



# PANORAMA

VALLEY STREAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

Volume 1, No. 1

May 1973

NEXT  
MEETING

WEDNESDAY  
MAY 16th  
8 pm

HENDRICKSON PARK  
ADMINISTRATION BLDG.

## REAR VIEW WINDOW

Last month's meeting at Hendrickson Park was extremely well-attended in spite of poor weather. Business of the evening included -

...Treasurer Ruehl's report of a very impressive (for our "just-born" organization) bank balance of over \$300;

...A show-of-hands vote giving good support to the proposal of a museum site, pictured in the MAILEADER of April 19th;

...Announcement that plans for a dinner/raffle have been tabled for a more suitable time for conducting the activity;

...Word that paid memberships now number 250.

Howard Ruehl gave a pictorial presentation, projecting authentic old-time photos of Valley Stream as it was in the years between 1900 and 1920 or so. These were especially interesting in view of the tidbits of data Howard related about them. It was generally agreed that when Howard continues with a later era at another meeting some time hence, no member will want to be among the missing that night!

WOUL'D YOU PLEASE GIVE THIS  
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION TO  
A FRIEND OR NEIGHBOR?

To: **VALLEY STREAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
c/o Howard Ruehl  
15 S. Birchwood Drive  
Valley Stream, N.Y. 11580

I want to be a Charter Member.

Enclosed is check to the order of Valley Stream Historical Society for \$1.00, the special 1973 individual membership fee which will be in effect until May 31, 1973.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_



THE  
POSSIBLE  
DREAM ??

#### COMMITTEE NEWS

There are still a number of openings on the various committees which have been set up on a tentative basis. As the Society progresses, there is no doubt that additional committees will be needed. Jim Boerckel, our Vice President, is Committee Coordinator. Please let him know if you are interested in joining a committee. We need you!

---

### *Sayings*

"The more extensive a man's knowledge of what has been done, the greater will be his power of knowing what to do."

--Disraeli

V.S.H.S. PANORAMA  
c/o 61 Berkley St.  
Valley Stream, N.Y.  
11581



# PANORAMA

VALLEY STREAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

Volume 1, No. 2

June 1973

NEXT  
MEETING

WEDNESDAY  
June 20th  
8 pm

LUTHERAN CHURCH  
OF OUR SAVIOUR

DuBois and  
Rockaway Avenues

## EXHIBIT NIGHT

....first in a series of Exhibit Nights which will take place from time to time.

For this meeting the Exhibit will consist of the specific collections of several of our members who will speak briefly about them.

## REAR WINDOW

Our May meeting provided the stage for a fine slide presentation by Helen Dowdeswell of the old and new wonders of Greece and Turkey, from whence Helen has just returned. There was no doubt but that many minds were turned to thoughts of summer travels as they viewed Helen's beautiful pictures and listened to her very interesting narration. Perhaps one of our Fall meetings will produce another evening of historical touring by other members...

The business prelude to this program turned up the following bits of data -

...Cur May balance is \$365.20.

...Announcement of new membership fees due to expiration of Charter Membership Drive period (see new rates elsewhere in this issue).

...Report of Howard Ruehl and Helen Dowdeswell on the great enthusiasm for local history which they encountered on several visits made to student and

senior groups around town. All enjoyed the photos and tales of old Valley Stream which Howard and Helen presented.

...Hospitality reported operating in the black, with a balance on hand of \$7.21. (Looks like the Coffee Hour is assured!)

...Bob Presbrey has been appointed official Society Photographer; Lottie Christmann has been made Parliamentarian and will work with the Sturgis Code Book of Parliamentary Procedure; Audrey Boerckel will co-chair Hospitality Committee with Natalie Halprin (please note that the delicacies the girls have been providing are more than worth coming to meeting for, too!).

...Announcement that there will be no meetings during July and August. The September issue of PANORAMA will keep the members informed on meeting date and other activities.

...A new magazine of Long Island Living called PAUMONOK was shown around - - seems like a good magazine to subscribe to, which you may do by sending \$8 (one-year rate) to:

Paumonok Publications  
734 Walt Whitman Road  
Melville, N.Y. 11746.

## MEMBERSHIP

The privilege of charter membership at the special \$1.00 fee expired on May 31st, 1973. Individual memberships now require a fee of \$3.00, valid until March 1, 1974.

Two bylaws amendments will be voted upon at the June 20th meeting to give effect to certain clarifications of half-fee (\$1.50) Individual membership classifications, as follows:

- (a) Associate - inactive member, no voting privileges (for those who prefer to remain inactive or who cannot attend meetings, etc.)
- (b) Senior - 55 years of age and over (Proof of eligibility required) and  
Student - school or college undergraduate (proof of school attendance required)  
Both of these classifications carry voting privileges.

An application listing additional types of Society memberships for clubs, organizations, etc., will appear in a forthcoming edition of MAILEDER...there is a membership for everyone!

As of release date of this newsletter, our Individual memberships number 469 - and we're not even six months old!

\*\*\*\*\*

## SPECIAL THANKS

must be given to the Valley Stream Chamber of Commerce and Valley Bank of New York for their valuable assistance in promoting the sale of Long Island Map linen towels. The proceeds therefrom, and membership dues (which, until May 31st, was only \$1 per individual) are the only sources of income for the Society at this time and, as with any organization, there are unavoidable expenses of operation to be met. We are grateful to have been able to carry on our activities with the assistance given by so many willing friends.

\*\*\*\*\*

## "DREAM" HOUSE

We have been informed that official appraisal of the Fairchild house (which it is hoped the Village may acquire as a museum site) has been forwarded to the owner. His decision will be an important one for all of us.

## FINALLY.....

We would like to use PANORAMA to alert our membership to many of the activities in the Long Island area which might be of special interest to those who are history-minded. We will be happy to list a limited number of announcements of this type if we are informed by the first Wednesday of each month, beginning September. (Just recently a TV newscast gave live coverage to a "Sports-Card Collectors" Convention in New York City....a whole convention of them - doesn't seem possible, does it?)

\*\*\*\*\*

## *Sayings*

"We know the worth of a thing when we have lost it."  
--French Proverb

\*\*\*\*\*

## Notice:

For reasons of economy at this time, and as far as it is possible to do so, we have been mailing only one copy of PANORAMA per household. If you wish any change in this procedure, please let us know.

V.S. H.S. PANORAMA  
c/o 61 Berkley St.  
Valley Stream, N.Y.  
11581



# PANORAMA

VALLEY STREAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

Volume 1, No. 3

Summer, 1973

THIS SPECIAL EDITION OF OUR NEWSLETTER IS INTENDED TO KEEP YOU CURRENT ON OUR ACTIVITIES AND ALERT YOU AGAIN TO THE FACT THAT NO MEETINGS WILL BE HELD DURING JULY AND AUGUST. HOWEVER, COMMITTEES IN THEIR SEPARATE CONFERENCES WILL BE HARD AT WORK TO INSURE A GOOD CALENDAR OF FALL AND WINTER EVENTS.

## REAR WINDOW

Everyone is talking very favorably about the Exhibit Night which followed our June 20th meeting, but, before telling you about it, the business data below may be of interest to you.....

\*\*\*Membership is now 470 and several additional applications were received after the meeting. It was announced that the entire membership (and wives) of V. S. Lions Club has joined our Society en masse. We are happy to have these 98 friends as Charter Members.

\*\*\*Treasurer Ruehl reported---

May balance	\$345.36
Receipts	248.36
Disbursements	70.54
June balance	\$523.18

\*\*\*Lillian Weaver turned over a total of \$200 realized from sales of L. I. Map towels and notepaper. \$126 of this amount originated with Valley Bank of New York (representing the Chamber of Commerce) where towels are still available for purchase.

\*\*\*An amendment to clarify the membership categories carrying the \$1.50 fee was passed. (A complete listing of all classes of membership appears in the accompanying application.) Another amendment approving our use of Sturgis Code Book of Parliamentary Procedure was also approved.

\*\*\*Correspondence from John Wydler, 5th District N. Y. State Congressman, indicating his great interest in our new Society and extending best wishes, was read.

\*\*\*A \$100 Life Membership was requested by Mrs. Miriam Burg who stated that her membership was being purchased in honor of Mrs. Mabel Ackerly.

.....

Exhibit Night proved to be a great success. Before an audience of 75 people, the following members exhibited and spoke about their collections:

Alberta Bergmann, Braille med.  
 Emma Bitowski, Antique dolls  
 Miriam Burg, Silver miniatures  
 (continued)

Lottie Christmann, Historical plates

Evelyn Dibble, Safari trophies  
Lillian Weaver, Trivets

This first-in-a-series program will most likely whet appetites for the next Exhibit Night tentatively scheduled for late winter. During the Fall, members will be circularized to determine their hobbies and interests in the hope that a complete file of data on collections will bring about other interesting programs of member-participation.

Hospitality Hour featured ice cream with "out-East" strawberries and the Committee's usual good efforts at baking provided fine accompaniment for the coffee. Nothing more to say except that oldie "and a good time was had by all!"

\*\*\*\*\*

#### MEMBERSHIP

Miss Helen Dowdeswell is our regular Membership Chairman. Mail may be addressed to her in care of the Society at 123 South Central Avenue, Valley Stream, N.Y. 11580, or she may be reached by telephone at VA 5-8831.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### WAYFARERS CORNER

When you travel this summer, try to include a museum or two in your sightseeing. Many interesting museums are not highly publicized but frequently feature local relics not found in other places. Most good road maps show museums in small red print, and a few questions asked in the communities usually result in good directions to the sites.

Also, many tours of industrial plants are listed in a booklet entitled "Visitors Guide to Plant Tours", available for a small fee from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D.C. The book is especially useful in planning your visits since days and hours of admission are listed.

#### PAGING RIPLEY

Can anyone doubt Valley Stream's fame? Recently, while on tour in Denmark, Helen Dowdeswell sent "wish you were here" greetings from Copenhagen addressed simply -  
Valley Stream Historical Society  
Valley Stream, U.S.A.

This little piece of mail found its way to us with the accuracy of an Indian's arrow! That establishes a record of some kind for our Village!

\*\*\*\*\*

#### ANALYZING JUNK

In cleaning drawer or closet shelf  
I always argue with myself  
For if I toss a thing away  
I know I'll live to rue the day.  
While if I plan to use it still  
I know, of course, I never will.  
And whereupon I now beseech  
Some modern college please to teach  
Along with all the other bunk  
A course in analyzing junk!

--Origin unknown.

V.S.H.S.  
c/o 61 Berkley St.  
Valley Stream, N.Y.  
11581



# PANORAMA

VALLEY STREAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

Volume 1, No. 4

September 1973

NEXT  
MEETING

WEDNESDAY  
SEPTEMBER 19th  
8:00 p.m.

HENDRICKSON PARK  
ADMINISTRATION  
BUILDING

Mr. Howard Ruehl, Village Historian, will present another segment of old Valley Stream photos along with a delightful narration about the sites. Newcomers will be interested in seeing Valley Stream "like it was", and old-timers will enjoy some pleasant reminiscences.

The Hospitality Committee will be on hand, as usual, with some very tasty wares!

## ON THE HORIZON

...The agenda for the business portion of the September meeting will include some decisions to be made on (1) preparation of Charter and Life Membership certificates-of-recognition; (2) planning for a continuing museum program which the State requires of all historical societies wishing to avail themselves of financial aid; and (3) creation of a Memorial Fund to be managed by two or more Trustees, in which would be deposited any monies received "in memoriam".

...\$123 realized from the sale of Long Island Map towels at the Rockaway Avenue office of Valley Bank of New York will be turned over to the treasury. Anyone who has not already acquired some of these beautiful towels (especially

attractive framed) or who is in need of additional towels will want to stop at the Bank to purchase some at \$1.50 each. Valley Stream is shown quite clearly in the linen map design.

...Al Mayernik, former teacher at North High, has been devoting considerable time and effort to the preparation of slides made from old photos which Howard Ruehl has acquired. The plan is that these slides will become the property of the Society and used as a lecture series. Since Al is not charging the Society for his time, we are indeed fortunate that this fine collection of visual material will be available to us for only the cost of the films and supplies.

\*\*\*\*\*

VALLEY STREAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
 COMMITTEE COMPOSITION  
 as of September 1, 1973

FUND-RAISING

Chairman - Open  
 Mrs. Edna Carey CU 5-7574  
 Mrs. Irma Fiero LO 1-2090  
 Mrs. Elsie Ruehl VA 5-5813  
 Ed and Helen Moore VA 5-4322  
 Drew Weaver PY 1-5030

HOSPITALITY

Mrs. Natalie Halprin 791-8706  
 Mrs. Audrey Boerckel 561-7138  
 Co-Chairmen  
 Mrs. Marjorie Chvatal 825-0324  
 Mrs. Marion Reichert

LIBRARY

Mildred Zulch 825-4199  
 Stephen Consor 561-0212

MEMBERSHIP

Helen Dowdeswell, Chm. 825-8831  
 Dwight & Caroline Young 825-5470  
 Mary and Florence Gear 825-9262  
 Howard Ruehl, Ex-Officio 825-5813

MUSEUM

Mrs. Emma Bitowski, Chm. 825-4002  
 James & Audrey Boerckel LO 1-7138

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Mrs. Lottie Christmann 825-0979

PROGRAM

Mrs. Miriam Burg, Chm. 825-4049  
 Anthony Fiero 561-2090  
 Mrs. Lillian Weaver 791-5030

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Anthony Fiero, Chairman 561-2090  
 Mrs. Mabel Ackerly 825-0343  
 Edwin Bitowski 825-4002

PUBLICATIONS (Newsletter)

Mrs. Lillian Weaver, Ed. 791-5030  
 Mrs. Sandy Javurek 825-0174  
 Robert Presbrey, Photog.

RESEARCH

Robert Presbrey, Chm.  
 Mrs. Lottie Christmann  
 Mrs. Alberta Bergmann  
 James and Audrey Boerckel  
 Howard Ruehl

Note: As a general rule, regular meetings of the Society are held on the third Wednesday of the month at specified locations.

FROM THE VILLAGE GREEN

comes word that, after two property appraisals and an informal meeting with the owner of the "Fairchild House" (which the Society hopes will become a Village-owned museum), the Village Board of Trustees will confer officially with said owner within a few weeks to offer a fair price for the mansion and grounds. Announcement of the outcome of this conference might be made at our September meeting.

Also, our Society has been invited by Mayor Ward to select from its membership a representative group of 3 or 4 persons to join with the Village official family in establishing a 50th Anniversary Committee, the sole purpose of which will be to organize, promote and enhance all activities related to the "once-in-a-lifetime" celebration in 1975. These appointments will be announced as soon as possible.

\*\*\*\*\*

MEMBERSHIP

Our total membership now numbers 482, with every indication that additional membership applications are reaching the Membership Chairman, Helen Dowdeswell, even as we go to press.

V.S.H.S. "PANORAMA"  
 61 Berkeley Street  
 Valley Stream, N.Y.  
 11581



# PANORAMA

VALLEY STREAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

Volume 1, No. 5

October 1973

NEXT

MEETING

WEDNESDAY

OCTOBER 17th

8 p.m.

HENDRICKSON PARK

ADMINISTRATION

BUILDING

Our special program for this meeting will present to you Mildred Roemer, MAILLEADER columnist who writes Brandy's "Guide Dog's View" weekly. Mildred has had considerable experience in historical society work and her comments will be of interest to all. Be sure to attend.

## REAR WINDOW

Some 90 persons were on hand at the September meeting to enjoy another episode in Howie Ruehl's Valley Stream historical adventures (and Howie even appeared in one of the photos!). Preceding this enjoyable portion of the evening were some interesting business items:

...A check for \$123 from sale of Long Island map towels at Valley Bank of New York was turned over to the Treasurer (also Howie), and as we go to press the Bank has requested an additional supply of towels to be sold in their branches.

...A number of membership applications were received during the course of the evening. (Did you know that it is possible to apply for gift membership? Inquire about these from Helen Dowdeswell, VA 5-8831.)

...Emma Bitowski reported receiving several antique clothing items from about 1900 and at a future meeting she will display these and other similar items.

...Plans for a repeat of the highly-appreciated Exhibit Night in June were announced -- so dust off your collections and keep in mind that we'd like to see them.

...A Memorial Fund has been established with an initial gift of \$10 - to be administered by a committee of 2 or 3 volunteer Trustees. (Margaret Wellington has been appointed Chairman of the Fund.)

...A report from Village Hall indicated that the Administration is willing to consider the purchase of the "Fairchild House" at a fair and proper price and will proceed accordingly. The duty of our Society lies in appearance at the Village Hall open meeting on November 12th to support this effort and all members sincerely interested in the proposal are urged to do so!

...An invitation was received from V. S. Kiwanis Club to participate in a fund-raising Family Movie program which has been created in the interest of community spirit via a graduated scale of profits through sale of theatre admissions (details to be made public by the time

*Call Natalie or Audrey*

this newsletter is released).

A gift of an American flag to assist in the formal opening of our meetings was gratefully accepted from the Valley Stream Masonic Auxiliary.

Hospitality Committee co-chaired by Natalie Halprin and Audrey Boerckel, assisted by two McDermotts (Marge Chvatal and Marion Reichert) reported a balance of over \$17. We have just learned that they have never taken out the cost of all those delicious cakes they've been baking for the meetings. (Any of the distaff members who feel the need to show their skill at baking are just what the Society needs. -- Just call Natalie or Audrey; their numbers are listed in September PANORAMA.)

\*\*\*\*\*

ON THE HORIZON

The November meeting will take place a week later than normally (due to Thanksgiving) and we are happy to announce that Mr. John Trunk, a long-time resident of Valley Stream, will be showing his movie, films of a fine history of our Village which he prepared in the 1930s. The place of the meeting will be announced via PANORAMA and V. S. MAILLEADER. The date is November 28th.

Flower buffs will want to know that there is a Flower Show at Planting Fields Arboretum on November 2nd.

MUSEUM ITEMS

Along with the old-style banking tables recently donated to us by Valley Bank of New York, the Society has been given a number of mementos of earlier days with the understanding that these gifts will be part of a future museum display.

While storage for these items may in time present some problem to the Society (which is presently without permanent quarters, as you know), residents who have historical valuables to donate are invited to communicate with Emma Bitowski, Chairman of the Museum Committee, at 825-4002.

THINGS-TO-DO DEPARTMENT

Stop by Waldinger Library to look over some of the interesting titles for historically-minded readers. Our Librarian members have mentioned several books they believe to be quite special.

"EARLY AMERICAN LIFE"

is a great magazine, published by the Early American Society at Gettysburg, Pa., at the subscription price of \$6 per year for six issues. To inform you of some of the "tasty" articles in this publication, herewith the August index:

- The Story of the Hitchcock Chair
- Portsmouth, New Hampshire
- Mrs. Baughton's Crullers
- The White Hart Inn (Connecticut)
- Peddlers, Tinkers and Tinsmiths
- Hair, Early American Style
- The Art of Painting on Velvet
- The Plantations of Thomasville (Ga.)
- Rapier Masque
- How Scarce, How Valuable

plus patterns for making Williamsburg Sconce and Lanore Pierced Lamp.

Subscriptions will be accepted at the October meeting for convenience in ordering.

\*\*\*\*\*

# Sayings

*"Curiosity is one of the main guarantees of life's enjoyment. The older one grows the more vital it is to preserve one's curiosity. Middle age begins with its decline, so, the very first failure of curiosity must be jumped on ruthlessly."*

--Compton Mackenzie

V. S. PANORAMA  
61 Berkeley Street  
Valley Stream, N.Y.  
11581

Mr. & Mrs. J. Boerckel  
127 E. Carpenter St.  
Valley Stream, NY 11580



# PANORAMA

VALLEY STREAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

Volume 1, No. 6.

November 1973

NEXT  
MEETING

WEDNESDAY  
NOVEMBER 28th  
8 p. m.

HENDRICKSON PARK  
ADMINISTRATION  
BUILDING

Mr. John Trunk, a long-time resident of Gibson, will present films of Valley Stream which he made during the 1930s and 1940s. Don't miss this program - another look-back at earlier days in our Village.

## REAR WINDOW

The meeting of October 17th conducted in semi-informal fashion treated those in attendance, about 50 interested members, to some interesting inside looks at historical society activity via Mrs. Mildred Roemer, MAILEADER columnist who writes the "Brandy" column -- and Brandy himself was with her. Mildred's dedicated and continued efforts on behalf of East Rockaway Grist Mill preservation, along with those of her fellow workers, have resulted in providing local citizens and visiting firemen with a historical landmark of which everyone is proud. Mrs. Roemer's remarks were a great encouragement to our group. In appreciation of her assistance to us a donation of \$10 was made to the Guide Dog Foundation.

Preceding the program the business portion of the meeting covered the following items:

\*\*\*Treasurer's report revealed a healthy balance to date of \$868.59.

\*\*\*Membership Chairman Helen Dowdeswell reported membership now at 491. (Elsewhere in this issue of PANORAMA a special membership application is printed for use in Holiday gift-giving. All such memberships will be valid through March 1, 1974. Nice way to remember Valley Streamers who have moved out-of-town....

\*\*\*President Fiero reminded all to attend the open Village Board meeting on November 12th at which time the proposal to purchase a museum site (Fairchild House) will be put to the public. Our support of this project is extremely important.

(Note: By the time you read this, we will know the outcome.)

\*\*\*A Nominating Committee will be appointed to prepare a slate of officers for the coming year. Elections will be held in January. President Fiero also announced that copies of the complete and final Constitution and By-Laws are available to those who wish such.

\*\*\*Mildred Zulch is Chairman of Long Island map towels and notepaper sales. Contact her if you need any of these items for your Holiday gift remembrances. (Mildred is usually available at Waldinger Library during the week.)

\*\*\*Museum Chairman Emma Bitowski exhibited a few antique gowns (which have been donated to the Society) following the formal program.

\*\*\*Hospitality for this meeting included, as usual, home-baked goodies, a most popular one being Helen Moore's Early American Bishop's bread bars (and copies of the old-time recipe were distributed along with the eating).

Distaff members are encouraged to donate a baking of some of their "family favorite" recipes for future meetings (call Natalie Halprin or Audrey Boerckel).

\*\*\*Mabel Ackerly, after some amusing sound effects (bird calls and cow moos), exhibited several old documents, one of which was the official designation of Valley Stream Post Office signed by John Wanamaker, Postmaster General, in 1895.

\*\*\*Members were reminded that no meeting of the Society will be held in December.

\*\*\*Claire McMahon was added to the Memorial Fund Committee.

ON THE HORIZON

Jim Boerckel reports an offer by a local fireman to show his films of some of the fires which have occurred over the years at some well-known Village sites. We will certainly want to include this suggestion in one of our programs early next year.

HOUSE OF HISTORY - John Jay Homestead, Katonah, New York (Route 22)

Home of the first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States; a visit well worth making to see the beautifully preserved homestead surrounded by a wonderland of maples, elms and shrubs which have survived time since 1787; lived in by eight generations of the Jay Family. Site was purchased in 1958 by Westchester County and deeded to the State of New York which restored the site and opened it to the public in 1964. A project of the New York State Historical Trust and Taconic State Park Commission.

Note: Museum Guide and Superintendent are long-time Valley Streamers, Gladys (Sniffen) and Bob Pratt.

*Sayings*

"In the history of the whole world there is but one thing that money cannot buy - to wit, the wag of a dog's tail!"

--Josh Billings

APPLICATION FOR GIFT MEMBERSHIP

To: VALLEY STREAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
133 South Central Avenue, Valley Stream, N.Y. 11580

Please enter a gift individual membership in the following name, for which I enclose check to the order of VALLEY STREAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY in the amount of \$1.50:

Name	_____
Address	_____
Telephone	_____
Sender	_____
Address	_____

It is my understanding that this membership will be valid until March 1, 1974. The gift card should read

"from \_\_\_\_\_"

Y.S.H.S. PANORAMA  
c/o 61 Berkley Street  
Valley Stream, N.Y. 11581