

PANORAMA

VSHS OFFICERS - 1993-1994

President.....Kevin Egan
Vice President.....Claire McMahon
Recording Sec'y.....Ruth Anholzer
Treasurer.....George Donley, Sr.
Corresponding Sec'y.....Kathleen Keely

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Editor: Evelyn McQuade



NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XXI, No. 4

Pagan-Fletcher Restoration - 872-4159
143 Hendrickson Ave.

JANUARY 1994

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday,
January 19, 1994
8:00 p.m.
Holy Trinity Episcopal
Church Hall
Brooklyn Avenue & 7th Street
Valley Stream

Program

"HIDDEN SECRETS OF LONG ISLAND"

Part II

ROBERT CAMMANN

This evening's program will be the continuation of the one presented at our November meeting.

Photographer and lecturer Robert Cammann will take us on the next lap of his journey along the highways and byways of Long Island.

Those who saw Part I will surely not want to miss Part II. And, for those who were unable to attend the November meeting--"half a loaf is better than none"--so you owe it to yourselves not to miss this program!

The ladies who will be supplying and serving the refreshments following the program will be Elinore Weis, Evelyn McQuade and Marge Chvatal. We do appreciate it, ladies!

* * *

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM - Helen Dowdeswell and Adele Hagmann have been doing a fine job interviewing folks about their recollections of life in Valley Stream--over 100 to date. If you have memories you'd like to share, why not let them know; they'd love to hear from you.

* * *

MARITIME WEEKEND AT SEA - May 20th to the 23rd - Claire McMahon reports that there was a good response to the news about this fun weekend (PANORAMA, November '93 issue). There are still accommodations available; call Claire

for information--561-9879.

* * *

DEEPEST SYMPATHY to member Joe Bergen on the loss of his beloved wife, Doris. Also, to Marge and Joe Chvatal on the death of their beloved daughter-in-law, Mindy.

* * *

PAGAN-FLETCHER RESTORATION - our beautiful house is open every Sunday from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. and continues to attract visitors every weekend. It was beautifully decorated for the Christmas season and the gingerbread house contest drew over three times as many entries this year as last. And, we do thank the members who donated cakes for the cake sale held the same day.

The Board is planning several interesting events for the coming year, and announcements will appear in PANORAMA, as well as the local newspapers.

* * *

The Officers and Trustees extend their best wishes to all for a happy, healthy New Year.

* * *

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

A grandpa, well into his 80's, finally decided to get one of those "newfangled hearing aids." Awhile later, he stopped at the store where he bought it. The beaming store manager greeted him and said, "Your relatives must be happy to know you can hear so much better."

"Oh, I ain't told 'em," the old-timer chuckled. "I've been sitting around the house listening and you know, I've changed my will twice already."

The Denmark Press

* * *

EDITOR'S NOTE - I've been in charge of PANORAMA since February 1979 and now feel that it is time to pass it along to someone else. I do hope someone will volunteer soon to ensure its continuation.

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

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Valley Stream Historical Society
P A N O R A M A
P. O. Box 22
Valley Stream, NY 11582-0022

BITS OF HISTORY, MOSTLY LONG ISLAND
By Al Mayernik

VALLEY STREAM IN WORLD WAR II - Part XL

The Valley Stream Mail and Gibson Herald continued its coverage of our men and women in the service during the bloody days of 1944:

July 17, 1944 issue: Pfc. John F. Zelvis, son of John J. Zelvis of 18 Drake Street this village, has been reported killed in action by the War Department this week. He lived in the village about a year and a half and was graduated from Boys' High School, Brooklyn.

Before entering the service, Private Zelvis had been employed as a tool maker in a war plant. He entered the service March 16, 1943. After training at Fort Bragg, N.C., he went overseas in October and attended an army engineering school for nine months. He left England to cross the Channel on his first active duty.

August 3, 1944 issue: Returning to this country after air battles within 500 miles of Tokyo, Lieutenant (j.g.) Warren R. Omark, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. Erick Omark of 27 Lamberson Street, this village, has completed exciting fighting with Air Group 24 from Dutch New Guinea. His record with this outfit is one of many successes and brilliant air feats.

Omark's Avenger plane was the only one of four that returned from an attack on a Japanese fleet. The attack was made by torpedo planes without fighter support and the unit fought as part of the famous Task Force 58.

Lieutenant Omark told of seeing the torpedoes explode against the side of a 28,000-ton enemy aircraft carrier of the Hayataka class. Racked by repeated explosions, the carrier was observed down by the bow so deep that her propellers were visible.

The gas was so low in Lieutenant Omark's Avenger, he hardly got back to the carrier before the fuel tanks were empty.

The encounter was part of a two-day action. On the first day, the Japanese lost 402 aircraft in an effort to cripple the American fleet and block the invasion of Saipan. The following day, the enemy lost one carrier, two tankers and a destroyer sunk.

Omark, who is a graduate of Lawrence High School and Hofstra College, received his wings at Jacksonville, Fla., in October 1942 and was sent overseas in March 1943.

August 3, 1944 issue: Second Lieutenant Donald W. Wendt, of this village, who was reported missing in action over Germany May 11, is held a prisoner of war, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Wendt of 24 Fifth Street, have been informed.

A member of the same fighting squadron, Lieut. Edward Heins, told the missing fighter's parents on a recent visit here, that their son, although shot down, had parachuted to safety. He also disclosed that the missing man had been awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received flying over Brunswick. He was a pilot in a B-17 Flying Fortress and had completed 22 missions and had only three to go before getting a leave home.

(To be continued)

* * *

PRICE OF ADMISSION (Contributed by Ralph Goodrich--Reader's Digest)

A relative had our family tree traced back to medieval England. On a trip to Britain, my wife and I visited Goodrich Castle, which bears our name. Near the castle's entrance was a little shed where a woman was taking tickets. I jokingly told her my name was Goodrich and that I had come from the United States to claim the castle. "Oh, good!" she replied. "You owe us 900 years in back taxes."

* * *

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VOLUME XXI, No. 5

Pagan-Fletcher Restoration - 872-4159
143 Hendrickson Ave.

FEBRUARY 1994

NEXT MEETING

THURSDAY,

February 17, 1994
8:00 p.m.

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

Program

HOBBY NIGHT

Please note that this meeting will be held on Thursday, rather than on Wednesday, due to Lenten services at Holy Trinity on wednesday.

A repeat of one of our favorite programs! The McKennas will once again be rounding up members with collections, hobbies, and interests that they might share with us. Last year's Hobby Night was outstanding! If you have a favorite collection or interest that you'd like exhibit, please give Jay McKenna a call at 825-2490.

Refreshments will be supplied and served by Elinore Weis, Evelyn McQuade and Marge Chvatal. We do thank you, ladies!

We will be rescheduling the speakers whose programs had to be cancelled due to the weather conditions in January and the change in this meeting date.

We're sorry that Bert Keller is on the sick list, but so pleased that he is feeling better. [No visitors, please.]

EDITOR'S NOTE: I have not heard from anyone who might be interested in assuming the editorship of PANORAMA. A newsletter is vital to every organization. Someone, please give serious thought to this matter.

PAGAN-FLETCHER UPDATE

The Board is planning several exhibits at the Restoration for this year. Unfortunately, some ideas had to be put on hold because of necessary cancellation of meetings. A photography exhibit is being considered; a High Tea will be held sometime this year; the Quilt Show is scheduled for October 15th and 16th, to coincide with the crafts show to be held in Hendrickson Park at that time.

But, special exhibits or not, the Restoration is always open on Sunday afternoons from 1:00 to 4:00 PM.

Last year, former Valley Streamers, Mr. and Mrs. Harold F. Igoe (now of Grafton, VT) donated a gasoline pump and beautiful mirror to the Restoration. The pump is circa 1918 and Harold found it in the garage of a former mansion in Westchester. The Igoes donated the \$100 purchase price and arranged for it to be brought down to Valley Stream. The mirror (now located on the landing between the first and second floors) originally belonged to Lois Igoe's grandmother and was in a brownstone house in Brooklyn. When Lois's parents moved to VS in 1928, they brought the mirror with them. The Igoes donated it to the Pagan-Fletcher house when they moved to Vermont and realized their ceilings there are only 8 ft. high, so moving it up there was not practicable. It makes such a lovely addition to the house, and the gas pump certainly adds an interesting touch located there in front of the old filling station building in the yard. The Igoes have always been very generous to and interested in the Restoration, and we are very appreciative.

REAL LIFE is very different from soap-opera life. For example, in real life:

- You go to fewer than 4 parties a week.
- Your great-grandmother looks her age.
- The odds are the only time you were ever in a home worth more than a million dollars was when you paid \$2 a head for the tour.

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BITS OF HISTORY, MOSTLY LONG ISLAND

By Al Mayernik

VALLEY STREAM IN WORLD WAR II - Part XLII

The coverage of Valley Streamers in World War II continues in the issues of the **Valley Stream Mail** and **Gibson Herald**.

August 3, 1944 issue: Lieutenant Edward C. Wahlgren, who was reported missing over Germany on June 20, is now a prisoner of war, according to the recent word his mother, Mrs. Esther Wahlgren of 15 Ballard Avenue, Valley Stream, received from the government.

A bombardier on a B-24 Liberator, the young airman, who joined the service two years ago, won his commission and his wings at the Midland Bombardier School, Texas, last October. He sailed for England about five months ago.

Wahlgren was graduated from the Central High School and was employed by the Chase National Bank in New York prior to his enlistment.

August 3, 1944 issue: Saipan, Mariana Islands - (Delayed) - A Valley Stream, Long Island, N.Y., Coast Guard member, participating in his sixth invasion, heroically swam through pounding surf to carry a line to a stranded tank lighter in range of extremely active Jap mortar fire.

"My feet hurt a little," was the first comment of Boatswain's Mate First Class Clarence Sutphin, husband of Mrs. Mona Sutphin, 22 Cambridge Street, after coming aboard his control craft.

Later he told of swallowing a false tooth when a big wave hit him in the back just before reaching the LCM. "But I coughed it up," he added, displaying the front upper, then back in place.

Returning to the ship after putting a medium tank ashore, the lighter became hung up on the coral reef. The salvage craft first fired a linegun to the craft, but a cable connection broke soon after the towing attempt started.

Sutphin then volunteered to carry the tow line and jumped overboard with a life-ring and small cord. An LVT finally pushed the boat off the reef.

A downpour of enemy mortar shells, some landing as close as 25 yards, complicated the tricky task.

It was the 20-year old Coast Guardsman's sixth invasion. Previously, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence H. Sutphin, 114 Cochrane Place, was at Casablanca, Sicily, Makin, Kwajalein and Eniwetok.

August 10, 1944 issue: Private First Class James J. Fitzpatrick, son of Mrs. Margaret Fitzpatrick of 216 Locust Street, has been reported killed in action, according to a telegram received by his mother from the War Department last week. He met his death in the battle of Saipan.

The young Valley Stream soldier left Woodmere High School, where he played football, to join the National Guard four years ago in October 1940. He was stationed at Fort McClelland, Ala., and when war was declared, he was transferred to the west coast. In March of 1942, Fitzpatrick was stationed on Kauai Island, Hawaii. He has not been home in three years.

Fitzpatrick was in the 165th Infantry, known as the "Fighting 69th" in the last war. He was one of the first ashore during the Makin invasion.

Besides his mother, Private First Class Fitzpatrick is survived by his sister, Toby, and two brothers, Eugene and Raymond. Raymond is a private now serving in the army.

(To be continued)

* * *

Skill is successfully walking a tightrope strung between the twin towers of New York City's World Trade Center. Intelligence is not trying.

(Reader's Digest)

PANORAMA



NEWSLETTER



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Editor: Evelyn McQuade

VOLUME XXI, No. 6

Pagan-Fletcher Restoration - 872-4159
143 Hendrickson Ave.

MARCH 1994

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday,
March 15, 1994
8:00 p.m.
Holy Trinity Episcopal
Church Hall
Brooklyn Avenue & 7th Street
Valley Stream

Program

ART HISTORY OF GREECE AND TURKEY

JOAN DUFFY

Tonight's program will feature a beautiful slide presentation depicting Joan and Frank Duffy's trip last summer to Athens, some of the Greek Isles, Istanbul and Ephesus, among other historic and beautiful places. They flew to Athens and then proceeded by ship, ending in Turkey. [Ephesus was the residence of St. Paul for 3 years, and afterward, while in prison in Rome, he wrote his "Epistle to the Ephesians" to the church at Ephesus.] The slides are Frank's, but he has prevailed upon Joan to do the presentation. So---don't miss out on "Duffy Night"!

We thank members Kay Keely, Dot Smith, Martha Kirschhoefer and Grace Donley for volunteering to provide and serve our refreshments.

* * *

For our April 20th meeting, Al Mayer-nik will be presenting the next edition of his "Valley Stream in World War II" slide presentations. Al is still seeking World War II photo-graphs and information. Please try to help him out by seeking stories and pictures from friends, relatives, neighbors, former classmates, etc. Al can be reached through the VSHS post office box #22.

PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW

The next fundraiser for the Pagan-Fletcher Restoration will be a Photography Show to be held on Saturday, April 16 and Sunday, April 17 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Restoration. So far, four local photographers have signed up, in addition to members of some of the school photography clubs. Anyone else interested in exhibiting their photos can call Marge Chvatal at 825-0324.

* * *

At our February meeting, we were delighted to receive a check for \$2,000 from the Pagan-Fletcher Finance Committee. The presenter was Joe Bergen [and rightly so!], who was the chairman of the Door-to-Door Campaign to raise funds for the Restoration. Joe did a tremendous amount of "behind the scenes" work for that project and was ably assisted by other members of that committee and VSHS members in canvassing Village residents for contributions.

At a recent meeting, Frank DeMita, the Committee Chairman, announced that, to date, over \$12,000 has been presented to our Society as a result of their fundraising efforts! The next scheduled event is a "Fun Run" on Sunday, May 22nd in Hendrickson Park, under the three-way sponsorship of the Village of Valley Stream, the Restoration Finance Committee and the Valley Stream Running Club. The local papers should have complete information as the date approaches.

* * *

We're sorry to hear that members Charlotte Ames and Elsie Paudel have suffered accidents and hope they will both be feeling much better soon.

* * *

Hobby Night at our February meeting was fun, with Marge Chvatal's collection of Raggedy Ann and Andy dolls, Carol and Jay McKenna's Japanese wood block prints, Mike Stankowits' button collection and the police badge collection of Phil Clemens.

* * *

MR. WILLIAM P. STRIS
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BITS OF HISTORY, MOSTLY LONG ISLAND

By Al Mayernik

VALLEY STREAM IN WORLD WAR II - Part XLII

This story is from the September 14, 1944 issue of the Valley Stream Mail and Gibson Herald:

So big that he squeezes his 200 pounds into a P-47 Thunderbolt fighter plane, First Lieutenant Edward F. MacLean, 23 year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. S. A. MacLean, 235 North Central Avenue...is called "Big Mac" by brother pilots.

A veteran of 70 combat missions with victory over an ME 109 shot down April 24, 1944, Lt. MacLean holds the Air Medal with 13 oak leaf clusters. He flies with a crack Ninth Air Force P-47 Thunderbolt group known as "Mogin's Maulers," commanded by 28 year-old Colonel Morton D. Magoffin, Deerwood, Minn. Flying from an advanced base in Normandy, this group is helping spearhead Allied advances through France by dive-bombing and strafing German supply columns, gun positions, armored vehicles and rail lines.

"Times have been exciting enough since D-Day," grins the Valley Stream youth. "On a mission south of Paris in late July, we caught two trainloads of Nazi tanks with ammunition loaded onto flatcars and a third train of fuel. The tracks were bombed front and rear and the trains were stalled. Our boys flew in low, firing their 50-caliber wing guns with armor-piercing ammunition until the tanks caught fire. I flew in with three other P-47 Thunderbolt pilots and shot up the oil cars until they exploded. Our squadron received a special commendation for that day's work."

* * * *

When American troops isolated Cherbourg, the enemy tried to escape by every available means of transportation, including horse-drawn carts. That's another lively story to Lt. MacLean:

"We were flying at 2,000 feet in a flight of four one afternoon when we saw a long line of horse-drawn carts moving south. I dropped down to 800 feet to investigate and was greeted by wild firing from the ground. Then I saw them--Germans standing by their horses to keep them from bolting. Other Nazis were hitting the ditches."

"I informed the boys and we had a field day, strafing the entire column. Many carts of ammunition were blown sky high and burned like tinder boxes. We weren't waging war against the horses, so we singled out the carts as best we could."

Of all his actions, Lt. MacLean is most proud of shooting down the German ME 109 on a mission near Munich, Germany, on April 24, 1944.

"I was flying wing to Colonel Magoffin when some of our bombers returning home from Munich called in that they were under attack. Then we saw six ME 109 fighters below. We dived from 18,000 to 10,000 feet. The Colonel overshot his Jerry and the enemy got on his tail. I whipped around and fired into the ME 109's tail and saw my tracers hit his canopy. The pilot tried to get out, but failed and crashed into the ground from 150 feet. I was so close to the trees that I had to pull up sharply to avoid a crash. I'll never forget that enemy plane...."

Lieutenant MacLean dubbed his fighter plane "Bonnie," which he explained is a good Scotch name. He graduated from Valley Stream's Central High School in 1939 and entered the Army Air Force in 1942. He received his wings at Mission Field, Texas, May 26, 1943 and has been overseas with "Mogin's Maulers" since November 1943.

(To be continued)

* * *

"Resolve to be happy, and your joy and you shall form an invincible host against difficulties."
- Helen Keller

PANORAMA



NEWSLETTER



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VOLUME XXI, No. 7

Pagan-Fletcher Restoration - 872-4159
143 Hendrickson Ave.

APRIL 1994

N E X T M E E T I N G

Wednesday,
April 20, 1994
8:00 p.m.
Holy Trinity Episcopal
Church Hall
Brooklyn Avenue & 7th Street
Valley Stream

"VALLEY STREAM IN WORLD WAR II" Part II

Al Mayernik

Al's slide program this evening will feature scenes of the Village during the War, and is about seventy Valley Streamers who were fighting the War. Many of them were wounded and several were killed in action.

This should evoke many memories for those of us who were living in town at that time and should be a step back into the pages of local history for those who were not here.

Refreshments will be supplied and served by Carol and Jay McKenna, Fran Holz, Marjorie Chvatal and Evelyn McQuade, and we thank them.

* * *

WORTH REPEATING

Exhilaration is that feeling you get just after a great idea hits you, and before you realize what's wrong with it.

In moods of doubt and frustration in the face of injustice and wretchedness, I think of the counsel of the most sagacious man I have ever known, Justice Brandeis. "My dear," he once advised his impatient daughter, "if you would only recognize that life is hard, things would be so much easier for you." (Paul A. Freund)

* * *

This year's Nominating Committee, Jay and Carol McKenna and Bob Presbrey, will be presenting the slate to be voted on at the May meeting at the upcoming April meeting.

UPCOMING EVENTS...

April 16 & 17 - 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

PHOTOGRAPHY SHOW - Pagan Fletcher Restoration Fundraiser - featuring photos by local photographers, as well as students from some of the school photography clubs. Anyone interested in taking part can call Marge Chvatal at 825-0324. Admission: \$3.00; seniors: \$2.00; children 12 and under: no charge. Parking in Memorial Junior High School lot, Fletcher and Hendrickson Aves.

April 23 & 24, April 30 & May 1

12:00 to 4:00 p.m. - Pagan-Fletcher ART SHOW presented by the Long Island Art Teachers' Association, featuring works by students of Long Island schools.

April 23 - EARTH DAY - Village Green
(see local papers for details)

May 22 - "FUN RUN" - Hendrickson Park co-sponsored by Village of Valley Stream, Valley Stream Running Club and the Pagan-Fletcher Finance Committee. Again, see local papers for details and the next issue of PANORAMA.

* * *

BITS OF THIS 'N' THAT...

Our sympathy to Life Member Donald Moore on the recent passing of his beloved wife, Joan.

Last month's program with Joan Duffy narrating husband Frank's slides, was most interesting and informative about art history of Greece and Turkey.

Bert Keller has been seen walking around the neighborhood--a welcome sight!

The Valley Stream Garden Club will be putting in an herb garden at the end of May in the Pagan-Fletcher yard.

And, many of the bulbs Ted Libath planted a while ago should be starting to make their presence known soon.

There is always room for more volunteers to help out at the Pagan-Fletcher Restoration on Sunday afternoons. You will be briefed on the history of the house and will find it very enjoyable sharing the knowledge with the visitors. Leave a message at the Restoration number.

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BITS OF HISTORY, MOSTLY LONG ISLAND
By Al Mayernik

VALLEY STREAM IN WORLD WAR II - Part XLIII

Attached to Joe Bernholz's World War II information sheet was a carbon copy of a newspaper article, paper and date not given.

Aboard Coast Guard Manned Attack Transport U.S.S. Bayfield, off Southern France: August 22, 1944. The story of how seven small LCV's (Landing Craft Vehicles, Personnel) loaded with Navy demolition squads, were, somewhat contrary to plans, the first to take Red Beach at St. Raphael in the invasion of the French Riviera Coast was revealed when two old Valley Stream Central High School friends met each other aboard this Coast Guard...transport.

Teller of the tale was Joe Bernholz (815-85-94) Seabee Machinist Mate First Class, who was a member of the demolition unit. His auditor was John J. "Pat" Paterson (224-328) Coast Guard Radioman First Class, who is serving in his second invasion as a member of the crew of this ship.

Plans for the operation had left options on the manner of taking Red Beach and St. Raphael. On D Day, with the operation...ahead of schedule, an attempt to land there was made but abandoned when radio-controlled small boats laden with explosive charges failed in their mission of blowing up obstacles. Bernholz and his mates had heard Berlin Sally claim that the Germans had a countermeasure for the so-called Apex boats and believed that the Nazis jammed the American wave lengths and took control of the boats.

Later, word came through to the Seabees that the Army was moving in on St. Raphael and they were to go there the next day and clear the beach of obstacles.

Not too happy over their assignment, the demolition squads loaded their high explosives into the LCV's on D plus One and headed for Red Beach.... They passed through five mine fields and transferred from the LCV's into rubber boats, from which they began placing their charges. As the first rubber boats approached the shoreline, white flags fluttered from gun emplacements along a seawall--guns which could have blasted the tiny flotilla out of the water had they opened fire; and 28 German prisoners poured out of pillboxes to surrender to the surprised Seabees.

While the demolition men were busy rounding up the prisoners and set charges, an Army officer came up to the beach and said, "Hey, what are you doing here? The Infantry hasn't taken the beach yet." To which Bernholz replied in effect, it was none of their business where the Infantry was; they were more interested in clearing the concrete Dragons Teeth with their Teller mines from the shallow water so boats could land.

Bernholz couldn't understand or explain why the German troops had not fired a single shot to defend the beach which was virtually impregnable from the sea. But he and his mates hadn't much time to think about it as they threaded their way through the fields of land mines their German captives had pointed out to them; dived to place charges on a sunken ship which was blocking the harbor; detonated two of the explosive-filled boats which had failed in their mission the previous day; and, rapidly and skillfully, did all the things necessary to open the beach to the landing of additional troops and supplies.

Bernholz, son of Mrs. Florence Bernholz, 55 Miriam St. ...entered the Seabees in November 1943. Before...the Seabees, he operated a crane in the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

His former teammate at Valley Stream Central High, "Pat" Paterson, has been in the Coast Guard since August 1940 and before coming aboard this ship to serve in two invasions of France, was two years on duty in the Caribbean. His aunt, Margaret Pelham, and sister, Agnes Paterson, live at 68 East Fairview Ave., Valley Stream.

(To be continued)

* * *

Be kind. Remember, everyone one you meet is fighting a hard battle.

T. H. Thompson

PANORAMA



NEWSLETTER

MEMORIAL DAY
May 30, 1994

VSHS OFFICERS - 1993-1994

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MAY 1994

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday,
May 18, 1994
8:00 PM
Holy Trinity Episcopal
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Brooklyn Avenue & 7th Street
Valley Stream

Program

"WELCOME BACK TO BROOKLYN"

By
Brian Merlis and Ronald Schweiger

Tonight's slide lecture is being presented by one of our members who has had a work published, and we want everyone to know about it! Brian's book of vintage photographs of Brooklyn was published in December. The book, entitled "Welcome Back to Brooklyn," consists of 19th and early 20th century images from his own collection. The slides are Ron Schweiger's.

Brian lives in Lynbrook with his wife and two children. He has been interested in local history since he was six years old and operates his own business, buying and selling vintage photographs, postcards, maps and atlases relating to Brooklyn and Long Island.

We thank Diane Hocking, Grace Donley, Ruth Anholzer and Adele Mellio for volunteering to donate and serve refreshments.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: The following slate was presented at the April meeting: President--Jay McKenna; Vice President--Kevin Egan; Treasurer--George Donley, Sr.; Recording Secretary--Ruth Anholzer and Carol McKenna (for Board Meetings); Corresponding Secretary--Kay Keely. 3-Year Trustees: Eileen Brennan, Helen Dowdeswell, Claire McMahon; 2-Year Trustees: Dorothy Smith, Marge Chvatal, Carol McKenna. 1-Year Trustees: Jim Buckley, Agnes Libath, Bertha Ballou, Evelyn McQuade, Diane Hocking, Victor Fetter. The election will be held at the May meeting.

OUR SYMPATHY to Bernard Unger on the passing of his dear wife Florence, and to Helen Rack Moore on the death of her beloved husband, Ed.

BITS OF THIS AND THAT...At our April meeting, Claire McMahon announced the formation of a committee for a 5-year plan for the Restoration. Many items are needed to implement those already in the house, in addition to an office.

The Pagan-Fletcher Finance Committee will be holding a limited drawing to raise monies for this purpose. Tickets are \$5.00 each for this worthy cause.

Don't forget the **"Fun Run"** in Hendrickson Park on **May 22nd**. Whether you run, walk or just watch, this will be a fun day for everyone, sponsored by the Village, the VS Running Club and the Pagan-Fletcher Finance Committee.



VALLEY STREAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

1994 MEMBERSHIP FORM
expires June 1995

Date _____

Payment _____ Check

_____ Cash

Name _____ Renewal _____ New

Address _____

Telephone _____

- | | | | |
|--|--------|--|---------|
| ___ Individual | \$7.00 | ___ Organizational | \$25.00 |
| ___ Student..... | 2.00 | (clubs, business organizations, etc.) | |
| ___ Contributing | 10.00 | ___ Sustaining (tax exempt gift) | 50.00 |
| ___ Family (4 or more in 1 family) | 15.00 | ___ Life (tax exempt gift) | 100.00 |

BITS OF HISTORY, MOSTLY LONG ISLAND

By Al Mayernik

VALLEY STREAM IN WORLD WAR II, Part XLIV

More war news from the Valley Stream Mail and Gibson Herald, 1944.

August 31, 1944 issue: Staff Sergeant Walter Wittendorf, son of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Wittendorf of 24 Roeckel Avenue, was reported missing over Germany, August 5. His parents were notified by the Army last week.

Sergeant Wittendorf, an aerial gunner on a B-17 Flying Fortress...has been awarded the Air Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters and a group Presidential citation, and went overseas last April. His family believes that he was on his 17th mission when he was reported missing. Wittendorf, a graduate of Valley Stream Central High School, was employed by...Grumman...prior to his entry into the Air Corps in March 1943.

August 31, 1944 issue: Staff Sergeant Leslie D. Smith is now the possessor of the Bronze Star medal, his second citation for heroic service in action against the enemy. Sergeant Smith is the son of Mrs. Daley D. Smith of 109 Montague Street.

In complete disregard of personal safety, the soldier, for a period of two hours on July 10, voluntarily proceeded to repair vital communication lines along a roadway in Italy, which was subject to heavy artillery fire.

Smith hurried to the location of each shell burst to see if breaks had occurred, and repaired the lines time and time again, thus enabling one artillery division to mass fire on the enemy...and enabling another group to obtain additional fire support which aided an infantry regiment to repel a savage counter-attack.

Smith's first commendation was his courageous action on March 6, when during a prolonged shelling on his post in Italy, three men were killed and five were wounded, and one of the communication wires to the forward companies was cut by shell fire.

With his commanding officer,...Smith voluntarily went to repair the break, traveling approximately 1,000 yards under...shell fire, and repaired the break.

Smith joined the service two years ago and arrived overseas on Christmas Day last year....

September 7, 1944 issue: 15th AAF IN ITALY: "I thought I had been in some mighty rough ones until today, but most of them were 'milk runs' by comparison." The speaker was Staff Sergeant Edward J. O'Flaherty of 11 Henry Street, upon returning from a bombing mission over Vienna, Austria.

"Those fighters were so thick, I doubted that we'd get a look at the target," continued O'Flaherty. "Just before we made our bomb run, twenty-two Me-210's came in head-on at our formation. From my turret, I had a pretty good view of them and I opened up. I guess I got one of them because he started going down with both his engines smoking. After that bit of excitement quieted down, we ran into a heavy flak barrage over the target. We sweated the entire trip back home because of a few loose bombs that we couldn't get rid of. I honestly wasn't sure we were going to make it until I had my feet on solid ground."

Sgt. O'Flaherty is in Italy with a B-24 bombardment group. His organization...has made many successful attacks on targets in Germany, Austria, Rumania, France and northern Italy. They have received several commendations from higher headquarters.... Since arriving in Italy, Sgt. O'Flaherty has participated in 28 combat missions. He has been awarded two Oak Leaf Clusters to the Air Medal.

(To be continued)

Note: Al Mayernik's display in the Waldinger Library for May 1994 is entitled, "Long Island Stamp Album, Part I." It will consist of enlargements of postage stamps, U. S. and foreign, that depict Long Island history from the American Revolution to the Landing of American on the Moon. [Don't forget to stop by this month and see another of Al's great displays.]

Valley Stream Historical Society
P A N O R A M A
P. O. Box 22
Valley Stream, NY 11582-0022

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

D

PANORAMA

NEWSLETTER



VOLUME XXI, No. 9

JUNE 1994

N E X T M E E T I N G

Wednesday, June 15, 1994

8:00 p.m.

Williams Hall

Holy Trinity Episcopal

7th Street (off Brooklyn Avenue)

Valley Stream

ANNUAL CHINESE AUCTION and STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

Yes, it's time again for this annual fund raiser! We will follow our usual format of a short business meeting, followed by a brief intermission and then the Chinese Auction. And, topping off the evening, will be the serving of ice cream, strawberries, finger cakes, cookies, and punch. [My mouth is watering just typing this!] Admission will be \$4.00 per person, which includes an envelope containing 100 chances for the items on the Auction, as well as for the refreshments. Additional envelopes can be purchased for \$1.00 each.

Regarding the Chinese Auction: we welcome all donations--knick-knacks of all kinds, games, jewelry, stationery, plants, wrapped mystery gifts, comic items, etc.--anything that will add to the enjoyment and fun of the evening. They can be brought to Williams Hall after 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, or brought in that evening no later than 7:30 p.m.

Also, it would be helpful if everyone could try to arrive a little earlier so that the meeting can be started as close to 8:00 p.m. as possible.

We look forward to seeing as many members as possible and, of course, guests are most welcome, too!

Valley Stream Historical Society

P A N O R A M A

P. O. Box 22

Valley Stream, NY 11582-0022

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

Our election was held at the May meeting, followed by the Installation presided over by Village Trustee Paul Brown. The 1994-95 slate of Officers and Trustees:

President.....Jay McKenna
 Vice President.....Kevin Egan
 Recording Secretary.....Ruth Anholzer
 Treasurer.....George Donley, Sr.
 Corresponding Secretary.....Kathleen Keely

Chairman of Board of Trustees.....Claire McMahon

Three-Year Trustees: Helen Dowdeswell, Eileen Brennan, Adele Hagmann, Robert Presbrey, Anthony Melillo, Claire McMahon

Two-Year Trustees: Helen Zang, Alphonse Mayernik, Dorothy Smith, Walter Harrod, Marge Chvatal, Carol McKenna

One-Year Trustees: Victor Fetter, James Buckley, Agnes Libath, Evelyn McQuade, Bertha Ballou, Diane Hocking

Editor of PANORAMA.....Evelyn McQuade

* * *

We extend sincerest sympathy to member Eleanor Porensky on the death of her husband, Stanley; to Claire McMahon on the passing of her father, Vincent Donohue. And, we deeply regret having to report the death of Allan Dowdeswell, a founder of the Society and a valuable and hard-working member for all the years of our existence, as is his devoted sister, Helen. Allan was a fine, gentle man and will be sorely missed by all.

* * *

The following members marched in this year's Memorial Day Parade: Jay and Carol McKenna, Marge Chvatal, Helen Dowdeswell, Adele Hagmann, Walter Harrod, Jean West, Bert Keller, Jim Buckley Diane Hocking, Tony Melillo, Bob Presbrey, and Charlotte and Walter Facompre and Ruth and Hank Anholzer in their respective antique cars.

* * *

Editor's Note: It's my pleasure to tell you that member Joan Duffy will be taking over the editorship of PANORAMA, effective with the September issue. Joan and her husband, Frank, have been residents of Valley Stream for many years, raised their family here and are very knowledgeable about the Village. My thanks and best wishes to Joan.

I also wish to thank member Harold W. Rapp, Jr. for being the first to respond to my call for a new editor.

I've enjoyed much satisfaction and pleasure (and challenges) in the 15 years I've been editor and rather than risk omitting anyone, I'll just say, a most sincere THANK YOU to all who have helped me in any way.



ILLUSTRATION FROM "WITH THE CHILDREN ON SUNDAYS"
 By Sylvanus Stall, 1911



VALLEY STREAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 22

Valley Stream, New York 11582

1994 MEMBERSHIP FORM
 expires June 1995

Date _____
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Name _____ Renewal _____ New _____

Address _____ Telephone _____

Individual.....\$ 7.00
 Student..... 2.00
 Contributing..... 10.00
 Organizational.....\$ 25.00
 (clubs, business org., etc.)
 Sustaining (tax exempt gift) 50.00
 Life (tax exempt gift).....100.00

he will report to St. Albans Naval Station Hospital, where he will undergo an operation to remove the gold wire in his elbow.

A former student at the Valey Stream Central High School, ... the Navy man, who enlisted in December 1940, served 19 months in the Caribbean area and was later stationed at the St. Albans Naval Hospital and the Baldwin Ordnance plant, prior to going to England nine months ago. He was active in the invasion of France....

(To be continued)

* * *

Al Mayernik's bulletin board display for June at the Waldinger Memorial Library is entitled, "'D" Day + 50 Years." It features pictures of the invasion and front pages from newspapers of that year.

* * *

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE...

A man saw his neighbor's car rolling slowly out the driveway with no one at the wheel. He jumped in and put on the emergency brake. "I stopped it!" he shouted triumphantly getting out of the car.

"I know," said his neighbor disgustedly, walking from behind the vehicle, "I was pushing it."

Giving advice has always been risky, as was pointed out by a schoolboy writing an essay about Socrates: "Socrates was a Greek philosopher who went around giving people a lot of advice. They poisoned him."

America has become so tense and nervous it has been years since I've seen anyone asleep in church--and that is a sad situation.

(Norman Vincent Peale)

Lord, when we are wrong, make us willing to change. And when we are right, make us easy to live with. (Peter Marshall)

The age of your children is a key factor in how quickly you are served in a restaurant. We once had a waiter in Canada who said, "Could I get you your check?" and we answered, "How about the menu first?"

(Erma Bombeck)

Sign in a cluttered, old-fashioned hardware store: We've got it if we can find it."

* * *

The Valley Stream Historical Society wishes to acknowledge and thank all those volunteers who undertook the enormous task of restoring the Pagan-Fletcher house, as well as those who greet visitors and conduct tours on Sunday afternoons, mount exhibits, raise funds, etc. Without the combined efforts of these men and women, this beautiful restoration would not be here to preserve history and educate and inform the public about our community's heritage.

Marshall Anderson
M/M Hank Anholzer
Charles & Joseph Baldassarre
Bertha Ballou
Matthew Barba
Joseph Bergen
Keith Berry
M/M Edward Bitowski
Eugene Boening
M/M Robert Boening
M/M James Boerckel
M/M Marshall Botwinick
Eileen Brennan
Paul Brown
M/M James Buckley
M/M Joseph Chvatal
Robert Coppola
Cumberland Roofers--Jos. Newmark
& Bertram Wolfe
Margaret Dalton
Francis DeMita
Mayor & Mrs. George Donley
M/M George Donley, Sr.
Helen Dowdeswell
Ed Dykeman
John Egan
Kevin Egan
Barbara Ehlinger
Mamie Eng
Everbest Bakery--Jos. Calabrese
M/M Walter Facompre
Steve Failoros
M/M Ed Fare
M/M Victor Fetter
M/M Anthony Fiero
Marge Finkenstadt
M/M Ronald Garofolo
Joseph Gathard

John Giambalvo
Bill Gimello
M/M Joseph Gunther
Adele Hagmann
Walter Harrod
Milton Hendrickson
Diana Hocking
Home Depot--Susan Apple
Andrea Halbfinger
Ruth Joseph
M/M Michael Jacovides
Kathleen Keely
Joan Katulak
Bert Keller
Frank Keogler
Henry Kroos
Kai Larsen
Daniel Lehner
M/M Jerry Leonardi
M/M Ted Libath
Paul & James Lieber
Eva Marmora
Nina Maurer
Alphonse Mayernik
M/M John J. McKenna
Claire McMahon
Evelyn McQuade
M/M Anthony Melillo
Lillian Meyer
Donald Moore
Ed Ochwan
Judge & Mrs. Geoffrey O'Connell
Eric & Allen Oppenheimer--
Central Hardware
Dorothy O'Regan
The Paint House--John Llewellyn
M/M Gabe Parrish
Archie Pearlman

Eleanor Porensky
M/M Robert Presbrey
Jules Rabin
Andy Rosenberg (Fireholt Corp.)
Robert Sarno
Nat Serota
Fred Sherdel
Ted Sheridan
Dorothy Smith

Ray Sutton
Telephone Pioneers
Frank Torres
Chris Van Buskirk
Michael Watt
Lillian Weaver
Bill Youngston
Helen Zang

* * *



THE PAGAN-FLETCHER RESTORATION
143 Hendrickson Avenue
Valley Stream, New York
872-4159

Open Sundays 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.,
Group Tours By Appointment

Coming Events

Malverne Piecemakers Quilt Exhibit - October 1994
Gingerbread House Contest and Bake Sale - December 1994

* * *

First Valley Stream Historical Society meeting for the 1994-95 season will be held on Wednesday, September 20 with a Covered Dish Supper at the Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Hall, Brooklyn Avenue & 7th Street at 6:30.

BITS OF HISTORY, MOSTLY LONG ISLAND

By Al Mayernik

VALLEY STREAM IN WORLD WAR II, Part XLV

Again and again, we turn to the old issues of the Valley Stream Mail and Gibson Herald for news of our men and women in the Service during World War II.

September 14, 1944 issue: Private Rudolph E. Klostermann, son of Mr. and Mrs. Klostermann of 138 Elmwood Street, has been awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action in the vicinity of Beziere, Normandy on June 18th last.

According to the official citation, "Private Klostermann, while a member of...Company K, 18th Infantry, was seriously wounded by enemy machine-gun fire and, ignoring his personal safety, unhesitatingly moved across exposed enemy terrain and carried an injured comrade to a position of safety. His gallant act prevented loss of life and reflects great credit on the service."

September 14, 1944 issue: Sergeant Margaret C. Miller, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Miller of 66 Emerson Place, will soon be wearing two golden bars on her arm to indicate a year of overseas service helping to keep American fighters and bombers hammering at Nazi Europe, according to an announcement...from Headquarters Air Service Command, somewhere in England.

As secretary to the Military Air Adviser, EAC, American Embassy, Sgt. Miller, along with her sister WACs, has been commended by General Eisenhower for her share in our successful air war.

Before entering the WACs, she attended Valley Stream Central High School and was employed...as secretary to the District Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Harry W. Gross....

September 21, 1944 issue: Vincent Doherty, 21, one of the youngest chief pharmacists mates in the regular Navy, who was injured in England on July 20, is now on a 30-day convalescent leave at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Doherty of 20 Lois Place, Valley Stream.

The young petty officer fractured his left arm and thumb when a truck sideswiped his jeep in which he was leading a convoy of ambulances. The man next to Doherty was killed.

At first, Doherty was hospitalized in England and later he was sent to Charleston Naval Base in Boston. Following his leave,

PANORAMA



NEWSLETTER

VSHS OFFICERS -1994-1995
President.....Jay McKenna
Vice President.....Kevin Egan
Recording Secretary...Ruth Anholzer
Treasurer.....George Donley, Sr.
Corresponding Sec'y.Kathleen Keeley

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3-Year Trustees: Helen Dowdeswell,
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Robert Presbrey, Anthony Melillo,
Claire McMahon
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Helen Zang, Walter Harrod
Dorothy Smith, Marge Chvatal
Carol McKenna
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James Buckley, Agnes Libath,
Evelyn McQuade, Bertha Ballou,
Diane Hocking
Editor: Joan Duffy

Pagan-Fletcher Restoration - 872-4159
VOLUME XXII No.1 143 Hendrickson Avenue September 1994

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday
September 21, 1994
6:30 p.m.

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

COVERED DISH SUPPER

A new season for the Historical Society will begin with the annual covered dish supper. The doors will open at 6:15 and members and guests are invited to a wine and cheese social before dinner. Non-alcoholic beverages will also be available. Supper will be served at 7:00 p.m. Covered dishes should be brought according to the first initial in your last name, as shown below:

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

Kitchen facilities are limited, so 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 members of the Executive Board, in lieu of covered dishes.

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

A minimum of \$3.00 per person will be collected at the door. Guests are welcome.

VALLEY STREAM AUTUMN FAIR

The Pagan-Fletcher Restoration Committee will assist in sponsoring a craft fair at Hendrickson Park around the lake on October 16th from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Vendors fees will be paid to the Pagan-Fletcher Restoration. Information: 791-7929

MALVERNE QUILTMAKERS

A quilt show will be presented on Saturday and Sunday, October 15th and 16th at the Pagan-Fletcher Restoration. The hours will be 11:00 to 4:00 and admission will be \$3.00. Seniors \$2.00 and children under 12 free.

CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL 65th ANNIVERSARY

A number of activities are planned at the school for the weekend of October 8th and 9th. A reunion party will be held at Leonard's in Great Neck on Saturday evening October 8th. The Restoration will be open for alumni visits on Sunday, October 9th from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. Information: VSCHS Alumni Assoc. P.O. Box 642 Valley Stream 11582.

NEWS AND NOTES

Congratulations to Ted and Agnes Libath who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this summer with their family at a dinner at Gurney's Inn at Montauk.

Bert Keller's smiling face graced the pages of the Valley Stream Herald celebrating his graduation from the South Nassau Communities Cardiac Rehabilitation Program.

Gordon M. Fairchild, who resided at The Pagan Fletcher House until 1948 and was a devoted supporter of the Restoration, died on August 4th. Our sincere sympathy is extended to his family.

VALLEY STREAM NY 11580
41 PARKWOOD DRIVE EAST
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Valley Stream, New York

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P A N O R A M A

Valley Stream Historical Society

BITS OF HISTORY, MOSTLY LONG ISLAND

by Al Mayernik

VALLEY STREAM IN WORLD WAR II-PART XLVI

The following Maileader article by Clive Metz (date unidentified) relates the story of Robert L. Dickinson of 27 W. Hawthorne Ave., Valley Stream, in service on the submarine U.S.S. Queenfish during World War II.

Robert Dickinson, a graduate of Valley Stream Central High School and a Navy Seaman First Class in World War II, received a citation from President Harry S. Truman, as well as a commendation ribbon from Fleet Admiral Chester A. Nimitz and a commendation from Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal for his role in helping to save 32 Allied servicemen after two transport ships were sunk in the South China Sea.

The heroic rescue was achieved under extremely dangerous circumstances by a U.S. submarine threatened with attack by Japanese war vessels and from the peril of an impending typhoon.

The story began when three Allied submarines sank two Japanese convoy ships transporting over 2,000 Australian and British prisoners of war from Singapore to Japan on Sept. 12, 1944. At the time, the attackers thought that their victims were enemy troops or supplies. But within a few days, the Allied command learned, to its dismay, that those aboard the Kachidoki Maru off Hainan (now Formosa) and the Rakuyo Maru actually carried prisoners of war who were packed into ships with a combined capacity of only 600.

The Queenfish and Barb submarines reached their destination in the vicinity of the sinkings on Sept. 17th at 5:30 a.m. Amazingly enough, 32 men were still alive, either clinging to wreckage or on rafts five days after the disaster. They still faced the oncoming typhoon.

Lack of torpedoes to defend itself hampered the Queenfish, so it was ordered to stay near the still-armed Barb. For security against attack, the submarine tried to pick up men from rafts without stopping, but this proved dangerous, causing falls into the sea.

As part of the rescue party above water level, Dickinson and 1st Lieut. John Bennett, gunnery officer, went into action when the submarine came to a halt. They dove, carrying ropes, and helped ...the struggling men who couldn't come aboard unaided. Between them, the crew and that of ...Barb picked up 22 Australian and 10 British survivors.

Japanese vessels took most of the Kachidoki's victims from the ocean and sent them to POW camps in Japan. A total of 159 of the 2,000 aboard were saved by six U.S. submarines.

The rescuers' errand of mercy succeeded just one day before a typhoon hit the area with waves 10 to 15 feet high.

Work was started on a book, Return from the River Kwai, in February 1978 by Clay Blair, Jr., former managing editor of the Saturday Evening Post, and his wife, Joan. The Valley Stream resident helped them with facts.

Until then, 34 years after his role in the rescue, Dickinson never knew that those prisoners of war aboard the Rakuyo Maru had built a bridge across the River Kwai in the Burma and Thailand jungles. The book on that iddificult project by Pierre Boule was a novel, but the Blairs' work, published by Simon & Schuster, is a history.

(To be continued)

PANORAMA



NEWSLETTER



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Editor: Joan Duffy

Pagan-Fletcher Restoration- 872-4159
VOLUME XXII No.2 143 Hendrickson Ave. October, 1994

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday
October 19, 1994
8:00 PM
Holy Trinity Episcopal
Church Hall
Brooklyn Ave. & 7th St.
Valley Stream

PROGRAM

"TIME"

by Victor Fetter

VSHS Trustee Victor Fetter will give a multi-media presentation on the fascinating subject of **TIME**. Who among us has not been intrigued by time? Victor's interest was prompted by a special clock he saw in the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, D.C. He has slides of this clock, which dates from 1870, and was imprinted, "PHILADELPHIA STANDARD TIME." It originated in a Philadelphia railroad station that had several clocks each with a slightly different time, yet each one correct. Victor will question who determines that the correct time is really the correct time. He expects to amuse his audience!

The Valley Stream Herald published a picture of the VSHS Finance Committee presenting Jay McKenna, our president, with a check for \$2,000, proceeds from the May Fun Run held in Hendrickson Park. The money will be used to reburish and maintain the Pagan-Fletcher Restoration.

The September Covered Dish Supper was very successful and was very special because Bert Keller returned to do his customary sing-along to entertain members and guests.

DATES TO REMEMBER

October 16--**VALLEY STREAM AUTUMN FAIR**. A craft fair will be held around the lake in Hendrickson Park from 11:00 to 4:00. Vendors fees will be paid to the Pagan-Fletcher Restoration. Information: 791-7929. The VSHS will have a Country Store booth and will sell cookies and cakes. Members are asked to bake cookies, cup cakes, loaf cakes, bread or individually wrapped cake pieces and bring them to the booth in the park at 10:00. Diane Hocking will pick up baked goods if delivery is a problem: 561-8803.

October 15 and 16--**MALVERNE PIECEMAKERS**. A quilt show will be presented at the Pagan-Fletcher Restoration from 11:00 to 4:00. Admission will be \$3.00. Seniors \$2.00 and children under 12 free.

November 6--**MEMORIAL SERVICE**. The plaques on the grounds of the Pagan-Fletcher Restoration will be dedicated at a ceremony at 1:00 p.m. The plaques have been placed "In Memory" of Dave Hochberg, Ariane F. Hocking and Anthony Striffolino.

December 4--**GINGERBREAD HOUSE CONTEST** and cake sale 11:00 to 4:00 at the Pagan-Fletcher Restoration. No admission

REMINDER

Volunteers are always needed at the Pagan-Fletcher Restoration on Sundays. You will be given simple instructions on guiding visitors through the house. Call Diane Hocking 561-8803.

SYMPATHY

The members of the Historical Society extend their heartfelt sympathy to Claire McMahon on the death of her mother, Mildred Donahue.

MR. WILLIAM F. STRIS
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BITS OF HISTORY, MOSTLY LONG ISLAND
by Al Mayernik

VALLEY STREAM IN WORLD WAR II -Part XLVII

The continuing story of Robert L. Dickinson is taken from his letter, conversations and from articles on the U.S.S. Queenfish:

My wartime service was aboard the submarine U.S.S. Queenfish from the time of its commissioning through five war patrols in the Pacific. I also served on the submarine U.S.S. Remora.

On my first patrol in the Queenfish, on my birthday, September 4, 1944, we were torpedoed. We had surfaced as we thought we saw a Jap plane in distress which we hoped to capture. We then sighted Jap torpedoes coming at us from the shore. The Queenfish outmaneuvered them and I lived to celebrate my birthday.

The most memorable experience on that first patrol of the Queenfish in September, 1944, was when we and other American subs rescued survivors of the infamous River Kwai prison camp who were being transported to Japan. The prison ship Rakuyo Maru had been sunk by an American sub. Queenfish rescued 36 men, one of whom didn't make it. We then had to fight our way on the sea's surface to Saipan, about 3,000 miles, in one of the worst typhoons on record.

The Queenfish (SS 393) was commissioned on 11 March, 1944 after construction at Portsmouth Navy Yard. On her second patrol, the Queenfish sank, among other ships, a Japanese aircraft carrier. By the end of her fifth and last patrol, she had sunk 109,000 tons of enemy shipping. The Queenfish was listed as number nine of the ten most successful submarines in sinking enemy ships.

Perhaps you have seen the Queenfish in the movies. When it was decommissioned and before being sent to Davy Jones' locker, she was loaned out for a movie starring Cary Grant, "Operation Petticoat." They had to paint that noble ship pink--can you believe? The old subs were called boats, not ships. The large nuclear subs today are ships---5 decks deep!

The Queenfish was decommissioned in February, 1963 after 19 years of service and lies in her final resting place in the ocean off Hawaii.

My parents received a letter from a Mrs. Carter of Sheffield, England, reading in part: "If at any time your son is in England, would you please ask him to either write or call, as we would like very much to meet him and do all we can to make his stay in England as much like home as possible." Mrs. Carter's brother-in-law was one of the Britons saved by Queenfish personnel.

Memories are still with us. Each year as members of the Submarine Veterans of WW2, we attend a Memorial Service at the Submarine Base in Kings Bay, Georgia, to give remembrance to the men who went down with the 52 subs we lost during the war.

PANORAMA



NEWSLETTER

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Pagan-Fletcher Restoration 872-4159
Volume XXII No.3 143 Hendrickson Ave.

November, 1994

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday
November 16, 1994
8:00 p.m.
Holy Trinity Episcopal
Church Hall
Brooklyn Ave. & 7th St.
Valley Stream

PROGRAM

"Something to Remember You By"
by Richard Keidel

Mr. Keidel, who is a resident of Malverne and a Central High School graduate, will present a program of slides of memorable gravestones of celebrities from the arts, politics and the press. Some contain unusual sayings, and some are just different. In Mr. Keidel's words: "How are they different? Attend the Nov. 16th meeting and find out."

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6 Dedication Ceremony 1:00 p.m. The trees planted on the grounds of the Pagan Fletcher Restoration in memory of Anthony Striffolino, Dave Hochberg and Ariane F. Hocking will be dedicated. Speakers will honor the memory of each of the deceased. Relatives of the deceased have been invited. The ceremony will be followed by a reception at the Restoration.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4 Gingerbread House Contest and Cake Sale. This annual event will be held at the Pagan Fletcher Restoration from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. There is no admission charge. Members are asked to contribute baked goods for the cake sale. The Restoration will have been decorated for Christmas when the Gingerbread House Contest takes place.

SUCCESSFUL WEEKENDS

More than 700 alumni attended the 65th Anniversary of Central High School on the weekend of October 8th and 9th. On Sunday afternoon, 200 alumni visited the Pagan Fletcher Restoration to view the exhibit of memorabilia that had been prepared. Slides of old Valley Stream were also shown. The Historical Society members wish to thank **BOENING FLORIST** which donated the floral displays for the occasion.

The Pagan Fletcher Restoration was visited by approximately 150 people during the weekend of the quilt show, October 15th and 16th. The quilts were exhibited by the Malverne Piecemakers.

October 16th was also the date of the first extremely successful Autumn Fair held in Hendrickson Park. That Sunday was a perfect fall day and thousands of people visited the booths of the 60 vendors. The vendors' fees were contributed to the Pagan Fletcher Restoration.

At the October 19th meeting, Gabe Parrish presented a typed history of the plaque from the hangar at Valley Stream's Curtis Field. The plaque is now on display at the rear of the Restoration. The history will be prepared to be placed in front of the plaque. Gabe also presented pictures of the original hangar with the plaque, and the rescue plane built at Curtis Field.

The concern and thoughts of the members of the Historical Society are with Joseph Chvatal, who suffered a stroke recently, and with Al Mayernik, who underwent a heart operation.

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

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BITS OF HISTORY, MOSTLY LONG ISLAND

by Al Mayernik

VALLEY STREAM IN WORLD WAR II- PART XLVIII

We return to the dependable Valley Stream Mail and Gibson Herald for our continuing story of Valley Streamers during World War II:

September 14, 1944 issue: Award of the Air Medal to Second Lieutenant George Schold, Jr., of 65 Buscher Avenue was announced recently from an English AAF Bomber Station in England.

A navigator on a B-17 Flying Fortress, Lt. Schold, son of Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Schold, Sr. of 22 Derby Street, has participated in more than 10 bombing attacks against Germany and the occupied countries. He attended Central High School....His wife resides at the Buscher Avenue address.

September 21, 1944 issue: Second Lieutenant Louis A. Schneider, missing in action since July 3, 1944, has been released from a prisoner of war camp in Bulgaria and has returned to military control, according to a telegram received by his aunt, Mrs. L.H. Fleischbein of 380 Emerson Place.

September 28, 1944 issue: Second Lieutenant Richard B. Ferris, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Ferris of 148 Sunrise Highway, who was listed as missing July 15th in a flight over Europe, returned to his post August 18th. In returning, he explained in a letter to his parents that he was "helped back by unusual circumstances."

The Army pilot is a graduate of Central High School and worked for General Motors Company before he went into the service in January, 1943. He left for overseas this past April. A letter that his parents received last week said that he was sent to a rest camp in Capri.

September 28, 1944 issue: As a result of his activities in the South Pacific area, Robert Edward Noble, Radio Man Second Class, son of Mr. and Mrs. Chester Noble of 421 Rockaway Parkway, has received the following commendation from Admiral R.C. Read:

"At 0837 on 14 April 1944, a Navy plane was forced down at sea and made a crash landing 140 miles distant from the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Guadalcanal. The plane's crew of three men was shortly adrift on a small rubber life raft in a rough sea. It was imperative that help reach them in the shortest possible time and that their location be known at all times to rescue vessels.

"The finding of the survivors and their rescue in a minimum time by planes and ships of the Task Force were made possible by the outstanding performance of duty in your assignment in the Combat Information Center of the carrier. To your thoroughness in plotting the situation, accuracy in vectoring planes to the scene of the crash, and unerring direction of the rescue vessel, ...must be attributed the safe and timely recovery of the three men.

"For your competent work at your post...and outstanding performance of duty...you are hereby commended."