

PANORAMA

VALLEY STREAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME XXII ISSUE 4

JANUARY 1995

PAGAN-FLETCHER RESTORATION

143 Hendrickson Avenue
Valley Stream, NY 11580
516-791-4159



NEXT MEETING

Wednesday
January 18, 1995
8:00 p.m.
HOLY TRINITY
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Brooklyn Ave. & 7th Street
Valley Stream, NY 11581

PROGRAM FOR JANUARY 18, 1995 ORAL HISTORY

Oral history preserves memories of old Valley Stream. At the January 18th meeting, Helen Dowdeswell, VSHS. trustee, will demonstrate the eliciting of oral history by choosing a few society members at random from the audience and questioning them on their memories of Valley Stream in earlier days. Helen has been producing oral history tapes since 1986 with the assistance of Adele Hagmann. There are now 103 tapes available at the Valley Stream Library which can be taken out on loan.

The idea of preserving oral history occurred to Helen on the death of Mabel Ackerly, who was a founder of the society in 1973.

The idea of preserving oral history occurred to Helen on the death of Mabel Ackerly, who was a founder of the society in 1973. Helen felt that important people in the life of Valley Stream should be interviewed and their recollections preserved. People who are chosen to be interviewed are occasionally recommended by others. The interviewees are sent a list of topics beforehand to prepare for questions.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

At the November 16th meeting, Frank DeMita of the Finance Committee presented a check for \$4,000 to president Jay McKenna for the Restoration. At least three fourths of the money was raised at the Autumn Fair.

GINGERBREAD HOUSE CONTEST

First prize in the Gingerbread House Contest, held on Sunday, December 4th at the Pagan-Fletcher Restoration, was won by four remarkable young people who created a replica of their street, East St. Marks Place. The six tiny houses were made of molded chocolate festooned with gum drops, candy canes and icing.

The second prize winner was Teddy Barnhardi, a third grader, whose entry was a traditional gingerbread house and the third prize was won by Tracy Sallows, who created a church.

DONATIONS TO RESTORATION

At an Executive Board meeting on November 30th, Bert Keller presented a special gift to the Restoration. The original molds of the eagles, which guard the entrance to Central High School, were given to Bert by Fred Wierdersun, the architect of Central High School, as well as North and South High Schools. The eagles molds, which are about the size of bookends, are now on display at the Restoration.

Another significant donation was a quilt made by the Women's Society of Grace Methodist Church for Evaline Biddulth when she retired as president of the organization in 1929. The quilt was signed in stitching by members of the church and their families. The gift came from Mrs. Biddulth's daughter-in-law, Isabelle Biddulth.

SCOUT EXHIBIT

The Restoration will present ongoing exhibits in 1995 under the direction of Diane Hocking. From mid-January until mid-March, the three V.S. Boy Scout Troops, 109, 116 and 369 will exhibit scout material. Anyone wishing to donate may call 561-8803.

WELCOME BACK

Bert Keller, Al Mayernik and Helen Zang attended meetings after their recent illnesses. Jane Sutter is still recuperating at home.

BITS OF HISTORY - MOSTLY LONG ISLAND

by Al Mayernik

Air raid drills, blackouts and a hurricane kept Valley Stream on the alert in September 1944, as reported in the pages of the Valley Stream Mail and the Gibson Herald.

September 7, 1944 issue: The air raid drill in Valley Stream, Tuesday night was, from the Civilian Defense Committee's view, very successful. Over 90 % of the personnel responded to the call, Perry B. Sprague, deputy warden, announced. The Division of the Red Cross, motor corps, fire department, air raid wardens and others immediately reported to their stations and assumed their duties.

Residents adhered to the rules and violations were almost nil.... The village office, headquarters for the different groups, seethed with activity.... Blackout precautions were taken...

As usual the only lights marring the perfect blackout were the lights on Sunrise Highway, controlled by the New York State Highway Department. All the traffic was stopped during the actual blackout.... In all, the test was efficient as any held here, even though the majority of the committee believed the test absurd and not necessary.

September 7, 1944 issue: The earthquake that visited the village early Tuesday morning was not as serious as Hitler had hoped it would be. The shock was recorded at 12:30 o'clock at which time most of the local residents had been in bed....

In the Gibson section, a woman who had just tiptoed upstairs, not caring to awaken her husband...said she felt the house give a little heave and something fell from the dresser....The quake ended its tremor and nothing else happened....

At a local tavern, a patron was accused of dancing too seriously and they kicked the guy out....

A young lady on Rockaway Parkway, who was knitting a sweater for her new husband in the Army...., said the quake so shook her that stitches dropped and others became so twisted ; she's going to make a scarf out of the mess.

In all the quake came an went and the community went on with its sleep.

The hurricane that swept into the village last Thursday was the worst storm of its kind in the community's history.

The damage left in its wake is yet undetermined but will run into thousands and thousands of dollars.

September 21, 1944 issue: The hurricane that swept into the village last Thursday was the worst storm of its kind in the community's history. The damage left in its wake is yet undetermined but will run into thousands and thousands of dollars. Trees, gracing the village for more than a century, others of later date, shrubbery, roof-tops were left shattered, broken and pathetic as the gale whipped around for more than three hours.

Electric current was snapped off at about 7:30 o'clock that evening and today, hundreds of homes are still without lights or power for refrigeration. Babies' milk and food present the worst problem, according to mothers. Spoilage of foodstuffs in stores was kept to minimum as in certain sections, power was restored Friday and Saturday

Despite the seriousness of the gale, personal injuries were only minor, none being reported that necessitated medical attention.

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PANORAMA

VALLEY STREAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUMN XXII ISSUE 5

FEBRUARY 1995

PAGAN FLETCHER RESTORATION

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



NEXT MEETING

Wednesday
February 15, 1995
8.00 p.m.
Holy Trinity
Espiscopal church
Brooklyn ave. & 7th Street
Valley Stream, NY

PROGRAM FOR

**FEBRUARY 15, 1995
BAY HOUSES**

Nancy Solomon, the Director of the Long Island Tradition and author of the book *On The Bay*, will give a slide presentation on the bay houses. The houses are located on the islands that dot various bodies of water on the south shore of Long

The houses are located on the islands that dot the various bodies of water on the south shore of Long Island....

Island, principally in the Town of Hempstead. Nancy has done seven years of research on the history of the houses. She was instrumental in saving some of the historic houses, which date from the 1880's and early 1900's, when the Town of Hempstead had decided to destroy them.

NOSTALGIA NIGHT

January 18th was nostalgia night at the VSHS. There have been many requests for a repeat performance of "oral history." Helen Dowdeswell questioned a panel consisting of Bert Keller, Marge Chvatal, Jim Buckley, Helen Zang and Walter Harrod on their memories of Brooklyn Avenue School and Central H.S. Recollections of experiences and people, like Dr. Cohen, the dentist who had an office in Brooklyn Avenue School and charged twenty five cents for a filling, drew laughter from the enthralled audience.

EXHIBITS

The Boy Scout exhibit is currently on display at the Restoration and will run until March 12th. Three Valley Stream troops, 109, 116 and 369 are participating. The Gear family loaned Scout manuals from the early 1900's to the exhibit.

From March 19th until May 21st the Restoration will present *The Way It Was* - people, pastimes and prices in Valley Stream from 1900 to 1940's.

May 28th will initiate *Once Upon a Time*. This exhibit of bridal clothing, wedding photos, and honeymoon postcards from 1900's till the 1940's will continue until August 6th. A very special contribution, which will predate the 1900's, will be the framed wedding certificate of Bert Keller's grandmother, Alice Hendrickson, dated March 25, 1884. Bert also donated the dress that his grandmother wore at her wedding.

Diane Hocking, our part-time curator, has mounted a display of Valley Stream maps in the lobby of the Restoration. The maps include Indian maps, sewer maps and aerial views from the 1930's.

NEW ACQUISITION

A valuable addition to the Pagan-Fletcher Restoration is a clock dating from 1840, donated by Margaret McManus. The clock, which contains a written history, is now mounted in the exhibition room, on a wooden shelf constructed by Joe Gunther and will be flanked by antique candle sconces. It has a wooden face and keeps time with wooden gears!

An exhibit of arrowheads found on the Reisert farm have been mounted by Jim Buckley for display in the basement.

#

BITS OF HISTORY - MOSTLY LONG ISLAND

by Al Mayernik

VALLEY STREAM IN WORLD WAR II -PART XL

The Valley Stream Mail and Gibson Herald continue to relate the stories of Valley Streamers overseas in the War:

October 5, 1944 issue: First Lieutenant Roy Anderson 23, husband of Mrs. Gloria B. Anderson, 33 Woodlawn Ave., now home on furlough, has been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for extraordinary achievement and heroism...

Lieutenant Anderson is first pilot on a B-24 Liberator. On July 19, 1944, he was piloting his ship on a bombing mission over strategic enemy installations in Germany. Over the target, his aircraft was severely damaged by intense and accurate enemy anti-aircraft fire, and was rendered almost unairworthy. Despite the crippled condition of the aircraft, he skillfully maneuvered it through for a highly successful bombing run, inflicting grave damage to vital installations and supplies.

After the bombs were released, the ship was aggressively attacked by enemy fighters, and in the ensuing engagement...he was able to bring the ship through for a successful landing. Lt. Anderson said that he, "still doesn't know how any ship could stand up to the heavy flak and bitter fighter attacks that ours did. I don't know what held us during the last few hours." He has over 50 missions to his credit...

Anderson has been overseas since June of this year. (He is) a graduate of Central High School...

October 5, 1944 issue Seaman First Class William J. Grabow of 26 Liggett Road insists, "I had to join the Navy to realize the Coast Guard really gets around also"

Grabow is a veteran of four major landings, having participated in the initial assault at Makin Island in the Gilberts, at Kwajalein and Eniwetok in the Marshalls, and most recently at Saipan Island, now a strategic American jumping-off base.

Enlisting in the Navy in November 1942, Seaman Grabow received "boot" training at Newport, R.I. and received special training in amphibious operations at Norfolk, Va. before reporting aboard his transport.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Grabow... Seaman Grabow has a varied collection of Japanese souvenirs which include and officer's coat, several bayonets, a helmet and a Japanese sailor's jumper.

With his Coast Guard and Navy shipmates, Grabow has crossed the Equator several times. In addition to holding the coveted Neptunus Rex certificate, he is also a member of the Sacred Order of the Golden Dragon, attesting to his crossing the International Date Line

A brother, Seaman First Class Fred Grabos, Jr., recently returned to the United States after more than a year's service with a Navy Construction Battalion.

October 5, 1944 issue Private Robert W. Fatscher of Valley Stream was only slightly injured when a quarter-ton jeep landed on top of him on the Fifth Army front in Italy recently.

Fatscher, a member of an engineering unit of the 1st Armored Division was preparing to get out of his jeep when another jeep drove alongside and hit a land mine. The concussion threw Fatscher out of his vehicle and jeep number two landed right on top of him. He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. John Fatcher of 66 Cottage Street.

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PANORAMA

VALLEY STREAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME XXII ISSUE 6

MARCH 1995



PAGAN FLETCHER RESTORATION

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

**PROGRAM
FOR
TUESDAY
MARCH 14, 1995
FRIENDS OF LONG
ISLAND HERITAGE**

The Restoration will be CLOSED on Sunday, March 19th so that all members can participate in the social.

EXHIBIT

From March 26th until May 21st the exhibit at the Restoration will be "The Way it Was", people, pastimes and prices in Valley Stream from 1900 to the 1940's.

Edward Starr, a trustee of the Friends for L.I. Heritage will do a slide presentation demonstrating the work of the society. Friends of L.I. Heritage supports museums and restorations. The slides will indicate the work that the organization has been involved in from Old Bethpage Village to the Cradle of Aviation Museum. There are other works in progress which Mr. Starr, who is also president of the Garden City Historical Society, will discuss.

Refreshments for the March meeting will be provided by Bertha Ballou, Diane Hocking and Adele Hagmann.

Copies of the Valley Stream Historical Society by-laws will be presented at the March meeting to be voted on at the April meeting. The updated by-laws reflect how the historical society operates today.

APPRECIATION RECOGNITION SOCIAL

The Finance Committee for the Pagan Fletcher Restoration will run an Appreciation Recognition Social on Sunday, March 19th from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Great American Cafe on Rockaway Avenue. A donation of \$5.00 will be required for admission and will entitle all ticketholders to hors d'oeuvres and soft drinks. Danny and Remy Lehner will receive an award for their support of the Restoration and other major contributors will be honored.

NEXT MEETING

**TUESDAY
March 14, 1995
8:00 p.m.
Holy Trinity
Episcopal Church
Brooklyn Ave. & 7th Street
Valley Stream, NY**

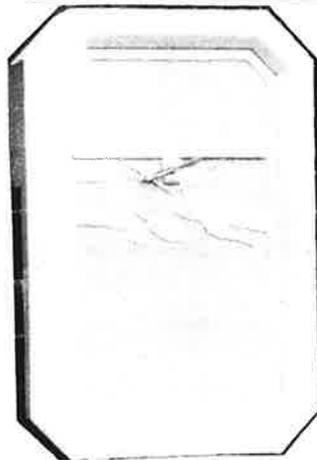


Photo by Granard Associates

**EMBLEM FROM THE
COLUMBIA AIRCRAFT
HANGAR**

EMBLEM

A short history of the acquisition of the Columbia Aircraft hangar emblem will be placed in front of it at the rear of the Restoration in the near future. The account will detail the role of Gabriel Parrish in rescuing the last remaining emblem when the hangar was demolished for the construction of the present Home Depot in the Green Acres shopping center. For more information on the Columbia Aircraft Corporation, see Al Mayernik's article on the next page.

**Appreciation Recognition
Social on Sunday, March
19th from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
at the Great American Cafe
will honor supporters of the
Restoration**

DONATION

Charles Apfelbaum, an antiques dealer, has donated a series of letters to the society written by a Valley Stream resident, A.J. Miller, during the period that the young man was in the Navy from 1942 to 1943. The letters will be incorporated into "Bits of History-Mostly Long Island" in future issues of Panorama.

BITS OF HISTORY-MOSTLY LONG ISLAND
by Al Mayernik

VALLEY STREAM

IN WORLD WAR II PART XLII troops to use American weapons and tactics.
 The Valley Stream Mail and Gibson Herald continued to report the activities of the villagers during World War II:

August 3, 1944 issue:
 More than 7,000 employees and their families celebrated Family Day at the Columbia Aircraft Corporation field on Sunday afternoon. The occasion marked the first anniversary of the first flight of the Columbia "Duck" manufactured at the field....

Commander Haase announced that the schedule of the company had been maintained perfectly for the seventh straight month and ...he would recommend the award of the Navy "E"....

A moment later, the final plane on the July schedule took off from the head of the runway on its first test flight....

Family Day also celebrated the anniversary of the removal of the company from small quarters in Port Washington to Columbia field in Valley Stream.

October 5, 1944 issue
 "The Chinese soldier doesn't know the meaning of the word defeat, and when properly equipped and trained can't be beaten," states Lieutenant William Fischer, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. William Fischer, 218 East Mineola Ave., Valley Stream.

Lieutenant Fischer is in the China-Burma-India Theater, and at present, is with the Y-force operations staff located in the Chinese interior, training Chinese

Fischer is a graduate of Valley Stream Central High School....He was inducted into the Army in July, 1942 as an enlisted man. Proving his ability as a leader, he was sent to Officers' Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia, and graduated as a Second Lieutenant in July, 1943. In September 1943, he left the United States for foreign service, first being stationed in India and then being transferred to China.

"The Chinese soldier doesn't know the meaning of the word defeat, and when properly equipped and trained, can't be beaten."

October 26, 1944 issue:
 Mr. and Mrs. William Johnson, 66 North Grove Street, have received notice from the Navy that their son, Ensign William C. Johnson, was wounded during the landing operations at Guam in July.

Ensign Johnson, a graduate of Chaminade High School in 1939, was captain of the football team in his senior year. After graduating from the University of Notre Dame in 1943, where he was a member of the track team, Johnson received his commission in the U.S. Naval Reserve in September, 1943. For the past twelve months, he has been assigned to duty in the South and Central Pacific areas.

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PANORAMA



VALLEY STREAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUMN XXII ISSUE 7

APRIL 1995

PAGAN FLETCHER RESTORATION

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

PROGRAM FOR WEDNESDAY,

APRIL, 19 1995

ARTISTS AND LONG ISLAND

Trustee Al Mayernik will do a slide presentation of artistic works depicting scenes on Long Island by well known painters. Artists who are represented will include William Sidney Mount, Winslow Homer and Currier and Ives.

At the April meeting, the nominating committee will recommend a slate of candidates to serve as officers and trustees of the VSHS during the 1995-1996 year.

The L.I. Heritage program, which was scheduled for the March meeting, has been postponed to June. Claire McMahon presented a popular slide show of Valley Stream Then and Now at the March meeting.

The Strawberry Festival and Chinese Auction, usually held in June, will take place at the May meeting this year. Details in the May issue of Panorama

SOCIAL

The Appreciation Recognition Social at the Great American Cafe on Sunday, March 19, was a great success and a most enjoyable afternoon for many members of the VSHS. A plaque was awarded to Daniel and Remy Lehner for their extraordinary support of the Pagan Fletcher Restoration. Awards were given to many fraternal and business organizations as well as to Lillian Weaver, ex-Mayor Gorge Donley, Dr. Richard Hennisen and Donald Moore.

DONATIONS

The Valley Stream Historical Society will make an annual \$100. contribution to the Henry Waldinger Memorial Library.

RESTORATION EXHIBIT

"The Way it Was," the exhibit at the Pagan Fletcher Restoration March 26th until May 21st is packed with fascinating memorabilia of people, places and pastimes from the period 1900 to 1940. There are vintage advertisements for food, clothing, products, cars and houses, especially the Gibson houses. Indications of how people spent their leisure time are found in mementos from the Worlds Fair, Jones Beach and the Pavilion Royal, a dance hall on Merrick Road in Valley Stream. Diane Hocking discovered and has displayed a menu from the Lusitania, dated 1914. Did you know that the Long Island Indians, a farm team for the Green Bay Packers used to practice and play their games at Fireman's Field? See it all at the Restoration!

A new permanent photography exhibit has been mounted showing where former businesses and hotels were located in Valley Stream. For example, the Peter Luca Hotel was located at the intersection of Merrick Road and Rockaway Avenue, where the Paint House is now.

NEW MILL BROOK

The residents of the Green Acres community have voted to change the name of their area to Mill Brook, effective immediately. The reason for the change is that the residents wish to distance themselves from occurrences at the mall.

BEST WISHES

The members of the Valley Stream Historical Society wish to express their concern and hope for continued good health to Fred Sherdel. Fred recently had triple by-pass heart surgery and is now recuperating at his home.



NEXT MEETING

Wednesday
April 19 1995
8:00 p.m.
Holy Trinity
Episcopal Church
Brooklyn Ave. & 7th
Street
Valley Stream, NY

BITS OF HISTORY-MOSTLY LONG ISLAND

by Al Mayernik

VALLEY STREAM

IN WORLD WAR II PART XLI

This story from the October 12, 1944 issue of the Valley Stream Mail and Gibson Herald reminds us of the terrible weapons used in the War.

The story of Marine Corporal William J. Anderson, 27, ...is really the story of the demolition engineers who mop-up behind and sometimes ahead of the front lines.

Anderson, a Marine for almost two years,...is a veteran of landings on Einiwetok in the Marshalls and on the west coast of Guam.

On Guam, he landed within two hours of the first assault troops. His squad had one job: to clean out bypassed enemy pillboxes, machine gun emplacements and snipers.

Corporal Anderson's men started on the beach. Fifteen yards from where they splashed ashore, despite heavy enemy fire, was a large cement pillbox. Japanese soldiers were known to be inside, although hand grenades had wrecked the machine gun slots. A flame thrower had already turned several bursts inside, but someone remained persistently alive, and had, in fact, just thrown out a hand grenade at the Marines.

Anderson crawled to the pillbox and dropped two grenades down an air vent, but he could still hear something happening inside. At last he caught on. The pillbox had been partitioned by cement walls....

The answer was swirls of heavy explosive charges placed in one section after another. He crawled and squirmed his dangerous way amid debris three times to place charges.

That wasn't one of the tougher jobs, either....Chasing Japanese soldiers out of dugouts was the really dangerous work. The Japanese snipers would lay low until the first wave of advancing Marines had passed. Then they would bob out of a hole, fire into the passing Marines and disappear again. Crawling through tunnels and trenches, they would pop up again 50 yards away to fire another burst.

"The Japanese snipers would lay low until the first wave of advancing Marines had passed."

There was one way to eliminate the menace: trap the enemy in a dugout, block off the tunnels and blow them out. This almost always resulted in casualties either from the trapped men or other snipers. Flame throwers often proved effective in this work, but usually the demolition men had to crawl to the opening, place their explosives and race back to safety.

After the airport was taken on the ninth day, several hundred Japanese soldiers holed up in coral caves dug deep into the hills....They refused to surrender and repulsed several attempts to dislodge them. Every cave-and there were several hundred-had to be destroyed with flames and explosives. The Japanese fought to the end; then most of them killed themselves.

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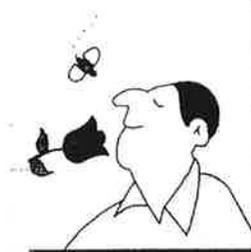
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VALLEY STREAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME XXII ISSUE 8

MAY 1995

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



Once again the Valley Stream Historical Society will march in the annual Memorial Day Parade

RESTORATION NEWS

The exhibit *The Way it Was*, people, prices and pastimes in Valley Stream from the 1900's to the 1940's will continue until May 21st.

Starting on May 28th, Diane Hocking, our curator, will present *Once Upon a Time*, an exhibit of bridal clothing, wedding photographs and honeymoon post cards from the 1900's to the 1940's. The exhibit will continue until August 6th.

Flowers are blooming in profusion on the grounds of the Restoration, thanks to our proficient gardeners, Ted Libath and Jim Buckley.

Historical Note

The society learned recently that during World War II, Gordon Fairchild, who was living in the Pagan Fletcher house, donated land from the house to Henry Street for families to have Victory Gardens.

Rug Needed

There is a need for a 5'x7' carpet for one of the rooms of the Restoration. Any donation would be greatly appreciated.

AFGHAN

Franklin Hospital Medical Center Auxiliary contacted the Valley Stream Historical Society. The Auxiliary is interested in buildings with historical significance to be included on an afghan being made for the Franklin Medical Center anniversary.

April Slide Presentation

Al Mayernik's excellent slide presentation at the April meeting was enlightening and enjoyable. Al presented works by artists associated with Long Island from Currier and Ives to deKooning. East Hampton evolved as an artists' colony many years ago.

NEXT MEETING
WEDNESDAY MAY 17, 1995
8:00 p.m.

HOLY TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
BROOKLYN AVENUE AND 7TH STREET
VALLEY STREAM, N.Y.

PROGRAM

CHINESE AUCTION AND STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

The church hall at Holy Trinity Church will be open from 10:00 a.m. on for donors to deliver items for the Chinese Auction. Donors are asked not to bring items after 7:30 p.m. For those attending the auction, one envelope of 100 numbers will cost \$4.00 and each additional envelope will be \$1.00. Along with the strawberries and ice cream for refreshments, the following people will provide pound cake: Diane Hocking, Agnes Libath, Grace Donley and Kay Keely.

PARADE

Members of the Valley Stream Historical Society will march in the Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 29th. Participants will meet at Wheeler Avenue School at 9:30 a.m.

BITS OF HISTORY-MOSTLY LONG ISLAND

by Al Mayernik

**VALLEY STREAM
IN WORLD WAR II PART
XL111**

The story of heroism and death faced by Valley Streamers during the War continued in the pages of the Valley Stream Mail and Gibson Herald. November 2, 1944 issue: Peleliu, Palau Islands (Delayed) Mortars played a big part in the final push which routed the last Japanese stronghold on the island and Marine Second Lieutenant Arthur E. Matthews, 26, of 34 North Central Avenue...was largely responsible for their accuracy.

From a rock pile 1,000 yards in front of the mortars, Lieutenant Matthews directed the fire by radio.

"The Japs were in caves and there was no way to get them except to send Marines after them," he said. "So we laid down a mortar barrage to keep the Japs down until the Marines could get to the caves."

"For more than an hour we had 16 mortars covering an area less than 200 square yards. We fired until our men were less than 50 yards from the Japs."

Lieutenant Matthews was commissioned July 16th from the ranks of Platoon sergeant. He was a corporal on Guadalcanal and a sergeant at Cape Gloucester, where he won the Silver Star. He joined in Marine Corps in 1939 after two years of boxing at Jamaica Arena, Rigdwood Grove and Yankee Stadium.

He won letters in football, track and wrestling at Valley Stream Central H.S. from which he was graduated in 1935.

November 2, 1944 issue: First Lieutenant Richard B. Ferris, 23, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard S. Ferris, 148 Sunrise Highway, has been awarded the Distinguished Flying

Cross for extraordinary achievement and heroism during his first combat mission.

Flying as a co-pilot of a B-24 heavy bomber over the Wiener Neustadt aircraft factories near Vienna, Ferris had his baptism of fire as flack slashed through the fuselage and turrets of the plane, wounding the pilot and knocking out many of the controls. With the responsibility of the bomber now his, Ferris piloted the damaged Liberator over the target, thus demonstrating exceptional skill and devotion to duty.

Ferris is a graduate of Valley Stream Central H.S. and was employed by the General Motors Overseas Division, 1775 Broadway, New York City. He enlisted as an aviation cadet on January, 1943.

November 2, 1944 issue: Lt. Frederick Albert Gear, son of Frederick W. Gear of 16 Regent Street, died in Italy on October 19th after two and a half months overseas, as a result of Influenza Meningitis. He had recently completed his 25th mission as a first pilot with the 60th Troop Carriers and had been carrying supplies to Tito and returning with wounded Yugoslav partisans.

He had returned from a five-day rest in Cairo and had been assigned to three months of non-combat duties when taken ill. He was 26 years of age, a graduate of Valley Stream Central H.S. and had attended Massachusetts State before enlisting in the Army Air Corps in Feb. 1943. He is survived by his wife Mary and 2 1/2 year old son, Robert Frederick of Southampton, and his sisters Florence and Mary Gear of Valley Stream.

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BITS OF HISTORY-MOSTLY LONG ISLAND

by Al Mayernik

VSHS- OFFICERS

1994-1995

**VALLEY STREAM
IN WORLD WAR II
MOSTLY LONG ISLAND**

XLIV

The reward of bravery of a Valley Streamer is the theme running through the story from the pages of the Valley Stream Mail and Gibson Herald.

November 9, 1944 issue: Lieutenant A Schneider of Emerson Place, this village, is one of the many heroes whose great sacrifices are responsible for the crushing of Nazi power in Europe....

His achievements have been many in the 15th Air Force, and during his service, (he) received the Purple Heart when his B24 Liberator was shot down by flak. Awards are pending which will make him a recipient of the Air Medal and Presidential Citation for a raid on Vienna. Lt. Schneider has also been recommended for the Silver star. He was a prisoner of war in Bulgaria....

Given a furlough after his active European battles, Major General N.F. Twining...sent the following message to Lt. Schneider:

Fifteenth Air Force
Office of the Commanding
General

A.P.O. 520
20 September 1944

1st Lt. Louis A. Schneider
Hq. Fifteenth Air Force
A.P.O. 520 U.S. Army

Dear Lt. Schneider:

You are going home. With you will go the thanks and admiration of the Fifteenth Air Force for a superb and heroic performance. You are

returning heroes of the Battle of Ploesti. You will be greeted and treated as such by your loved ones and by a grateful American public. They are proud of you.

Your safe return to my command marked the culmination of an outstanding campaign in the annals of American military history. The German war machine's disintegration on all fronts is being caused to a large extent by its lack of oil—oil that you took from it.

I have only one regret on this jubilant occasion. I wish it had been possible to bring out of Bulgaria every officer and man who went into that battle. Unfortunately, there are some who will never return....

One of the memorable occasions of my life will be the thrill I experienced as the planes came into view, circled, landed, and I saw you unloading. It was impossible for me to greet each of you and it will be impossible for me to say "Good-bye" to each of you before you return to the States. However, I want you to know that my thoughts and those of your fellow soldiers are with you.

Best of luck and Godspeed.

(signed)
N.F. TWINING
Maj General USA
Commanding

**MEMORABILIA
WANTED**

Al Mayernik is interested in anecdotes, photographs and other memorabilia from Valley Stream in W.W.II. He can be reached at 718-428-8293

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**VALLEY STREAM
IN WORLD WAR II XLV**

The issues of the Valley Stream Mail and Gibson Herald supply the information for our continued story:

November 16, 1944 issue: An Eighth Air Force Bomber Station, England—First Lieutenant Milton A. Hendrickson, 28, of Valley Stream, N.Y. pilot of a B-17 Flying Fortress of the 95th Bombardment Group, has been awarded the Air Medal for "meritorious achievement," while participating in Eighth Air Force attacks on vital German emplacements in support of advances by Allied ground forces on the Continent. The presentation was made by Colonel Karl Truesdall, Jr., of Washington, D.C., group commander.

Lt. Hendrickson is a member of the Fortress group which led the first American bombing attack on targets in Berlin, and which was cited by the President for its outstanding bombing assault on railroad marshaling yards at Munster, Germany. As a component of the distinguished Third Bombardment Division, the group also shared in a Presidential citation given the entire division for the historic England-Africa shuttle bombing of an important Messerschmitt fighter plane plant at Regensburg, Germany.

The lieutenant, son of Arthur J. Hendrickson, of 59 North Central Avenue, Valley Stream, entered the service in September, 1942, prior to which he was an operational engineer for Hendrickson Brothers, general contractors.

November 16, 1944 issue: Private Howard L. Nitterhouse, son of Mr. and Mrs. Howard L. Nitterhouse, has been killed in action in Belgium according to a telegram...from the War Department. Details causing the fatality are not yet known.

Private Nitterhouse graduated from Central High School in June, 1943 and later attended St. Bonaventure College taking the A.S.T.P. course, studying engineering. In August 1943, he was inducted into the armed forces and attached to the infantry. His basic training was received at Fort Benning, Georgia, and later at Camp Carson, Colorado.

He was sent overseas September 1, 1944 where he served in the 413th infantry. His death occurred on October 26th in Belgium....

November 16, 1944 issue: Staff Sergeant Harold Knapp, 20, of 30 Dartmouth Street, was fatally injured in an accidental explosion, during combat firing at Camp Swift, Texas. The War Department notified his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Knapp. The accident occurred November 11. He was attached to the mountain ski division.

The soldier's body, escorted from camp, arrived today and will repose in the Moore Funeral Home...until Saturday morning.

Following the explosion, Sgt. Knapp was rushed to the camp regional hospital, where he was given the best of medical care, but he died within a few hours.

Sgt. Knapp had been an all-star athlete, a brilliant catcher, proposed as a recruit for the N.Y. Yankees.

Inducted into the Army January 21, 1943, he was picked at Camp Upton for the ski division at Camp Hale, Colorado.

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BITS OF HISTORY-MOSTLY LONG ISLAND*by Al Mayernik***VALLEY STREAM
IN WORLD WAR -XLVI**

The file copies of the Valley Stream Mail and Gibson Herald supply the following information:

November 16, 1944 issue: Aboard a Coast Guard-manned Assault Transport in the Philippines (special)—Down in the sweltering warehouse—one deck below torpedo junction—Chief Storekeeper Peter F. Broderick, Jr., USCGR, of Valley Stream...takes part in the Philippine invasion.

Broderick, 29-year-old veteran of the Marshalls and Marinas invasions and his fellow workers in this jam-packed storeroom had their stock ready for the bargain counter rush when the operation began.

"We're a sort of floating supply depot for dozens of smaller vessels which will be in the area," Broderick explained. "Whatever kind of stores they're in need of—hardware, galley utensils, clothing, —we've got to be ready to supply on moment's notice,...."

When general quarters sounds, Broderick forsakes his stockroom for a station at the emergency secondary steering control. He saw action aplenty when enemy bombs fell near his ship at Saipan.

Broderick's wife, Irene, and his two-year-old son, Peter III, live at 47 Jasper Street. He has been serving with the Coast Guard since February 1942.

November 16, 1944 issue: Second Lieutenant Francis X. Fink, 26, 64 West Valley Stream Boulevard, pilot in a B-24 Liberator group...has been awarded the Air Medal "for meritorious achievement in aerial flight while participating in sustained operational activity against the enemy."

Lt. Fink arrived overseas in September and has participated in bombing attacks on key Nazi targets through to the southern Balkans.

He entered the AAF February 1943 and received his pilot's wings at Frederick, Okla., February 8, 1944....He is a graduate of Central High School....., class of '38 and a member of the Holy Name Society.

His wife, Mrs. Eleanor Frances Fink, lives at the above address. His father, Joseph P. Fink, lives at 20 Euclid Street....His brother, Edward J. Fink, is serving in the Air Corps at Tallahassee, Fla.

November 16, 1944 issue: Edward J. Davey of Valley Stream...recently received a battlefield commission of second lieutenant while fighting with Lieutenant General Mark W. Cark's Fifth Army in Italy.

Davey, formerly a technical sergeant, was commissioned by the commanding officer of the 349th "Krautkiller" Regiment of the 88th "Blue Devil" division.

Davey was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action after personally knocking out three German machine-guns and leading his platoon against the enemy under heavy machine-gun, small arms and artillery fire. Thrice wounded during the drive up the Italian peninsula, he holds the Purple Heart and two Oak Leaf Clusters.

In a more recent action, he led his platoon on an attack on Belvedere, an important Gothic Line position, which was strongly fortified with Nazi emplacements.

His father, James Davey, lives at 50 East St. Marks Place. Before entering the Army in July 1942, Davey worked with the American Can Company.

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by Al Mayernik

**VALLEY STREAM
IN WORLD WAR -XLVII**

The file copies of the Valley Stream Mail and Gibson Herald supply the following information:

November 23, 1944 issue: Fighting with his infantry unit among the pillboxes of the Siegfried Line, Private First Class Howard E. Beales, 34, of 110 East Carpenter Street, was wounded in the left shoulder by enemy shrapnel and is now recovering at the United States Army general hospital in England. He has been awarded the Purple Heart.

His ward surgeon, First Lieutenant E. Wendell Donald of Oklahoma City...said that Pfc. Beales' progress since arrival here has been more than satisfactory and his return to duty in the near future is expected.

"We hit some determined opposition along the border," the soldier said, "and we had to dig the Germans out of their pillboxes one by one."

Pfc. Beales is the husband of Mrs. Gertrude Beales.... He was employed by the Prudential Life Insurance Company before entering the Army in February of this year. He received his military training at Camp Wheeler, Georgia.

November 23, 1944 issue: Corporal Harold Stringer of Valley Stream recently was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action with Lieutenant General Mark W. Clark's Fifth Army in Italy.

Pursuit of retreating enemy forces was held up by an enemy minefield, under direct observation and fire of German guns. Stringer

and four others of his armored engineer battalion voluntarily and, without regard for personal safety, moved ahead to clear the mines away for passage of Fifth Army troops.

Forced to take cover five times from intense artillery barrages, the corporal and his comrades repeatedly returned to the task, completed the clearance of the minefield, and enabled attacking columns to continue their advance.

"The courage, devotion to duty, and complete disregard for personal safety displayed by these men are in accordance with the best traditions of military service and worthy of the highest praise," reads the citation with the award.

Stringer is serving with the 1st Armored Division on the Fifth Army front. He is the brother of Mrs. Elizabeth Demilre, 30 Hendrickson Avenue

November 23, 1944 issue: Coast Guardsman Clarence Hamilton Sutphin, Jr., Boatswain's Mate First Class of 144 Cochran Place, has recently been awarded the Bronze Star Medal by Admiral Chester W. Nimutz, Commander in Chief, U.S.

Pacific Fleet, for heroic achievement on June 15th and 16th, 1944, in action during the invasion of Saipan Island.

"He swam with a line through heavy surf to a tank lighter stranded on a reef, and he stayed aboard under mortar and artillery fire until its salvage. When a mortar shell struck a group of eight Marines, killing five and seriously wounding three others, he gave the survivors First Aid and moved them to a First Aid Station," said the citation.

He is a graduate of Central H.S. and the son of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence H. Sutphin, Sr.

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