

BITS OF HISTORY-MOSTLY LONG ISLAND

**VALLEY STREAM
IN WORLD WAR II, LVIII
by Al Mayernik**

The pages of the Valley Stream Mail and Gibson Herald contributed the following information: January 4, 1945 issue: Cpl. Robert W. Fatscher, 66 S. Cottage Street, truck driver, is a member of the 16th Armored Engineer Battalion, veteran unit of Lieutenant General Mark Clark's Fifth Army, currently in the drive toward the Po Valley in Italy.

In 30 months overseas, the 16th, one of the first engineer units in combat, bridged many streams, neutralized thousands of mines and booby traps, constructed and maintained hundreds of miles of roads in Ireland, England, North Africa and Italy and helped establish for practical use the T-2 treadway bridge, the treadway pontoon and trestle bridge, the M-2 "snake" and the "tank-dozer."

A poem from the January 4, 1945 issue:

A Doughboy's Christmas Thoughts

Far away from home tonight
Far from the church bell's chime
I sit alone at my dugout site
Beneath a lonely pine.
A soldier's Christmas ever before
Was beyond my every thought,
But a single doughboy in the war
Can't always do as he was taught.
In my mind your Christmas tree I
hide,
Brightly lighted and heavily
weighed
with the gifts of Yuletide
We so cheerfully trade.

The light in your faces and glow of
the fire
Keep me contented and warm
tonight.
Of this scene in my mind I'll never
tire
However hard and long the fight-
er
You'll never know how much I've
thought



Of the little things of home.
I only know I couldn't have bought
A small tenth of the things I've
known.
To spend Christmas with you all
Is the peak of all my dreams.
I'll hand my rifle on the wall.
And forget all warring scenes.
May God be with you until we meet
anew

Beneath our family tree,
And help and guide us as He'll do
Until Eternity.

Pfc. Willard A. Randorf
"Somewhere in Germany
Christmas 1944
Cn. Co.-395th Inf.
99th Division
Dedicated to his family

January 11, 1945 issue:

Pfc. George F. Sprague has
been transferred from the Air Corps
to the Infantry. Pfc. Spague is
training at Camp Maxey, Texas.
His parents are Mr. and Mrs. G.C.
Sprague, 69 W. Fairview Avenue,
Valley Stream, L.I.

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BITS OF HISTORY-MOSTLY LONG ISLAND

**VALLEY STREAM
IN WORLD WAR II**
by Al Mayernik

The following article from the your lovely country and get to know pages of the Valley Stream Mail is you people myself.
an addition to articles which ap- "Fred, what my brother-in-law is peared in Panorama, Sept. 1994 and called, sends his best wishes and Oct. 1994. The previous articles asks you to remember him to your told of the sinking of the Japanese dear son when you write again.
prison ship carrying prisoners from "If at any time your son is in Eng- the Bridge on the River Kwai. The land, would you please ask him to American subs carried on a fantas- either write or call us. We should tic rescue. like very much to meet him and to Jan. 18, 1945 issue. The details of do all we can to make his stay in this story are not known. The undy- England as much like home as pos- ing gratitude of a Britisher saved by sible.
an American sailor is positively "Well, dear, I must close now, hop- known. Seaman I/c Robert Dickin- ing you are all well and that you son, a former graduate of Central write back to me.
High School and son of Mr. and "I am yours sincerely,
Mrs. H.A. Dickinson, of 27 West Mrs. Carter
Hawthorne Avenue, is one of a crew 159 Butterwaite Road
responsible for the deed to live long Sheffield, England"
in the hearts of a family in a foreign
land. Seaman Dickinson is on
submarine duty in the South Pacific.
The following letter received by
Mrs. Dickinson can be pieced to-
gether to reveal heroics again dis-
played by our Navy...in this world
of war.
It reads:

"My Dear Mrs. Dickinson,
"I hope you will pardon me for
taking this liberty of writing to you
but your son was serving on the ship
that saved my brother-in-law from
the Japs and I feel I want to extend
my undying gratitude not only to
your son but to his family.
"My brother-in-law is now back
home after spending a few weeks in
the U.S.A. and he has told us what
a great country it is and how the
people were friendly and kind. It
makes me feel I should like to visit
Central High School.

VETERANS MEMORIALS
Two groups are currently work-
ing to enhance or restore veterans
memorials in Valley Stream. The
Valley Stream Historical Society
contributed \$50 to the Valley
Stream United Veterans' Memorial
Committee for the Monument at
the corner of West Valley Stream
Blvd. and Hicks Street. When com-
pleted, the monument will include
the name of 87 residents of Valley
Stream who died during wartime
service. This will include merchant
seaman.
A committee at Central High
School under the leadership of Joe
Bergen are restoring and renovating
the monument at the school which
was erected in 1946 by the Dad's
Club. Plans are to include the
names of veterans from W.W. II,
Korea and Vietnam, who attended
Central High School.

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WILLIAM TRACY

William Tracy of 243 E. Argyle Street, served in the U.S. Army Signal Corps from January 1943 to February 1946. At Warrenton, Va. he was assigned to a secret radio-intercept station where he copied traffic from Germany, Japan and Russia. He was a teletype operator and cryptographic technician.

" He was a teletype operator and a cryptographic technician."

He served in New Guinea, the Philippines, Okinawa and Japan, and at Thule, Greenland during the Korean War. He was on temporary assignment to the U.S. Navy aboard a Patrol Craft Escort Vessel (PCE-848), General McArthur's Chief Signal Officer's flagship.

He wrote: I enjoyed top secret clearance during World War II and was honorably discharged in both wars. I viewed many of the Kamikaze attacks on our vessels. I survived a 5 day typhoon while aboard the PCE 848 which by the way, was the first American vessel to tie up at a Japanese port since before the war. I was off the coast of Japan when the atom bomb was dropped....I was alongside the U.S.S. Missouri for the signing of the surrender. I did not know it at the time, but my brother, Jim, was upstairs in a B-29 also enjoying the festivities. On our approach into Yokohama via Tokyo Bay, the many battle installations on either side of our approach had white flags flying, and I am forever thankful to

God that the bomb was dropped, even though many innocent lives were taken—else many thousand of American troops would have perished.

During the Korean War, I was in the inactive reserves in the Army Transportation Corps, stationed at the Brooklyn Army Base. We were packed and ready for shipment to Pusan, Korea...and at the last minute reprieve.



Instead of going to Korea (again I thank God), we were assigned to Operation Blue Jay, a Joint Chiefs of Staff project involving the Army, Navy and Air Force to construct a full scale year-round air base with a 10,000 foot airstrip for large bombers to operate out of Thule, Greenland. LIFE magazine called Operation Blue Jay the biggest secret military operation since the D-Day Normandy invasion...the idea being to deliver the men and material to forge a link in the chain of worldwide air bases which were the major part of the defensive armor for the NATO nations. It was a massive logistical operation. Bill now lives in Lake Worth, Florida.

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The very useful Valley Stream Mail and Gibson Herald was the sources of information:

January 18, 1945 issue: With the 102nd Infantry Division in Germany: Three staff sergeants in a Tank Battalion earned battlefield commissions the same day under very similar circumstances.

When their platoon leaders were wounded in action, Elmer J. Hoffman of Evansville, Indiana; Norbert E. Karl of Watertown, New York and John F. Dolan of Valley Stream, assumed command of their respective platoons and in each instance "successfully and skillfully reached the battalion objective under heavy anti-tank and Tiger-tank fire." Their combined efforts were responsible for the destruction of eight enemy anti-tank guns and tanks.

"Their combined efforts were responsible for the destruction of eight enemy anti-tank guns and tanks."

Lt. Dolan graduated from Eastern District High School, Brooklyn, New York, and worked as a broker's clerk in Wall Street until he was inducted into the Army on May 13, 1941. Lt. Dolan's sister lives at 175 East Avenue, this village.

January 18, 1945 issue: At Eighth Air Force Liberator Station, England: Second Lieutenant Kenneth L. Franklin of Valley Stream has been assigned to the the 93rd Bombardment Group, as a co-pilot of four-engine B-24 Liberator bombers.

The 93rd Bombardment Group, commanded by Colonel William R. Robertson, Jr. is one of the most traveled units in the European Theater of Operations and is the first bomb group in the Eighth Air Force to complete 300 missions against the enemy. The group is part of the 2nd Bombardment Division, commanded by Major General William E. Kepner.

Lieutenant Franklin is the son of Maxwell C. Franklin, 66 Cochran Place. He graduated from Valley Stream High School in 1939.



January 25, 1945 issue: Madison, Wisconsin Pvt. Wilbur E. Fare, 25, son of Mrs. Elsie Fare, 25 East Avenue has been graduated from the AAF Training Command's aircraft radio mechanics school at Truax Field, where he has studied the

servicing of radio equipment used on U.S. bombers and fighter planes.... Trained primarily as a technician, he also studied defense chemical warfare, aircraft identification and related AAF subjects designed to fit him for combat duty.

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by Al Mayernik

This poem was printed in the January 25, 1945 issue of the Valley Stream Mail and Gibson Herald.

Corporal W.B. Kurrie has been serving overseas for the past 22 months in the Mediterranean Theater. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Fleischbein of 300 Emerson Place and is a graduate of Valley Stream High School. Cpl. Kurrie is the author of this poem which was recently received by his mother:

The Medal

I saw him in the firelight,
sitting in the chair,
Peacefully spinning a yarn
to another who was there,
Nay, the other I could not see,
the shadows covered him,
But I heard the old man speak,
and he called the other Jim.
"For years you have been gone,
where the big guns lay,
For years you have been fighting,
where the night ne'er meets
the day,
Your mother and I both saw you go,
vindication in your eyes,
Yes, we saw you leave, and our
prayers were toward the
skies.
"When you came home at
Christmas,
our hearts rejoiced anew,
The grass was green and
the Heavens sparkled blue,
'It's Jim,' I shouted and hid my
head from those who were
too near;
They ne'er could understand why
I could not hold back the tear.

"But then you had leave, the fire
died in the place,
I stood with pride, no tears to hide
from your understanding
face;
you went to join the others that
were there, waiting, too,
And with you took the smile we
both had given just for you.

"The old man rose and said, 'good
night, I fear I'm getting
old.'
The other sat there still within the
shadow's fold.
Here, I thought, is peace. I must
sit and warm my soul,
For in those dreary war years, age
has taken its toll.
I sought to speak to the other,
seated in the chair,
Surprise lit up my countenance
when I saw no one there,
But I understood when Lo! I
spied deep in the wood,

A Soldier's Medal...Yes, then
I understood."
Walter R. Kurrie
Italy, 1945

MONUMENT DEDICATED

A new monument with two
plaques honoring students from
Central H.S who served or who died
during the wars of the 20th Century
will be dedicated in front of the
school on Saturday, May 30th at
11:00a.m. The monument will be
dedicated by the Central H.S.
Alumni Scholarship Foundation
Congresswoman Carolyn McCarthy
is expected to attend.

Valerie Esposito and Joe Bergen
are the co-chairpersons for the event.

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VALLEY STREAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY
April 4, 1998 - 25th Anniversary Dinner





PANORAMA



VALLEY STREAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME XXV ISSUE 9

June 1998

PAGAN FLETCHER RESTORATION
143 Hendrickson Avenue
Valley Stream, NY 11580, 516 872-4159

NEXT MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 1998
8:00 p.m.

HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
BROOKLYN AVENUE AND 7th STREET
VALLEY STREAM, NEW YORK

CHINESE AUCTION AND STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

One of the Valley Stream Historical Society's most popular meetings for members and non-members will be held in June. The Chinese Auction is always an enjoyable evening of acquisitions. Donations to the auction may be made starting at 10:30 a.m. at the church hall. Gifts may include plants, knickknacks, games, jewelry, stationery, lamps, frames and wrapped mystery items. Please do not bring donated items later than 7:00 p.m. The first envelope of 100 numbers will cost \$4 and each additional envelope will cost \$5 each. Tony Melilo is the chairperson of this event, assisted by Chris Van Buskirk.

To top off the evening, we will feast on strawberries and ice cream.

INSTALLATION

The installation of new officers for the 1998-1999 year will take place at the beginning of the June meeting. Village trustee, Guido Cirenza, will install Karen Selah as our new president and Ruth Ann Zwarico as vice-president. New three year trustees include: Jack Mahoney, John Benedict, Bertha Balou, Valerie Esposito and Ruth Joseph. The complete list of officers and trustees will be printed in the September Panorama.

SEVENTY FIFTH ANNIVERSARY

Mayor James Darcy has named the members of the committee for the 75th Anniversary of the Village of Valley Stream which will be celebrated in the year 2000.

FIRE DEPARTMENT FESTIVITIES

The Valley Stream Fire Department will celebrate its first 100 years with a flourish on the last weekend in August. A Carnival will be held on the Village Green from Thursday, August 27th until Sunday August 30th. Tournaments will be held in North Woodmere Park on Friday night and Saturday morning. At 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 29th an invitational parade will be held which will include fire departments from both Nassau and Suffolk Counties as well as the Sierra Madre Fire Department from California. The Valley Stream Historical Society will march with the Alumni Associations of North, South and Central High Schools.

A fire department exhibit is now on display at the Restoration and will remain until September.

RESTORATION TOURS

Five classes of fourth graders from Wheeler Avenue School visited the Restoration in late May. During the summer we anticipate hosting a group of senior citizens from RALLI, Retired and Living on Long Island. Tour guides will be needed. If you can volunteer, please call Jim Buckley at 561-8443. Dates have not been set yet.

APPRECIATION

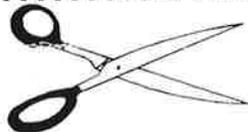
The thanks of the Society is extended to Agnes Libath, Anita Buckley and Florence Gunther who washed all the curtains in the Pagan Fletcher Restoration and to Jim Buckley and Ted Libath who washed the windows.

CAROL A DELEGATE

Carol McKenna will be a delegate to a meeting of the Association of Nassau County Historical Societies. There are 40 historical societies in Nassau County and an effort is underway to rejuvenate the association which has not been active in some time.

BEST WISHES

Eileen Brennan is home from the hospital and is recuperating thanks to physical therapy. Al Mayer-nick was recently hospitalized but is feeling better.



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EXPIRES, JUNE 1999

NAME _____ RENEWAL _____ NEW _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

DATE _____ PAYMENT _____ CHECK _____ CASH _____

Individual _____ \$7.00

Student _____ \$2.00

Contributing _____ \$15.00

Family _____ \$12.00

(Four or More in One Family)

ORGANIZATION _____ \$25.00

(Clubs, Business Organizations, Etc.)

TAX EXEMPT LIFE MEMBERSHIP _____ \$100.00

BITS OF HISTORY-MOSTLY LONG ISLAND

VALLEY STREAM
IN WORLD WAR II
by Al Mayernik

The following information was published in the Valley Stream Mail and Gibson Herald:

February 1, 1945 issue: Hit in the shoulder and arm during fighting northeast of Aachen, Private First Class Erling V. Nilsen, 27, of 69 Cochran Place, is now recovering at a United States Army general hospital in England. He has been awarded the Purple Heart.

"He is recovering satisfactorily here and will be returned to the United States for further convalescence," said his ward officer First Lieutenant Alfred J. Jensen of Avalde, Texas.

"We were digging in to set up a defense position after making an attack deep into the enemy lines northeast of Aachen," said Pfc. Nilsen, an Infantryman. "The Nazis launched a counter attack under the protection of their artillery.

"Shrapnel hit me and the arm and shoulder and I ran for the nearest cover. I called for a medic and they soon came with litters. They treated me and carried me to an aid station. I was transported by ambulance then to an evacuation hospital in Holland and was brought to England aboard a hospital ship."

Pfc. Nilsen entered the Army in April, 1943 and was formerly employed in the production department of the Coca Cola Company.

February 1, 1945 issue: Lieutenant (J.G.) William C. Johnson, U.S.N.R. of Valley Stream has been awarded the Bronze Star Medal for "meritorious achievement" in connection with the "assault and capture of an enemy held island" against the Japanese on July 21, 1944.

The citation received from the Commander-in-Chief of the United States Pacific Fleet reads:

"For distinguishing himself by meritorious achievement on July 21, 1944 during the assault and capture of an enemy held island. Although wounded and under heavy enemy fire, by courageous and capable direction, he contributed materially to the continued operations of the guns at his station. His conduct throughout distinguished him among those performing duties of the same character."

Lieutenant (J.G.) Johnson has been awarded the Purple Heart Medal for wounds received in action at landing operations at Guam.

A graduate of Chaminade High School and the University of Notre Dame, Lieut. Johnson was prominent in athletics at both schools. Since December 1943, he has been assigned to subchaser service in the Central Pacific areas. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Johnson reside on 66 No. Grove Street, Valley Stream

February 1, 1945 issue: Hqs. Tenth Air Force in Burma: The Air Medal, the DFC and the first Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal have been awarded to LT. John E. Windhorst, whose parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Windhorst, live at 21 Beverly....

A co-pilot of a B24 of the 7th, Windhorst has participated in 40 missions and 340 combat flying hours...during his 11 months in the India-Burma Theater. He is a graduate of Valley Stream Central High School and Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn and was employed as a shipping clerk by the Arma Corp. before joining the Army.

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VALLEY STREAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME XXVI ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER 1998

PAGAN FLETCHER RESTORATION

143 Hendrickson Avenue
Valley Stream, NY 11580 516 872-4159

NEXT MEETING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH
8:00 p.m.

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

PROGRAM
COVERED DISH SUPPER & HENRY KROSS
WITH SOCIETY MEMBERS

The Valley Stream Historical Society's traditional covered dish supper will be featured at the next meeting. Since there are some very good cooks among the Society members, this will be a gustatory "night to remember."

The doors of the church hall will open at 6:15 p.m. and members and their guests are invited to wine and cheese social. (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 of your last name as indicated below:

A-G "Starchy" type, hot or cold. This might include rice, beans, potatoes, etc.

H-O Vegetable contends, such as salads, casseroles, etc.

P-Z Dairy type foods, eggs, cheese, gelatins, fruit, fish (hot or cold)

Since 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. Lillian Weaver will bring her traditional large tossed salads, so we request members do not bring any. Desserts will be brought by Agnes Libath Frank Koegler and Kay Keely.

A minimum of \$3.00 will be collected at the door. Guests are most welcome; however, they will be expected to bring covered dishes according to the requirements listed above, unless you undertake to do this for them.

Members and guest will be entertained by Henry Krooss who will show Part 1 of his slide presentation, "The First Twenty five Years" of the Valley Stream Historical Society. Henry, who has lived in Valley Stream for 40 years, remembers Mabel Dibble Ackley, our founder.

LIFE MEMBERS

Four individuals have become Life Members of the Society since June., Robert Gobrigh, Carolyn Gladky, Henry Kohlmann and Karen Selah



FIRE DEPARTMENTS ANNIVERSARY

The Valley Stream Fire Department celebrated its first 100 years from Thursday, August 27th until Sunday, August 30th. Activities included a carnival on the Village Green, Tournaments, and a mammoth parade with included representative from 51 visiting fire departments, including one from Scerra Madra, CA. The members of the Valley Stream Historical Society participated in the parade.

OCTOBER ANTICIPATIONS

THE QUILT SHOW

The Malverne Piecemakers will exhibit their quilts at the Restoration on October 17th and 18th. Anyone who has a quilt that she would like to exhibit is welcome to do so. A beautiful queen sized quilt "Lancaster Rose" will be raffled off on Nov. 7, 1998 at the Community Presbyterian Church in Malverne. The quilt is presently on display at the Restoration. Chances for the raffle will be available at the Restoration and at both the September and October meetings of the Historical Society.

OCTOBER MEETING

The Society will host a very special meeting on Wednesday, October 21st. In collaboration with the Henry Waldinger Memorial Library, we will welcome John Mr. Spagnoli who will lecture on Native Indian Culture on Long Island. Mr. Spagnoli is the Assistant Curator of the Garvies Point Museum and Preserve, which is the center for research on Long Island Indian archaeology. During the month of October, the Library will exhibit Native Indians tools and artifacts

BITS OF HISTORY -MOSTLY LONG ISLAND

**VALLEY STREAM
IN WORLD WAR II**
by Al Mayernik

The pages of the Valley Stream Mail and Gibson Herald provided the following items:

February 8, 1945 issue: Appreciation for the Christmas boxes sent to men in the service from Valley Stream: A.W. V.S. has been acknowledged by many recipients, much to the gratification of the village groups. Among the letters received is the following from Virgil Henry Lynn, P.M. 3/c

"Just a note of thanks and appreciation for the wonderful Christmas box I received via the chaplain. The box contained many sensible and useable items which most boxes sent to servicemen these days do not always have. I managed to salvage the toothbrush, toothpaste, razor blades, shaving cream, pads, pencils and small notebook. But the eatable items were quickly devoured by the wolves of "H" Division."

My home is in Cleveland, Ohio. I am 20 years old and am a pharmacist mate 3/c serving on the finest ship in the U.S. Navy...."

February 8, 1945 issue: Thomas J. Farula, radioman 2/c. USNR -, 81 Fairfield St., has returned from a 15 month tour of duty in the Pacific with VFB-52, a Navy search and bombing squadron.

He is engaged in "Black Cat" missions on which back-hued Catalinas (PBY) flying boats flew at low altitude at night in search of enemy shipping. Farula also took part in air-sea rescue

February 15, 1945 issue: Sergeant James F. Cashin of 182 Cedar Street has been killed in action on Leyte, according to the War Department. Sgt. Cashin better known to everyone as "Buddy," graduated from Valley Stream H.S. and New York University. He enlisted in the Armed forces in March 1941 and has been stationed in the South Pacific for the past year taking part in the battles of Saipan, Guam and Leyte, where he is buried...

February 22, 1945 issue: Private first Class David Blade of Wingate, 12 American Lane, serving with the Fourth Infantry Division in Europe, has been awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action.

He received the following citation for bravery: Private 1/c Blake made two trips in an area where heavy concentration of enemy artillery fire were falling, in order to recover two seriously wounded men, lying in exposed positions.

"Without benefit of cover, he moved to the location of each wounded man, and unaided, carried them to the aide station where medical treatment was administered, which undoubtedly saved the lives of the wounded men. the Courage, determination and devotion to duty displayed by Private Blake on this occasion are in keeping with the highest tradition of the military service."

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PANORAMA



VALLEY STREAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME XXV ISSUE 2

OCTOBER 1998

PAGAN FLETCHER RESTORATION

143 Hendrickson Avenue

Valley Stream, NY 11580 516 872-4159

NEXT MEETING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 21
8:00 p.m.

HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH HALL
BROOKLYN AVENUE AND 7th STREET
VALLEY STREAM
PROGRAM
EXAMINING NATIVE INDIAN CULTURE
ON LONG ISLAND

John M. Spagnola, assistant curator of Garvies Point Museum and Preserve will speak on Native Indian culture. This program is being presented in cooperation with the Henry Waldinger Memorial Library. The lecture which Mr. Sagnoli will give is part of the celebration of State Humanities month held during October each year and is funded by a New York Council for the Humanities grant.

The library will display Native Indian tools and artifacts during the month of October.

A free walking tour of Garvies Point Museum, which is the center for research on Indians on Long Island, will be offered on Saturday, October 24th at 10:00a.m. Pre-registration will be required at the library.

For further information on the library's exhibit, the lecture, or the walking tour, contact Assistant Director, Mamie Eng at 516-825-6422.

Refreshments for the October meeting will be provided by Frank Keogler, Florence Gunther, Ruth Ann Zwarico and Joan Duffy.

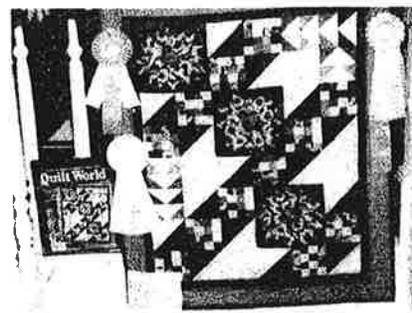
AUTUMN FAIR

Valley Stream's increasingly popular annual Autumn Fair will be held on Sunday, October 11th in Arthur J. Hendrickson Park. Nina Maurer, who has been in charge for several years is the contact person for vendors to reserve booths. (516-825-4947) There will be arts and crafts booths as well as food booths. The Fair has become larger and more successful each year. This year there will be Native American dancers and a pow wow.

On October 11th, the Pagan Fletcher Restoration will be open from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and we encourage people who attend the Fair to visit the Restoration.

GINGERBREAD HOUSE CONTEST

The Valley Stream Historical Society has arranged with the Village of Valley Stream to have a sign posted on the Merrick Road fence of Hendrickson Park advertising the Gingerbread House contest which will be held this year on Sunday, December 6th. Marshall Anderson, who has graciously done other art work for the Society, will design the sign.



MALVERNE PIECEMAKERS

The Malverne Piecemakers will present their quilt show at the Pagan Fletcher Restoration on Saturday, October 17th and Sunday, October 18th from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. each day. There will be a fee of \$3.00 collected at the door. Raffle tickets will be available for the queen sized quilt "Lancaster Rose" which was made by the piecemakers. The quilt will be raffled off on November 7, 1998 at the Community Presbyterian Church in Malverne where the group meets. Anyone who has a quilt that she would like to exhibit is welcome to do so.

APPRECIATION

Helen Dowdeswell, Lillian Weaver and Frank Keogler rode in style in Mark Lipset's classic 1979 red Fairlane convertible in the Fire Department's parade on August 29th. In appreciation, the Valley Stream Historical Society has give Mr. Lipset a year's free membership.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Franklin Hospital's Medical Center is looking for volunteers to man a table in the Green Acres Mall where gift wrapping will be provided. The program will begin the day after Thanksgiving and continue until Christmas Eve. Green Acres will supply the necessary material and volunteers can offer their services for as many hours as they choose. The booth will be open from 9:00a.m. to 10:00 p.m. every day. The money charged will be contributed to the hospital. Those interested can contact Freda Rohsiepe at 825-5216

BITS OF HISTORY-MOSTLY LONG ISLAND

VALLEY STREAM IN WORLD WAR II

by Al Mayernik

February 22, 1945 issue: 1st Lt. Our peace delegation should not be confined exclusively to diplomats and international experts. It should include representative of the men who possess something more than an academic understanding of what Churchill meant when he warned the world that victory would only be won through "blood, sweat and tears"....

The award was made upon completion of 150 hours of operational flight in transport aircraft over the dangerous and difficult India-China air routes, where enemy interceptions and attack were probable and expected. The citation accompanying the award adds:

"Flying at night as well as day, at high altitudes over impossible mountainous terrain through areas characterized by extremely treacherous weather conditions necessitating long periods of operations on instruments, requiring courageous and superior performance of his duties to overcome, he accomplished his mission with distinction." The award was made for the period of service September 19, 1944 to November 13, 1944.

February 22, 1945 issue: America's overseas veterans believe the men who do the actual fight in time of war, should have some voice at the peace conference table.

The man who has survived combat service was asked to risk his life to protect America's future. Therefore, he should have some say about the terms which should be imposed on the defeated enemies to preserve the future peace.

be confined exclusively to diplomats and international experts. It should include representative of the men who possess something more than an academic understanding of what Churchill meant when he warned the world that victory would only be won through "blood, sweat and tears"....

March 1, 1945 issue: The Bronze Star Medal posthumously to Cpl. John M. Savery, was presented to his mother, Mrs. Catherine K. Savery of Catherine Street, at the Post Theater last Friday.

The presentation was made by Colonel George K. Beurket, commanding officer Fort Jay, and the citation, which was read, stated the local soldier was honored for "meritorious achievement in military operations against the enemy on June 13, 1944 in France"....

The young infantryman, who had been killed in action on June 26 in France....

Two of his brothers are serving---Private First Class Thomas H. Savery, who has been awarded the Purple Heart, is with the Marines in Hawaii and Sergeant Walter Savery is with the army in France.

A third brother, George Savery, is employed by the Grumman Aircraft Corporation..

Word has been received from the chaplain of John's regiment that he is buried in a United States Military Cemetery in Normandy.

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PANORAMA



VALLEY STREAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME XXV ISSUE 3

NOVEMBER 1998

PAGAN FLETCHER RESTORATION

143 Hendrickson Avenue
Valley Stream, NY 11580 516 872-4159

NEXT MEETING
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18
8:00 p.m.

HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH HALL
BROOKLYN AVENUE AND 7th STREET

VALLEY STREAM
PROGRAM
THE KING MANOR

presented by **ROY FOX**

The newly restored King Manor in Jamaica was the home of Rufus King, a Founding Father, and writer of the United States Constitution. Dating from the early part of the nineteenth century, the house replicates life on a country estate around 1825.

Our speaker, Roy Fox, who calls himself "a Legend in his own Mind," sent a tongue-in-cheek autobiography to the editor of Panorama. His words suggest a person with a wry sense of humor who promises to provide a very entertaining evening for Society members and their guests. Mr. Fox, who is the caretaker of the Rufus King Manor, was a radio broadcaster through most of his life, including a stint at WMCA in New York. An example of Roy Fox' self deprecating sense of humor was the line, "Fox has written four books, none of them published to date."

Cakes for the November meeting will be baked by Carol McKenna, Bertha Ballou and Dorothy Vitale.

FIRE DEPARTMENT PLAQUE

At the October 21st meeting, Carol McKenna presented a plaque, which is now on display at the Restoration, awarded by the Valley Stream Fire Department to the VSHS in appreciation to the Society for our participation in the Fire Department's 100th Anniversary parade.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

The Pagan Fletcher Restoration will be decorated for the Christmas holidays on Saturday, November 28th. Valerie Esposito, Helen Dowdeswell, Eileen Brennan, Karen Selah and Walter Harrod will meet at the house at 11:00 a.m. to begin the decorating. Others are welcome.

BEST WISHES

Frank Koegler, the treasurer of the VSHS, was recently hospitalized. We send best wishes for his return to good health.



GINGERBREAD HOUSE CONTEST

The annual Gingerbread House Contest will be held at the Pagan Fletcher Restoration from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 6th. We will be eagerly accepting all submissions of gingerbread creations at 10:00 a.m. that morning. Some of the gingerbread concoctions in recent years have been extremely clever. The winners will receive Blockbuster gift certificates. A bake sale will also be held that day. Members are requested to bring small wrapped packages of cookies or cake.

A sign advertising the contest will be posted by the Village on the Merrick Road fence of Hendrickson Park. The art work on the sign will be done by Marshall Anderson.

ROCKAWAY CAFE

The newly refurbished Rockaway Cafe (formerly the American Cafe) is planning to decorate the restaurant with vintage pictures of sites on Rockaway Avenue to be borrowed from the Valley Stream Historical Society.

ORAL HISTORY

Helen Dowdeswell announced that she has taped the amazing story of VSHS active and devoted member, Anthony Melillo. Despite the fact that his mother was an American, Anthony who was living in Italy during World War II served in the Italian Army. He was captured and spent a period of time in an American Prisoner of War camp. Anthony's recollections are most interesting and amusing.

LIBRARY BOOKS

Mamie Eng at the Henry Waldinger Library has notified the VSHS that a number of history books have been purchased with the Society's contribution. Among the books are Brooklyn the Way it Was and Welcome Back to Brooklyn.

BITS OF HISTORY-MOSTLY LONG ISLAND

VALLEY STREAM IN WORLD WAR II

by Al Mayernik

This 3-part article about his grandfather, Francis X. Fink, was submitted by Douglas Anacreonte to his English teacher, Mrs. Linton, on December 7, 1987.

Francis X. Fink was born on 2 March, 1918. He lived at 64 West Valley Stream Boulevard. He served in the Army Air Force from 8 February 1944 to 29 September, 1945 in the Mediterranean Theater, Po Valley, North Apennines, Balkans, Rome-Arno, Rhineland.

FRANCIS X. FINK

PRISONER OF WAR PART I

My grandfather, Francis X. Fink, was born in 1918, the eighth of eleven children. During World War II, ...he was drafted into the Army to help fight Hitler. But F.X.F. wanted to be a pilot so he persevered and was finally commissioned into the bomber pilot training program. In February 1944, he graduated as a second lieutenant. He was sent overseas and arrived in Italy in August 1944. He was assigned to combat duty as the pilot of a B-24 bomber with the 15th Air Force. The Allies were flying night missions over Germany, dropping their bombs on trains, bridges and munitions factories and returning to Italy. Their goal was to weaken Hitler's army and free Europe from the Nazi terror. F.X.F. flew 27 such missions and was successful in getting his plane and crew safely back to Italy.

On February 13, 1945, F.X.F. and his crew left Italy on their mission-

the target was Vienna, Austria. They had dropped their bombs and were returning to base when flak from German anti-aircraft artillery hit their plane. Three of the four engines were destroyed and F.X.F. was afraid that the plane would blow up. He turned his plane toward the Russian lines but realized that they would never make it and so he gave the order for the crew to bail out. Being the pilot, he was the last to leave the plane. The B-24 exploded just thirty five seconds after he left it, but the crew was drifting down to earth by that time. The flak was extremely heavy that night and he was injured in the face. His ankle was broken when he hit the frozen ground. Panic and fear set in when he realized that he had landed behind enemy lines. "We landed in Hungary and were taken prisoner as soon as we landed for they (the Nazis) had seen us bail out."

The crew from the plane had been separated and F.X.F., even though he was badly wounded, was made to walk many miles. They went from one stop to another until they reached an old castle in Hohemark near Frankfurt, Germany. It had been used as a hospital but was now a mini-prison camp for captured enemy soldiers. Unlike the Nazi concentration camps, which were built specifically to work and exterminate people, these POW camps were often make-shift prisons. Schools, factories and jails and this old castle were used to store captured Allies.

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