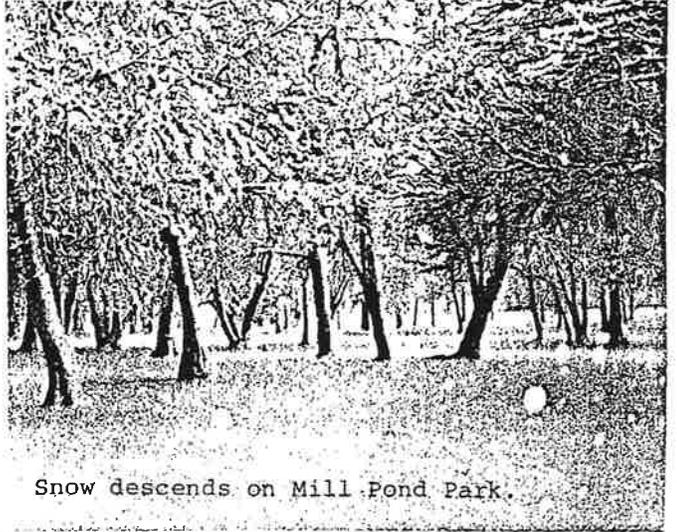


PANORAMA



NEWSLETTER



Snow descends on Mill Pond Park.

VOLUME XV, No. 4

JANUARY 1988

N E X T M E E T I N G

Wednesday, January 20, 1988
8:00 p.m.

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

Program

"THE PINE BARRENS"

(A History of the Ecology of and
the Future of the Pine Barrens)

LARRY PAUL

Mr. Paul, a longtime resident of Lynbrook, is a retired business man who has devoted a tremendous amount of time doing volunteer work with the Nature Conservancy. He has done an enormous amount of survey work on conservancy property in the Pine Barrens of Long Island. This area in central Suffolk County is the most important ecological area for Long Island residents as it filters rain water into Long Island's aquifer; which is our only source of drinking water in Nassau and Suffolk County.

The Nature Conservancy is a very commercially-run organization. Monies from its members are used to purchase lands that should be preserved in a forever wild state and saved from commercial destruction.

Sounds like this is a not-to-be-missed program!

Refreshments for the coffee hour following the meeting will be supplied through the good graces of Lil Weaver, Jane Sutter, Liz Mulholland, Rose L. Bouffier and Jean West, and we are most appreciative.

There's a possibility that the meeting dates for February and March may have to be changed due to the Lenten schedule at Holy Trinity. We should have the new dates at the January meeting, as well, of course, as in PANORAMA next month.

More information will be forthcoming, too, about the Museum Ball in March and our 15th Anniversary celebration in April.

Approximately \$530 in advance sales was raised by the Society for the Green Hornets football game played on November 18. It was a fine game between the Hornets and the Wooster Vikings, with our home team the victor. Our congratulations to both teams for their fine sportsmanship. This was the largest advance sale for this annual event and our friends at the VFW were delighted. Proceeds after expenses are to go to the Museum Fund.

Our sincerest thanks to those hardy souls who braved the 18° weather (-18° with the wind-chill factor!) to sell the football tickets along Rockaway Avenue and other spots in the Village. Whatta gang!

WORTH REPEATING

"In wildness is the preservation of the world."

Henry David Thoreau

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

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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 FIELD, Part XIII

The Closing of Curtiss Field

For all of its importance and busy schedules, Curtiss Air Field, Valley Stream had a short life--from April, 1929 to December, 1933.

Floyd Bennett Airport on Barren Island, Brooklyn, was dedicated as New York City's municipal airport on May 31, 1931. It had more runways than Curtiss and was more convenient to New York City. Many of the record-making flights, such as those of Wiley Post, originated there. North Beach Airport, which later became LaGuardia Field, was also being developed. Then, too, Roosevelt Field was still a busy operation. Curtiss could not compete since the Depression made large investments for improving it impractical.

The roar of planes overhead and the dust clouds which caused Valley Stream much annoyance ended when Safair Inc., the largest tenant of the Field, moved its 20 planes to Roosevelt Field in December 1933. The name, Curtiss-Wright Airport, was transferred to the North Beach, Queens, airfield.

What to do with the Valley Stream field? Ideas were many: a business center, a recreation center, a polo field. Actually, several games of polo were played there by the Valley Stream Polo Club. Mentioned in several 1934 issues of the Valley Stream Mail and Gibson Herald, were several games by the

Valley Stream team. One versus San Antonio. In another playoff, Valley Stream lost to the Army Ramblers of Mitchel Field.

There were several attempts to bring planes back. In 1935, it was rumored that the Naval Reserve would use the field; the next year, rumor had it that the Coast Guard would use Valley Stream's field as an air base. Both services elected to use the newer Floyd Bennett. Even as late as 1940, rumors were still circulating that Valley Stream would reopen its airfield.

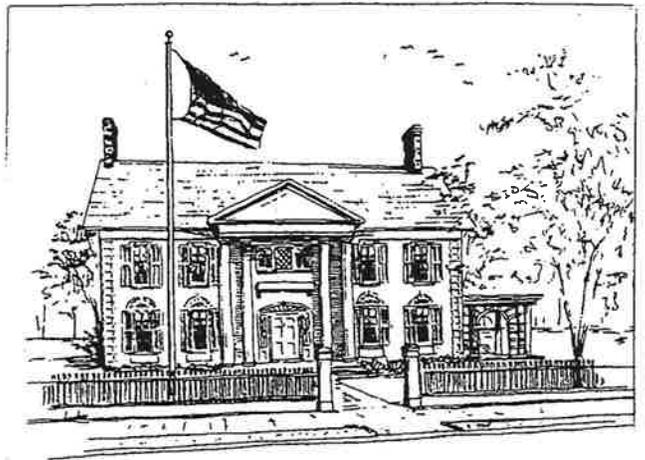
In 1936, the Chanin Corporation, a builder of skyscrapers in New York City, bought the Curtiss properties in Valley Stream and planned to build 1,800 homes in the Green Acres section. The western section was rezoned in 1938, giving the go-ahead to open the Sunrise Open Air Theatre.

During World War II, the planes did come back to the hangars of old Curtiss, when the Columbia Aircraft Company manufactured and tested Grumman's J2F6, the "Duck," for the Navy.

* * *

It was with great sadness that we learned of the death on January 7 of our friend, William K. Kaiser, an aviation historian who spent the last 15 years building the collection that is Nassau County's Cradle of Aviation Museum. Bill had arranged for several programs for us with other members of the Early Flyers Club, as well as tours of the Cradle of Aviation Museum several years ago. Through his lifelong love of history and aviation, he has played a major role in preserving Long Island's contribution to the aviation industry.

PANORAMA



VOLUME XV, No. 5

FEBRUARY 1988

N E X T M E E T I N G

Tuesday, February 16, 1988

(please note date)

8:00 p.m.

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

Program

ERIC MARTIN

Bethpage Fiddler

A real toe-tapping evening will be provided for us by Mr. Martin, a fiddler who performs at the Old Bethpage Restoration, specializing in fiddle music of Long Island and the New York City area of the mid-1800's. He is quite a student of the music of that period, including a dirge played by British Pipers accompanying their troupes marching off Long Island after defeat in the Revolutionary War.

Do plan to come to this musical evening, following which refreshments will be served courtesy of Louise Carducci, Marge Chvatal, Marge Dalton, Evelyn McQuade and Vera Totten.

* * *

NOTEWORTHY UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, February 16	VSHS Meeting
Friday, March 11	First Annual Museum Ball
Tuesday, March 15	VSHS Meeting
Tuesday, March 22	"News Photos of L.I." Al Mayernik Waldinger Mem. Library
Sunday, April 17	VSHS 15th Ann'y Party
Wednesday, April 20	VSHS Meeting
Wednesday, May 18	VSHS Meeting
Monday, May 30	Memorial Day
Wednesday, June 15	VSHS Meeting

* * *

Al Mayernik's bulletin board display this month has to do with Curtiss Field. (The board is now located in a different location, so ask to be directed to it.)

FIRST ANNUAL MUSEUM BALL

This is a gala event to benefit the Valley Stream Museum and will be held on Friday, March 11 at the Embassy East in Franklin Square from 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

The theme for this year's ball is the Constitution Bicentennial. Attendees are encouraged to add to the celebration by wearing costumes of the Revolutionary period. But, if you do not care to come in costume, by all means, don't let this keep you away!

Tickets are \$35 per person and this includes a complete dinner and open bar and dancing to the music of the Hal Hoffman Orchestra. Prizes will also be awarded for the best costumes.

Tickets will be available for purchase at our February meeting. Or, you can order them through the mail. Make your check payable to the Valley Stream Museum Committee and mail it to the Valley Stream Museum Finance Committee, P. O. Box 1043, Valley Stream, New York 11582. (If you wish, you can specify that you would like to sit at one of the Historical Society tables.)

This event is sponsored by the Valley Stream Chamber of Commerce with the cooperation of local service organizations.

Let's all get behind our local merchants in this worthwhile project while having a fun evening with our fellow Villagers.

* * *

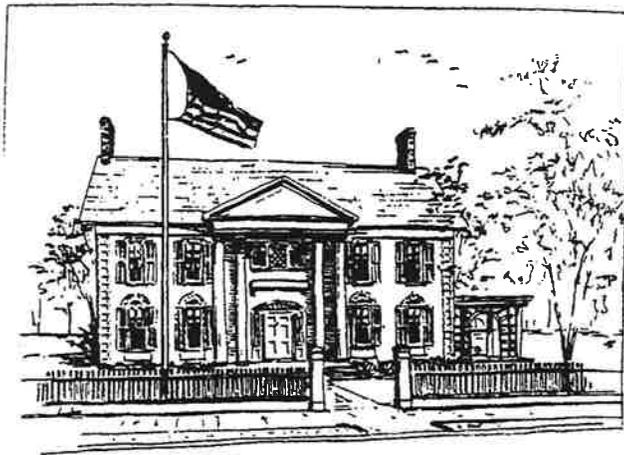
BITS OF THIS 'N' THAT

At our January meeting, Eileen Brennan presented \$92.45 from sales at our Country Store in November...President Fare congratulated Helen Dowdeswell and Adele Hagemann on the fine job they are doing in taping interviews with "old-timers"...A full report will be given at the February meeting on our planned 15th Anniversary celebration at the American Legion Hall on Sunday, April 17. There will be a buffet supper, music, a few words by a few people and the price will be very nominal. Please circle this date on your calendar, too. It promises to be a very pleasant way to spend the hours of 4:00 - 8:00 p.m. on a Sunday. And members can be proud of the progress we've made.

PANORAMA



NEWSLETTER



VOLUME XV, No. 6

MARCH 1988

N E X T M E E T I N G

Tuesday, March 15, 1988

(please note date)

8:00 p.m.

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

Program

OLDTIME RADIO NIGHT

Compiled and Presented By

JIM BOERCKEL

Yes, our own Audrey's favorite feller, Jim, has been busily making audio tapes of such goodies as old radio commercials, a March 1950 Jack Benny radio program, a concert march by Frederick Buck, a former Central High School student, a 1940 Valley Stream Central High School Band concert played on the Sunday Morning Horn and Hardart Children's Hour on NBC, plus some surprises, too. This should be a welcome change from some of the TV fare shown these days. So, come on out for another enjoyable evening, courtesy of the Boerckels.

As usual, refreshments will be served following the program, and we thank this month's volunteers Dorothy O'Regan, Lois Ward, Marge Finkenstadt, Adele Melillo and Emma Bitowski.

In April, we will go back to our usual Wednesday meeting night--April 20. Our program will be a slide presentation on the California Missions.

BITS OF THIS 'N' THAT...

"A toe-tapping--hand-clapping program of old fashioned fiddling by Eric Martin was enjoyed by all," reports our Recording Secretary, Helen Zang, in her minutes of the February meeting.

That same night, in his Museum update report, Bert Keller raised the hope that the building will finally have the bare essentials and inspection completed by early Spring.

Al Mayernik is seeking photographs of Regis Philbin's visit to Valley Stream last summer.

The Society has reserved six tables at the Museum Ball being held on March 11 at the Embassy East in Franklin Square. It should be a gala evening and we'll provide a report on it next month.

* * *

COME ONE, COME ALL!

FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Valley Stream Historical Society
Sunday, April 17, 1988

American Legion Hall
Roosevelt Avenue
4:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Isn't it wonderful? 15 years!! We do hope all our members and their guests are planning to join in on this celebration. There will be a buffet supper, music and a few speeches. Liz Mulholland is chairing this event and is working very hard to make this an enjoyable evening for all. And, her able committee is also doing their part on your behalf. We look forward to seeing everyone!

VSHS FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY TICKET APPLICATION

Please enter my order for _____ tickets @ \$16.00 each. Total payment enclosed \$ _____

Name _____

Address _____

(Tickets will be on sale at the March meeting. Checks should be made payable to the Valley Stream Historical Society. Mail orders should be sent to:
Mrs. Elizabeth Mulholland, 107 Gibson Boulevard, Valley Stream, N. Y. 11581 OR
Mrs. Agnes Libath, 65 Rockaway Parkway, Valley Stream, New York 11580.)

Tickets ordered by mail will be held at the door and presented to the purchasers on their arrival at the Legion on April 17.

BITS OF HISTORY, MOSTLY LONG ISLAND

By Al Mayernik

Valley Streamers in the Civil War - Part II

Edward Van Buskirk at Mobile Bay, August 5, 1864

Ships were paired attached by cable; the iron-clad "Metacomet," Edward Van Buskirk on board, was cabled to Farragut's flagship, the "Hartford." The four Union monitors flanked the fleet to the right. Because of the dense smoke during the battle, visibility was poor, so Admiral Farragut was lashed to the rigging of the "Hartford," a wooden sloop-of-war. From this height he was better able to see the events of the battle and give orders. He was warned of the danger of Confederate torpedoes (mines) ahead. It was at this point, he supposedly said, "Damn the torpedoes! Full speed ahead!"

Herewith, slightly edited, is Edward Van Buskirk's letter, including his original spellings. It was written on the evening and several days following the terrible battle. The comments in brackets are not in the original letter, but were added by me for clarification.

* * *

U S S Metacomet
in Mobeil Bay
Aug 5th, 1864

I am still living. on the 4 of Aug. we made preperation to attactt the Rebles Fleet and Fort Morgain. well about ten Oclock of the 4th we got ready. got extrey Beef cook and coffee. call all hands at two Oclock in the morning. got Coffee. got everything ready. Got horsstes (hawsers?) out then got Breakfast. then the Hartford hale us and told us to come a long side we went. all the other vessel doing the same. we went in two abrest the Hartfort and Metacomet then the Brooklin and Octoroa the Richmond and a nother boat. the Brooklin went First we nex the monitor a head. all got ready at six Oclock. went in sloe we had to goe about ten miles to get neer the Forts. Farrey (Farragut)was up in the mane riggon (rigging) and Pilot Bil Fields was over the side heaven (heaving) the lead (to determine the depth of the channel). the monitor open the Ball at six Oclock. we got with in a half a mile when the Fort open on us. the monitor got a head of the Brooklin and stop which stop the (w)hole Fleet then the Brooklin stop. old Farrey sung out to goe a head -- the shot fell fast so we had to goe first past the Brooklin and monitor. the first shot fire from the Fort went through the Brooklin bow.

(To be continued)

* * *

Tuesday, March 22, 7:30 sharp - Waldinger Memorial Library

"Photographs of Old Long Island" - taken mostly from old newspapers, the Daily News, Brooklyn Eagle, etc. will be the subject of Al Mayernik's program at the Library. Knowing the hard work and research Al puts into each of his programs, plus his manner of presentation and sense of humor, all add up to another evening of fun and reminiscence. Do mark this date on your calendar.

* * *



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

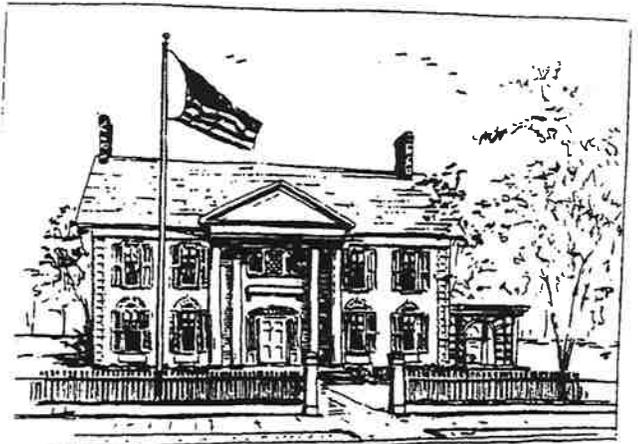
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Mr. William P. Stris
41 Parkwold Drive East
Valley Stream, N. Y. 11580

PANORAMA



NEWSLETTER



VOLUME XV, No. 7

APRIL 1988

N E X T M E E T I N G

Wednesday, April 20, 1988

8:00 p.m.

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

Program

"DAYS IN RADIO"

RONALD LACKMAN

As a nice follow-up to Jim Boerckel's enjoyable program on oldtime radio last month, we are pleased that Mr. Lackman is coming for our April meeting to tell of his years of experience in radio. A teacher at Valley Stream Central High School, he has never lost his great love for radio and has also written several books on the subject. Mr. Lackman will be sure to bring back many memories for all of us while recounting his broadcasting adventures and of the many notables he has met through that medium. Don't miss this stroll down memory lane!

And, what would we do without those wonderful ladies who donate cakes each month for our refreshment table? For April, Happy Hering, Marion Clinchy, Lil Weaver, Jane Sutter and Marge Finkenstadt will be supplying the goodies. Thank you!

* * *

And, by all means, don't miss out on the festivities of our FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION on Sunday, April 17, 1988 in the American Legion Hall on Roosevelt Avenue from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. A very tasty buffet supper will be served, there will be easy-to-listen-to background music, a program commemorating the occasion and, we're told, a few surprises. The tickets are a nominal \$16 per person and may be obtained through Elizabeth Mulholland (791-3644) or Agnes Libath (825-2759). Why not gather a few friends together and plan a pleasant Sunday with other hometown folks. And, if you come alone, you'll also feel right at home joining in with everyone else.

* * *

BITS OF THIS 'N' THAT...

We're sorry that we've had to postpone our program on the California Missions due to the unexpected hospitalization of Mr. Carl J. Dinic, the gentleman who was to show his marvelous slides to us. We wish Mr. Dinic a speedy recovery and will look forward to rescheduling this event.

On Saturday evening, April 16 at 8:00, the Year of the Constitution Committee will award bonds to the essay contest winners from grades 5 through 12. In addition, there will be a theatrical presentation, "Daughters of Freedom," highlighting the women and men of the Constitutional era. All this will take place at the Bert Keiler Auditorium of Central High School. Everyone is invited; there is no charge, and the doors open at 7:30.

FIRST ANNUAL MUSEUM BALL, celebrating the Bicentennial of the Constitution, was held on Friday, March 11 at the Embassy East in Franklin Square, and was a smashing success--well-attended by folks in their Sunday-best, delicious food, the wonderful Hal Hoffman Orchestra, topped off by the those authentic costumes sported by that enthusiastic group who were just a delight. The Society was represented at six tables, with one table occupied by some of our friends from the Hempstead Liederkrantz Singing Society, who have entertained us and have shown their support for our museum. And, amidst the strains of the music of the last dance, considerable interest was expressed for the Second Annual Museum Ball in 1989!! A fine tribute to all those committee members whose hard and dedicated work made all this come about.

Oh, yes, it was so difficult to select one winner in the costume contest, the judges decided everyone was a winner--and they were!

* * *

LOOKING AHEAD...The Executive Board is making plans for our appearance in this year's Memorial Day Parade. We will be having a float and will need volunteers from among the membership to help decorate. Please give your name to our Vice President Anthony Melillo if you can lend a hand.

* * *

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

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Valley Stream, New York 11582

BITS OF HISTORY, MOSTLY LONG ISLAND

By Al Mayernik

Valley Streamers in the Civil War - Part III - Edward VanBuskirk at Mobile Bay

Edward's Letter Continues...

the men on the Hartford got masaque (massacred??). the in side came on our deck and so did the Brooklin men got kill like sheep. we struck the topedoe (mine) but none went off. jest as quick as we got over the bar we cut a drift from the Hartford and went after the Reble Boats. We went after the Reble gun Boat Morgan and gun Boat Gaines and Selma. we lick the three of them while the other boat (Hartford) went after the Reble Ram Tennessee. the (w)hole Fleet went after her. we had one Reble boat on each side and one a head. we was trying to run the one a head down and fire a broads side in to the one on one side. well the one a head of us run away from us and went to Fort Morgan and hide(?) well that left two. one of them give out. we dis-able her. she run ashore that left the Selma alone. we fort (fought) about a half a hour -- wounded the Captain of the Selma and one shell struck the first lutenet in the belly (k)nock out his hart then the shell burst and kill fore (four) other men. well that left the second lutenet to fite us. the Captain told him to give up the vessel but he said no. at last he give up. we kill in all on board of the Selma nine and wounded seven. our boat went aboard of her. the men fort (fought) naked and of all the site you ever saw that was one. the men ladé ded (laid dead) with there heads off. some cut in two some with there legs off. it was horra-ble.

I went aboard her to lay them out and through (throw) them over board. broart (brought) the Captain and all the men off. the Captain got shot in the arm he will loose it. and what was best of all, the other Fleet got through there fight and stade (stayed) off and look at us fight three of the Rebles Boats. none wood (would) come

and help us. Farrey (Farragut) said it was a shame. he said the Jouett would get (could have been?) Capture but we could not see it. our (w)hole fleet cheere us all the time and the reble sur-render sitch (such) a noise. I never heard before. the Reble felt bad. our captain siad to kill every man if they did not surrender and we would to. well we got one man kill and one slitly (slightly) wounded.



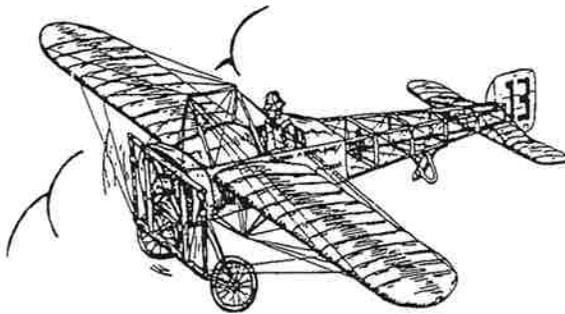
Rear Admiral James E. Jouett

* * *

3rd Annual Miniature Aviation Expo
Cradle of Aviation Museum, Mitchel Field
Saturday and Sunday, April 16 & 17
12:00 Noon to 5:00 P.M.

Guided Tours
Full Size Aircraft
Video Tapes
All Types of Flying Model Aircraft
A.M.A. Booth
Largest Model Show on Long Island

Admission and Parking Free
(Northern or Southern State Parkways to Meadowbrook Parkway and exit M3 or M4.)
For further information, call 222-1191.



PANORAMA



NEWSLETTER



Mayor John DeGrace and Alphonse Mayernik
(photo by Tony Melillo)

VOLUME XV, No. 8

MAY 1988

N E X T M E E T I N G

Wednesday, May 18, 1988
8:00 p.m.

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

Program

"V.I.P. VISITORS TO VALLEY STREAM"

AL MAYERNIK

Another of Al's great slide programs, this time relating to important people who have visited Valley Stream over the years. This is quite a collection and the photographs were secured through researching old issues of the Valley Stream Mail, as well as those given to Al by longtime residents. Included in the collection are Presidents of the United States, war heroes, singers and band leaders, movie actors, baseball players, etc. Sounds like a fun evening! [Incidentally, Hofstra University has donated bound copies of the Valley Stream Mail for the years 1938 through the mid-70's.]

And, bless them, these ladies will be bringing cakes for our refreshment table: Ruth Anholzer, Anne Boyden, Marge Chvatel, Ruth Joseph and Florence Murphy.

In the business portion of this meeting, we will be having our election of Officers and Trustees, namely, Edwin Fare, President, Anthony Melillo, Vice President, Helen Zang, Recording Secretary, Kevin Egan, Treasurer,

Margaret Dalton, Corresponding Secretary; 3-year Trustees--Alan Dowdeswell, Elizabeth Mulholland; 2-year Trustees--Adele Hagmann, Robert Presbry; 1-year Trustees--Barbara Ehlinger, Lena Savery, Agnes Libath, Anthony Fiero, Eileen Brennan. (This slate was presented at the April meeting by Bert Keller as chairman of this year's Nominating Committee, of which Audrey Boerckel and Evelyn McQuade were also members.)

BITS OF THIS 'N' THAT...

It's membership renewal time again. Please use the form below.

We will be marching in the Memorial Day Parade on May 30th and ask that all members seriously consider joining in this year, even if you just fall in the line of march somewhere along the way. And, of course, we're planning to have a float this year, with our Vice President Tony Melillo in charge of it. The parade is part of the celebration in Valley Stream of the 200th anniversary of the signing of the Constitution. The parade will start from the Wheeler Avenue School and we are asked to assemble at 9:00 a.m.

The Board of Trustees of the Henry Waldinger Library will be installing its officers on Wednesday, May 11 at 8 p.m. There will be musical entertainment and refreshments. Always a most enjoyable evening and everyone is invited.

We will be having our annual Chinese Auction at the June meeting and all donations will be most appreciated.



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

1988 MEMBERSHIP FORM
EXPIRES JUNE 1989

Date _____
Payment: _____ Check
_____ Cash

Name _____ Renewal _____ New _____

Address _____
Telephone _____

_____ Individual.....\$ 5.00	_____ Organizational.....\$25.00 (clubs, business org., etc.)
_____ Student..... 2.00	_____ Sustaining (tax exempt gift)... 50.00
_____ Contributing..... 7.50	_____ Life (tax exempt gift).....100.00
_____ Family (4 or more in one family)... 12.00	

BITS OF HISTORY, MOSTLY LONG ISLAND

By Al Mayernik

Valley Streamers in the Civil War -
Part IV
Edward Van Buskirk at Mobile Bay (cont'd)

one shell came through our Bow and Bursted over the magesseen (magazine) set us a fire. I was in the magesseen but I came out in a hurrey. we put out the fire. it (k)nock off my door to. it was short but sweet as my girl said. well the Ram Tenessee got surrounded. the Reble Admeral got shot in the leg he will loose it. two men got kill on board of her. he said he would not surrender to a monitor so he give up to the Ossepee. she is a splendid Ram. the Reble Admeral is the same one that had the Merrack (Merrimack) Buckcannon (Buchanan) is his name. we got all his Officer and men. the one that had commander of the selma is name Pat Murphy. our Captain was with him. he said, Jouett I brought you up and now you turn around and lick me because I am old. jest fuming (funning??) he was satesfid.

the (w)hole Fleet lost I gest (guessed) one hundred kill and two hundred wounded in all, the Onider (Onieda) got a shot through her Biler (boiler) and scalded thirty men. some vessel did not get one hurt. James' vessel came off all rite no body hurt. I see Jame sunday he is all rite. we lost one monitor the last one we tow down. she struck a torpedoe and went down. a bout ninty men went with her. ten men got save. our Pilot got save. we past her going down and the Hartford men cheer her and we did to but they said it was a Reble but we found out our mistake. it was our small boat. save ten. went in under the Fort and pick them up and the Fort fire at them all the time but no body got hurt.

well on the six(th) we took all the wounded men on board, eighty in all and went to the Fort with a flag of truce. we had the Reble lutenent on board that we kill and left him to the Fort. then they parole us for twenty fore hours to take the wounded to Pensacola. we took good care of them. the poor Boy(s) had Both arms off, a good many had there ies (eyes) out, some legs off. some burnt to pieces, grone (groan) all night.

(to be continued)

* * *

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

FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY RECAP...

Ah, yes, it was a grand day, our 15th Anniversary celebration on April 17. Over 100 members and guests gathered at the American Legion Hall to spend a pleasant evening and also witness the conferring of many awards and certificates. Congressman Ray McGrath presented a flag from the Nation's Capitol and State Senator Dean Skelos, Assemblyman Greg Becker and Nassau County Executive Thomas Gulotta all came and presented citations. Our own President, Ed Fare, gave several awards to Society members--Helen Dowdeswell for her Oral History Project (brother Allan accepted in her absence); Margaret Warreil for her membership duties; Eileen Brennan for her "Country Store" fundraising at our meetings; Evelyn McQuade for editorship of PANORAMA; Liz Mulholland for chairing the Anniversary Dinner; and, Barbara Ehlinger, Chris VanBuskirk, and Florence Gunther for taking care of our refreshment table this year. A nice surprise (and well-deserved) was given to Audrey and Jim Boerckel in the way of Life Memberships to the Society. Al Mayernik, our Historian, presented a donation to the Waldinger Memorial Library for the cooperation they have always shown to the Society. And the topper of the awards went to Al, himself, when Mayor John DeGrace made him an honorary resident of Valley Stream. (Al had taught at North High School for many years and is a resident of Bayside.) The tasty food was catered by the American Legion and the delightful background/listening/dance music was supplied by Al's nephew, Greg Celli. Congratulations to Liz Mulholland and her committee for the success of this anniversary observance.

* * *

OH, SAY IT ISN'T SO!...

A mother who is really a mother is never free. - Honore de Balzag

Nobody can misunderstand a boy like his own mother. - Norman Douglas

Happy Mother's Day, anyway, you dears!



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

PANORAMA



MAI leader photo of our float by Mary Beth Jacovides

VOLUME XV, No. 9

JUNE 1988

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday,
June 15, 1988
8:00 p.m.

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

Program ANNUAL CHINESE AUCTION and STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

Our traditional end-of-the-season events. And, they will be preceded by a short business meeting and installation of the officers and trustees elected at last month's meeting.

Admission will be \$3.00 per person and this includes an envelope containing 100 chances, as well as the delicious refreshments following the Auction. Additional envelopes may be purchased for \$1.00 each.

Audrey and Jim Boerckel will welcome all donations--jewelry, knick-knacks of all kinds, stationery, plants, games, wrapped mystery gifts, comic items--anything that will add to the fun of the evening. If you cannot get your articles to them ahead of time, please come to the meeting a bit earlier as it does take time to set up the tables and get everything organized.

Also, extra hands will be needed in the kitchen and at the serving table.

BITS OF THIS 'N' THAT...

Al Mayernik's program for the May meeting, "V.I.P. Visitors to Valley Stream" was wonderful...A beautifully decorated cake was served after the program in honor of Elsie and Howard Ruehl, who are moving to Florida. We do hate to see them go, but we wish them many years of happiness in their new home.

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE...

Our float was OUTSTANDING and received much approval from the folks along the parade route. It had three scenes--the swearing in of George Washington, Betsy Ross sewing the flag and a Minute-man and a Red Coat. Anthony Melillo was George Washington and Emma Bitowski was Martha; Audrey and Jim Boerckel portrayed Abigail and John Adams; Anthony Fiero was Judge Robert R. Livingston; Catherine Smith accompanied her grandmother, Dorothy Sheridan, who was Betsy Ross; Ed Bitowski was the Minute Man and Angelo LaCalandra was the Red Coat and was accompanied by his daughter, Jenny.

Our marchers included President Ed Fare, Treasurer Kevin Egan, George Shaw, Marion Clinchy, Jean West, Helen Dowdeswell, Margie Chvatel, Louise Carducci, Evelyn McQuade, Agnes Libath and ex-presidents Ted Libath, Claire McMahon and Bob Presbrey; Charlotte Ames, Carolyn Gladky, Mr. & Mrs. Walter Facompre, Adele Melillo and Henry Krooss, who also served as photographer along with Al Mayernik. Alan Dowdeswell and Howard Clinchy rode in cars driven by John Grande and Lily Graham. -->



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

Date _____

Payment: _____ Check

_____ Cash

1988 MEMBERSHIP FORM
EXPIRES JUNE 1989

Name _____ Renewal _____ New _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

_____ Individual.....\$ 5.00	_____ Organizational.....\$25.00 (clubs, business org., etc.)
_____ Student..... 2.00	_____ Sustaining (tax exempt gift).. 50.00
_____ Contributing..... 7.50	_____ Life (tax exempt gift).....100.00

BITS OF HISTORY, MOSTLY LONG ISLAND

By Al Mayernik

Valley Streamers in the Civil War-Part V
Edward Van Buskirk at Mobile Bay (cont'd)

Pensacola was still a Confederate base, therefore, the need for parole for the "Metacomet." The city of Mobile, Alabama, did not surrender until April 1865.

Edward Van Buskirk's letter continues:

we got to Pensacola navy yard. all the Peple come down to see the wounded. we was not a load (allowed) to tell them eney thing or take eney thing a board because we was parole but we did some aid before we got in. we went a long side of the dock, cared (carried) all the wounded up to the Hospital. all the men want out of the ship, went up to the gate. the sential (sentinel) would say what ship? Metacomet. he said all rite. we had the biggest name in Pensacola and at Mobiel Bay.

we got out at two Oclock that night, went a pass the Reble Fort (Morgan) at ten Oclock in the Forenoon then they release us. the workmen in Pensacola navy year houted (hooted) at the Reble Officers and Admeral coved up his face. we could not get eney male (mail).

on the seven(th) Fort Powles (Powell, Mobile Bay) surrendered and that leaves the sound cleer. the Rebles thought we could not get in with this Fleet because there is two hundred Torpedoe in the channel but no good. Fort Ganes (Gaines) surrendered on the eight. it would no surrender to the (Union) army. they could keep off the army two years. they surrendered eight hundred and fifty Persons in in Fort Ganes. they had one hundred cadets came down to see the yankeys get masaque (massacred) so they get catch (caught). all rich men sons but cant get a way. the Armeiy is landed all a round but they wount (won't) surrendered to them. they want Farrey (Farragut) to come a take charge. Farrey give us great prase (praise). I cant tell you all. if I live to get home I will tell you all about it.

You must let sis see this letter. I cant write to all we are in a hurrey. we are going a forragen (foraging). we can go where we like. the Island that Fort Ganes is on have go (got) all nigroes and did not like to surrender. tell the Folks the news for me. you must excuse my writen.
Edward

Valley Stream Historical Society
P A N O R A M A
P. O. Box 22
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MEMORIAL DAY PARADE (cont'd)...

Another feature that received its share of attention was a 1926 Model T Ford with a vintage license plate, driven by Angelo LaCalandra, Sr., with Mrs. LaCalandra and their grandson, Paul, as his passengers.

The Executive Board expresses its thanks to all who participated in any way to make this a successful venture for us. We are grateful to Hendrickson Brothers for supplying the truck for our float and for the skillful driver, Charles Betold. Anthony Melillo chaired the float committee, which consisted of Tony Fiero, Florence Murphy, Dorothy Sheridan, Angelo LaCalandra and Ed Bitowski.* All in all, it was a team effort that came off beautifully.

* * * *and the Boerckels.

OUR SINCERE SYMPATHY to Mrs. Seymour Morganroth and her family on the recent death of her husband. Sy had always been a friend of the Society and we truly appreciate all his efforts in our behalf.

* * *

MORE OF THIS 'N' THAT...

The wonderful flowers and decorations at our 15th Anniversary were supplied through the generosity of Boening's Florist, and the delicious cakes were made by the Everbest Bakery...Jim Polychron has once more donated some bubbly as special prizes for the Chinese Auction and we are always most appreciative. Jim has been a member for many years and we are sorry to learn that he has sold Polychron's Liquor Store, the oldest family-owned store in town and in New York State. We wish Jim all the best in his future endeavors...For our programs in the fall, Jim and Audrey have tentatively scheduled a slide program on the California Missions for September, our Annual Covered Dish Supper, followed by a slide show of our events for the preceding season for October, and a Hobby Night for November. They are hoping that five or six people will volunteer to display their hobbies and talk about them for not more than five minutes. Please give this some thought and let Jim and Audrey know as soon as possible that you will take part.

* * *

The next issue of PANORAMA will come out in September. In the meantime, enjoy a safe and happy summer, everyone.

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PANORAMA



NEWSLETTER



A photograph of a garden at the Mission of San Juan Capistrano in California (taken by Adele Hagmann).

VOLUME XVI, No. 1

SEPTEMBER 1988

N E X T M E E T I N G

Wednesday,
September 21, 1988
8:00 p.m.

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

Program

THE SPANISH MISSIONS OF CALIFORNIA

a slide program
by

CARL J. DINIC

Mr. Carl J. Dinic is a born New Yorker who started travel at age one when his family moved to San Francisco. In his youth he started as a day laborer and after two years working in the redwoods of northern California, came East to the Harvard Business School. In time, he reached executive levels in the business world, with a second career as a university professor at Adelphi and Hofstra.

While attending Harvard, Mr. Dinic met Evlyn, his late wife. During their 52 years of marriage, the Dinics made photography a major hobby as well as a form of artistic expression and an integral part of their world-wide travels, domestic and foreign. They loved sharing their award-winning slide shows with relatives and friends.

For our program this evening, Mr. Dinic will show their slides of the historic California Spanish Missions, all 21, from San Diego to Sonoma. While many of us have visited a few of these Missions, most travelers do not have the chance to see all of them. Don't miss out on this rare opportunity!

The refreshments for this evening will be supplied by the Executive Board.

If you haven't yet renewed your membership for this year, you can do so at this meeting. Please see Claire McMahon and Lena Savery at the membership table.

BITS OF THIS 'N' THAT...

While we wish them all the best for the coming years, we certainly are going to miss Emma and Ed Bitowski, who have just moved to Louisiana and Liz and Ed Mulholland, who have moved to Iowa...Ted Libath has returned to work after his hospital stay, and Alan Dowdeswell is also home from the hospital, we're happy to report.

Adele Hagmann is hard at work on our inventory records, and anyone who is storing anything belonging to the Society is asked to please advise Adele as soon as possible of what you have and where you are keeping it.

Helen Dowdeswell has reported that 36 tapes of interviews of "oldtimers" (and not-so-old timers) have been completed and are at the Library. Congratulations to Helen and to Adele Hagmann for the great job they have been doing on this project!

We were so sorry to learn of Vincent Seyfried's unfortunate accident in which he broke both wrists. Vincent is an old friend of the Society and we send best get well wishes for a speedy recovery.

For our October meeting on October 19, we will be having our annual Covered Dish Supper. For our program that evening, Jim Boerckel will be showing photos taken at our various activities this past year. The details about the supper concerning the type of foods to bring will be outlined in next month's PANORAMA.

The November meeting on November 16 will feature a Hobby Night. We haven't had one of these in a few years now. Jim and Audrey are looking for participants, so please give it some serious thought. You'll find a most appreciative audience!

Don't forget to stop by our Country Store at our meetings. Eileen Brennan is doing a great job and always has a few surprise items for us in addition to her usual great buys. In the past, we've had beautiful handmade items by Margie Chavtel and Anne Boyden (the McDermott sisters), and those absolutely gorgeous African violets raised and donated by Ted Libath. And many of us started our Christmas shopping right there last year!

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

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BITS OF HISTORY, MOSTLY LONG ISLAND

By Al Mayernik

Hope A. Hendrickson, Civil War Veteran

The Historical Society is fortunate in receiving information about Hope A. Hendrickson, a Civil War veteran from Valley Stream. Copies of the documents were donated by Don Hummel.

Hope was born in Valley Stream, the son of John and Rosetta Hendrickson, during the year 1819. He married Isabella D. Thompson in October 1853 in Honolulu, S. I. (Sandwich Islands, the old name for Hawaii.)

Shortly after the Union victory at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, July 1--3, 1863, Hope enlisted on August 3, 1863 as a private in Company F, 52nd New York Volunteers (Infantry); Edward Zimmer commanding. During April 1864 he was reported as missing, then charged with desertion. He was arrested and confined at 1st Division, 2nd Corps Headquarters. He was found not guilty of desertion and was returned to duty.

(The charge brought against him and then dropped might have been because there was a Hope R. Hendricksen, born in England, in the company.)

The 52nd New York Volunteers was also known as the Sigel Rifles. The regiment fought through the horrors of the Battle of the Wilderness, Virginia on May 5 to 7, 1864; Cold Harbor, Virginia; the seige and battle for Petersburg, Virginia from June 15 to 19, 1864; and several skirmishes. The 52nd took part in the Appomatox campaign from March 28 to April 19, 1865. One wonders: did Hope witness the surrender of Robert E. Lee to Ulysses S. Grant?

Hope was mustered out on July 10, 1865 as a corporal at Alexandria, Virginia. He returned to Valley Stream to his occupation of carpenter.

At age 72 on January 8, 1891, Hope applied for a pension from the United States government for partial loss of eyesight which prevented him from following his trade. At the time of application, Hope was 5'8" in height, with light complexion, light hair and blue eyes.

Hope died of scirrhus of the liver on March 31, 1896 at the age of 77. His

wife died on February 12, 1909.

Received with the documents were Hope's kepi of the G.A.R. (Grand Army of the Republic), the Union veterans' organization, and a photo of Isabella and Hope taken in Honolulu in 1853.

The Society is grateful for Mr. Hummel's donation.

* * *

ODDS 'N' ENDS - by Al Mayernik

A search of the microfilms of the Valley Stream Mail and Gibson Herald disclosed another Civil War veteran from our Village.

Valley Stream Mail and Gibson Herald, November 21, 1930

IMPRESSIVE RITES AT FUNERAL OF WILLIAM BITTER

Funeral service for William Bitter, Civil War Veteran, eighty-three years of age, was held Sunday evening, at eight o'clock from his late home on Maple Street with the Reverend Otto Becker, pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, officiating and Commander Thomas H. Stritch, Civil War Veteran of the Adam Gass Post 330 G.A.R., New York City, of which the deceased was a member.

...Mr. Bitter enlisted in Battery K, 5th Regiment, N. Y. Artillery on March 24th, 1864 and discharged July 19th, 1865 and mustered out at Harper's Ferry, Virginia.

Sunday afternoon, 50 members of Andrew Fatscher Post 854, Valley Stream, marched in a body to the Veteran's home to pay their respects and conducted a brief military service....

* * *

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE...

Zones

Teacher--"How many zones has the earth?"

Pupil--"Five."

Teacher--"Correct. Name them."

Pupil--"Temperate Zone, intemperate, canal, horrid, and o." Life

Quotations

Stanley Jordan, the well-known Episcopal minister, having cause to be anxious about his son's college examinations, told him to telegraph the result. The boy sent the following message to his parent: "Hymn 342, fifth verse, last two lines."

Looking it up the father found the words: "Sorrow vanquished, labor ended, Jordan passed."

PANORAMA



NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XVI, No. 2



Horrors d'oeuvres	- Ellis Stewart
Cold Bier	- June Darby
Roast Beast	- Dr. Seuss
Scream Puffs	- Edith Zittler
Decoffinated Coffee	- June Darby

(From October 1988 issue of Reader's Digest.)

OCTOBER 1988

N E X T M E E T I N G

Wednesday,
October 19, 1988
6:30 p. m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Guests are welcome; however, they will be expected to adhere to the foregoing requirements, unless you undertake to do this for them.

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

A short business meeting will follow the supper, and then Jim Boerckel will show photographs pertaining to our events of the past season.

This is always a very popular evening and we look forward to another fine representation of members and guests.

Oh, yes. It's been suggested that everyone label their dishes as we're invariably asked each year, "what was in that marvelous casserole, salad, etc..."

*a/k/a - "Attitude Adjustment Hour"

B I T S O F T H I S ' N ' T H A T . . .

Mr. Carl J. Dinic certainly gave our new season a splendid start with his wonderful slide presentation on the California Spanish Missions. His narration and outstanding photography were a treat, indeed!

At our September meeting, our Country "Storekeeper," Eileen Brennan, presented Treasurer Kevin Egan with a check for \$121 in sales money, which also included receipts from the Home Federal Savings Bank on Rockaway Avenue for the sale of our Long Island towels. For a number of years now, they have kept one on display on a stand near the tellers' windows. We are very appreciative of their support of our efforts and do thank them.

Eileen also announced that she has received a new shipment of our popular new T-shirts.

Al Mayernik is looking for pictures and items of interest involving Valley Stream during the World War II era.

President Ed Fare reported that plans are already being made for the Second Annual Museum Ball to be held early next year.

An update on the new restructured Museum Committee should be available to us at our October meeting.

A reminder to all members who have not yet renewed their dues. If you don't do so at the Covered Dish Supper, you can do it by mail--\$5.00 check payable to the Valley Stream Historical Society and sent to the Society at P. O. Box 22, Valley Stream, New York 11582. We will soon be dropping all delinquent members from the PANORAMA mailing list and we don't want to do that!

O N T H E L I G H T E R S I D E . . .

Mets outfielder Mookie Wilson on why he was wed in a ballpark: "My wife wanted a big diamond." - Sports Illustrated

"Health nuts are going to feel real stupid someday--lying in hospitals, dying of nothing." - Redd Foxx, the comedian *

"When you're pushing sixty, that's exercise enough." *

"Anybody who can still do at sixty what he was doing at twenty wasn't doing much at twenty." * - Jimmy Townsend

*Excerpts from "Everything to Gain (Making the Most of the Rest of Your Life)" by Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter.

Mr. William P. Striss
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BITS OF HISTORY, MOSTLY LONG ISLAND

By Al Mayernik

Columbia Aircraft - Part I

Hundreds of Valley Streamers served the nation valiantly during World War II. They served in all three services; were stationed all over the entire globe. Many were wounded; several were killed in action; some were decorated for bravery.

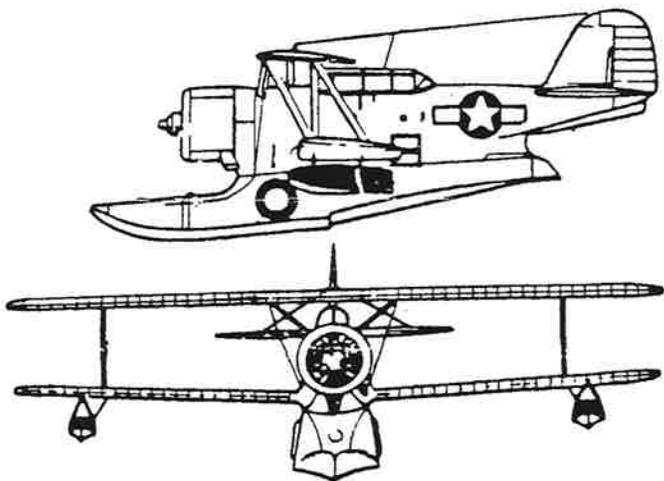
Valley Stream had another war endeavor for which it can justly be proud--the building of the J2F6 ("The Duck") by Columbia Aircraft at the old hangars at Curtiss Airport.

The J2F6 was an amphibian all-purpose biplane, armed with a 30-caliber machine gun and it could carry two 100-lb. bombs and/or two 325-lb. depth charges. The plane had a crew of three: pilot, observer/gunner and radio operator.

The forerunner of the J2F6 was the XJF1 made by Grumman, which took to the air on April 24, 1933. The plane was modified and the JF2, built for the Coast Guard, set a new unofficial world's speed record for its class of 191.796 m.p.h. on December 20, 1934. The plane developed through several modifications: JF1, JF2, JF3, J2F1, J2F2, J2F3, J2F4 and J2F5.

Grumman Aircraft was swamped with orders shortly after the United States entered the War. Contracts included F4F Wildcat, J4F Widgeon, JRF Goose, TBF Avenger and F6F Hellcat. Unable to expand and still fill the orders, Grumman sub-contracted the production of some of its planes. The Columbia Aircraft Company of Valley Stream was formed for the express purpose of filling the ever-increasing need of J2F's. Under the designation of J2F6, Columbia built 330 "Ducks" during World War II.

(To be continued)



* * *

PANORAMA



NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XVI, No. 3

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1988

N E X T M E E T I N G

Wednesday,
November 16, 1988
8:00 p.m.

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

Program

H O B B Y N I G H T

It's been many years since we've had a sort of "show and tell" program, and this one will be worth waiting for!

The members who have volunteered are, Ann Boyden with samples of her needlework, Margie Chvotel will show her quilting talents, Helen Dowdeswell will tell us about her collection of wooden figures from around the world, and Henry Krooss will discuss stamp collecting generally, and as a topic, Christmas stamps, when they started, etc. There's a possibility we might have another participant, too, but definite information was not available at press time.

And our generous cake doners for this meeting will be Mog Wellington, Marion Clinchy, Louise Carducci, Irma Shapiro and Elinore Weis.

Please try to make it a point to attend this meeting and see first hand the pleasure their hobbies bring to these members and those with whom they share them.

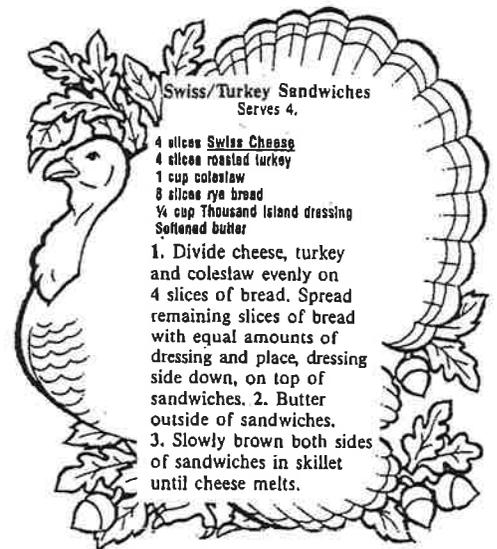
This will be our last meeting for this year; the next will be on Wednesday, January 18, 1989.

* * *

DUES RENEWALS

Claire McMahon reports that there are still a number of members who have not yet sent in their renewals for this year. Your name will be dropped off the PANORAMA mailing list after this issue, unfortunately, if your payment is not received during November. *

*If this sentence is highlighted in yellow, this means your renewal is due.



Swiss/Turkey Sandwiches Serves 4.

4 slices Swiss Cheese
4 slices roasted turkey
1 cup coleslaw
8 slices rye bread
¼ cup Thousand Island dressing
Softened butter

1. Divide cheese, turkey and coleslaw evenly on 4 slices of bread. Spread remaining slices of bread with equal amounts of dressing and place, dressing side down, on top of sandwiches. 2. Butter outside of sandwiches. 3. Slowly brown both sides of sandwiches in skillet until cheese melts.

Christmas on the Farm*

If Christmas means to us one place
More than another, then I choose
That farm, tucked out by time, where
Brook slept, trees blew inward, shoes
Of men and horses hung on stable walls,
And morning stirred the rooster from his
snooze.

There the good season came and grew
Its crop of symbols: fragrant bough,
The hidden fir, the sled, fresh fall
Of snow--all these we harvested. Our cow
Eyed the lantern light which tinsel hay
We forked to manger from the mow.

And in wainscotted kitchen then
Turned zoo, lay suckling pig, a turkey,
duck.

The stove danced lids and offered pies,
Feast thus distinguished from potluck.
We pinched the birds, we cracked the nuts,
And sniffed the pudding, holly-struck.

Yes, now the world is far more real--
Gone the old house, both stoop and stair;
and on credulity we've closed the door.
Yet when the first carols ennoble nippy air
We turn to childhood scene and find
Christmas not only here but there.

--Alonzo Gibbs

*Northwest corner of Hendrickson Avenue
and Henry Street, Valley Stream, L.I., N.Y.

* * *

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE...

My husband was a patient in a pulmonary hospital in the Los Angeles area. One day, while pushing his walker down the hall and doing his breathing exercises, he passed by the therapist station, where the following dialogue took place:

Therapist (in a domineering voice): "Mr. Turner, are you breathing?"

Mr. Turner: "Are you St. Peter?"

Therapist: "Of course not!"

Mr. Turner: "Then, I'm breathing."

-Mrs. Melvin Turner (Reader's Digest)

* * *

Albeit a little early, but since there will not be another issue of PANORAMA until January, the Officers and Trustees of the VSHS extend best wishes for the upcoming holiday season to all our members, friends and their families.

Mr. William P. Striss
41 Parkwood Drive East
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BITS OF HISTORY, MOSTLY LONG ISLAND - By Al Mayernik
Columbia Aircraft - Part II

The Navy was the principal purchaser of the J2F6, "The Duck." The J2F6 was so diversified in its uses that it was used for personnel transport, carrying supplies, scouting, anti-submarine patrol, rescue of aviators afloat in the sea, aerial photography, target towing, and almost any task that arose.

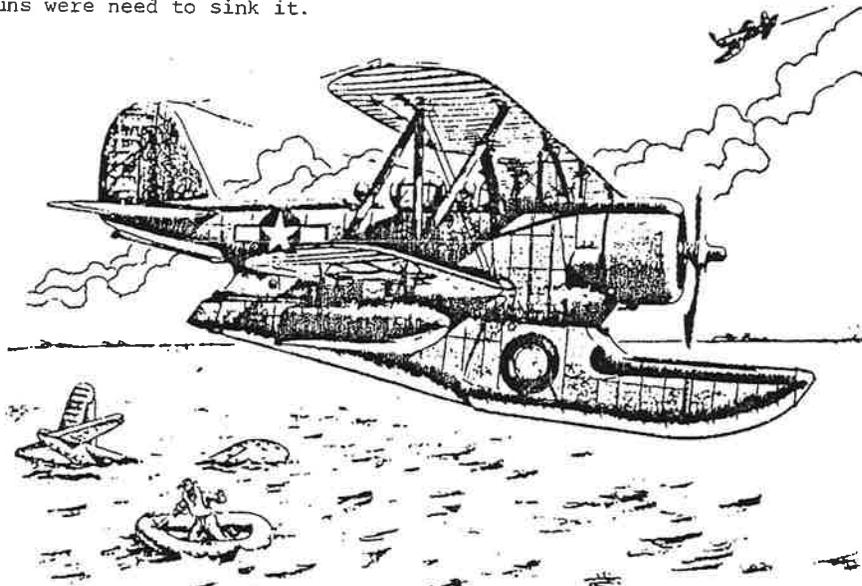
The rescue operations performed by the J2F's was the most important and dramatic. A J2F5 was used as a supply plane for the beleaguered Bataan garrison during the siege of the Philippines in the early days of World War II. On April 8, 1942 this same plane escaped from the Philippines with six men aboard, one of whom was Carlos Romulo, an aide to General Douglas MacArthur. Romulo later became president of the United Nations General Assembly.

"Ducks" made dangerous landings in enemy territory, sometimes with the aid of escort fighters overhead. Often the "Duck" took to the air with a full load of wounded, sometimes with rescued flyers lashed to the lower wings. One J2F, operating out of Henderson Field, Guadalcanal, rescued no less than twenty pilots from the sea.

On a scouting mission, a "Duck" discovered the Nazi weather station in Greenland.

The "Duck" was a very rugged plane and could handle heavy seas. One J2F6 effected a rescue in the choppy seas, taxied nine miles with waves breaking over the top wing, then, when it reached calmer waters, took off without a splutter. Another "Duck" landed in a reef-rimmed, 70-yard inlet, took off within 200 feet against a cross-wind, despite a heavy pounding.

An example of the plane's durability was a "Duck" being towed by a ship in high seas. The tow-line broke twice, waves filled the cockpit and submerged the lower wings. Further towing became impossible so the biplane was abandoned. The next morning it was still afloat and it was decided to sink it by shellfire. Two direct hits from heavy caliber guns were need to sink it.



Erratum: In Part I, the sentence that read "The Columbia Aircraft Company of Valley Stream was formed..." should have read, The Columbia Aircraft of Port Washington moved to Valley Stream for the express purpose of filling the ever-increasing need of J2F's. (Editor: Mea Culpa! Mea Culpa!)