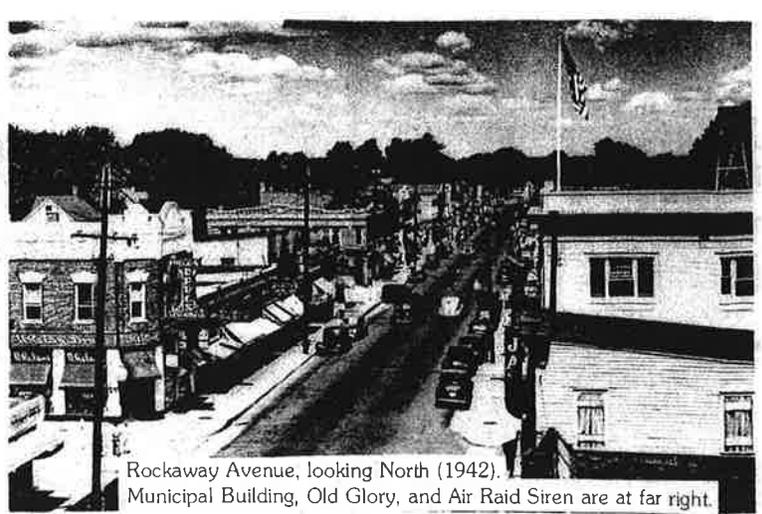


# PANORAMA



Rockway Avenue, looking North (1942).  
Municipal Building, Old Glory, and Air Raid Siren are at far right.

VOLUME XVII, No. 4

JANUARY 1990

## NEXT MEETING

Wednesday,  
January 17, 1990  
8:00 p.m.  
Holy Trinity Episcopal  
Church Hall  
Brooklyn Avenue & 7th Street  
Valley Stream

### Program

#### "COSMOS: THE AMAZING UNIVERSE"

A return visit by Frank Melillo, an amateur astrologist and VSHS member, as well as an active member of the Astronomy Club of Long Island.

Frank's interest in astronomy began when he was just 10 years old and has developed to the point that he now spends 3 to 4 hours each night studying the sky. His articles on meteorites and photographing of flares coming from the sun have brought him correspondence from all parts of the world, his feats having fascinated fellow astronomers everywhere. His wonderful slides are sure to fascinate us, too! Don't miss our kick-off program for the new decade!

We thank Monica Kerner, Helen Dowdeswell, Adele Hagmann and Adele Melillo for volunteering to supply the cakes for this meeting.

\* \* \*

#### UPCOMING PROGRAMS...

February 21 - "Tiffany Glass on Long Island" - Slide/Lecture by Al Mayernik on stained glass windows made by Louis Comfort Tiffany.

March 21 - "Curating a New Museum" - talk by Dr. Bob Bianchi of The Brooklyn Museum.

April 18 - Talk on all the recreational activities in Nassau County parks by Ms. Mary McCarthy.

May 16 - to be announced.

June 20 - Annual Chinese Auction and Strawberry Festival.

## BITS OF THIS 'N' THAT...

Happy news to start off the New Year-- President of our Executive Board, Edwin A. Fare and his fiancée Ronni Wiener have set their wedding date for November 21, 1990.

Our former Recording Secretary, Helen Zang, was feted with wonderful surprise birthday party by her family on January 5th. It's said she was truly surprised and did not stop smiling the whole evening! A great gal is our Helen!

Approximately three years ago a fashion show was held on the lawn of Central High and featured old fashioned gowns loaned for the occasion by various Village residents. Among them was the 1932 wedding gown belonging to member Agnes George. It is a 3-piece white satin gown consisting of a strapless gown, a long-sleeve over blouse with a cowl neckline, and a long train, which wrapped around the waistline. Unfortunately, this was not the gown that was returned to Agnes. We have exhausted all possible leads as to where it might be stored and are now asking anyone connected with that show to assist us in our search. As you can imagine, this gown means a great deal to Agnes and we are trying to do everything possible to get it back for her.

The Oral History tapes are all up to date at the Waldinger Library and can be borrowed by members of the Library. There are close to 40 tapes and they are sure to bring back many fond memories of "the old days" in the Village.

The trip to Old Bethpage Village was so enjoyable that Claire McMahon has scheduled a "Mystery" trip for February. The only clue she will give is "dress warmly."

\* \* \*

#### WORTH REPEATING...

Don't count your years; make your years count.  
Some people know lots more than they tell.  
Some don't.  
Some people are waiting for their ship to come in, and some people are just waiting for their bus to show up.

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

Non-Profit Organization  
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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

### **VALLEY STREAM IN WORLD WAR II - Part IV**

#### **Pearl Harbor and Immediately After**

When many people in Valley Stream and throughout the nation first heard of the Pearl Harbor attack, the immediate reaction was disbelief. This in spite of the peacetime conscription and preparations for a possible war. Later followed hard and bitter belief.

Monday, December 8, 1941, Newsday put out an Extra; in 4½ inch letters, the headline read:

#### **W A R**

##### **Underneath:**

3,000 CASUALTIES IN  
HAWAII; 1,500 DEAD

Items followed with these captions:

U. S. Battleships, Transports Sunk...  
Congress Called to Act at Noon...  
Britain Declares War on Japan...  
Mitchel Field Ready for Action...  
Nassau Seizes Aliens in Roundup...

The Valley Stream Mail and Gibson Herald came out the following Thursday, December 11, 1941. Its headline screamed:

#### **START LOCAL DEFENSE**

The centerpiece of the page was a box labeled "Air Raid Instructions," the first of which was to "keep calm under all circumstances." The air raid warning would be one long blast of the signal. The "all clear" would be a series of short blasts.

The Valley Stream Defense Council office was established in the Municipal Building. The Veterans' organizations, VFW Post No. 1790 and the Andrew Fatscher Post 854 of the American Legion, all initiated and participated in many types of defense programs. The Valley Stream Fire Department also conducted defense classes to which all civilians were invited.

Within a week, more than 3,000 residents signed questionnaires signifying their willingness to enlist in the civil defense program.

(To be continued)

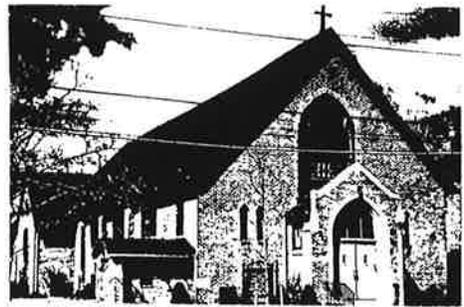
\* \* \*

We were very sorry to learn of the death on December 19th of Burt A. Vander Clute, popular lifelong resident of Valley Stream. He was born in Valley Stream, attended Village schools and was president of the Class of 1939 at Central High. Burt entered U. S. Army Officer Candidate School in 1942 and served in the Army until 1945, after which he joined the New York Army National Guard, rising to the rank of Brigadier General. He retired as the commander of the 42nd Infantry Division Artillery in 1981. Burial was in the U. S. Army Cemetery, Fort Bragg, N.C. and a memorial service is planned next spring in Valley Stream.

# PANORAMA



**NEWSLETTER**



ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Built in 1924 and the parsonage in 1925, the church was moved closer to the corner of the property (Grove Street and Jamaica Avenue) in 1942. A basement was built under it and the parsonage moved to the side of the church.

VOLUME XVII, No. 5

FEBRUARY 1990

## NEXT MEETING

Wednesday,  
February 21, 1990  
8:00 p. m.  
Holy Trinity Episcopal  
Church Hall  
Brooklyn Avenue & 7th Street  
Valley Stream

### Program

#### "TIFFANY WINDOWS ON LONG ISLAND"

Al Mayernik

Another of Al's great programs! This time he will concentrate on church windows in Queens, Nassau and Suffolk. The slide/talk will include the windows of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Islip, which were damaged by fire recently and are now being restored. A chance to enjoy viewing photos of many of the magnificent stained glass windows created by Louis Comfort Tiffany will be provided to us this evening.

We thank the following ladies for volunteering to supply the cakes for this meeting: Agnes Libath, Irma Shapiro, Evelyn McQuade and Grace Donley.

Since "many hands make light work," it would be greatly appreciated if all members supplying refreshments would also help out at the refreshment table, as well as assisting in the kitchen. This will distribute these chores more evenly as the "old timers" seem to be doing more than their share. (They are a very congenial group and you'll enjoy working with them.)

\* \* \*

NOTE: It's possible that the date of our March meeting might have to be changed due to Lenten services at Holy Trinity. Members will be advised as soon as possible.

\* \* \*

## BITS OF THIS 'N' THAT...

At our January meeting, Al Mayernik again mentioned that he is seeking World War II information. He is particularly seeking information about the Gray Ladies--what did they do? He also is seeking the names of Valley Streamers who had been decorated for their service; names of males and females who served and the locations in which they served. Al can be reached through the VSHS post office box, and has asked that anyone writing to him should be sure to include their own name and address if they want their material returned.

As a result of our visit to Old Bethpage Village, arranged by Claire McMahon, the "History of Valley Stream" book compiled by Howard Ruehl is now being sold at Old Bethpage.

Frank Melillo certainly presented a fine program last month. His knowledge and interest in astronomy is so impressive. Even those of us not well versed in the subject listened in awe. (Editor's Note: My apologies to Frank for referring to him as an astrologist rather than an astronomer in the last issue of PANORAMA.)

If you want to give yourself a real treat do what Margie Chvatal has been doing--borrow the Oral History tapes from the Waldinger Library. Margie says they are wonderful. A great debt of thanks goes to Helen Dowdeswell and Adele Hagmann for all their hard work on this project, as well as the staff at the Library for preparing them for borrowing.

## ON THE LIGHTER SIDE...

The town my grandfather lives in, population 2,500, has progressed with the times, even if some of its citizens haven't. One time, Grandpa mailed his utility payment with the envelope marked simply: "Electric Company." The letter was returned with INSUFFICIENT ADDRESS stamped in red. Grandpa promptly remailed it with his own message scribbled across the envelope: IT'S NEXT TO THE DAMN POST OFFICE.

(Reader's Digest)

\* \* \*

MR. WILLIAM F. STRIS  
41 PARKWOOD DRIVE EAST  
VALLEY STREAM NY 11580

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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

**VALLEY STREAM IN WORLD WAR II -PART V**

**CIVIL DEFENSE**

At America's entry into the War, the most urgent problem facing Valley Stream officials was Civil Defense. Fortunately, an aircraft spotting facility had been set up before Pearl Harbor and it operated from the tower of Central High School. The spotting facility had the code name Yoke 584. The number of volunteers of all ages grew so the posts were manned 24 hours a day. At least two volunteers served on each tour of duty; night tours were two hours each. When a plane was spotted, it was phoned into Mitchel Field.

Helen Dowdeswell relates that in the early days, the spotters were so "gung-ho", they reported every plane in the air, until Mitchel asked them to stop reporting planes taking off from there. Over-eagerness caused discomfiture at other times. James W. Pierce recalled the embarrassment his team felt at 4:00 a.m. when they saw a bright light moving toward them. They quickly reported it to Mitchel. A few minutes later, they realized it was the morning star rising through the mists.

The telephone company informed customers by letter and advertisements not to use the phone during air raids or drills; the lines had to be kept open for defense purposes. Queensboro Gas and Electric sent out specific information to customers on how to shut off gas and electric at the meter in the event of an actual enemy air raid.

Emergency assemblies were held in the schools, instructing students and staff in the procedures to be used to evacuate the school. Students were grouped according to the location of their homes. Teachers were assigned to each group to walk them home in the event of an air raid. In the Spring of 1942, there was a report of an impending air attack on the U. S. coast. The evacuation procedure was followed. A false alarm, but the Village was prepared.

Blackout discipline was followed. No lights were to be shown at night and volunteer wardens walked the streets to enforce the blackout.

(Editor's note: I can recall an experience my family had during a blackout. Our little dog had had three puppies and they had just reached a very cute stage, learning how to run, chase each other and investigate everything around them. We were having a grand time with them one evening, us laughing and the puppies yapping, when suddenly we heard a terrible banging on our front door. When I went to answer it, there were two air raid wardens with expressions on their faces that I have not forgotten to this day. I received one of the sternest scoldings of my life for the fact that our house was the only one in Valley Stream with its lights on! I hastily apologized, stating that we had not heard the air raid warning siren and would put out the lights immediately. Which was no easy task while trying to scoop up puppies in the process to keep from stepping on them in the pitch dark. -- Evelyn McQuade)

(To be continued)

**Progress Report:** Some fourth-graders studying the history of their state put on a Colonial Fair, where they displayed various projects such as candlemaking and fort construction. At one booth, a youngster who had made soap displayed the recipe in front of her samples. It began: "Place 2 cups of lard in the microwave to soften." (Reader's Digest)

# PANORAMA



Mayor Henry Hendrickson, Supt. of Public Works Percy Sprague, and Trustee George Lutz inspect truckload of scrap iron during first scrap drive. (1942)

VOLUME XVII, No. 6

MARCH 1990

## N E X T M E E T I N G

(Please note date change)

Thursday,  
March 22, 1990  
8:00 p.m.  
Holy Trinity Episcopal  
Church Hall  
Brooklyn Avenue & 7th Street  
Valley Stream

### Program

#### "CURATING A NEW MUSEUM"

Dr. Robert Bianchi

A return, and timely, visit by the Curator of the Egyptian Department of the Brooklyn Museum. Tonight in his talk/slide show, Dr. Bianchi will be imparting information that is sure to be of much use to us in our own project, the Payan Fletcher House restoration. How lucky we are to have the chance for such expert guidance!

Afterwards, the refreshments will be supplied and served by Peg Keller, Adele Melillo, Jean West, Marge Finkenstadt and Barbara Ehlinger, and we thank them.

\* \* \*

#### THIRD ANNUAL MUSEUM BALL

The Valley Stream Museum Finance Committee has announced that this year's ball will be held on Friday, April 27th at Carroll Hall. Their theme will be the Gay 90's. There will be a complete dinner, great dance music and an open bar. Costumes are optional, and the donation is \$32.50 per person. The funds accumulated over the years are now being expended and new funding is needed to carry the restoration of the Payan Fletcher House to completion. The Annual Ball and Journal have been their major source of revenue. We hope all members will assist as much as possible by attending the Ball and/or perhaps taking a booster or journal ad. For reservations or

ads, please call Frank Koegler at 825-1041.

#### BITS OF THIS 'N' THAT...

Al Mayernik's program on the Tiffany windows on Long Island was thoroughly enjoyed by all. And, there are about 100 more windows yet to be photographed!

Earlier in the evening, Al again asked for more information about the Village and its residents during the World War II period.

If any members would be interested in seeing the Circus at the Coliseum on the morning of March 22nd, please call Evelyn McQuade - 791-2574. The cost, including bus transportation, is \$13.00.

Best birthday wishes to Lillian Weaver, one of our founding members.

Trustee Lena Savery has been on the sick list and we look forward to having her back at our meetings very soon.

The date of our February meeting, the 21st, was the 50th anniversary of Adele Melillo's arrival in this country. Italy's loss sure was our gain! Congratulations, Adele!

#### HITTING THE ROAD THIS SUMMER?

If you will be driving the I-Routes this summer, your trip can be more adventure-some by exiting at any of the hundreds of exits along the Interstate system's more than 42,500 miles. Exit-close are some of America's premier historic, scenic and recreational places. And science adventure places, too. To discover them, you have only to exit the Interstate. Most can be seen and enjoyed in a brief stop. Many are listed in tour books, shown on road maps or announced, miles in advance, by road signs.

#### ON THE LIGHTER SIDE...

One woman was talking to another on the telephone:

"I ran into an old friend from high school the other day and she looked marvelous! She hadn't gained an ounce, and she didn't have a single wrinkle...so I ran into her again."

Give a book as a present--you can always borrow it back!

(Reader's Digest)

MR. WILLIAM F. STRIS  
41 PARKMOLD DRIVE EAST  
VALLEY STREAM NY 11580

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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

### **VALLEY STREAM IN WORLD WAR II - PART VI**

#### **RECYCLING FOR THE WAR EFFORT**

The term "recycling" was not in common use at the beginning of World War II, but the practice under other names was very much in evidence.

Many of the necessities of America's daily life came from other countries. Almost all of the rubber we used came from the Malay Peninsula and Dutch East Indies, now under Japanese control. So the first item to be salvaged was rubber. Mayor Waldinger directed all rubber, such as boots, rubber heels, auto tires, be conserved. Admission to special matinees to 35 of Century Circuit Theaters on Long Island, including Valley Stream, was two pounds of scrap rubber. Later, a tire registration program for the re-capping of tires was put into effect.

Scrap metal such as iron, copper, aluminum had to be saved. The New York State Motor Vehicle Bureau asked that the 1941 license plates not be discarded, but collected by local defense councils. The World War I cannon which had rested on the lawn of the Brooklyn Avenue School was donated to the scrap drive. The American Women's Volunteer Services secured the cooperation of the Maclobe Lumber Company yard (corner of Rockaway Avenue and Merrick Road), for space for a salvage depot. The Village incinerator was another collection point. A Village-wide "junk rally" was held on Columbus Day 1942 under the sponsorship of AWVS and the Village. Village trucks and employees picked up approximately 200 tons of scrap metal.

Appeals to save waste paper were made. Used cooking fats of at least one pound or more were brought to local butchers.

The Valley Stream Committee of the Victory Book Campaign, sponsored by 25 Village organizations, collected used and new books for military posts, naval and merchant marine ships. Collection boxes were placed throughout the Village and the Library sorted, selected and packed the books to be sent on.

(To be continued)

\* \* \*

#### **WHAT MAKES A GOOD WALK?**

First and foremost, a good walk should be a pleasant sensory experience. There should be rich colors to delight the eye and interesting architecture--man-made or natural--along the way to invite close-up study. The more your senses work with your feet, the more satisfying your walk will be. Birds chirping, water babbling, wind rustling the leaves and people happily talking are the symphonic sounds of a good walk. Spring flowers, fresh-brewed coffee, smoke from a wood stove are all pleasant olfactory surprises along the way.

A good walk can be found in cities and towns, as well as in rural or wilderness areas. Plan your route so that a series of intermittent, rewarding destinations will draw you on.

A good walk lasts more than 20 minutes because that's the minimum time it takes to get the body relaxed and in a walking mood. It is done at a good pace, but that isn't to say you can't look around or pick up things or even, in the course of a long walk, sit for a while and have a chat.

Most of all, on a good, brisk walk, you feel alive and relaxed.

(From America's Greatest Walks by Yanker and Tarlow)  
(Reader's Digest)

# PANORAMA



The Valley Stream Mail Baseball League came into being on May 27, 1943, sponsored by editor/owner A. Richard Howe

VOLUME XVII, No. 7

APRIL 1990

## NEXT MEETING

Wednesday,  
April 18, 1990  
8:00 p.m.

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

### Program

### NASSAU COUNTY'S RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

Ms. Mary McCarthy of the Nassau County Department of Recreation and Parks will present a slide/talk explaining the numerous activities and facilities of the Department. The Department operates seventeen active parks throughout the County, as well as the Bailey Arboretum and nine museums. Ms. McCarthy will also discuss popular year-round activities such as indoor ice skating and a senior citizen recreation program, as well as programs for school-age children. Sure sounds like a good way to learn more about the wonderful programs the County provides for us to enjoy.

Following the program, Barbara Ehlinger, Lois Ward and Margie Chvatal will provide and serve the refreshments, for which we say "thank you!"

\* \* \*

### UPCOMING PROGRAMS...

May 16 - Election of Officers, followed by "The Submarine Navy," a talk by Machinist's Mate First Class Carl Black.

June 20 - Installation of Officers, followed by our Annual Chinese Auction and Strawberry Festival. (Don't forget--we'll need lots of "white elephants" and other "treasures" you can donate to the cause.)

Best wishes for joyous Easter and Passover holidays to all our members and friends.

## REGARDING THE THIRD ANNUAL MUSEUM BALL...

"When is the museum going to open?" is one of the most frequently asked questions in Valley Stream.

The good news is that a conservative guess is sometime in the next two years. The other good news is that some type of community activity at the museum is planned for this fall.

The bad news is that funds still need to be raised. Many craftsmen have volunteered their services (electricians, plumbers, etc.). However, the materials needed in their work have to be purchased, for the most part.

At the present time there is but one fundraiser a year for the restoration--a dinner/dance, with this year's being held on Friday, April 27th, with a Gay 90's theme.

For the past two years, this Society has been embarrassed by the poor showing of our members. Just two tables indicates to the public that the members apparently don't care. (Despite the delicious food and great music at the dinners both years.) I would suggest that if you are not interested in attending the dinner that you send a check for \$25 to the Valley Stream Museum Finance Committee as your donation for the year.

If you have been thinking of attending, but dislike driving at night, we will be carpooling. The following Board members would be glad to make arrangements for you:  
Daytime: Eileen Brennan - 285-5612  
Evenings: Evelyn McQuade - 791-2574  
Helen Zang - 825-4625  
Claire McMahon - 561-9879

As a member of the Valley Stream Historical Society, you expect and receive excellent programs, an informative and interesting newsletter and good fellowship. All of this costs you just \$5.00 a year. What are you doing to help the Society?

Claire McMahon  
Vice President, VSHS

[The Museum Ball will again be held at the Carroll Hall, 1 East Lincoln Avenue. Costumes are optional. Tickets are \$32.50 per person and include a complete dinner, open bar and dancing. Valley Stream Auxiliary Police are this year's special honorees.]

VALLEY STREAM NY 11580  
41 PARKWOLD DRIVE EAST  
MR. WILLIAM P. STRIS

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## **BITS OF HISTORY, MOSTLY LONG ISLAND**

By Al Mayernik

### **VALLEY STREAM IN WORLD WAR II - PART VII**

It was not long after Pearl Harbor that stories began to appear in the newspapers about Valley Streamers already involved in the War. In the February 26, 1942 issue of the VALLEY Stream Mail and Gibson Herald, this story appeared:

George F. Sebek, 21, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Sebek of 39 Wilson Road, Valley Stream, stands forth today as a national hero for the courage and keen sense of duty when he sent out an SOS which saved 30 crew members of the torpedoed American tanker, "Cities Service Empire." His message was sent while his body suffered the extreme heat of blazing oil on all sides of the ship.... The 8,103 ton tanker was torpedoed three times in the Atlantic off the Florida coast. Seven men are known dead and four missing....

Other news stories of early 1942:

In early 1942, Charles Lindner, 52, of 204 Shaw Avenue, related to his family how he escaped from the shark-infested waters off Cuba after the freighter on which he was a water tender was torpedoed. "We saw thousands of sharks during the day, but at night when we were holding onto hatch-covers in the water, they didn't come near us. Maybe it was because we were pretty well covered with oil. Sharks don't like oil." Lindner had been going to sea since 1930.

Lt. Isidore Neistadt, well-known physician in Valley Stream, is now stationed at Sheppard Field, Wichita Falls, Texas, serving in the Medical Corps. Lt. Neistadt was the first physician in Valley Stream to enlist in the service since war was declared and, in fact, made his application less than 24 hours after the Jap sneak attack on Pearl Harbor.... The doctor began his practice in Valley Stream 8 years ago....

Ensign L. Pearsall, 21, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward F. Pearsall of North Cottage Street, Valley Stream, has received official commendation from the Navy Department for meritorious action. Ensign Pearsall is reported to have dived into the water fully clothed to save the life of an enlisted man. Pearsall was a graduate of Valley Stream Central High School.

Major Harry W. Gross, former principal of Central High School for 16 years, has been ordered to civilian life due to spinal injury while assigned to active duty.... Major Gross suffered a recurrence of a spinal injury while assigned to Fort Eustis, Virginia, and after hospitalization there, was sent to Walter Reed Hospital, Washington, for further attention. He returned from there in early July. Major Gross was a veteran of World War I.

(To be continued)

# PANORAMA



Mayor of Valley Stream during World War II

HENRY K. HENDRICKSON

VOLUME XVII, NO. 8

MAY 1990

## NEXT MEETING

Wednesday,  
May 16, 1990  
8:00 p. m.

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

### Program

#### "THE SUBMARINE NAVY"

Our guest speaker for this meeting will be Machinist's Mate First Class Carl Black. Petty Officer Black is a submariner and well qualified to present the topic of this program. This presentation should be particularly interesting in light of the recent release of the popular movie, "Hunt for Red October." And, it should also tie in well with Al Mayernik's series on World War II.

Refreshments following the program will be supplied and served by Marion Pohl, Dorothy Skogsberg and Dorothy O'Regan. Thank you!

\* \* \*

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

## BITS OF THIS 'N' THAT...

We have been invited to participate in the Memorial Day Parade on May 28th. Please report to Wheeler Avenue School at 9:00 a.m. We ask that all those who have our VSHS tee shirts to wear them. If you don't have one, don't let that keep you from marching! We hope to have a good turnout.

This year's Nominating Committee--Bert Keller, Agnes Libath and Evelyn McQuade presented the following slate at the April meeting (read by Bert): Anthony Melillo, President, Claire McMahon, Vice President, Marjorie Chvatal, Recording Secretary, Kevin Egan, Treasurer, Margaret Dalton, Corresponding Secretary; 2-year Trustees: Robert Presbrey and Adele Hagmann; 1-year Trustees: Edwin Fare, Helen Zang, Monica Kerner, Helen Dowdeswell and Alphonse P. Mayernik. The election of officers will take place at the May meeting and nominations will be accepted from the floor. Frank Keogler has also been nominated to be liaison between the Society and the Museum Committee.

Al Mayernik is still seeking personalized experiences of Valley Streamers during World War II; perhaps, pictures taken overseas that show the war going on. Please pass the word along to your families and friends to help Al along with this.

WORTH REPEATING...If you are too busy to be miserable, you will be happy.



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

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Payment: \_\_\_\_\_ Check

\_\_\_\_\_ Cash

1990 MEMBERSHIP FORM  
Expires June 1991

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 1 family).... 12.00	

BITS OF HISTORY, MOSTLY LONG ISLAND

By Al Mayernik

VALLEY STREAM IN WORLD WAR II - PART VIII

1942, a Black Year - Valley Stream and the Nation Carry On

January 1, 1943 was not a Happy New Year for Valley Stream and the Nation. 1942 was a black year. The entire continent of Europe, except for the British Isles, Sweden, Switzerland, Spain and Portugal, was under Nazi control. North Africa had been conquered - the Suez Canal was threatened. In the Atlantic, U-boats were sinking Allied ships faster than the United States could replace those sunk.

In the Pacific, things seemed worse. The sneak attack of December 7, 1941 destroyed almost all of our battleships. The Japanese advanced further into China. French Indo-China was under Japanese control; Singapore, the unconquerable, fell, as did Hong Kong. Malaya, Burma and the Dutch East Indies flew the flag of the Rising Sun. After a heroic defense, the Philippines surrendered and many Filipinos and Americans suffered the horror of prison camps. In June 1942, the Japs occupied Attu and Kiska in Alaska, apparently threatening the U. S. mainland itself.

At times, it seemed all the news in 1942 was bad. But, there were some small items of good news that year. In April, Jimmy Doolittle led a raid of B-25 bombers from an aircraft carrier over Tokyo. The raid did no damage of significant military importance, but it did give Americans a boost in morale, which was needed desperately. In June, at the Battle of Midway, the Americans destroyed four of Admiral Yamamoto's finest carriers, causing the Japanese to lose the initiative in the Pacific War. In August, U. S. Marines began the long land offensive against the Japanese by invading the island of Guadalcanal. In November 1942, Allied forces, including Americans, invaded North Africa.

Valley Stream and the Nation carried on. They struggled with shortages and ration stamps. In the Village, inductees left Draft Board 723 in the Brooklyn Avenue School, marched to the railroad station on their way to camp, accompanied by veterans of World War I. Martial music was supplied by the Central High School Band.

To save fuel, strong measures were taken; stores were closed at 7:00 p.m. Clear Stream School ordered a shorter school day by eliminating the noon-hour recess. More and still more war bonds were bought. Central High School gave several Victory concerts. Admission was by buying a Defense Bond or Stamp of any denomination. Blood drives continued; the goals of each drive were higher than the last.

(To be continued)

Our Recording Secretary, Marjorie Chvatal, did it again! Another of her luscious cakes had us all drooling at the April meeting. And, true to form, she promptly supplied the recipe, which is as follows:

DUMP CAKE

1 large can crushed pineapple with juice	3 to 4 cups sliced apples
2 tablespoons lemon juice	1 box yellow cake mix
1/2 cup melted margarine	1 cup chopped nuts

Spread pineapple in greased 9x13 pan. Toss apples and lemon juice, and cover pineapple with apples. Sprinkle cake mix on top and dribble melted margarine over cake mix. Cover with nuts.

350° oven for 20 minutes; remove from oven and cut through to bottom of pan in squares to allow juice to rise. Return to oven and bake 30 minutes or until done.

\* \* \*

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 NY 11580

# PANORAMA



## NEWSLETTER

President.....Anthony Melillo  
 Vice President.....Claire McMahon  
 Recording Sec'y.....Marjorie Chvatal  
 Corresponding Sec'y.....Margaret Dalton  
 Treasurer.....Kevin Egan

### TRUSTEES

Edwin Fare, Chairman of the Board of Trustees  
3-Year Trustees: Bert Keller, Evelyn McQuade, Allan Dowdeswell, Agnes Libath, Anthony Fiero  
2-Year Trustees: Robert Presbrey, Lena Savery, Eileen Brennan, Barbara Ehlinger, Adele Hagmann  
1-Year Trustees: Helen Zang, Monica Kerner, Edwin Fare, Helen Dowdeswell, Alphonse Mayernik

VOLUME XVIII, No. 1

SEPTEMBER 1990

### N E X T M E E T I N G

Wednesday,  
 September 19, 1990  
 8:00 p.m.

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

### Program

#### "A STROLL DOWN MEMORY LANE"

This evening we will show slides from Al Mayernik's fine collection, highlighting some of our past activities. (Al will be on vacation, so our able Vice President, Claire McMahon, will be narrator.)

We would like this kick-off meeting for the season to be special, and so we are asking each member to invite a friend, relative, neighbor, co-worker or acquaintance to come along with you. We are hoping that they will like what they see and hear and decide to join the Society. Numbered tickets will be given to guests and the winner will receive a 1-year membership.

We do hope to have a nice turnout for this meeting, with everyone making a real effort to bring a guest. (But certainly don't stay away if you can't!)

Refreshments following the program will be supplied and served by the Executive Board.

The Board thought it would be nice if members owning a Society T-shirt would wear it to the meeting, thus enabling guests to recognize us at a glance.

\* \* \*

Our annual Covered Dish Supper will be held on Wednesday, October 17th, followed by a sing-along. A new date will be announced shortly for our November meeting as the third Wednesday is Thanksgiving Eve.

\* \* \*

The Society is deeply indebted to Ms. Mamie Eng of the Henry Waldinger Memorial Library for designing and setting up the oral history brochure accompanying this issue of PANORAMA. Her advice, hard work and dedication are appreciated by the Society

and Helen Dowdeswell and Adele Hagmann more than can be adequately expressed here. But, we do thank you, Mamie, for all your interest and assistance over the years--invaluable, to say the least.

\* \* \*

The Rock Hall Museum in Lawrence is showing an exciting exhibit of 19th and early 20th century toys entitled, "Playmates: Toys of Yesteryear". With the cooperation of several historical agencies, the town has been able to gather the actual toys which delighted children during these two time periods. The exhibit will be on through November 30th. It is free and is open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and on Sunday from noon to 4:00 p.m. The Museum is closed on Tuesdays.

\* \* \*

We were deeply sorry to learn of the death in June of Howard Ruehl. Born in Valley Stream in 1910 and attending the Village schools, he lived in town until moving to Florida a couple of years ago. Howard had been very active in the Society, as well as the Village. He compiled and wrote the "History of Valley Stream - 1840-1975," an invaluable book filled with pictures from his personal collection (and others loaned to him). A gentle man, Howard certainly left his mark on Valley Stream, and we do extend sincere sympathy to his wife, Elsie, and their family.

We were also sorry to learn of the passing of Marianne Goetz earlier this year. She and her husband, Ralph, had operated a photography shop in the Village for many years. Prior to moving from town a few years ago, Mrs. Goetz generously gave over a thousand photographs to the Society, many of which will be incorporated into our archives. We extend our sympathy to her family.

Our sympathy, too, to member Agnes George on the recent death of her husband, William, well-known Village attorney.

\* \* \*

WORTH REPEATING..."The right to do something does not mean that doing it is right."

-William Safire

MR. WILLIAM P. STRIS  
41 PARKWOOD DRIVE EAST  
VALLEY STREAM NY 11580

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P. O. Box 22  
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#### BITS OF HISTORY, MOSTLY LONG ISLAND

By Al Mayernik

#### VALLEY STREAM IN WORLD WAR II - PART X

#### Valley Stream War Heroes

Early in the War, news came to our Village of heroism in action of our young men who were serving in the Armed Forces. Among the earliest was the story of U. S. Marine Corps Captain Harry Torgerson, a former Central Hight School student, who was cited for conspicuous valor. He dynamited more than 50 Japanese dugouts during the initial attack by the U. S. Marines on the formerly-held island of Guadalcanal in the Solomons.

The citation read:

In the name of the President of the United States, the Commander of the South Pacific Area and South Pacific Forces takes pleasure in awarding the Silver Star Medal to Captain Harry L. Torgerson, United States Marine Corps Reserve, for service as set for in the following citation:

For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity in action against the enemy while serving with Marine Paratroop Battalion during the attack on Gavutu, British Solomon Islands, on August 7-9, 1942. In close action with the enemy, Captain Torgerson destroyed numerous dugouts single-handed. In so doing, he repeatedly exposed himself to enemy fire and although severely wounded in the course of action, he continued the attack and accomplished his mission. His conduct was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

[The above appeared in the Valley Stream Mail on May 27, 1943.]

In the May 20, 1943 edition of the same paper, the following appeared:

Captain Thomas F. Mullahey of the U. S. Marines, formerly of 10 South Brush Drive, this village, has been awarded a letter of commendation for meritorious conduct as a member of a Marine raider battalion in their victorious attack on the island of Tulagi in the Solomons, last August 7th.

...The missive read in part:

...Throughout the engagement, the coolness, skill and outstanding leadership of Second Lieutenant Mullahey was an inspiration to his command and resulted in the repulse of the enemy with heavy casualties. His conduct was in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

(To be continued.)

\* \* \*

Our Recording Secretary, Margie Chvatal, received a note from Marjorie Arnold Weidman, who had lived on Cochran Place from 1926 until her marriage in 1939. Having gone all the way through school here, she is still very interested in V.S. and has joined the Society. Her parents, Constance and Kilburn Arnold lived in town quite a while after Marjorie left, and they were very active: her mother helped start the V. S. Library and was president of the high school PTA a couple of times. Her dad was on the school board and they both were active in the Episcopal Church. Marjorie now lives in Pinellas Park, FL. Welcome aboard, Marjorie!

\* \* \*

Helen Zang would appreciate receiving more "Memory Lane" articles. Please send them to her at the VSHS box address shown above.

# PANORAMA



**NEWSLETTER**

President.....Anthony Melillo  
 Vice President.....Claire McMahon  
 Recording Sec'y.....Marjorie Chvatal  
 Corresponding Sec'y....Margaret Dalton  
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 1-Year Trustees: Helen Zang, Edwin Fare, Monica Kerner, Helen Dowdeswell, Alphonse Mayernik  
 Editor: Evelyn McQuade

VOLUME XVIII, No. 2

OCTOBER 1990

**N E X T M E E T I N G**

Wednesday,  
 October 17, 1990  
 6:30 p.m.  
 Holy Trinity Episcopal  
 Church Hall  
 Brooklyn Avenue & 7th Street  
 Valley Stream

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

The door opens at 6:15 and members and guests are invited to start off the evening with a wine and cheese social. (Non-alcoholic beverage will also be available.) Supper will follow at 7:00 p.m. Covered dishes should be according to the alphabetical assignments below:

- A - G - Vegetable content, 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, pasta, etc.

As kitchen facilities are limited, hot foods should be fully cooked and hot.

DO NOT BRING MEAT OR MEAT-CONTENT DISHES. The Society will provide these items, as well as bread, butter, tea and coffee. Desserts will be provided by Anthony Melillo, Claire McMahon, Evelyn McQuade, Bob Presbrey, Helen Zang and Al Mayernik of the Executive Board in lieu of covered dishes.

Also, this year the Society will provide a tossed salad, so we ask that members do not bring any.

A minimum donation of \$2.00 per person will be collected at the door.

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

A short business meeting and, by popular demand, Bert Keller will lead us in a sing-along following the supper.

And again, as in past years, we ask that everyone label their dishes so we'll know the answer to 'what was in that marvelous casserole, salad, etc.'

\* \* \*

It is with deep regret that we must report the death of one of our trustees, Lena Savery, on September 19th. Although residents of Merrick, Lena and her husband, Walter, wished to keep their ties to their old hometown of Valley Stream and did so by becoming very active in the Society. Walter was President of the Society at the time of his death as a result of Hurricane Gloria in 1985. The Board wishes to extend sincerest sympathy to their daughter, Diane Woodward and her family, on the loss of this very nice lady.

\* \* \*

**BITS OF THIS 'N' THAT...**

As the date of our November meeting, the 21st, falls on Thanksgiving Eve, it will be rescheduled to possibly the 28th. An announcement will be made at the October meeting, as well as in next month's issue of PANORAMA.

Congratulations to our Recording Secretary, Marge Chvatal and her husband Joe, on the recent birth of their granddaughter.

We are looking for a Program Committee Chairman and are hoping one of you will volunteer; or, perhaps two of you would team up to co-chair this important function.

The brochure on the Oral History tapes was well-received and several people have come forth to tell of their recollections of life in Valley Stream as a result of it. How about you?

Ed Fare gave us an update on the progress of the Payan-Fletcher restoration at the September meeting. Ted Libath also contributed to this report, and all were pleased to learn how well things are going along. Plans are being made for some sort of outdoor program there for the holidays.

\* \* \*

VALLEY STREAM NY 11580  
41 PARKMOLD DRIVE EAST  
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## BITS OF HISTORY, MOSTLY LONG ISLAND

By Al Mayernik

### VALLEY STREAM IN WORLD WAR II - Part XI

#### Wartime Volunteers

During the War, with so many of the Village's young men and women in the military services and many others working in the defense industries, volunteers were needed to carry on the vital war effort within the Village and County: sale of War Bonds, air raid warning, blackout enforcement, Red Cross, etc. The list goes on and on.

Helen Dowdeswell, a young language teacher at Central High, found time to take the early morning shift in the tower of the school to do her duty as an airplane spotter. She was also a member of the Red Cross, in addition to volunteering one evening a week at the French Canteen, which had been established in New York City to entertain sailors from French warships.

Rachel Dann, a Grey Lady from the Red Cross from 1944 to 1947, drove a Red Cross station wagon to Northport Hospital. Often accompanying her were, Alfarata Gross, Charlotte Schulleri, Myra Bachus, and others. They spent the entire day writing letters for the wounded servicemen, playing cards or games. Sometimes Rachel ran a movie projector. She recalls: "the hardest thing was trying to get the men to laugh. When I showed a comedy, I often found that I was the only one laughing. In the afternoon, we always sang as they did seem to enjoy the sing-a-long."

The following is from an article in **NEWSDAY**, August 12, 1944:

"Ask Mrs. Knowles," folks in Valley Stream advise when there's work to be done. "She's the busiest woman in town, but she always manages to find time for an extra job."

That's just what happened when the South Shore branch of the Citizens Committee for the Army and Navy wanted a unit formed here to knit sweaters for departing Valley Stream servicemen and women. They simply asked Mrs. John Knowles, who lives at 29 West Melrose Street, and she said, "We'll start right now." So far, 1,000 sweaters have been presented and almost as many letters of thanks have been received from all over the world.

Here's how Mrs. Knowles went about it. A prominent church and Red Cross worker, and a resident for 25 years, she has a wide acquaintanceship, so by dint of considerable labor, she formed a committee of 150 members in March 1943. They pay annual dues of a dollar and when collection time comes around usually double them. Contributions from every church--Methodist, Baptist, Episcopalian, Presbyterian, Jewish, Lutheran and Catholic--poured in. ...Last November the Central High Band offered its services free and a large sum was realized. ..."Every sweater cost about six dollars. The work is done entirely by volunteers."

(To be continued)

\* \* \*

In **Reader's Digest** in May 1977, the following appeared: A 1913 car owner's manual states: "The automobile has now developed to the point where it is not anticipated there will be further developments or changes, and this manual should be a reliable guide for the motorist of the future."

\* \* \*

**SCHNEIDER, MIKE & PENZA, RALPH:** TV newscasters, Central High School graduates. This is a recording of the recognition ceremony held in the Keller Auditorium at Central High School. Ralph Penza recalls his school days at Central and H. Bertram Keller. Anecdotes by Mike Schneider include fishing in the lake, memories of Memorial Junior High School, and performing in "Oklahoma."  
[Program - May 18, 1989]

**SPINA, PETER:** Advertising sales director for The National, daily sports newspaper. Central graduate Peter Spina tells Central High School audience of the launching of a new publication, The National, and explains his "measure of success."  
[Program - December 12, 1989]



**ACKERLY, MABEL, 1889-1980:** A founder of the Valley Stream Historical Society. Mrs. Ackerly's reminiscences cover topics such as old buildings in Valley Stream, including Miller's Hotel, visits to local schools, origins of village names, the first Carnival in 1910, and Jim Felton's Grocery.  
[Interview - 1973]

**BARKAN, HAROLD:** Son of 1930's storeowner. Mr. & Mrs. Barkan talk about their families, first impressions of Valley Stream, the Softball League, Central High School, Rockaway Avenue merchants, and Firemen's Field.  
[Interview - May 24, 1988]

**BERRY, KEITH:** Active member of many civic organizations. Mr. Berry talks about life in Valley Stream, including his family background, moving to Valley Stream after World War II, work as Park Commissioner, the Valley Stream Rotary, Chamber of Commerce, service on the Village Board, BRIDGE, and the Green Hornets.  
[Interview - April 20, 1989]

SPEAKING OF OUR PAST :

MEMORIES OF OLD VALLEY STREAM

The Oral History Committee of the Valley Stream Historical Society presents a series of recordings of longtime residents. These audiocassettes may be borrowed from the Henry Waldinger Memorial Library.

Interviewers: Helen Dowdeswell Adele Hagmann Library Consultant: Mamie Eng

**BOERCKEL, JAMES, 1923-** Native-born Long Island Railroad executive. Mr. Boerckel speaks about his memories of life in the heart of Valley Stream from the 1920's through World War II, including description of house on 75 West Jamaica Avenue, history of the Valley Stream Fire Department, Anniversary Day parades, the Long Island Railroad, and the KKK.  
[Interview - November 24, 1987]



The First Railroad Station  
Valley Stream

400-0890

**DONAHUE, VINCENT, 1903-** :  
Gibson resident.  
Mr. & Mrs. Donahue talk about life in early Valley Stream, including their homes, family activities, the library, Father McGovern, farms, and Curtiss Airport.  
[Interview - June 13, 1988]

**DONARUMA, ADELAIDE NIELSEN:**  
Lifetime resident of Valley Stream. Mrs. Donaruma tells of growing up on Cochran Place in the 20's, of memories of World War II, and of her life as a married woman.  
[Interview - January 23, 1990]

**DOWDESWELL, HELEN:** Early resident of Valley Stream and high school foreign language teacher. Miss Dowdeswell relates her recollections of the 1920's, covering topics such as her family background, her family home, neighbors, Wheeler Avenue School, teachers, and recreational pastimes.  
[Interview - March 1, 1989]

**DUNCAN, GLADYS LOGAN, 1911- & DUNCAN, WILLIAM:** Former postal worker and wife.  
Mr. & Mrs. Duncan talk about their memories of life in early Valley Stream, including their family background, and anecdotes about Central High School and its teachers.  
[Interview - July 12, 1989]

**DUNCAN, WILLIAM.**  
See: DUNCAN, GLADYS LOGAN.

lyn Avenue School, social activities, W Tom Ward, and Cochran Place.  
[Interview - March 17, 1989]

**WOOD, CHARLES H., 1914-** :  
Former North High School principal and Central High School graduate.  
Mr. Wood shares memories of growing up in Valley Stream and his career as an educator in Valley Stream, including his family background, Brooklyn Avenue

School, and the high schools - Central, Memorial, and North.  
[Interview - March 15, 1989]

**ZANG, HELEN FRERING, 1915-** :  
Former resident of Gibson area. Mrs. Zang tells her memories of growing up on Cochran Place, her family history (three generations of Central graduates), life in Valley Stream since the 1940's, and recreational activities.  
[Interview - May 26, 1989]



#### ONGOING RESEARCH :

Any present or former residents of Valley Stream who would be willing to add their memories to our recorded history are invited to contact:

Oral History Committee  
Valley Stream Historical Society  
Box 22  
Valley Stream, New York 11582

VANDERCLUTE, BURT, 1921-1989:  
Brigadier General.  
See: VANDERCLUTE, BETTY W.

VERBESEY, MARIE MAXWELL:  
Valley Stream resident from  
1940-1989.  
Mrs. Verbesey raised her children in a new home on Astor Place where she lived almost 50 years. She speaks of many courses she took: Cornell Extension at Brooklyn Avenue School and later at Molloy College in Rockville Centre. Her husband, Herbert, was very active in the Athletic Association of Holy Name of Mary, the Little League, and Green Hornets.  
[Interview - March 15, 1990]

VIELBIG, JOSEPH HENRY: Former high school teacher and Central High School graduate. Mr. Vielbig talks about early Valley Stream including his family background, moving to the Gibson area in 1924, Central High School (the story of the Central clock vs. pool), outstanding Central students, outstanding Valley Stream citizens, and Frank Yerby.  
[Interview - January 11, 1989]



WALTHER, EVELYN GOLDER:  
Daughter of 1920's home builder. Mrs. Walther tells of life in Valley Stream from the 1920's as her family moved to different neighborhoods in the village.  
[Interview - January 23, 1990]



Golder's Delivery Wagon

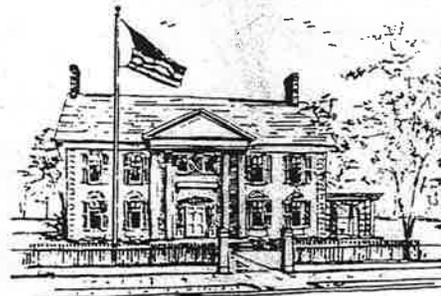
WEAVER, LILLIAN RACK, 1915- :  
Old-time resident of North Central Avenue area. Mrs. Weaver tells her memories of life in early Valley Stream, including stories about her family background, childhood activities, her first job in New York City, the Rainbow Girls, Grace Methodist Sunday School, parades, the formation of the Valley Stream Historical Society, etc.  
[Interview - December 15, 1988]

WEST, HOWARD M., 1918- :  
Former resident of Gibson area. Mr. West talks about his impressions of growing up in Valley Stream between World War I and World War II, including his family background, moving to Valley Stream, Brook-

ENGEL, DOROTHY KRUGMAN:  
Daughter of early Jewish merchants.  
Mrs. Engel tells about her childhood and youth in Valley Stream, covering topics such as her family coming from Russia to America, her high school memories, neighbors, Valley Stream synagogue, and parades.  
[Interview - March 1, 1988]

FINKENSTADT, FRED & MILLER, CHARLES: Sons of pre-World War I storeowners. Mr. Finkenstadt & Mr. Miller reminisce about Valley Stream prior to 1920, covering topics such as family, School District #24, trolley, high schools, the "Pond," Mineola Fair, Pitney Hotel fire, Valley Stream Mail, farms, churches, and many anecdotes.  
[Interview - January 27, 1987]

FREEMAN, HOWARD, 1901- :  
Methodist preacher's son and relative of the Pagan family. Mr. Freeman recalls life in Valley Stream, including school friends, Brooklyn Avenue School, movies



Pagan-Fletcher House

at Doc Muller's drug store, Alonzo Mills, the Valley Stream flood circa 1918, and various "old" Valley Stream families.  
[Interview - September 27, 1989]

GEAR, FLORENCE, 1915- &  
GEAR, MARY: Former teachers and native Valley Streamers. Florence and Mary Gear discuss their childhood in early Valley Stream, schools, and Mary's career as a music teacher in Valley Stream.  
[Interview - November 1, 1988]

GEAR, MARY.  
See: GEAR, FLORENCE.

GIBBS, ALONZO L., 1915- :  
Writer, born in Valley Stream. Mr. Gibbs talks about life in Valley Stream, including topics such as his family background, home at Henry Street and Hendrickson Avenue, neighbors, School District #13, writing career, and his present life in Maine.  
[Interview - February 10, 1988]

GORMAN, THOMAS A., 1925- :  
Former Yankee pitcher. Mr. Gorman talks about life in Valley Stream from 1925, including his family background, neighbors in the Gibson area, sports and recreational activities, his career as a New York Yankee and changes in Valley Stream.  
[Interview - February 23, 1989]

**GOVER, JOAN SCHOENLY:**  
Central graduate.  
A resident since 1941, Mrs. Gover tells of her life as a teenager at Central High School, and her activities during and after World War II. She speaks of her husband's family and their Valley Stream real estate business.  
[Interview - October 23, 1989]

**GRIMM, FLORENCE KINSEY:**  
Member of old Valley Stream family.  
Mrs. Grimm covers topics from pre-World War I, such as her parents and grandparents, various neighbors including the Rasweilers, Lindners, Reisersts, and Cornells, and family activities.  
[Interview - November 16, 1987]

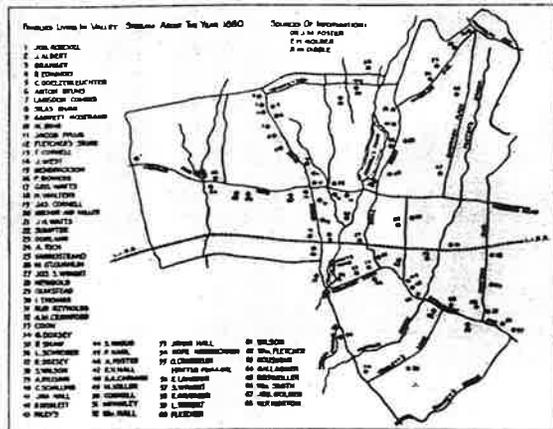
**HALL, ALBERT, 1908-** : Member of old farm family.  
Mr. Hall talks about his life in Valley Stream in the 1920's including his family history, school memories, farm life, Grace Methodist Church, his

marriage, old buildings in Valley Stream, and Curtiss Airfield.  
[Interview - December 1, 1987]

**HARROD, WALTER D., 1919-** : Native-born lawyer.  
Mr. Harrod tells about his family background, his childhood in area of South Franklin Avenue, his law practice, and memories of World War II.  
[Interview - March 28, 1988]

**HENDRICKSON, JOHN C.:** Member of prominent Valley Stream family.  
Mr. Hendrickson talks about the Hendrickson family, the incorporation of Hendrickson Brothers neighbors, Grace Methodist Church, and his summer home.  
[Interview - April 18, 1988]

**HENDRICKSON, MILTON A., 1915-** : Head of Hendrickson Bros.  
Mr. Hendrickson speaks about the Hendrickson family, the incorporation of Hendrickson Brothers, and life in early Valley Stream.  
[Interview - October 24, 1988]



**SMITH, JOHN, 1904-** : Pioneer Valley Stream Musicman for whom the Valley Stream Band Shell is named.  
Dr. Smith shares memories of his music career in Valley Stream, including topics such as the Harmonica Band, the Marching Band, the Community Band, the Summer Music Program, and the Valley Stream High School Music Festival.  
[Interview - February 1, 1988]

**TEMPEL, ERNEST:** Old-time resident of School District #24.  
Mr. Tempel talks about Valley Stream before and after World War I, covering topics such as his family coming to Valley Stream, School District #24, changes in Valley Stream circa 1923, Gibson, Incorporation of Valley Stream, football games, the Depression, minstrel shows, Dr. Foster, Mr. Golder, Mr. Felton, the Fire Department, 1919 flood, and Lang's Department Store.  
[Interview - October 6, 1986]



**TEMPEL, ERNEST:** Old-time resident at Valley Stream Historical Society Meeting.  
Mr. Tempel is introduced by Howard Ruehl. Mr. Tempel's reminiscences cover topics such as

the naming of valley stream as the "Gateway to Long Island," Joe Felton, the first post office, outdoor movies, Doc Foster, Dr. Strohmeyer, Baptist Church, A&P, Watt Home, Mineola Fair, and the bank failure.  
[Interview - May 19, 1987]

**TOTTEN, VERA MILLER:** Daughter of storeowner.  
Mrs. Totten, sister of Charles, talks about her life in Valley Stream during the 1920's and 30's, covering topics such as her ancestors, stores in Valley Stream, the Daughters of Liberty, celebrating holidays, and Henry Hendrickson's 21st birthday.  
[Interview - February 29, 1988]

**VALLEY STREAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY:** Old Timers.  
A program held at the Henry Waldinger Memorial Library includes reminiscences on Valley Stream history by Bert Keller, Howard Clinchy, Alma Lang, Fred Finkenstadt, Chava Krugman, Ernest Tempel, Tony Groenwald, and Howard Ruehl.  
[Program - March 24, 1983]

**VANDERCLUTE, BETTY WRIGHT, 1922-** & **VANDERCLUTE, BURT, 1921-1989:** Members of old Valley Stream families.  
Mrs. Vanderclute and her husband, Burt, talk about their childhood and youth in Valley Stream, including their family histories; other families that lived in Valley Stream, and local organizations.  
[Interview - February 11, 1988]

RASWEILER, SARAH LAVINIA  
ELDRED, 1894-1989: Member of old  
farm family.

Mrs. Charles Rasweiler talks about  
her life in Valley Stream prior to  
World War I including topics such  
as family, schools, church, home  
on Wheeler Avenue, courting,  
teachers, Daughters of Liberty,  
World War I, holidays, and the  
Rasweiler farm.

[Interview - November 3, 1986]

RIDDICK, MELVIN, 1914-

Central High School graduate.  
Mr. Riddick tells his memoirs  
of early Valley Stream including  
his family background, memories  
of the 30's, childhood games and  
activities, high school and grade  
school and his teachers.

[Interview - June 14, 1989]

RUEHL, HOWARD, 1910-1990:

Valley Stream Historian and son  
of Jacob Ruehl, barber.  
Mr. Ruehl talks about early  
Valley Stream, covering topics  
such as childhood home, every-  
day life, childhood activities,  
clubs and organizations, influ-  
ential people, World War I, high  
school prom, father and mother,  
Prohibition and Repeal.

[Interview - April 24, 1987]

SCHMIDT, C. NORMAN, 1911-

Member of old Valley Stream  
family.

Mr. Schmidt talks about his me-  
mories of childhood and youth in  
Valley Stream, covering topics

such as home on Catherine St.,  
relatives in the Keller and Hen-  
drickson families, and his  
teachers.

[Interview - October 28, 1987]



SHANGOLD, JULES: Podiatrist.

Dr. Shangold tells about his fam-  
ily background his naval service  
from 1941-1945, his homes on Ben-  
son Place and Fletcher Avenue,  
how Valley Stream grew in the  
40's and 50's, Green Acres, his  
professional career as a podia-  
trist, and his involvement with  
the Nassau County Podiatry As-  
sociation.

[Interview - May 18, 1989]

SLOWEY, EDITH STICK: Member  
of old farm family.

Mrs. Slowey talks about her child-  
hood and youth in Valley Stream  
including topics such as family  
background, farms in Valley  
Stream, Wheeler Avenue School,  
and World War II.

[Interview - September 25, 1987]

HOLZ, FRANCES: Widow of Dr.  
Wilbur Holz.

Mrs. Holz speaks about "The  
Hewlett House," located at 1  
DuBois Avenue, Valley Stream.  
She talks about the families that  
occupied the house from 1828 to  
1987 and about the architecture  
of the house.

[Interview - July 13, 1987]

KAPPAUF, MADELINE A.:

Native West End resident,  
School District #30.  
Miss Kappauf reminisces about  
Valley Stream before World  
War I and in the 1920's covering  
topics such as schools, family  
life, trolley, home life, church  
activities, Curtiss Airport,  
Sinner's Hope Chapel, Brooklyn  
Avenue School, and Central  
High School.

[Interview - June 5, 1987]



Sinner's Hope Chapel

KEIDEL, RICHARD: Resident of  
School District #13.

Mr. Keidel talks of his favorite  
things and covers various to-  
pics about the history of Valley  
Stream, including the Hurricane  
of 1938, Wheeler Avenue School,

Central High School, Firemen's  
Field, and the Valley Stream Fire  
Department.

[Interview - September 16, 1987]

KELLER, H. BERTRAM, 1915- :  
"Mr. Central," lifetime Valley  
Stream resident.

Mr. Keller talks about his me-  
mories of life in Valley Stream  
and the history of Central High  
School.

[Interview - January 11, 1988]

KELLER, H. BERTRAM, 1915- :  
"Mr. Central" for whom the  
Central High School auditorium  
is named.

This interview continues the oral  
history interview that Mr. Keller  
began on January 11, 1988, con-  
centrating on his memories of  
Central High School and some of  
its alumni.

[Interview - February 1, 1988]



Central High School, Valley Stream

**KELLER, H. BERTRAM, 1915-** :  
Member of old Methodist family. Mr. Keller relates the history of the Methodist Church in Valley Stream from 1898, the Ladies Aid, the Sunday School, the continued expansion, the new church building in 1956, and further developments of the church.  
[Interview - February 20, 1989]

**KELLER, WILLIS:** "Duke," older brother of Bert Keller. Mr. Keller talks about the history of Valley Stream and memories from pre-World War I and the history of the Keller family, covering such topics as the locations of buildings on Merrick Road, Rockaway and Corona Avenues, village celebrations, and village organizations.  
[Interview - September 18, 1987]

**KELLY, CECILE:** Gibson resident since 1930. Mrs. Kelly tells of the arrival of her family, of the children's schooling in Hewlett, family activities at Holy Name of Mary, and the roles of her children and grandchildren in the life of Valley Stream. She ends with a description of the activities and operation of the Monica Housing Complex.  
[Interview - February 13, 1988]

**KRUGMAN, CHAVA:** Russian Jewish storeowner. Mrs. Krugman recalls her life in pre-World War I Russia and in Valley Stream, including topics such as her immigration to America, Ellis Island, and home in Valley Stream.  
[Interview - February 18, 1988]

**LE TURE, THEODORE, 1925-** :  
Roman Catholic priest. Father Le Ture speaks about life in early Valley Stream, including his family background, schooling, Father McGovern, and the Holy Name of Mary parish.  
[Interview - January 11, 1989]

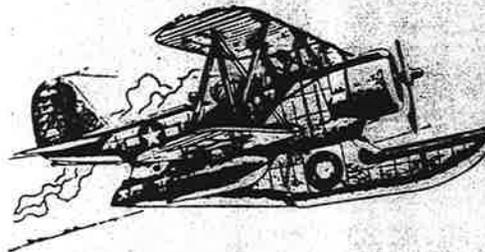
**LIBATH, THEODORE O., 1918-** :  
Local business executive. Mr. Libath tells about growing up on East Avenue, his family background, neighbors, schools and teachers, churches and organizations, and his career at Sid Harvey, including his retirement.  
[Interview - February 10, 1989]

**MC AULIFFE, ELINOR:** Longtime Central High School board member. Mrs. McAuliffe shares her memories as a member of the Valley Stream Central High School Board, including topics of how the different boards of education function, accomplishments of the schools, and present aims of the Board.  
[Interview - January 20, 1988]

**MC MAHON, CLAIRE:** Past President of the Valley Stream Historical Society and teacher. Mrs. McMahon (nee Mildred Donahue) talks about her childhood and youth in Valley Stream covering topics such as her family, her Gibson home, Holy Name of Mary, Father McGovern, the library, Frank Yerby, and hunting in Valley Stream.  
[Interview - March 21, 1988]

**MILLER, CHARLES:** SON OF STORE owner.  
See: FINKENSTADT, FRED.

**MILLER, JOHN:** World War II test pilot for Columbia Aircraft. Captain Miller recounts with humor anecdotes of his flying career and gives detailed descriptions of planes constructed in Valley Stream.  
[Interview - March 1990]



**MILLS, ALONZO:** Co-founder of Mills-Muller Insurance. Mr. Mills' interview is devoted to his comments on Howard Ruehl's book, History of Valley Stream, specific comments about people with whom he was acquainted from pre-World War I.  
[Interview - August 13, 1987]



**PARRISH, CHARLES:** Former Columbia Aircraft employee. Mr. Parrish tells about moving to Valley Stream and his work at Columbia Aircraft in the 1940's.  
[Interview - August 8, 1988]

**POLYCHRON, JAMES, 1950-** :  
Liquor storeowner. Mr. Polychron speaks about growing up and running a business in Valley Stream, including his family and home, Polychron's Liquor Store, neighbors, social activities, BRIDGE, and changes in Valley Stream since the 60's.  
[Interview - May 15, 1989]

**RAEDER, MARION & RAEDER, PHILOMENA:** Gibson residents. Marion and Philomena Raeder talk about their family, neighborhood, social activities, entertainments, the Gaglianos, Brooklyn Avenue School, and Holy Name of Mary.  
[Interview - October 27, 1988]

**RAEDER, PHILOMENA:**  
See: RAEDER, MARION.

# PANORAMA



## NEWSLETTER

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VOLUME XVIII, No. 3

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1990

### NEXT MEETING

Wednesday,  
 November 28, 1990  
 (note date)  
 8:00 p.m.  
 Holy Trinity Episcopal  
 Church Hall  
 Brooklyn Avenue & 7th Street  
 Valley Stream

#### Program

OLD VALLEY STREAM  
 by  
 Al Mayernik

Al has been hard at work setting up a new collection of slides of scenes of old Valley Stream. This has been a tremendous task, requiring Al to sort through over 500 photographs! He expects to show us about 90 at this meeting. Sounds like another great trip down memory lane for us!

Please note the date of this meeting. As the third Wednesday is Thanksgiving Eve, we've rescheduled the meeting to the fourth Wednesday, the 28th.

We thank Marion Clinchy, Beatrice Wandell and Dorothy Mazza for volunteering to supply and serve the refreshments this evening.

\* \* \*

As usual, our Covered Dish Supper was very successful, with many delicious dishes brought by members and guests. It was truly a "bon appetit" night. The Supper was chaired by Lil Weaver, assisted by Eileen Brennan, who both wish to extend special thanks to Peg Keller, Dot Smith, Flo Gunther, Chris Van Buskirk and Adele Melillo for their help, as well as all the nice members who assisted in the general clean-up.

And, the "icing on the cake" was the wonderful "Sing-Along" of favorite Broadway show tunes arranged for by Bert Keller. His song sheets and piano accompaniment, together with a brief background of each song certainly provided a most pleasant

evening for all. Three cheers for Bert, Lil, Eileen and everyone else who had a hand in making the Supper so successful.

\* \* \*

Ed Fare will not be attending our next meeting--he'll be on his honeymoon! Our very best wishes to Ed and Roni for a long and happy life together.

\* \* \*

The Society is saddened at the loss of another good friend, David Hochberg, who passed away last month. A most pleasant man, Dave was interested in all things Valley Stream. He was active in the Society, was most enthusiastic about the Museum, a member of the Library Board and provided so much interesting information with his "Facts & Trivia" column. He will be greatly missed. Our sincerest sympathy to his wife, Rose, and their daughters.

\* \* \*

### BITS OF THIS 'N' THAT...

Ed Fare and Ted Libath reported on the Payan-Fletcher restoration at the October meeting. The new fence has been installed and the other work in progress is going right along on schedule.

Helen Dowdeswell announced that a few more oral history tapes have been received.

Oops! Marge and Joe Chvatal's new grandchild is a boy, not a girl, as reported last month.

Claire McMahon paid very nice tributes to Lena Savery and Dave Hochberg at the last meeting.

We welcome our latest new members--Anita and Jim Buckley, Fred Sherdel, and Kathleen Keely.

The next issue of PANORAMA will be sent out in January. And so, the Officers and Trustees wish to extend very best wishes to all members and their families for a wonderful holiday season.

\* \* \*

**WORTH REPEATING...**"In times like these, it helps to recall that there have always been times like these."

--Paul Harvey

MR. WILLIAM P. STRIS  
41 PARKMOLD DRIVE EAST  
VALLEY STREAM NY 11580

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**HIPS OF HISTORY, MOSTLY LONG ISLAND**

By Al Mayarnik

**VALLEY STREAM IN WORLD WAR II, Part XII**

**Death of Doc Foster**

During the War, many doctors volunteered or were drafted into the different military services. The remaining doctors had to take on the additional patients, working extremely long hours. The death of Doc Foster can properly be called a war casualty.

The following is from the Valley Stream Mail and Gibson Herald of November 18, 1943:

Doc Foster is dead! Thousands of hearts in Valley Stream are saddened deeply with this announcement. His deeds and kindnesses in his profession have been known for the past 44 years...and will be remembered for many years to come.

Dr. J. Mansfield Foster, 68, was found dead in his car from a heart attack Monday on South Drive by Patrolmen George Luther and Fred Savage of the Fifth Precinct. He had evidently died during the night, having driven his car off the main thoroughfare, Mill Road, when he felt the attack approaching. The motor of his car had been switched off, but the lights were on.

Papers on his person indicated that his day had been a heavy one, with records of many patients having been called upon. He was on his way to visit other patients when he died. His close friends recall that on many occasions he had expressed a wish that he would prefer to die while active in his profession.

About a year ago, Dr. Foster was confined to his bed for several months with a heart attack and it was generally believed that he would give up his practice...but, as his strength returned, and his old patients called and insisted that he treat them, it was not long before his practice again demanded many long and arduous hours. Indeed, during the period since his illness, he seemed more active than in the past...

Death came to the physician on a road a few feet from Foster's Brook, named after Abram S. Foster, his father, who, years ago, farmed a large tract of land in the vicinity of Rockaway Avenue from Fifth Street south to Foster's Brook. The Foster home-  
stead was located there and Dr. Foster first saw the light of day but a few feet from the same brook.

During the days before the advent of autos and other transportation conveniences, Dr. Foster traveled many miles a day in horse-and-buggy, not only to patients in Valley Stream, but several miles distant. He was the only doctor in the Village for years....

(To be continued)

**LAST CALL** for members who have not yet paid their dues for 1990/91. We will be revising the PANORAMA mailing list after the November meeting, deleting the names of all who have not renewed their memberships. Please renew now while it's fresh in your mind; checks should be made payable to the Valley Stream Historical Society.

Membership categories are:

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

\* \* \*

[If anyone is interested in going to Ellis Island/Statue of Liberty on November 13th, call Evelyn McQuade - 791-2574.]

\* \* \*