

PANORAMA

VALLEY STREAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PAGAN-FLETCHER RESTORATION

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VOLUME XXXVI, No. 4

January 2009

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, January 21, 2009, at 8:00 pm
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
Brooklyn Avenue and 7th Street
Valley Stream, New York

Life in the FBI

Retired Special Agent Thomas McShare will relate his experiences while employed by the FBI. McShare joined the agency in 1968 and was named senior investigator by Director Webster. Currently he serves as regional managing director of a firm involved in the fields of international security, public safety, investigative and executive protection.



HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST WINNERS



- **1st Grand Prize** SherylAnne Robinson, Little Bo Peep
- **2nd Grand Prize (tie)** Nicholas Tineo, magician; Norah Carpino, gypsy
- **3rd Grand Prize (three-way tie)** Julian Tineo, skeleton pirate; Mathew Tineo, pirate; Robert Robinson, ninja.



GINGERBREAD HOUSE CONTEST WINNERS



- **Special Mention** - Briana Debé—*Santa is Coming to Town*
- **Special Mention** - Page & Rylan Smith
- **3rd place** - Danielle Debé—*Christmas Road*
- **2d place** - Girl Scout Troop #2281—*Winterland in Candyland*
- **1st place** - Libby Gray—*Harley's Upstaging Truck*

The Candlelight Tour was a huge success. A trunkful of canned goods was given to Parish Outreach at Holy Name of Mary.

BUCKLEY HONORED

Jim Buckley was named Person of the Year by the *Valley Stream Herald*. The Society congratulates him on this honor.

ANSWERS TO PRESIDENTIAL QUIZ



Adams was the first President to graduate college.

John Adams and his son, John Quincy Adams graduated from Harvard College, Adams in 1755 and John Quincy in 1787.

Carter graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1946. He ranked 60th in a class of 820 at Annapolis.

Clinton graduated from Georgetown in 1968, where he studied international affairs.

Wilson graduated from the College of New Jersey (which in 1879 became known as Princeton University).

Pierce and Hawthorne attended Bowdoin College. Pierce began college at the age of 15 and graduated in 1824, Hawthorne the following year.

Kennedy started college at Princeton University in 1935 but left because of illness and resumed his studies at Harvard the following year.

CONGRATULATIONS CAROL

Carol McKenna was elected to her third term as President of the Association of Municipal Historians of New York State at its Fall meeting in Lake Placid.



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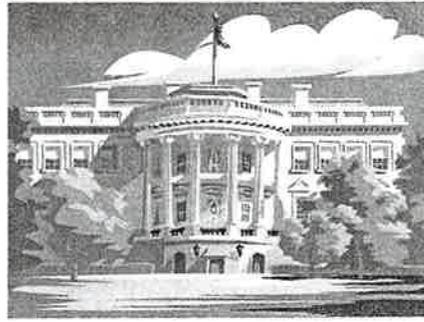
Panorama

Editor

Carol McKenna

Editorial Designer

Stephanie Darcy



On January 20, 2009 a new family will be occupying the most famous residence, namely The White House.

In 1791 Pierre Charles L'Enfant prepared a city plan for Washington reserving 82 acres for a "President's Park." L'Enfant's original design for the house was approximately four times the size of the present White House. Construction started in 1792 and it was first occupied by Adams in 1800. Total cost: \$232,372.00.

On August 24, 1814 it was burned by the British in retaliation for the burning of Canadian government buildings in York, Ontario by the United States. Scars from the burns appeared in 1990 when white paint was removed during restoration.

The White House was the largest in the United States until after the Civil War.

While the central building contains the family residence, it also has staff offices and public rooms. The White House is the only private residence of a head of state that is open for public tours.

There are sixteen (16) rooms on the second floor which includes four (4) bedrooms reserved for The First Family, a private dining room, a family kitchen, the Lincoln Bedroom and the Yellow Oval Room.

Did you know:

Andrew Jackson added running water.

Abraham Lincoln made no changes.

Benjamin Harrison got a shock from new wiring.

Theodore Roosevelt added the West Wing and gave it the name *White House*.

Richard Nixon added a bowling alley.

Barack Obama thinks the flat screen television should be removed from the Lincoln Bedroom.



Valley Stream Historical Society
P.O. Box 22
Valley Stream, NY 11582-0022

GARDEN CITY NY 115

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VOLUME XXXVI, No. 5

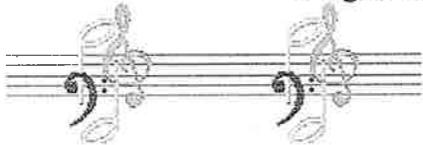
February '09

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, February 18, 2009, at 8:00 pm
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
Brooklyn Avenue and 7th Street
Valley Stream, New York



Charlene Darby will lead us in a
Patriotic and Presidential Sing-A-Long.



GEORGE IS BACK



Come see a piece of genuine Washington memorabilia owned by the Society. Visit the Restoration on Sunday, February 15, 2009 between 1 and 4 pm. Volunteers will be dressed in colonial costumes.

ARE YOUR DUES PAID?

If you have not already done so, please mail your check for 2009 dues to the Society at P.O. Box 22, Valley Stream, New York 11582-0022. Thank you.

FAMOUS FEUDS THROUGHOUT HISTORY

Elizabeth I, Queen of England and Mary, Queen of Scots. After a twenty year imprisonment, Elizabeth, upon hearing of an assassination plot against her, orders Mary beheaded.

Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr were political rivals who dueled on July 11, 1804. Hamilton died as a consequence of that duel. Burr was at the time Vice President of the United States.

The Hatfields of West Virginia and the McCoys of Kentucky who feuded for more than a decade supposedly over the theft of a pig. The fighting ended in 1891 but not after a loss of more than ten family members.

Al Capone and George "Bugs" Moran which lead to the famous St. Valentine's Day Massacre in 1929 where six members of Moran's gang were machine gunned to death, together with a seventh victim who was not connected to Moran.

Joseph Stalin and Leon Trotsky engaged in a power struggle after the death of Lenin. Stalin won and Trotsky was expelled from the Communist Party, exiled from the Soviet Union, and assassinated in Mexico in 1940.

Olivia deHavilland and Joan Fontaine are two well-known actresses and siblings. Both were nominated for Oscars for Best Actress in 1941. Fontaine won for her role in *Suspicion*. In 1946 and again in 1949 deHavilland won Oscars for Best Actress for her roles in *To Each His Own* (1946) and *The Heiress* (1949). Both actresses are in their 90's and the feud continues.

WHERE TWO TOWERS ONCE STOOD, A MEMORIAL BEGINS TO MATERIALIZE

"Of all the right angles that have been built at ground zero in the last three years, of all the places where steel meets steel at 90 degrees, there is no more meaningful angle right now than the one poised high over the PATH tracks near Fulton Street.

It visibly defines one corner of the north pool of the National September 11 Memorial and Museum and, therefore, one corner of the outline of 1 World Trade Center – a void left in the city fabric after the attack of Sept. 11, 2001."

..."As is currently the practice at the trade center project, construction milestones pass quietly, with little public notice or fanfare. But they are no less important to those involved."

"To see the actual framing of the void is a major step in filling in the wound," said Joseph C. Daniels, the president and chief executive officer of the memorial and museum, as he looked across ground zero on Oct. 31, toward the embryonic north pool and the pale-green steel framework that has begun to define the south pool, the site of 2 World Trade Center."

By David W. Dunlap
The New York Times – November 17, 2008

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The Academy Awards



On May 4, 1927 the State of California approved a charter for the Academy. The first President was Douglas Fairbanks, Vice President Fred Niblo, M. C. Levee served as Treasurer and Frank Woods was Secretary. The first location for the Academy's headquarters was 6912 Hollywood Boulevard, Los Angeles.

The winners of the very first Academy Awards were published on February 15, 1929. The first ceremony was held at the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel on May 16, 1929. Emil Jannings won for Best Actor in *The Last Command* and *The Way of All Flesh*. He was not present. Having learned earlier that he had won, he had his photo taken prior to the ceremony, moved to Germany, and never returned to the US.

Cedric Gibbons, Art Director at MGM in 1928 designed the Oscar. The statue remains the same except for a minor adjustment to the pedestal made in the 1904's. The five holes in the base represent five branches: Actors, Directors, Producers, Technicians and Writers. The statute is 13-1/2 inches tall, weighs 8-1/2 lbs. and is made of britannium. During World War II the statute was made of plaster.

When Spencer Tracy won his Oscar in 1937, his had the name *Dick Tracy* on it.

In 1968, Kate Hepburn and Barbara Streisand won Best Actress Oscars. They are the first exact tie winners.

For the 1975 voting, Glenda Jackson was disqualified for her failure to pay dues that year.

After the Gulf War began in 1990, the only Academy attendee who did not have to walk through a metal detector was Bob Hope.

In 1993 Sid Luft (Judy Garland's ex-husband) was stopped by court action from selling her special 1940's special Oscar Juvenile for *Wizard of Oz*. It was a replacement as she had lost the original.

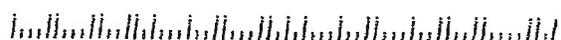
In 1997 Clark Gable's Oscar was sold by his son as part of his estate. It was purchased by an anonymous buyer for \$607,500.00 and donated to the Academy. Steven Spielberg was the anonymous bidder.

In 1995 Margaret O'Brien got back her miniature Oscar statue that was stolen from her.

Valley Stream Historical Society
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Valley Stream, NY 11582-0022



Mamie Eng
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VOLUME XXXVI, No. 6

MARCH 2009

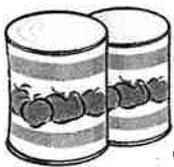
NEXT MEETING

Thursday, March 19, 2009, at 8:00 pm
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
Brooklyn Avenue and 7th Street
Valley Stream, New York



THE VILLAGE JUSTICE COURT IN NEW YORK STATE

The Honorable Robert Bogle, Village Justice of the Village of Valley Stream, will present an historical perspective of the Village Justice Court throughout our state.



DONATIONS NEEDED

The Society asks that you bring with you to the March meeting canned goods for the less fortunate. We have all read in the newspapers that the food pantries on Long Island are begging for assistance.

TOUR of WOODLAWN CEMETERY



The Long Island Museum (LIMA) is offering a tour of Woodlawn Cemetery on Saturday, May 16, 2009 from 9 am to 4 pm. The cost is \$40.00 for LIMA members and \$60.00 for non-members. A bus will leave from the Cradle of Aviation Museum located at Charles Lindbergh Boulevard, Garden City, NY for the cemetery and return to the Cradle after

the tour. Space is limited. Checks should be made payable to LIMA and mailed to LIMA at PO Box 1063, Huntington, NY 11743.



VALLEY STREAM'S FERTILIZER DUMP RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PRESENT POLITICAL UPHEAVAL THERE

The Kane & Wright fertilizer dump at Valley stream in the town of Hempstead is responsible for a political upheaval which is now taking place there. The dump covers an acre of ground and two months ago complaint was made to the health board that it was a nuisance and dangerous to public health. The fact that a dozen case of illness had appeared in the vicinity, some of them proving fatal, was pointed to as substantiating the complaint, and the people fully expected that prompt action would be taken. The board was slow in its movements, however, and when the health officer, to whom the matter was referred for investigation, reported that the best authorities did not include stable manure among the breeders of malignant diseases the question was apparently dropped.

The people were not satisfied and the complaint was renewed, but for some reason nothing has yet been done to suppress the trouble. The permit for the dump was secured through the efforts of George R. Mount, a contractor and politician, credited with having considerable influence over the town authorities. For that reason it was believed that nothing short of legal proceedings would bring about its discontinuance. At the last meeting of the health board Town Clerk Brill called attention to stories which were in circulation reflecting upon the honesty of two members of the board. He said they were false in every particular. Mr. Mount, who was present at the meeting, denied that he had ever said he "had seen the justice and town clerk," or had offered a bribe to any member of the board. The people who have suffered from the effects of the dump during the past two months see in this new turn of affairs a speedy settlement of the matter and expect that the nuisance will be ordered abated at the next meeting of the board.

Brooklyn Daily Eagle – September 9, 1894



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OFFICIALS SUED

PETER FEELEY BRINGS TAXPAYERS' SUIT AGAINST
Dady, WURSTER, WILLIS, PALMER, SUTTON, FIELDING
AND MILNE ON PAID CLEANING CONTRACTS.

That there is at least one taxpayer in Brooklyn who believes that the city was defrauded by Michael J. Dady and others when Contractor Dady collected \$25,231.92 for cleaning the Simonson ponds and the Valley Stream Pond was evidenced when it was announced this afternoon that Lawyer Bert Reiss of 215 Montague Street had been retained by Peter Feeley of 202 Tillary street to bring a taxpayers' suit against Michael J. Dady, former Mayor Wurster, George W. Palmer, John R. Sutton, Theodore B. Willis, Robert W. Fielding and Peter Milne. The suit is brought against the defendants collectively, but the plaintiff seeks to secure judgments against each of the ex-officials named in the complaint.

The papers in the case, which allege conspiracy and collusion on the part of all the defendants, were prepared this morning and issued for service this afternoon. The required bond of \$2,000 has also been given by Mr. Feeley and it is likely that the action will be forced to trial as speedily as possible.

Bert Reiss, Mr. Feeley's attorney, when seen by an Eagle reporter this afternoon, said: "This is, as said, brought under the laws of 1892, chapter 301, giving a taxpayer the right to bring an action against any official of a municipality for the misuse and waste of the public funds, or for the fraudulent or exorbitant use thereof. Peter Feeley, the plaintiff, is an old resident and taxpayer of Brooklyn, having lived in this city for over forty years and has been paying taxes in the municipality for over thirty. He is the owner of considerable property and brings this action simply as a taxpayer and a citizen of this municipality, who is desirous of aiding as far as he can the righting of a great public wrong and seeing that those who participated in it are not only punished, but compelled to pay back to the city the money they took therefrom and for which the city received no just equivalent. Mr. Feeley wishes it clearly understood that there is no politics in this suit and that the evidence brought to light by the Eagle and other evidence in his possession warranted him in taking this stand. Some of the transactions which will be brought to light when this suit is tried will be interesting. If it does nothing else but warn future officials and obliterate once and forever the unwarranted, careless and unscrupulous use of public funds, some benefit at least will be derived. From the evidence in my possession I am fully satisfied that Mr. Feeley's cause of action is a just one and will be upheld by the court."

Mr. Feeley's complaint recites, among other things: That shortly prior to the month of November, 1896, the Simonson Twin Ponds at Rosedale and the pond at Valley Stream became foul and unhealthy, and thereupon the Board of Aldermen of the said City of Brooklyn, at the instigation of the defendant, Theodore B. Willis, as the plaintiff is informed and believes, passed a certain resolution authoring the said Theodore B. Willis, as Commission of City Works of the said City of Brooklyn, among other things, to do such dredging, cleaning and other work as might be required for the protection of the water supply on the streams and ponds furnishing the same, and to incur the expense necessary in carrying on such work at an expense not to exceed the sum of seventy-five thousand dollars which was thereby ordered to be transferred from the water revenue to the account of water maintenance to be used by the said defendant.

Brooklyn Daily Eagle - March 25, 1898

Valley Stream Historical Society
P.O. Box 22
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VOLUME XXXVI, No. 7

April 2009

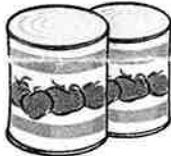
NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, April 15, 2009, at 8:00 p.m.
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
Brooklyn Avenue and 7th Street
Valley Stream, New York



The Society will be entertained by singer,
Brian Darby.

DONATIONS NEEDED



The Society asks that you bring to the April meeting canned goods for the less fortunate. Our local food pantry is in dire need of canned goods for the less fortunate.

OPENING AND DEDICATION



Our sincere good wishes and congratulations to the Bohemia Historical Society which is dedicating its museum on Sunday, April 26, 2009, at 2 p.m. The museum is located at 1519 Locust Avenue, Bohemia, New York.



Tom McShane, neighbor and former FBI agent will appear on *America's Most Wanted* on April 11, 2009 - Channel 5 at 9 p.m.



PRESENTATION

On March 31, 2009, Guy Ferrara was scheduled to make a presentation before the Town of Hempstead Landmarks Preservation Commission with respect to an application to have an historic marker erected in the vicinity of Home Depot denoting the location of a once viable airport in the vicinity called Curtiss Airport and the numerous historic figures who flew and landed at Curtiss.

A LITTLE BIT OF HISTORY ABOUT GIRL SCOUT COOKIES



Cookie sales started in December 1917.

In July 1922 a dozen cookies could be sold for 25 cents.

Cookies were shaped as a trefoil. The trefoil means three leaves – and each leaf stands for a part of the Girl Scout promise: On my honor, I will try: To service God and my country; to help people at all times; And to live by the Girl Scout law.

Thin Mints were originally called Cooky Mints.

Girl Scouts sold calendars in 1946 when cookie sales were discontinued as a result of food shortages.

The fourth basic cookie type was the chocolate-based sandwich cookie.

The one cookie that was not a best seller is the caramel coconut cluster.

The new cookie is the low-fat snap – iced oatmeal raisin cookies. Today the Girl Scouts offer sugar free chocolate chip and reduced fat Daisy Go Rounds (flower shaped crispy cinnamon cookies).



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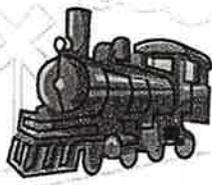
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**LONG ISLAND RAIL ROAD
CELEBRATES
175 YEARS OF SERVICE**

The Long Island Rail Road was chartered in 1834 by New York State when Andrew Jackson was President and Kit Carson was leading wagons out West.

At the time the railroad was chartered it was less than ten years after the first railroad was started in England. France instituted its rail system in 1828, Austria in 1829 and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad in the United States opened in 1830. The LIRR was intended to form part of a rail and ferry combination transporting passengers from New York City to Boston. Railroad engineers determined that it was impossible to build a railroad from New York to Boston because of the hills of southern Connecticut. The LIRR planned to have passengers travel to Greenport on the North Shore where they would travel by ferry to Stonington, Connecticut to pick up a train for Boston.

The first railroad to be chartered (1832) on Long Island was called the Brooklyn and Jamaica Railroad. The charter granted to the LIRR allowed it to absorb the Brooklyn and Jamaica road which it did by signing a 45 year lease. Although the purpose of the railroad was to transport people from Manhattan to the ferry on the North Shore, little thought was paid to the population of Long Island by building the road closer to populated areas – the north and south shores. The LIRR tracks reached Hicksville in 1837, Farmingdale in 1841, Deer Park in 1842, Yaphank in 1843 and Greenport in 1844. On July 27, 1844 the first train traveled from Brooklyn to Greenport which launched the rail line to Boston.

The railroad proposed for a while carrying passengers and mail from Brooklyn to Greenport on its way to Boston. By 1850 it operated 15 locomotives, 22 passenger coaches, 12 mail and baggage cars and 128 freight cars. Five trains ran every day making two stops for fuel and water. The fare from Brooklyn to Greenport was \$1.75 and \$2.00 for the Boston express. The dream of the LIRR came to an end in 1850 when the engineers were proved wrong and an all rail line was built from New York to Boston through the hills of southern Connecticut. The railroad went into receivership.



(To be continued)

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P.O. Box 22
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APR 19 1991



Mamie Eng
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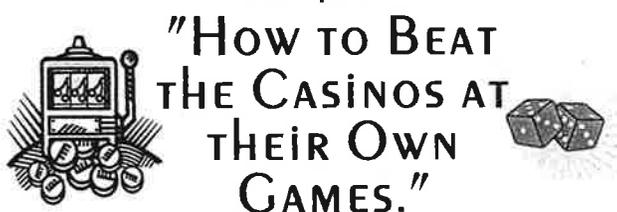
VOLUME XXXVI, No. 8

MAY 2009

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Valley Stream, New York

PROGRAM:



"HOW TO BEAT
THE CASINOS AT
THEIR OWN
GAMES."

A LECTURE by AUTHOR
FRANK SCOBLETE.

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

The Annual Memorial Day Parade will take place on Monday, May 25, 2009. The Society will meet at 9:00 am at the parking lot near the Wheeler Avenue School on Rockaway.

IT HAPPENED IN 1900

W. E. B. DuBois (1868-1963) founds along with others the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People ("NAACP").

Bakelite (a form of plastic) is patented.

W. C. Hardy writes *Memphis Blues*, the first blues to be written down.

Blue Anchor Lines *Waratah* carrying 288 passengers heading for Cape Town passes the *Clan McIntyre* and then is never seen or heard of again.

Bleriot produces the plane Bleriot XI, the first of his many planes which did not immediately crash.

Honus Wagner's baseball card was made by American Tobacco. Wagner was a shortstop for the Pittsburgh Pirates. His card is rare because he ordered the company to stop printing them.

Two ships – one carrying Italian immigrants and the other American tourists headed for Europe collide in the fog off Nantucket Island. 1500 passengers depend on new technology – the wireless telegraphy and a 26 year old wireless operator sending s.o.s. signals as his cabin fills with water.

The first Federal drug prohibition passes in the United States outlawing importation of opium.

The Chiricahua Apache Geronimo dies.



DONATIONS NEEDED

The Society asks that you bring to the May meeting canned goods for the less fortunate. Our local food pantry is in dire need of canned goods for those in need.



FYI

Did you know that basketball was invented in 1891 by a Canadian physical education instructor named James Naismith in Springfield, MA under the tutelage of American physical educator specialist, Luther Halsey Gulick? Naismith was born in Almonte, Ontario and educated at McGill University and Springfield College.

In the beginning players dribbled a soccer ball up and down a court without set dimensions. Points were earned by landing the ball in a peach basket. The patent for the ball itself was granted to G. L. Pierce in June, 1929.

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CELEBRATES
175 YEARS OF SERVICE**

Long Island was scarcely populated and the Long Island Rail Road had no choice but to help it grow. The City of Brooklyn complicated matters by banning steam locomotives from operating within its limits and so the railroad built a terminus at Hunter's Point (now Long Island City). Ninety (90%) percent of the island's population was in the most western area of Long Island and Brooklyn and so it was a blow to the railroad. Ten years later Brooklyn would change its mind but the railroad would never again handle significant traffic in Brooklyn. The link for the railroad was Manhattan.

The railroad would face stiff competition including, but not limited to, the Flushing and North Side Railroad. In 1876, the railroad would be bought out by Conrad Poppenhusen (owner of the Flushing and North Side Railroad) but the move proved to be costly and again the railroad went into receivership and was taken over by its lender, Drexel, Morgan & Co. Drexel, Morgan sold the railroad to Austin Corbin and a number of other investors. For the next seventeen years, Corbin resurrected the railroad. Corbin made certain that the roadbeds and right-of-ways were safe. Iron rails were replaced with steel. He bought powerful locomotives and new passenger cars. Corbin had new air brakes installed, improved the signaling system and filled out the network of track. He never did realize his dream, however, of a great international port at the eastern end of the island where the railroad would transport travelers bound by ship to England.

In 1900 the Pennsylvania Railroad acquired the railroad to use as a connection between resorts, Long Island beaches and the residential sections of Long Island to the cities of New Jersey. In 1905 the first third-rail electric service began. In 1907 the Flatbush terminal at Atlantic Avenue was opened. During the period 1903 through 1910 construction of the East River tunnels was completed into Manhattan. In 1910 Pennsylvania Station was opened. The other major station, Jamaica, was built during the period 1910 to 1913. In 1905 the railroad accommodated 18 million passengers and hauled approximately 2.8 million tons of freight.

(to be continued)

Valley Stream Historical Society
P.O. Box 22
Valley Stream, NY 11582-0022

GARDEN CITY NY 115

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Children's Section
Waldinger Memorial Library
60 Vernona Avenue
Valley Stream, NY 11580



PANORAMA VALLEY STREAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PAGAN-FLETCHER RESTORATION

143 HENDRICKSON AVENUE, VALLEY STREAM, NY (516) 872-4159 FAX: (516) 599-7069
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VOLUME XXXVI, No. 9

JUNE 2009

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, June 17, 2009, at 8:00 pm
 Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
 Brooklyn Avenue and 7th Street
 Valley Stream, New York



Join us for our Strawberry and Ice Cream Social and installation of officers and trustees.

- President.....Guy Ferrara
 Vice President.....Gabe Parrish
 Corresponding Secretary.....Agnes Libath
 Recording Secretary.....Ruthanne Zwarico
 Treasurer.....Florence Gunther

Three Year Trustees:

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| Marge Chvatal | Honey Harper |
| Joseph Gunther | Maria Gicala |
| Tony Gicala | |

DONATIONS NEEDED



The Society asks that you bring to the June meeting canned goods for the less fortunate. Our local food pantry is in dire need of canned goods for the less fortunate.

SAVE THE DATE



On October 17, 2009 there will be a ceremony at The Home Depot behind the Green Acres Shopping Mall. A plaque will be

installed commemorating the site of Curtiss Airport. After the ceremony there will be a reception at the Pagan-Fletcher Restoration.

WOMAN OF THE YEAR



Our own Ruthanne Zwarico has been named Woman of the Year under a program conducted by Assemblyman Robert Barra. Ruthanne received her award on June 6, 2009 at the Sandel Center in Rockville Centre. We're proud of you, Ruthanne.

PASSINGS



Ruth Anholzer, who had served the Society for many years as Recording Secretary, passed away in May 2009. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Anholzer Family.

SCHOOL TOURS



The Valley Stream Historical Society conducted tours for school groups on June 3 and June 4.

WEDDING BELLS ARE RINGING...



for Peter McKenna and Kristen Powell on July 3, 2009 at 4:30, St. Martha's Church, 546 Greengrove Avenue, Uniondale, New York.

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**PANORAMA
EDITOR**
Carol McKenna
EDITORIAL DESIGNER
Stephanie Darcy



**LONG ISLAND
RAILROAD
CELEBRATES
175 YEARS
OF SERVICE**

Use of the railroad reached its peak during World War II. Automobiles and trucks were the popular mode of transportation, however, with the rationing of gas and tires, the railroad became important to the war effort. In the late 1940's the population increased in the suburbs and automobile sales rocketed which had an adverse effect on the railroad. Air conditioned cars were introduced by the Long Island Rail Road in 1955 and the last of the steam engines was retired that year.

New York State acquired the railroad in 1965 and the next twenty years or so were spent electrifying the system, which was costly, and time consuming. Service deteriorated which led to delays. In the 1980's the MTA engaged in capital improvements. However, the freight system declined losing 58% of its business over the period 1975 to 1990. Federal funding was also lost. Charles Hoppe became President of the Long Island Rail Road in 1990. He is credited with removing the homeless from Penn Station in a caring fashion and upgrading 15 important stations making them handicapped accessible. Hoppe revitalized the freight business which saw a loss in 1991 but enjoyed a profit in 1992. On-time performance improved and funding was arranged to replace an aging fleet of diesel locomotives. He was also at the helm when the \$190 million on-budget and on-time renovation of Penn Station was completed. In 1994 New York City and Long Island suffered a blizzard which stranded thousands of commuters as the railroad was unable to cope and failed to function. Hoppe was out of town and unable to return to handle the situation personally. He was held responsible and in July of 1994 resigned. Ironically before his departure he developed an emergency plan to prevent a reoccurrence.

The last of the 1950's diesel locomotives was retired in 1999. The Jamaica station was improved. Plans for a new Brooklyn terminal at Atlantic Avenue were in the works as well as service to the East Side of Manhattan by access to Grand Central Station. Penn Station was built to accommodate 200,000 individuals but in reality 500,000 passengers use it every day.



Valley Stream Historical Society
P.O. Box 22
Valley Stream, NY 11582-0022



L.I. Curriculum Project
Henry Waldinger Memorial Library
60 Verona Place
Valley Stream, NY 11580



PANORAMA

VALLEY STREAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PAGAN-FLETCHER RESTORATION

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VOLUME XXXVII, No.1

SEPT. 2009

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, September 16, 2009, at 8:00 pm
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
Brooklyn Avenue and 7th Street
Valley Stream, New York

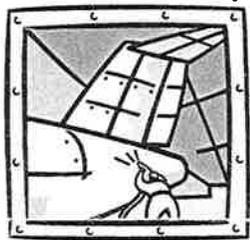


Bus Trip

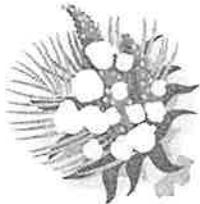
The Historical Society of East Rockaway and Lynbrook is hosting a bus trip to Albany on Saturday, October 17, 2009. The total cost is \$74.00 per person. The tour will include a 1.5 hour guided tour of special exhibits at the Albany Institute of History & Art with respect to the Quadricentennial of Henry Hudson's exploration of the Hudson River; a self-tour of the New York State Museum; and lunch at Jack's Oyster House in Albany. For further information, please contact Madeline Pearson of the Society at (516) 593-5791. **The deadline is September 10, 2009.**

X1L, A RARE PLANE BUILT IN VALLEY STREAM

A lecture presented by Gabe Parrish, Vice President of the Society.



PASSINGS



Henry T. Kohlman, lifelong resident of Valley Stream on August 8, 2009. Served over 40 years as a music teacher in Valley Stream. Charter Member of the Valley Stream Community Band. Member of the Valley Stream Historical Society.

DONATIONS NEEDED



The Society asks that you bring to the September meeting canned goods for the less fortunate. Our local food pantry is in dire need of canned goods.



COMMEMORATION

Saturday, October 17, 2009, at 10:00 am
– Dedication of historic marker celebrating the 80th Anniversary of Curtiss Airfield at the Home Depot Parking Lot, Green Acres, Valley Stream, NY. Reception at the Pagan-Fletcher Restoration following the ceremony.

2009 MAKE A DIFFERENCE AWARD

Town of Hempstead Supervisor Murray is looking for nominations for the Thirteenth Annual Make A Difference Award. The Town of Hempstead resident must be an individual who volunteers his or her time so that someone else's life can be better. A resume must be provided about the organizations and activities he or she serves and attends together with his or her home address. The nominator must provide a cover letter explaining why this individual is being nominated. All documentation must be returned to Supervisor Murray's office by Friday, October 2, 2009.

Valley Stream Historical Society

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Carol McKenna

Editorial Designer
Stephanie Darcy

HOW THREE CHILDREN LIVE RUNNING WILD AND HALF STARVED AT VALLEY STREAM

A gentleman who did not wish his name printed sent the following communication to the **EAGLE** yesterday:

To the Editor of the Brooklyn Eagle:

There is a strong story to be had at Pearsalls, L.I. A man, a fireman employed at the Woodsburgh Hotel, after the death of his wife deserted his three motherless little children and they are living almost like wild animals in a house in the woods. His threats of violence to any who aid them have deterred neighbors from needed charity.

An **EAGLE** reporter who went to Woodsburgh and saw Frederick Metzler could get from him no information as to the whereabouts of his children. He was in bad humor, having been arrested for neglecting them. There are three of them, girls, and their mother is dead. Metzler has married again, and his wife lives with him at the hotel. The children are living in a house in the woods at Valley Stream all alone and have been running wild and half dressed for several months. Metzler has given them bread and meat whenever they walked to Woodsburgh after it, the round trip being about six miles. The neighbors have given them food. Yesterday they accompanied their father to court dressed in clothes borrowed for the occasion. They were found at noon today making a dinner of raw beans. There was not a morsel of bread or meat in the house, they expected to go to Woodsburgh after some.

Brooklyn Eagle, September 8, 1888



School is open. Let's watch out for our future – the children of Valley Stream.

Membership Form

Valley Stream Historical Society
P.O. Box 22, Valley Stream, NY 11582
Expires June 2010

**Individual \$10, Student \$2, Contributing \$15, Family \$15 (2 or more in family)
Organizations, Clubs, Business, and Etc. \$25; Tax Exempt Life Gifts \$100.**

Name _____ Renewal ___ New ___
Address _____ State ___ Zip ___
Date _____ Payment \$ _____ Check ___ Cash ___

Valley Stream Historical Society
P.O. Box 22
Valley Stream, NY 11582-0022



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PANORAMA

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VOLUME XXXVII No. 2 OCTOBER, 2009



CURTISS AIR FIELD DAY

Celebrate the 80th Anniversary of Curtiss Air Field with a ceremony and the placement of an historic marker to be held at the Home Depot Parking Lot, Green Acres Shopping Mall, Valley Stream, NY on Saturday, October 17, 2009 at 10 am. A light lunch will be served after the ceremony at the Pagan-Fletcher Restoration, Hendrickson Avenue, Valley Stream, NY.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, October 21, 2009, at 8:00 pm
 Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
 Brooklyn Avenue and 7th Street
 Valley Stream, New York

COVERED DISH SUPPER



The doors of the Church will open at 6:15 p.m. Members and guests are invited to a wine and cheese social. Supper will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Dishes should be brought according to the first initial of your last name as indicated below:

A-H: Dairy-type foods, eggs, cheese, gelatins, fruit, fish (hot and cold).

I-Q: "Starchy" type foods, hot or cold such as rice, beans, potatoes, pasta, etc.

R-Z: Vegetables such as salads (tossed or otherwise) or casseroles. If you bring a tossed salad, please provide dressing.

Do Not Bring Meat or Meat Content Dishes.

The Society will provide these items as well as bread, butter, tea, coffee and desserts.

A donation of **\$5.00** will be collected at the door.

Guests are welcome but we ask that they bring dishes in accordance with the requirements listed above. Members are asked to provide a dish if their guests are unable to do so.



THE HALLOWEEN COSTUME CONTEST will be held at the Restoration on Sunday, October 25, 2009. The Ragamuffin Parade will start at 3:00 p.m. Costumes will be judged and prizes awarded for both children's and adult's costumes.

PASSINGS



Florence Rothage, Trustee of the Society, member of Grace Methodist Church and the Central High School Alumni Association on September 6, 2009.



Eighty (80) years ago on October 29, 1929 the stock market crashed, and the Great Depression began. President Hoover in March 1930 declared the worst was over but but the economy would not pick up until the beginning of WWII in 1939. People who lost their homes lived in shanty towns referred to as Hooverville. Hoover Stew was food dished out in soup kitchens; blankets of newspapers were called Hoover Blankets; and broken cars pulled by mules were called Hoover Wagons.



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A BRIEF HISTORY

The world's first Social Security retirement program was enacted by Germany in 1889 by Chancellor, Otto von Bismarck. On June 8, 1934 President Franklin D. Roosevelt announced to Congress his intention of establishing a program for Social Security. By executive order, the Committee on Economic Security was established comprised of Frances Perkins, Henry Morgenthau, Jr., Henry A. Wallace, Homer S. Cummings and Harry L. Hopkins. After negotiation in both houses of Congress, the Social Security Act was signed into law on August 14, 1935.

IMPORTANT EVENTS –

The first Social Security office was opened in Austin, Texas on October 14, 1936;

On November 9, 1936, the Baltimore office for record-keeping opened in the Chandler Building;

Applications for Social Security account numbers were first distributed by the Post Office on November 24, 1936;

On January 1, 1937, workers began to acquire credits toward old-age insurance benefits and payroll taxes were collected for the first time;

In January 1937, first applications for benefits were filed – Ernest Ackerman, a retired Cleveland motorman, was among the first to apply;

On August 10, 1939, the Social Security Amendments of 1939 broadened the program to include dependents and survivors benefits.

On January 31, 1940 Ida May Fuller became the first person to receive an old-age monthly benefit check.

On April 11, 1953, President Eisenhower created a new Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Social Security was made part of this new cabinet agency.

On June 30, 1961, President Kennedy signed amendments to Social Security permitting all workers to elect reduced retirement benefits at age 62.

On October 1, 1999, Social Security begins its annual mailing of the Social Security Statement to all workers age 25 and over.



Valley Stream Historical Society
P.O. Box 22
Valley Stream, NY 11582-0022

Mamie Eng
88-36 St. James Ave., #2
Elmhurst, NY 11373



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**CAPTAIN JOHN MacDONALD MILLER
1905-2008**

The *Poughkeepsie Journal* reported that Captain John MacDonald Miller died at the age of 102 on June 23, 2008. His death was due to natural causes.

Glen Curtiss was ultimately responsible for Miller's abiding interest in flying. At the tender age of 4 years and 5 months he watched Curtiss fly an airplane into a field directly across from his home in the Hudson River Valley.

Miller began flying at the age of 18 and was acquainted with Amelia Earhart. He witnessed Charles Lindbergh's historic flight to Paris in 1927. Three of the airplanes he has flown are on display at the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C. He barnstormed in the 1920's, set cross-country records that stood for 72 years, carried mail and in a period of twenty years logged more than 39,000 flying hours. He was the first to land an aircraft on the roof of a building – an autogyro, the precursor of the helicopter. Miller was a test pilot during World War II and retired as a pilot from Eastern Airlines in 1965. His last flight was in 2006.



On our home front, Miller was chief pilot for Columbia Aircraft Corp. in Valley Stream where he tested 330 Grumman "Duck" aircraft. One of the Ducks he flew is on exhibit at the Pima Air Museum in Tucson, Arizona.

His last words spoken to his nephew were "I guess my flying days are over."

Rest in peace, John M. Miller – you are now flying with the angels.



Left: Amelia Earhart (a/k/a Valerie Esposito) taken at the dedication of the plaque commemorating Curtiss Airfield, Valley Stream, on October 17, 2009.

Right: The real Amelia Earhart. On this date (January 11, 1935), aviator Amelia Earhart began a trip from Honolulu to Oakland, California, becoming the first woman to fly solo across the Pacific Ocean.



Valley Stream Historical Society
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