 344 she had flown over St. Louis, Missouri. She won the Harmon Trophy in 1934 as the world's outstanding woman pilot. In that year, from February 28 to April 25, she completed a solo 17,000

mile trip from Glenn Curtiss Airport, North Beach, L. I. to Cuba, Central and South America, over the Andes Mountains (the first woman to do so), and return. She was a member of The Ninety-Nines from 1930 to 1937.

Fay Gillis Wells received Private License No. 9497 at Curtiss Field, Valley Stream on October 5, 1929, in time to become a charter member of The Ninety-Nines. She was the first woman pilot member of the Caterpillar Club: a flier forced to parachute from a disabled plane to save his/her life. She was the first American woman to pilot a Soviet civil aircraft. In 1972, she was one of three woman correspondents chosen by the White House to accompany President Nixon on his historic trip to the People's Republic of China.

(To be continued)

* * *

QUIZ

- Q. As one approaches Roosevelt Field from Old Country Road, there is a piece of statuary in the field. What is its significance?
- A. The stainless steel sculpture with its arms reaching to the sky was created by Bjorn Evensen and is called "The Spirit." It was commissioned to commemorate Charles Lindbergh's historic flight in 1927 from Roosevelt Field to Paris. The sculpture, which is 19½ feet high and weighs between 1,550 and 1,750 pounds, was dedicated in 1981.

* * *

OOPS!

Insurance salesman to customer: "You've filled in this application all right except for one thing, Mr. Perkins--where it asks the relationship of Mrs. Perkins to yourself, you should have put down 'wife,' not 'strained.'"

An agitated young man ran frantically down the ferry slip, leaped across a strip of water and landed with a crash on the deck of the boat. "Well," he gasped, as he picked himself up, "I made it!"

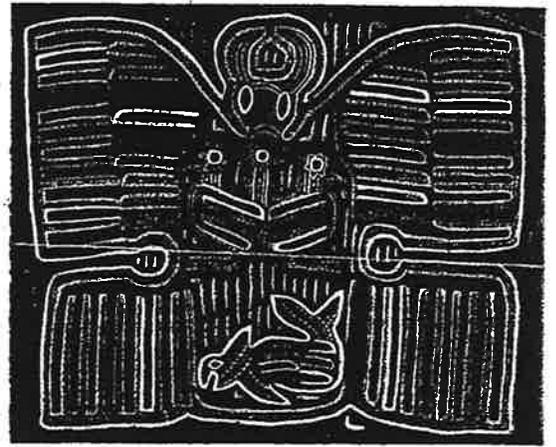
"What's your hurry?" asked a deck hand.
"This boat's coming in."

-University of Utah Unique

PANORAMA



NEWSLETTER



Pictured above - a Mola. See explanation on other side of this page.

VOLUME XIV, No. 8 We're invited to march in the Memorial Day Parade MAY 1987
on Monday, May 25. Gather 9 AM - Wheeler Ave. School.

N E X T M E E T I N G

Wednesday,
May 20, 1987
8:00 p.m.

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

Program

"THE 150th ANNIVERSARY
of
THE LONG ISLAND RAIL ROAD"

Mr. Dave Morris of the Long Island Rail Road Speakers Bureau will present an interesting and informative program on the history and progress of the railroad over its 150 years of operation. It's an institution that has touched the lives of many, many thousands of residents over the past century and one-half, and Mr. Morris's talk will also bring us to up date on its modernization program now in progress.

Following the program, we'll all enjoy refreshments supplied by Mog Wellington, Fran Holz, Florence Gunther, Chris Van Buskirk and Ruth Anholzer - and we do thank them

* * *

At our business portion of this meeting, we will vote on the slate presented at the April meeting by Al Mayernik, Chairman of this year's

Nominating Committee. It is as follows: President--Edwin Fare; Vice President - Anthony Melillo; Treasurer - Kevin Egan; Recording Secretary - Helen Zang; Corresponding Secretary - Margaret Dalton; Two-Year Trustees - Audrey Boerckel, H. Bertram Keller, Evelyn McQuade; One-Year Trustees - Anthony Fiero, Adele Hagmann, Lena Savery, Agnes Libath and Robert Presbrey. Nominations will remain open until voting time at the May meeting.

Also at the April meeting, Bert Keller called for a standing ovation for Harold Igoe, who has served so faithfully and well as a liaison between our Society, the Museum Committee and the Village Board. We certainly hate to see them leave the Village, but can only wish the Igoes the very best in retirement in Vermont.

Earlier that evening, Mr. Igoe had stated that the work on the Museum was to go out for public bidding late in April.

Janet Clark of the Long Island Tourist Bureau shared her fund of knowledge of our region, which has everything to offer visitors and residents, except mountains!

For the Oral History Committee, Helen Dowdeswell reported that the first interviews concerning residents' memories of pre-World War I days are now on permanent file at the Waldinger Library and copies are available on loan to those interested in a study of that era.

At our June 17th meeting, we will have our Chinese Auction and Strawberry Festival. Donated prizes are needed. \$3.00 admission includes 100 chances and refreshments.

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 _____

1987 MEMBERSHIP FORM
EXPIRES JUNE 1988

- 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

CURTISS AIRPORT (Part VIII)

The Ninety-Nines (continued)

During the summer of 1932, Frances Marsalis and Louise Thaden, both charter members of the 99's, set an international women's record by flying 196 hours and 5 minutes (8 days, 4 hours, 5 minutes) without landing. The pair took off from Curtiss Field, Valley Stream, on August 14 in a Curtiss Thrush-Wright J6E engine. The most difficult part of the flight was the monotony of guiding the plane in circles, back and forth, back and forth, through the skies. The monotony was relieved when refueling the plane in mid-air--a difficult and dangerous operation. They landed on August 22 and, according to newspaper accounts, the first words they uttered upon landing were "We need a bath!" Both were quite fit after the experience, although Mrs. Thaden lost ten pounds, while Mrs. Marsalis dropped from 128 to 126 pounds. (In December 1933, Frances Marsalis and Helen Richey broke the old in-air refueling record at Miami, Florida, by "staying airborne for 9 days, 21 hours and 42 minutes.)

During World War II, the 99's served their country well. The outbreak of the war created a critical need in America for pilots able to handle the dangerous tasks of military aviation. Jacqueline Cochran, the first woman to ferry a heavy bomber to Britain, was invited to the White House. She convinced President Roosevelt of the great service that could be performed by women pilots. The 319th Army Air Force Detachment was formed and Jacqueline Cochran was named as director. The Women Air Service Pilots (WASPS) flew over 60,000,000 miles on various defense missions, including ferrying countless planes to Europe. Cochran received the Distinguished Flying Cross three times and was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal. She was a past-president of The Ninety-Nines.

Some women towed targets for anti-aircraft firing training; others were flight instructors in the Army Air Force camps; still others served in the Navy.

Today, women of The Ninety-Nines are pilots for the major airlines; others serve in the Civilian Air Patrol (CAP);

many are in the military services. Jerri Cobb was an astronaut-in-training. The Ninety-Nines come from the United States, Canada, Britain, the Caribbean countries, Australia, France, West Germany, Finland, India, Japan and the Middle East.

On November 1, 1979, a 50th anniversary luncheon was held at the Valley Stream Park Inn, and a plaque honoring the 99 charter members was dedicated at Green Acres Shopping Mall (the site of the old Curtiss Field). Chuck Scarborough of Channel 4 was Master of Ceremonies at both the luncheon and dedication. Mayor Tom Ward gave the welcome speech at the luncheon. When Green Acres was expanded in the early '80's, it was necessary to move the plaque. It is now very hard to find; it is located in a service corridor next to the security office.

The Ninety-Nines' international headquarters are located at Will Rogers World Airport, Oklahoma City, OK 73159.

(To be continued)

* * *

MOLAS - Two framed molas (needlecraft art made by the San Blas Indians of Panama), have been donated as fundraisers to the Society by Pat Lappele, a friend of Helen Dowdeswell. We will be selling chances at 50¢ each or 3 for \$1.00, starting at the May meeting. The drawing will be held at our Covered Dish Supper in October.

The San Blas Islands are located about 70 miles east of the Panama Canal on the Caribbean side. They are inhabited by the Cuna Indians, a tribe that was never conquered by the Spaniards. They live in isolation from the rest of Panama and have retained their own culture. The women make molas by stitching together anywhere from 2 to 7 layers of different colored cloths, sketch a design on the uppermost cloth and then cut into the cloth to the layer of color desired. Stitching is so subtle that only the sharpest eyes are aware of its presence. Each mola is unique, no two being exactly alike. There are some very gifted talents among these women, who, we are told, do not read.

Our thanks to Pat for her generosity to the Society, and also for introducing us to this most interesting art form.

Valley Stream Historical Society

P A N O R A M A

P. O. Box 22

Valley Stream, New York 11582

Non-Profit Organization

U. S. POSTAGE

P A I D

Valley Stream, New York

Permit No. 924

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

PANORAMA



"THE JOYS OF SUMMER ON LONG ISLAND!"

VOLUME XIV, No. 9

JUNE 1987

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday,
June 17, 1987
8:00 p.m.

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

Program

Short Business Meeting
Installation of Officers
and Trustees
Chinese Auction
Strawberry Festival

Once again we end our season with the ever-popular Chinese Auction, topped off with a strawberry festival.

Audrey and Jim Boerckel have been receiving very interesting items for the auction tables, but many more will be needed. (Jewelry, knick-knacks of all kinds, stationery, plants, games, wrapped mystery gifts, comic items--anything to contribute to a fun evening.) And, please try to get them to Audrey and Jim as early as possible as it does take time to set up the tables.

Admission this year is \$3.00 per person and this includes an envelope containing 100 chances, and refreshments. Additional envelopes may be purchased for \$1.00 each.

Finger cakes and cookies will

be provided by Marge Dalton, Lois Ward, Agnes George, Evelyn McQuade and Lena Savery, to be enjoyed with the ice cream and strawberries and punch lined up by members of the Executive Board. (Extra hands will be needed in the kitchen that night.)

* * *

BITS OF THIS 'N' THAT...

Personable Dave Morrison's program on The Long Island Rail Road last month was most interesting...A lovely plaque in memory of Mildred Zulch was presented to the Waldinger Library last month from VSHS. Be sure to look for it when you're in the Library... Another fine turnout for the Memorial Day Parade, including the following marchers: Past Presidents Anthony Fiero, Bert Keller, Jim Boerckel, Ted Libath, Claire McMahon; outgoing President Bob Presbry; incoming President Edwin Fare; Trustees Audrey Boerckel, Helen Dowdeswell, Henry Kroos, Al Mayernik (both of whom also served as photographers), Evelyn McQuade; faithful and hardy members Margie Chvatel, Marion Clinchy, Pearl and Leonard Demchak, Walter and Charlotte Facompre, Louise Carducci, Barbara Ehlinger, Carolyn Gladky; and, bringing up the rear, a beautiful convertible driven by our Treasurer Kevin Egan, with passengers Howard Clinchy and Trustee Allan Dowdeswell. (I hope I haven't omitted anyone!)...A fine Memorial Day speech was delivered by our own Congressman Ray McGrath at the reviewing stand on the Village Green.. Don't forget the Village Picnic on the Green on July 12th. We'll have our tent, as usual.

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 11592

I have marked my category below. Please send my

New Renewal

TO: Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Introduced by _____

Hobbies and/or special interests _____

1987 MEMBERSHIP FORM EXPIRES JUNE 1988

- 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, MOST LONG ISLAND

By Al Mayernik

CURTISS AIRPORT - (Part IX)

Costes and Bellonte

Curtiss-Wright Airport, Valley Stream, had its greatest day on 2 September 1930 when Diudonné Costes and Maurice Bellonte landed at the airfield (now Green Acres). The French fliers had accomplished aviation's then most difficult non-stop flight: the crossing of the Atlantic from east to west, from Paris to New York.

Others had flown the Atlantic by plane before; Alcock and Brown flew from New Foundland to Ireland as early as 1919. The most famous flight of all was Lindbergh's from Roosevelt Field, Long Island to Le Bourget, France in May 1927. But, these flights were west to east; flights that were aided by the prevailing westerly winds.

Prior to September 1930, no plane had successfully crossed the North Atlantic from east to west. Two weeks before Lindbergh's historic flight in 1927, Nungesser and Coli took off from Paris bound for New York. Shortly after their plane passed the coast of Ireland, nothing more was heard of the plane and it was presumed to be lost at sea.

Captain Dieudonné Costes and his co-pilot and navigator, Maurice Bellonte, had a long experience in aviation. Both were combat pilots in World War I and both flew for the pioneer French airline, the French Air Union. In 1929, Costes, with J. deBrix made the first non-stop flight across the South Atlantic, from Senegal to Brazil. But, the great goal yet to be accomplished was the east to west non-stop flight across the North Atlantic. This attempt in 1930 was the Frenchmen's second attempt to fly from Paris to New York; in July 1929, they took off from Paris, but were forced back by bad weather near the Azores.

(To be continued)

(We'll all be looking forward to the next chapter in this great series, Al!)

Valley Stream Historical Society

P A N O R A M A

P. O. Box 22

Valley Stream, New York 11582

OLD VALLEY STREAM'S HERO

(This article appeared in the Valley Stream Mail and Gibson Herald, June 14, 1935.)

NAVAL HERO TO BE BURIED IN NATIONAL PLOT
Martin P. Torgerson Awarded Congressional Medal of Honor in 1901

Martin P. Torgerson, 59, passed away Wednesday at his home 133-87 Ocean Avenue, where he resided for the past 15 years. He was one of two men on Long Island who had been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Mr. Torgerson was a gunner's mate in the U. S. Navy. During the 4 years he was in service, he experienced fighting in three wars: the Spanish-American War, the Boxer Rebellion in China and the Philippine Insurrection in 1901. It was during the Boxer Rebellion that he won the Congressional Medal.

With his family, he moved to Valley Stream 15 years ago. He was active in Valley Stream's veterans' affairs. He led the parade with the grand marshal on Memorial Day in 1934 and would have marched this year, but for the illness which resulted in his death.

He is survived by his widow, Marie; by two daughters, Mrs. Marie Hilms of Lynbrook and Miss Alice Torgerson of the Valley Stream address; and, by two sons, Reinert and Harry L., both of Valley Stream.

Funeral services will be held tonight, Friday, from the home. The Rev. Raymond Baudlitz of the Rosedale Lutheran Church will officiate at the rite and the Spanish-American War Veterans, Jamaica encampment, will conduct a military service.

Interment will be made in the Arlington National Cemetery, Saturday.

(Submitted by Al Mayernik)

* * *

IRRITATIONS

Nothing is as irritating as the fellow that chats pleasantly while he's overcharging you.

Kin Hubbard

There is nobody so irritating as somebody with less intelligence and more sense than we have.

Don Herold

* * *

Time to take a break. Enjoy a lovely summer, everyone!

Evelyn
Evelyn McQuade
Editor

Non-Profit Organization

U. S. POSTAGE

P A I D

Valley Stream, New York

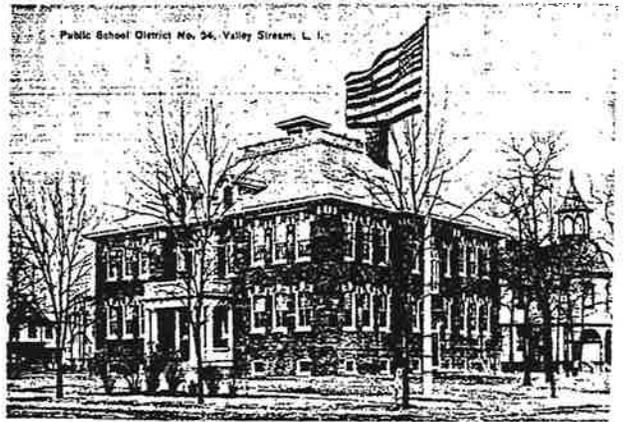
Permit No. 924

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

PANORAMA



NEWSLETTER



Brooklyn Avenue School, eight-room brick schoolhouse built in 1907, replaced old frame school.

VOLUME XV, No. 1

SEPTEMBER 1987

N E X T M E E T I N G

Wednesday,
September 16, 1987
8:00 P.M.

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

Program

"MY FAVORITE THINGS"
(about Valley Stream)

DICK KEIDEL
Guest Speaker

Our kick-off program for the season promises to be one of fun and reminiscences, courtesy of personable Dick Keidel. Currently a resident of Malverne (in the Valley Stream School District), Dick had been a longtime resident of Valley Stream and is a graduate of Valley Stream Central High School. High scores have been given to this program of Dick's by those who have heard him tell of the things he has liked about our dear old hometown, so don't miss out on your chance to listen and perhaps to even compare notes.

Refreshments for this evening will be provided by the Executive Board.

* * *

THE OPTIMIST

The optimist fell ten stories.

At each window bar
He shouted to his friends:
"All right so far."

(Author Unknown)

* * *

UPCOMING MEETING:

October 21, - Covered Dish Supper
Wine and Cheese Reception 6:30;
Supper at 7:00, followed by a
short meeting and then some
entertainment. Details next month.

BITS OF THIS 'N' THAT...

Our June meeting was a successful and fun evening. Our new Officers and Trustees were sworn in by Jim Boerckel, Chairman of our Board of Trustees. Our new president, Edwin Fare, paid a nice tribute to three of our past presidents, his father, Wilbur Fare, Bert Keller and Claire McMahon. Ed also became a Life Member that evening and was presented with his Life Membership Card. Jim Boerckel presented a plaque to outgoing president, Bob Presbrey, in appreciation for the fine job he has done for the past two years. Audrey and Jim Boerckel did their usual fine job in conducting the Chinese Auction, and they do want to thank Mog Wellington, Barbara Ehlinger and Chris Van Buskirk for all their assistance. The strawberry and ice cream refreshments served at the end of the evening were the result of much work behind the scenes by Emma Bitowski, and Adele Hagmann was the mixologist of the punch. Our appreciation to all.

We're pleased that Lillian Weaver has offered to chair the Covered Dish Supper in October. The schedule of dishes to be brought will appear next month. And, as there is much work to be done for this event, we are hoping to have many volunteers for the various "chores" for this evening.

Rumor has it that Al Mayernik is hard at work on another one of his interesting programs, to be presented at our November meeting.

* * *

THE READING MOTHER

...I had a Mother who read me the things
That wholesome life to the boy heart brings--
Stories that stir with an upward touch,
Oh, that each mother of boys were such!

You may have tangible wealth untold;
Caskets of jewels and coffer of gold.
Richer than I you can never be--
I had a Mother who read to me.

- Strickland Gillilan

* * *

...Summer recalling
At turn of the year,
Fruit will be falling
September is here.

(1872-

- Edward Bliss Reed 1940)

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

Non-Profit Organization
U. S. POSTAGE
P A I D
Valley Stream, New York
Permit No. 924

Valley Stream Historical Society
P A N O R A M A
P. O. Box 22
Valley Stream, New York 11582

BITS OF HISTORY, MOSTLY LONG ISLAND

By Al Mayernik

CURTISS AIRPORT - (Part X)

Costes and Bellonte (cont'd)

The biplane flown by Costes and Bellonte was a red Hispano-powered Breguet and was named "Point d' Interrogation." (Translation: Question Mark.) One wonders, did they have serious doubts of their success, hence the name?

After a wait of several days for the weather to improve, the plane took off from Le Bourget, Paris at about 11:00 AM on September 1, 1930. The flight time was 37 hours, 18½ minutes, approximately four hours longer than Lindbergh's west to east flight. The distance was 4,100 miles. The airship carried over 1,000 gallons of fuel, which gave them an adequate safety margin.

"Point d'Interrogation" flew through storm and overcast and reached the North American continent at Newfoundland. The flyers followed the coastline southward, sometimes flying only 30 or 40 feet above the waves because of low clouds and fog. The plane kept in contact with ships and cities along the route. As news of the flight spread, hundreds of autos and thousands of people headed for Valley Stream. Soon the flyers recognized the city of Boston and Costes and Bellonte were confident they would accomplish their goal.

A squadron of seven U. S. Navy planes met and escorted the French plane to New York. When "Point d' Interrogation" made a perfect landing shortly after 7:00 PM, September 2nd, at Curtiss Field, Valley Stream, they were greeted by 10,000 wildly cheering people, one of whom was the greatest aviation hero of all, Charles A. Lindbergh.

(To be continued)

WORTH REPEATING

The following appeared in a recent Ann Landers column in Newsday:

Dean Ann: I read that line in your column, "When an old person dies, it is like a library burning down," and knew at once that I had to write.

A reader suggested that instead of complaining about garrulous old people repeating the same tiresome stories, the children or grandchildren should take out a tape recorder and preserve, for all time, those wonderful tales.

Great idea! I'm going to do it tomorrow!

-E.K., Kansas City, Mo.

Dear K.C.: If you want to do it right, get a book called "Recording Your Family History" by William Fletcher. Dodd Mead is the publisher. The paperback is \$9.95. Every family historian should have this book. It's brimming with good ideas.

* * *

And, those of us attending the Central High School Alumni Association Annual Meeting on September 19th might get a kick out of these few lines excerpted from another Ann Landers column: "I ran into an old classmate the other day and she has aged so much that she didn't recognize me. I got to thinking about the poor dear while I was combing my hair this morning and, in doing so, I glanced at my own reflection. Really now, they don't even make good mirrors like they used to." (This item was sent to us by member Louise Kinney of Columbia, PA.)

* * *

MEMBERSHIP

For anyone wishing to join the Valley Stream Historical Society, our dues schedule is: Individual--\$5; Student--\$2; Contributing--\$7.50; Family (4 or more members of one family)--\$12; Organizational (clubs, business organizations, etc.)--\$25; Sustaining--(tax exempt gift)--\$50; Life (tax exempt gift)--\$100. Checks should be made payable to the Valley Stream Historical Society and mailed to P. O. Box 22, Valley Stream, New York 11582.

PANORAMA



NEWSLETTER



Dr. Howard J. Rosner, Valley Stream Masons Master (left) and VSHS Trustee Al Mayernik (details below).
Photo by Arthur Fuli

VOLUME XV, No. 2

OCTOBER 1987

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, October 21, 1987

6:30 p.m.

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Hall
Brooklyn Ave. & 7th St., Valley Stream

COVERED DISH SUPPER

Time for our favorite annual event again! Lillian Weaver and Dot Smith have graciously agreed to organize and take charge of this evening, and we do appreciate this.

The door opens at 6:30 and members and guests will have time to visit while enjoying wine and cheese. Liz Mulholland will be our hostess for this portion of the evening. Then, supper will follow at 7:00 and your covered dishes should be according to the alphabetical assignment below:

- A - G - Vegetable content, hot or cold, such as salads, casseroles, etc.
- H - O - Dairy-type foods (eggs, cheese); gelatins, fruit; fish, hot or cold.
- P - Z - "Starchy"-type, hot or cold. This might be potatoes, beans, rice, noodles, etc.

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

DO NOT BRING MEAT OR MEAT-CONTENT DISHES. The Society will provide these items, as well as rolls, butter, tea and coffee. The members of the Executive Board will bring desserts in lieu of covered dishes.

Guests are welcome and should also bring a covered dish.

A donation of \$2.00 per person will be collected at the door. The best buy in town--delicious food, congenial people and an interesting program to round out the evening.

A short business meeting will be conducted, during which we will have the drawing for the two framed molas donated by Pat Lappele. Chances are 50¢ each or 3 for \$1.00. Proceeds will go to the Museum Fund.

Program

"ZOO PREVIEWS"

Our program for this evening will be a sort of "armchair" visit to the Bronx Zoo. The Friends of the Zoo (a/k/a the "FOZ") are sending two of their docents, Muriel Houghton and Bob Greenfield, to provide a lively and interesting color slide presentation highlighting many of the animals in the Zoo's vast collection, as well as all of its major facilities. What better way to "tour" one of the major tourist attractions in our New York area? Between the Covered Dish Supper and this program, this sounds like a delightful evening for all.

* * *

FREEPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY TWENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY PARADE

Our friends at the Freeport Historical Society have invited us to march in their 25th Anniversary Parade on Sunday, October 18th. We will meet at Holy Trinity Church Hall at 12:30 and then "car pool" over to Freeport. The parade will start assembling in Freeport at 1:00 PM, with step-off time at 2:00. We hope as many members as possible will turn out. Kevin Egan will be bringing one of his "vintage" cars, so there will also be some riding space for those who choose not to or cannot march. Also, if you need a ride to Holy Trinity, call Ed Fare (825-2158-leave message) or Jim Roerckel (561-7138).

* * *

BITS OF THIS 'N' THAT... Al Mayernik would appreciate information on Indian heritage on Long Island...The Village is planning a Bicentennial Ball on January 30, 1988 at The Embassy in Franklin Square...If you're an animal lover and can spare an occasional day for dog sitting, Emma Bitowski would love to hear from you (825-4002).

The photograph at the top of this page was taken on September 17 at the Masonic Hall on West Jamaica Avenue. Al Mayernik had mounted a display of First Day Special Covers on the Constitution to commemorate the anniversary of its signing.

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

Non-profit Organization
U. S. POSTAGE
P A I D
Valley Stream, New York
Permit No. 924

Valley Stream Historical Society
P A N O R A M A
P. O. Box 22
Valley Stream, New York 11582

BITS OF HISTORY, MOSTLY LONG ISLAND

By Al Mayernik

CURTISS AIRPORT - Part XI

Costes and Bellonte (cont'd)

Cries of "Vive la France" and "Vive Costes et Bellonte" greeted the aviators as they climbed out of the cockpit. Hundreds of Frenchmen, including the famous boxer, Georges Carpentier, were present at Curtiss Field to greet their countrymen. A band was on hand to add to the celebration, as well as a guard of honor from the American Legion. The French tricolor flew proudly over Curtiss Field. Airport employees and thousands of others rushed forward to congratulate them. The poor flyers were backed up against a wall, unable to move. With great difficulty, Costes and Bellonte were rescued by a phalanx of police and escorted to an upstairs room of Hangar 2.

Here they were warmly greeted by Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh, officials of the French government, and numerous American officials. The famous radio announcer, Graham McNamee broadcast the landing on the radio and Paris listened intently. When McNamee said, "They are taxiing down the field," the great crowd waiting in the Place de la Concorde went mad with joy.

President Herbert Hoover sent a message of congratulations to President Doumergue of France: "I join with the people of the American nation in rejoicing over the brilliant exploits of your distinguished aviators..." Congratulatory telegrams poured into Valley Stream. The traditional ticker-tape parade for heroes was held for them in New York City.

On 4 September, the two men flew to Dallas, Texas, to try for a prize offered by Col. W. E. Esterwood. The Texan had offered \$25,000 to the first man who flew from Paris to Dallas; a stopover at New York was permitted, thus bringing Texas into "the act."

After a glorious tour of the United States, Costes and Bellonte returned to France by boat and were given an even greater reception by their own countrymen.

(To be continued)

* * *

ANOTHER KUDO FOR AL...We're so pleased to hear that one of Al's interesting articles on the Russian pilots has recently been published in an Alaskan newspaper.

FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY DINNER...The Executive Board has announced plans for a celebration next April and members will be kept advised as arrangements are formulated. Liz Mulholland will ably chair this event.

WALDINGER MEMORIAL LIBRARY...Al Mayernik announced at our September meeting that he has done 110 bulletin board displays for the Library over the past few years. Be sure to stop by to see his fine work on your visits there.

At the same meeting, Helen Dowdeswell gave a report on the interviewing program of long-time residents. Those that were taped may be borrowed from the Library through the Reference Desk. This first phase of our oral history program has been concerned with people who lived in town prior to 1920; future interviews will involve the period after World War I. This committee is comprised of Helen Dowdeswell and Adele Hagmann, and they are doing a superb, worthwhile job in preserving the memories and experiences of "the oldtimers" for future generations.

FOOTBALL GAME/MUSEUM FUNDRAISER

On Saturday, November 28th, there will be a football game between the Valley Stream Green Hornets and a team of their counterparts from Wooster, Massachusetts, a long-standing competition between these two teams. It will be an early afternoon game at Firemen's Field, with tickets being very nominally priced.* Even if you cannot attend, please consider purchasing a ticket to lend support and encouragement to these youngsters while helping the Museum Fund as well. (Proceeds after expenses will be donated to the Valley Stream Museum Fund.) Further details will appear in next month's PANORAMA.

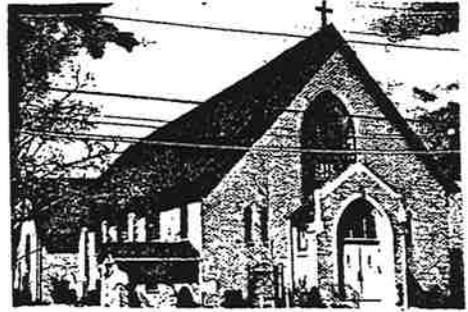
*\$2.00

[Time to tap the memory banks again; Audrey Boerckel's supply of "Memory Lane" articles has run out.]

PANORAMA



NEWSLETTER



St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
(as it appears today)

The Rev. Freidrich Holter, a field missionary, held the first German service on April 18, 1912 in the Corona Avenue Firehouse.

VOLUME XV, No. 3

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1987

N E X T M E E T I N G

Wednesday, November 18, 1987

8:00 p.m.

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Hall
Brooklyn Ave. & 7th St., Valley Stream

SLIDES OF OLD VALLEY STREAM

by

Al Mayernik

Al has put together another one of his great programs for us. This time the slides will consist of pictures given to him by various people from town, as well as those that he has gathered on his own. These programs are always fun, testing our memories for some of the scenes, and always enhanced by Al's witty commentary.

As usual, refreshments will be served following the program.

* * *

There will not be a meeting in December, and our first meeting for 1988 will be held on Wednesday, January 20.

* * *

President Ed Fare announced at our October meeting that Barbara Ehlinger, Chris Van Buskirk and Florence Gunther will be our refreshment coordinators for this season. We do thank them for taking over this task for us.

* * *

FOOTBALL GAME/MUSEUM FUNDRAISER

As we announced last month, on Saturday, November 18, starting at 1:00 p.m. at Firemen's Field, there will be a football game between the Valley Stream Green Hornets and the Wooster (Massachusetts) Vikings. This is a long-standing competition between these two teams, and the tickets are only \$2 each. Proceeds after expenses will be donated to the Valley Stream Museum Fund. So even if you cannot attend, please consider purchasing a ticket to lend support and encouragement to these youngsters while helping the Museum Fund at the same

time. Members of the Society will be selling tickets throughout the Village on two Saturdays--November 14 and the 21st.

* * *

BITS OF THIS 'N' THAT...Our Covered Dish Supper last month was very successful, with 57 members and 13 guests in attendance. Lil Weaver and Dot Smith did an outstanding job in organizing this popular event and we do thank them and their able assistants for all their hard work. And, Liz Mulholland also did a wonderful job with the wine and cheese table that preceded the dinner. Her able assistant that evening was Rose Bouffier. And, the food provided by the attendees seems to get better and better each year! (Member Margie Chvatal suggested that we start a cook book with the recipes.) All in all, a most enjoyable evening was had by all...The program by the docents from the Bronx Zoo was most interesting and informative...\$214 was raised for the Museum Fund on the sale of the chances on the two framed molas donated by a friend of Helen Dowdeswell. The lucky winner is Evelyn McQuade...Norma Klayman was introduced at the October meeting as the latest Life Member of the Society...We were very sorry to learn of the death of member Ernest Schwabe, a resident of Bellerose who was a faithful attendee at our meetings each month...The parade commemorating the 95th anniversary of the town of Freeport and the 25th anniversary of the Freeport Historical Society was very successful and colorful to watch with its many fine floats. Nine members of our Society marched, too: President Ed Fare, Vice President Tony Melillo, Bert Keller, Allan and Helen Dowdeswell, Carolyn Gladky, Claire McMahon, Evelyn McQuade and John Grande, who drove Treasurer Kevin Egan's 1950 yellow Plymouth convertible. We were given warm and pleasant greetings from the onlookers along the parade route...Congratulations to Life Member William Stris on his new position as President of the Board of Education...Jim and Audrey have been doing a super job in arranging for the various programs at our meetings each month. We are very grateful to them and President Fare thanked them publicly at the September meeting...We're pleased to hear that Tony Striffolino is back as Treasurer of the Museum Committee...Very best wishes to all our members and friends for a happy and joyous holiday season.

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

Non-Profit Organization
U. S. POSTAGE
P A I D
Valley Stream, New York
Permit No. 924

Valley Stream Historical Society
P A N O R A M A
P. O. Box 22
Valley Stream, New York 11582

BITS OF HISTORY, MOSTLY LONG ISLAND

By Al Mayernik

CURTISS AIRPORT - Part XII

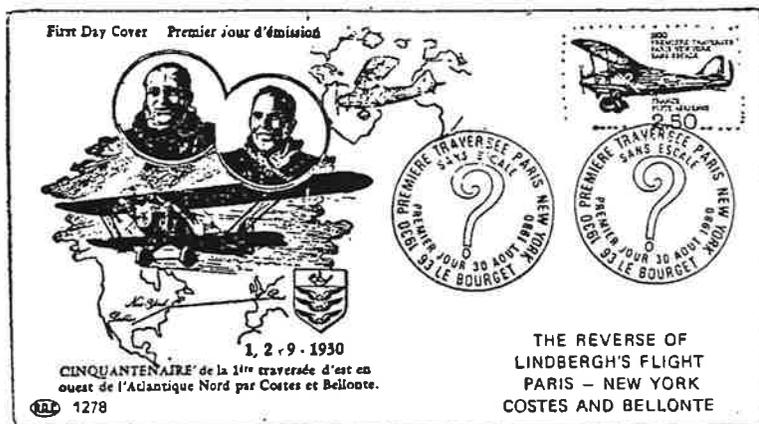
Costes and Bellonte (cont'd)

For the second time, Maurice Bellonte was honored at the site of his and Costes' triumph of 1930. On 2 September 1980, the fiftieth anniversary of the flight was commemorated at Green Acres, site of the former Curtiss Airport. This time, his flight was by Concorde and took 3 hours instead of 37 hours and 18½ minutes of the original flight.

In addition to civil dignitaries, present at the ceremony were William Kaiser, curator of the Cradle of Aviation Museum, Mitchel Field, and several members of the "Ninety-Nines," the organization of women flyers which was founded by Amelia Earhart at Valley Stream.

France issued a postage stamp in 1980 honoring the historic flight, as did several French-speaking countries of Africa.

Diudonné Costes died in 1973. Maurice Bellonte died at the age of 87 at his home in Paris in January 1984. He was sometimes called the "European Lindbergh."



* * *

ONE OF THE FOUR SEASONS

The cold months filled with winds and snow,
They waited so long with no place to go;
Autumn was pushed out and quickly cooled off,
Leaving each one with a sneeze or a cough.

So welcome Winter, it's on its way
Soon after Thanksgiving Day.
I like the winter when it's dry and clear,
When it brings Christmas and another New Year.

There will be some nights that will be just great;
Some friends and a light snow to appreciate.
Yet, for all things there must be a reason,
So Winter will pass to another season.

Jane Sutter (VSHS Member)
10/20/87

(Jane has won a Silver Award for 1986, Golden Award for 1985, 2 Awards of Merit from The World of Poetry for "Lady of Liberty" and "Bottle in the Ocean.")