

PANORAMA

Valley Stream Historical Society

VOLUME XXIX, No. 4

January 2002

PAGAN-FLETCHER RESTORATION

143 Hendrickson Avenue
Valley Stream, NY—516 872 4159
<http://www.nassaulibrary.org/valleyst/vshist.html>
VSHistorical@hotmail.com

WE WILL NEVER FORGET

Next Meeting
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
Brooklyn Avenue and 7th Street VS
Wednesday, January 16, 2002
8 P. M.

Program

"A History of Fire Island" will be presented by Charles Webber, president of the Sayville Historical Society will give a slide show and lecture about the history of Fire Island. Join us for this presentation about one of Long Island's most beautiful and interesting regions.



Holiday Traditions—Wonderful Once Again
Our Gingerbread House Contest was another huge success. Nearly three dozen participants made it even bigger than last year. With entries including Candyland, Sponge Bob, Fairytales and the Pagan-Fletcher Restoration, it was truly spectacular. "Kids on the Block", who have been entering each year since the contest began and have won several times, took first place with The First Christmas in Bethlehem, Marge Chvatal's American Flag, a "display only" non-entrant, expressed the red white and blue mood of this holiday season.

Agnes Libath and Anita Buckley ran another tremendously successful bake sale. Thanks to them and their helpers, as well as the volunteers who helped that day.

Caroling Sunday was even more lovely this year because of the wonderful music of Alex Marks and his brass quartet. The audience, which included residents of Christopher House, joined in singing and requested favorite carols.



George is Back

Mark your calendar for "George is Back" Sunday, February 17 at the Pagan-Fletcher Restoration, 1-4 P.M. Society members, dressed in colonial costume, pay tribute to George Washington and other Revolutionary era figures. Our February program the following Tuesday will also have a Revolutionary War theme.

Get well wishes to Tony Melillo who is recovering from surgery and undergoing treatment for a leg injury. Tony and Adele Melillo are our Hospitality Committee and have done a superb and dedicated job of unobtrusively setting up, serving and cleaning up our refreshment table each month. Hurry back Tony, we miss you and Adele even more than we miss your good coffee!

While Tony is recuperating we are seeking a temporary committee to handle the coffee table. Please contact the Selahs @ 872-0006 if you would be able to arrive early on meeting night to open the hall, prepare coffee, set up the refreshment table and stay after the meeting to clean-up and lock the hall.

Many thanks to Joe Gunther for building a table for our new printer. We are so glad Joe is feeling better and back to his avocation.



The Society is still seeking a permanent Editor for Panorama. Anyone interested, please call Hank Selah at 872-0006. In the meantime we'll struggle along and beg your indulgences.

Karen & Hank Selah, Interim Editors

Down Memory Lane

Longtime resident Margaret Schlegel Dinzler sent this lovely memory of her growing up in Valley Stream, and it was published in Mailleader April 17, 1986.

The recent snowstorms made the walking and driving rough for most of us, and the aggravation that I encountered in trying to get my car up the steep 100 foot driveway beside my house didn't do much to make it any better, but there is a lighter side to every problem, and I found it in the memories of the winters of my childhood.

The same annoying hill that plagues me now was the highlight of winter enjoyment when we were kids. I don't know whether statistics will bear me out on this, but it seemed that while the snowstorms were not so heavy, there was always plenty of the white stuff on the ground a good part of the winter so that if a fellow had a sled (and most of us did) he could be sure of some good wholesome fun.

Schlegel's Hill was the place to go after dinner. My father would hook up a spotlight on the house, illuminating the driveway and between six and nine P. M. The laughter of the neighborhood children echoed in the crisp night air as the youngsters coasted down the hill, then pulling their sleds behind them, trudged to the top of the incline to take the ride again.

The first real big snowstorm that I remember came much later when I was in Central High School in 1932 or '33. When my mother called me that morning and announced the fact that I didn't have to get up for school, I thought, "Ridiculous". "I can't miss school because of a little snow."

"How do you know that school's closed," I called back.

"The fire whistle just blew ten times," she said. "Didn't you hear it?"

Well, I didn't hear it, so I got up and looked out the window. As far as I could see was white. Even the trees were hiding under the blanket. It didn't

take a genius to realize that no one was going anywhere that day.

It wasn't long before we joined the neighbors with our shovels. Suddenly someone shouted and pointed to something that was moving south on Corona Ave. As it drew nearer to us we saw that it was a team of farm horses hitched to a plow. The farmer stood on back holding the reins and guiding the pair while his dignified wife sat in front of him holding her school-bag. They were headed for the Valley Stream Railroad Station so that the dedicated teacher, the farmer's wife, could get to her class in the city. Everyone cheered as they passed and except for the return trip, they were the only travelers we saw that day.

This was the first time that ten blasts of the fire whistle announced the closing of the school.

While I recall fondly the real country town that we had in those days and all the fun we had in the snow, I have to admit that my preference lies with the little ground-hog who didn't see his shadow and looks forward to an early spring. I also have sweet memories of tulips and Easter bonnets.



We are Still looking for a volunteer or volunteers to assist with the publication of Panorama!

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Mr. William Stris
41 Parkwold Drive East
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Film Making With An Historical Touch

By Cathy Varen

A good movie script is not enough. To be a visual storyteller I needed more than intrigue, developing characters, good dialogue and plot; I needed a great location to make my movie come alive.

While I was searching for the right location for my movie I passed, by chance, an elegant house with stately columns and small paned windows. The sign in front read "Pagan-Fletcher Restoration" circa 1840". I knew this was the setting for "Cemetery of the Damned", a 19th century horror movie set in a small town on Long Island.

I walked up to the huge door with a brass doorknocker and entered a world of Victorian charm. Beautiful wooden floors, a parlor with a velvet loveseat, brick fireplace and a 19th century writing desk all awaited cast and crew.

The Pagan-Fletcher house was perfect for filming this gothic tale of wealthy Dr. Pierre Landau, played by Matt Lee and his servant Carl Vascan, played by Christopher Horn, who rob graves at midnight to supply corpses for Landau's anatomy class. As the story unfolds Dr. Landau falls in love with surgical nurse

Kate Valdez, played by Cena Senemar, entangling her in love, betrayal and murder.

The cast and crew are most grateful to the members of the Valley Stream Historical Society who administer the house and devote time and energy to keeping its spirit alive as well as hosting events throughout the year.

The Pagan-Fletcher Restoration, which is an important part of Valley Stream history, has now become part of film making history as well.



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PANORAMA

Valley Stream Historical Society

VOLUME XXIX, No. 6

March 2002

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Next Meeting
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
Brooklyn Avenue and 7th Street VS
Thursday, March 21, 2002
8 P. M.

Program

Nancy Solomon of Long Island Traditions will speak about Landmarks and Preservation on Long Island. Those of us who enjoyed her program about the Bay Houses of Long Island know her presentation will be informative and entertaining.

Hospitality

This month's hospitality table will be hosted by Florence Gunther, Adele Hagmann and Chris Van-Buskirk with cakes provided by Florence, Adele and the Selahs.

Until the return of Tony and Adele Melillo we are asking for volunteers on a month-by-month basis. Anyone wishing to volunteer for the April hospitality committee please call the Selahs @ 872-0006.

Please note: the March Meeting will be held on the third **Thursday!** Also please don't forget that our April meeting will be on **Wednesday** April 17th and will be a Civil War program. Our speaker, Harrison Hunt, is encouraging members and guests to bring any Civil War memorabilia they'd like to share.

Executive Board

Executive Board members be advised that Board Meeting will be posted in **Panorama** and not announced by post card.

The March board meeting will be held on **Thursday** March 29 at 7:30 P. M.

We apologize for the scheduling changes but our meeting place and board members are on Lenten schedule. Regular meetings will resume on the third Wednesday beginning in April.

"George is Back" Sunday was a fun visit with George and Martha Washington and other Revolutionary figures at the Pagan-Fletcher Restoration. Thanks to Bill Vivencio for filling in for Bert Keller as George and to all the volunteers who took us back to colonial days..

Victorian Tea

The Victorian Tea will be on Saturday, April 27th at the Pagan-Fletcher Restoration. Tickets are

\$15 and advance reservations are necessary. Guests are asked to bring a teacup and saucer, spoon and cake plate.

This event sells out quickly and because seating is very limited there is no admission at the door. Please send your check to Valley Stream Historical Society, PO Box 22, Valley Stream, NY 11582 by April 13th. For further information, call Marge Chvatal @ 825-0324 or the Selahs @ 872-0006

A note to members: we are requesting the use of teapots, three-tier cake plates, small serving dishes, tablecloths and "linen" napkins, sugar spoons, lemon forks and other serving pieces. Items may be dropped off at the Restoration any Sunday, or call Marge or the Selahs, Thanks

Children's Art Show

A Children's Art Show is planned for this Spring. Date, time and details to be announced. All young artists are encouraged to participate.

One of our newest members is Margaret Payan Galioto. Margaret is a descendent of Robert and Ellen Pagan (who later spelled their name Payan) who built the Pagan-Fletcher House. Margaret's interest was piqued when she learned of her relationship to Wallace Payan who was the first president of the First National Bank of Valley Stream. She wanted to learn more about the Pagan family and visited the Restoration recently where she enjoyed talking to Ted Libath and the other tour guides. She hopes to give the Society more information about the Pagan family tree and looks forward to learning more about her family and its history in Valley Stream.

"A Sense of Place" the program presented by Dr. Natalie Naylor, professor at Hofstra University, was a fascinating look at her pictures of over 50 Historic homes and museums. Dr. Naylor's photographs include the "Home Sweet Home" museum in East Hampton which was built in 1660, the 1790 Custom House in Sag Harbor and Walt Whitman's birthplace in Huntington.

Long Island has played an important role in American History. From the Revolution and the Spirit of '76 to the Civil War and the Underground Railroad Long Island has been home to countless people who have made a difference and we are grateful to Dr. Naylor for introducing us to many of them.

Cathy Varen

The Society is still seeking a permanent Editor for **Panorama**. Anyone interested, please call Hank Selah at 872-0006. In the meantime we'll struggle along and beg your indulgences.

Karen & Hank Selah, Interim Editors

Fasching Carnival

by Cathy Varen

1950's high school girl. Val also won a bottle of champagne and a fruit basket.

Beautiful snow-capped Alps in Germany, steins of dark beer, German folk music, women in dirndls and men in lederhosen were all brought to mind at the March 2nd Fasching Dance held at the Plattdeutsch Park Restaurant in Franklin Square.

Third place went to Mr. And Mrs. Schittenhart for the Admiral and his lady while fourth place was won by a mysterious couple from Shanghai.

This was a truly entertaining evening and for a taste of Germany anytime visit the Plattdeutsch Park Restaurant. It's much easier than flying overseas!



Anyone who can help with Panorama in any way, please contact Hank or Karen @ 516 872 0006.

I didn't have to see my travel agent or buy a ticket on Luftstansa to enjoy this wonderful German festival with my friends from the Valley Stream Historical Society. Hosted by the Liderkranz Society this carnival celebration featured lively German and American music by the Bud Gramer Band and members and guests dressed in costume.

I was a 17th century Austrian Countess in a green satin gown trimmed with lace and a fashionable wig of the era. Bob Presbrey, as the legendary Elvis, wore a 1950's jacket and glasses and played guitar. We were delighted to win the first prize gift certificate. This was the third consecutive year that first prize was won by members of the Valley Stream Historical Society!

Our own Valerie Esposito won 2nd prize for her

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PANORAMA

Valley Stream Historical Society

VOLUME XXIX, No. 7

April 2002

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WE WILL NEVER FORGET

Next Meeting
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
Brooklyn Avenue and 7th Street VS
Wednesday, April 17, 2002
8 P. M.

Program

Harrison Hunt will present a slide show and lecture about Long Island in the Civil War. Mr. Hunt has asked that members and guests bring any Civil War memorabilia they'd like to share.

May Meeting

A reminder that our May meeting will be a commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of Lindbergh's flight to Paris and members and guests are encouraged to bring souvenirs, photos, or memories related to that event.

Hospitality

Until the return of Tony and Adele Melillo we are asking for volunteers on a month-by-month basis. Anyone wishing to volunteer for the May hospitality committee please call the Selahs @ 872-0006.

Executive Board

Executive Board members be advised that Board Meeting will be posted in Panorama and not announced by post card.

The next Executive Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 24 at the Pagan-Fletcher Restoration at 7:30.

Victorian Tea

The Victorian Tea will be on Saturday, April 27th at the Pagan-Fletcher Restoration. Tickets are \$15 and advance reservations are necessary. Guests are asked to bring a teacup and saucer, spoon and cake plate.

As of this writing there are still a few tickets left.

This event sells out quickly and because seating is very limited there is no admission at the door. Please send your check to Valley Stream Historical Society, PO Box 22, Valley Stream,

NY 11582 by April 13th. For further information, call Marge Chvatal @ 825-0324 or the Selahs @ 872-0006

A note to members: we are requesting the use of teapots, three-tier cake plates, small serving dishes, tablecloths and "linen" napkins, sugar spoons, lemon forks and other serving pieces. Items may be dropped off at the Restoration any Sunday, or call Marge or the Selahs. Thanks

Children's Art Show

We are looking for young artists to participate in our June 30 Children's Art Show. Children are asked to choose up to four or five pieces for display (number of participants will determine space allotted to each artist). Children may work in any medium but if a piece requires special display the artist is asked to provide what's needed.

There will be a children's art contest that day (display pieces are not for judging) and visitors and art show participants may compete for prizes. Materials and subject will be provided. Further details in next month's Panorama.



The Society is still seeking a permanent Editor for Panorama. Anyone interested, please call Hank Selah at 872-0006. In the meantime we'll struggle along and beg your indulgences.

Karen & Hank Selah, Interim Editors

**Down Valley Stream's
Memory Lane**

(from MAIL leader—date unknown)

Lillian Rack Weaver, long-time resident and a founder of the Historical Society, has given us this memory of Depression days.

In 1931, a Central High School graduate of tender years, as I was, found employment scarce (and for adults it was even more so). In those days it was possible to return to high school for post-graduate study, which I did, taking courses for which I had no time previously. This was far from unpleasant, really, since PGs were not required to maintain averages, pass tests, etc... Just add to knowledge and usually assist teachers with small but enlightening chores. However, pleasant though it was, it was pay-less so I took on a few short-term jobs when available until my age would be more acceptable for full-time employment. One such job involved preparing a file of registered voters for use by committeemen of both political parties, i.e., Citizens and Peoples. I was assigned to a small corner of the Village Office which was then located on the second floor front of the Valley Stream Theatre building. At that time the popular Mayor was Handsome Jack Care, and two of the village secretaries were Helene Snowball and Ann Allagio (who was also crowned Queen of the West End LaFiesta that year). Eventually, as I passed another birthday I got a job in lower Manhattan. The monthly commutation fare on the Long Island Railroad then was \$7.81 to Brooklyn and \$10.01 to Penn Station (sounds unbelievable now). But my real purpose in continuing this memory is to say that in the famous bank moratorium the following year, the Bank of

Valley Stream, where I had deposited all my gradation gift money, failed. Some Villagers may remember that a small percentage of funds was repaid to depositors in "drips and drabs", but I believe it was less than 50 percent. So much for learning about thrift early in life! The bank building on Rockaway and East Jamaica Avenue (now Home Federal Savings) was vacated, and around 1940 it was acquired by the Village for municipal offices. Thus the Village Hall was indeed in the center of our Village for some time. In the mid-50's the entire Village complex (which now includes Waldinger Library and the John M. Smith Bandshell) was relocated on the Green as we know and use it today. (The Library had been housed in a large store building on Rockaway Avenue previously.)

Things were surely different, down Memory Lane.

One more thing occurs to me... Those of us who attended Central High prior to the "new" building on Fletcher Avenue in the fall of 1929, can tell of how several classrooms in the Wheeler Avenue elementary school were utilized for high school classes. It was necessary for students to go from the old high school building next to the grade school every day, and in some cases several times a day. In the winter we RAN. Must have been a nuisance, but I don't think any of us really minded it... in fact, it was the little bit of exercise we all needed to wake up our juices after perhaps a dull study hall or Mr. Sparrow's biology class!

**Anyone who can help with
Panorama in any way, please
contact Karen or Hank @
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PANORAMA

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VOLUME XXIX, No. 8

May 2002

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WE WILL NEVER FORGET

Next Meeting
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
Brooklyn Avenue and 7th Street VS
Wednesday, May 15, 2002
8 P. M.

Program
A Celebration of the 75th Anniversary of
Lindbergh's Flight to Paris

Our May meeting will be a tribute to Charles Lindbergh and to aviation history on Long Island, particularly in Valley Stream. Gabe Parrish will speak about Lindbergh's life and will share artifacts related to the historic trans-Atlantic flight which originated from Roosevelt field.

Lindbergh also flew out of Curtis Field in Valley Stream (site of present day Green Acres Mall) and his 1927 flight to Paris may well have originated from there but the runway was considered too short for the takeoff.

A highlight of our program will be Hank Anholzer's scale model of Lindbergh's plane, the Spirit of St. Louis.

Please join us for this very special evening, and remember to bring any photos, memorabilia or anecdotes you'd like to share about Lindbergh's flight.

Victorian Tea

The Victorian Tea was a delightful afternoon of tea, scones, finger sandwiches and elegant desserts all served with the grace and charm of a bygone era.

Thanks to Marge Chvatal and her committee of ladies (who shared their prettiest dishes and linens, prepared the food and served our guests) and to tea-maven Valerie Esposito for her special brew and lovely decorations. Florence Gunther, Agnes Libath, Anita Buckley, Adele Hagmann, Florence Rothage, Evelyn McQuade, Eileen Brennan, Barbara Ehlinger, Carol McKenna

and Tim Meyer all helped make the day a success. Special thanks to Cathy Varen who, as Madame Tamara, read tea-leaves and distributed copies of "The Art of Tea-Leaf Reading" to our guests. She also generously donated beautiful gift baskets which were raffled off.

Children's Art Show

Mark your calendar for our June 30 Children's Art Show. This is a wonderful opportunity for the young people of our community to share their talents. We encourage all young artists (5—18 years old) to participate. Admission is free and there will be a children's art contest that day for participants and guests to compete for prizes (subject and materials will be supplied).

Call 872-6038 for details about registration.

Our thoughts are with Tony Melillo who is still battling an as-yet undiagnosed condition. Despite several setbacks, Tony and his family are determined to get him back on his feet and well again. Plans are for Tony to be home on May 10 for at-home therapy. We know words of encouragement from his friends in the Society would help his recovery.

Hospitality

Until Tony's return we are asking volunteers to cover the hospitality table. This month Agnes and Ted Libath have once again agreed to host the table. We appreciate their efforts and Agnes' special decorative touches.

We are Still looking for someone to take-over or help with the production or publication of Panorama.

The Society is still seeking a permanent Editor for Panorama. Anyone interested, please call Hank Selah at 872-0006. In the meantime we'll struggle along and beg your indulgences.

Karen & Hank Selah, Interim Editors

Down Memory Lane

Continued memories of Gabriel T. Parrish and the memorable days of Columbia Aircraft in Valley Stream. From MAILleader

In 1946 Commonwealth Aircraft, Kansas, purchased Columbia Aircraft which then became Aircraft Service Corporation. They (A. S. C.) eventually moved to Florida. Operating in hangars that were once Columbia's, Commonwealth tooled up for production of a land plane and a seaplane. Expecting large orders for personal planes, they began building the "Skyranger", a two place cabin, high winged monoplane and the "Trimmer", an amphibian with twin engines and molded plywood construction.

For a time the future looked very good for Commonwealth and expansion was considered, but lack of sales and the post-war slump finally closed its doors.

Valley Stream resident, Anthony Bauer and I, in the spring of 1947, created the last partially completed tubular steel "Skyranger" fuselage and loaded it into a boxcar at a railroad siding in Rockville Centre for shipment back to Commonwealth's Kansas City, Kansas main plant. That ended production in Valley Stream.

After Columbia and Commonwealth, I was hired by Sperry in 1948, eventually became a supervisor and retired from Sperry in 1986.

Continued and concluded.

A resident of Valley Stream since 1954, I am at present a volunteer at the Cradle of Aviation Museum at Mitchell Field where we restore and build aircraft of past years.

We have recently completed an addition to a Ryan NYP, a sister ship of Charles Lindbergh's "Spirit of St. Louis". We duplicated Lindy's instrument panel and periscope which we built and installed. This sister ship of the "Spirit of St. Louis" is one of only three surviving originals.

The museum at Mitchell Field has a replica of Lawrence Sperry's first pilot less plane built in 1918. It was known as the Aerial Torpedo. Also there is a familiar plane called the "Skyranger".

Will there come a day when we will see a J2F "Duck" and the "Columbia XJL" among the many planes at the expanding Cradle of Aviation Museum? Time will tell.

Early this year a J2F6 "Duck" in Reno, Nevada, was available, but the Museum Could not meet the asking price of \$150,000.

In my spare time, I am building a 1/8 scale model of the "Duck" started by Mario DiMinico.

.... If anyone has any old copies of "Columbia News", please get in touch. This may be done through the Valley Stream Historical Society, Box 22, Valley Stream N. Y. 11582.



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Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
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Wednesday, June 19, 2002
8 P. M.

Program

Strawberry Festival

Our June meeting will be Installation of officers and Strawberry Festival. While we enjoy strawberries and ice cream, we will be entertained by our own Walter Harrod's "Down Memory Lane". Challenge your memory as Walter reminisces and quizzes us about movies, radio (and very early TV) and news stories of the past.

There will be an admission of \$1.00 to help the Society defray costs.

Children's Art Show

Be sure to join us for our Children's Art Show on June 30 from 1—4 P. M. at the Pagan-Fletcher Restoration. Come see the wonderful talent of our local young people. Children 5—18 are invited to display their work and all participants and young guests may draw the Restoration that day to compete for prizes. Call (516) 825-0324 for registration information or (516) 872-4159 the day of the event. Admission is free!

Belated Thanks

Thanks to Agnes Libath and Anita Buckley for laundering the curtains in the Restoration and to Ted Libath and Jim Buckley for washing all 39 windows!

Tony Melillo is down but not out. After many set-backs, Tony is home as of the middle of May. We saw Tony with his family. He's a bit dispirited but with the support of his very-loving family, Tony looks forward to the Doctors finally finding out what is causing his problem and fixing it. Tony's

spirits ebb and flow but considering all the difficulties he's had, I think he's doing remarkably well.

Newsday's "Fun Book"

The Pagan-Fletcher Restoration is now mentioned in Newsday's "Fun Book". This yearly guide lists points of interest and leisure activities on Long Island and it is thanks to the efforts of Valerie Esposito that we are there!

Executive Board

The next Executive Board meeting will be August 28, 7:30 P. M. at the Restoration.

Passing the Gavel

After six years of intense involvement with the Valley Stream Historical Society, it's become time for Karen and I to step back just slightly and pass the gavel on to others.

The last six years has been a succession from Karen being vice-president with me her faithful secretary (typing minutes) to Karen being president, with me now her executive secretary, till now I'm president and Karen my executive secretary (sans typing!) using her skills writing Panorama and handling day-to-day business as well as being my sounding board. Whew!

It's been a great joy doing what we've been doing, including being the "here" in Harry S Truman's "the buck stops here". But now it's become time for us to step back just a little and leave room for others to step up and become more deeply involved. This doesn't mean we won't still be involved, it just means we won't always be "here".

And now it's time for me to thank every one of you who's been here for me and before me, for Karen. Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

The Society is still seeking a permanent Editor for Panorama. We will do our best to assist the next editor whether permanent or interim.

Karen & Hank Selah

School Days
By Helen Dowdeswell

In 1919 when I was six years old my family moved to north Valley Stream where Corona Avenue turns into Franklin Avenue.

A neighboring farmer, Ernie David, hitched up his horse to a flat-bed wagon and drove us and the other local children to the school at Wheeler Avenue for our first day of school

After that we were on our own to walk the mile and a half each day. The walk was usually a pleasant one as we followed the dirt road, Corona Avenue, on which there was little traffic.

One winter's day it was snowing when we set out for school. To our surprise, when we arrived no one was there but the janitor, Ebbie Hall. Whatever signal was used to call-off school didn't reach way up to the northern end of the district. Our solution to the problem was to sit down on the school steps, eat our lunch rather than carry it home and then to trudge back through the snow.

Some winter days were extremely cold and our hands would be

almost frozen in our woolen mittens. I remember how my hands hurt but as long as I was walking with my friends I wouldn't admit to the pain. However after I had passed the home of my last companion I would start to run and to whimper. By the time I reached home I was bawling in earnest. What a relief to get indoors and have Mother immerse my hands in cold water until the pain subsided.

I wonder why that memory should have lasted over eighty years.



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VICE PRESIDENT
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Claire McMahon
Lillian Weaver
Evelyn McQuade

Membership Form

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

EXPIRES JUNE 2003

Individual \$10, Student \$2, Contributing \$15, Family \$15 (2 or more in one family)
Organizations, Clubs, Business, Etc. \$25 Tax Exempt Life Gifts \$100.00

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PANORAMA

Valley Stream Historical Society

Volume XXX, No. 10

September, 2002

PAGAN-FLETCHER RESTORATION

143 HENDRICKSON AVENUE, VALLEY STREAM, NY ♦ (516) 872-4159 ♦ FAX: (516) 599-7069

<http://www.nassaulibrary.org/valleyst/vshist.html> ♦ VSHistorical@earthlink.net

NEXT MEETING

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
Brooklyn Avenue and 7th Street
Valley Stream
Wednesday, September 18, 2002
8:00 P.M.

PROGRAM

Foster's Meadow – "The Origins of a German Farming Community"

Paul W. Hoffman's interest in Foster's Meadow began with the discovery that eight members of his family emigrated to the area in the 1850's. He is on the board of the Hallockville Museum Farm & Folklife Center and a member of the German Genealogy Group. Mr. Hoffman has published articles in *The Long Island Forum*.

Desserts provided by Florence Gunther, Ruthanne Zwarico and Karen Vitale Selah.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

On September 29, 2002, the Garden Club will be dedicating a plaque in memory of Mary Villager, at 1:00 P.M., at the Herb Garden off the kitchen at the Restoration.

The Restoration will host an exhibit on Valley Stream's contributions to aviation during the month of October. The grand opening will be on Sunday, October 6, 2002, at 1:00 p.m. Come see the model of "The Spirit of St. Louis," built by Hank Anholzer, along with memorabilia provided by Hank, Gabe Parrish, and the archives of the Society. On loan from the Cradle of Aviation will be the plaque commemorating the creation of The Ninety-Nines at Curtiss Field, Valley Stream, in 1929.

The Halloween Costume Contest will be held at the Restoration on Sunday, October 27. Look to next month's *Panorama* for more information.

LONG ISLAND TRIVIA

Lindy

A basic jitterbug step, originating in Harlem in the late 1920's and named for Charles Augustus

Lindbergh, Jr. (1902-1974). Lindbergh made the first nonstop solo transatlantic flight from Roosevelt Field, Long Island, to Le Bourget, Paris, on May 20-21, 1927.

Provided by the late Alphonse P. Mayernik

THE NINETY-NINES

At Curtiss Airport, Valley Stream, on November 2, 1929, twenty-six women meet in a hangar to form an association consisting of female pilots. They selected Neva Paris as temporary chairman.

Membership would be open to any woman with a pilot's license. "Good fellowship, jobs, and a central office and files on women in aviation" was the primary purpose of the newly-formed organization. Choosing a name was much more difficult. Many names such as "The Climbing Vines," "Homing Pigeons and Gadflies" were suggested. Amelia Earhart and Jean Davis Hoyt proposed that the name be taken from the total number of charter members. Initially, the name was "The Eighty-Sixes" then "The Ninety-Sevens" but the determination was made to stop at "The Ninety-Nines."

Today the mission statement of the organization is to:

- Promote world fellowship through flight
- Provide networking and scholarship opportunities for women and aviation education in the community
- Preserve the unique history of women in aviation

Information provided by The Ninety-Nines website

September 11 – One Year Later

Beginning on September 11 and through November 1, 2002 Hofstra University will host an exhibit in the David Filderman Gallery on the ninth floor of the Axinn Library entitled: *Where there is Sorrow, There is Holy Ground: A September 11th 2001 Anniversary Retrospective* detailing the effects of September 11 on Long Island residents.

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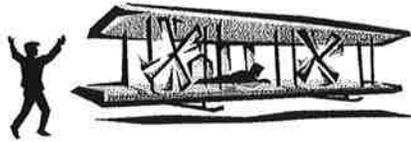
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TED LIBATH
BERT KELLER
CLAIRE MCMAHON
LILLIAN WEAVER
EVELYN MCQUADE



GLEN CURTISS

**Founder of the American Aviation Industry
Father of Naval Aviation**

Curtiss was born in Hammondsport, New York on May 21, 1878.

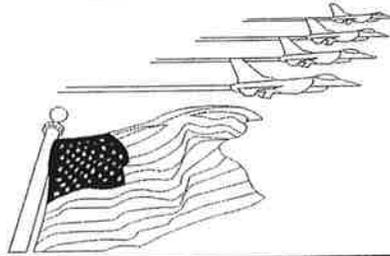
His exploits in speed with bicycles, motorcycles and flying machines lead to his being the model for a series of books for boys entitled: *The Adventures of Tom Swift*.

On July 4, 1908, Curtiss flew the June Bug at the speed of 39 miles per hour. He was awarded the "Scientific American" trophy.

In 1911 Curtiss sold his first aeroplane to the US Navy and earned the right to be known as the Father of Naval Aviation.

Curtis and the Wright Brothers (one fierce competitors) joined forces in 1929 to form Curtiss-Wright Corporation.

On July 23, 1930, Curtiss died in Buffalo, NY from complications of appendix surgery.



Membership Form

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

Expires June 2003

Individual \$10, Student \$2, Contributing \$15, Family \$15 (2 or more in family)
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PANORAMA

Volume XXIX, No. 11

VALLEY STREAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

October, 2002

PAGAN-FLETCHER RESTORATION

143 HENDRICKSON AVENUE, VALLEY STREAM, NY ♦ (516) 872-4129 ♦ FAX: (516) 999-7069
<http://www.nassaulibrary.org/vallevst/vshist.html> ♦ VSHistorical@earthlink.net

NEXT MEETING

Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
Brooklyn Avenue and 7th Street
Valley Stream
Wednesday, October 16, 2002
7:00 P.M.

Covered Dish Supper

Enjoy the fruits of the Fall harvest. Join the Society at its annual 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:

NOTE THE NEW CATEGORY FOR DESSERTS

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

F-J Desserts

K-O "Starchy" type foods, hot or cold such as rice, beans, potatoes, pasta, etc.

P-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 and butter. We will also provide tea and coffee.

A donation of \$3.00 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.

Halloween Costume Contest

Our Halloween Costume Contest will be held at the Restoration on Sunday, October 27, 2002. The Ragamuffin Parade will start at 3:00 p.m. Costumes will be judged and prizes will be awarded for both children's and adults' costumes.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Our on-going display on Early Aviation in Valley Stream continues at the Restoration through the month of October, 2002.

An Antique Doll Exhibit will be held at the Restoration on Sunday, November 17, 2002, from 1:00 p.m. through 4:00 p.m.

Look to future issues of Panorama for more details on upcoming events.

GRACIAS, MERCI BEAUCOUP

Thanks to Valerie Esposito, an article about the Pagan-Fletcher Restoration with photo appeared in Soundings, the newsletter of the Long Island Convention and Visitors Bureau and Sports Commission. The society maintains a membership in the organization.

ACQUISITIONS

Professor Roger Hannay and his wife, Jane, of Chapel Hill, North Carolina have gifted the Society with a collection of letters written to and by Sarah West detailing life in Valley Stream and Brooklyn during the 1870's, 1880's and 1890's.

Wedding Bells

Congratulations to Village Trustee, Joseph Zabatta and his intended, Dorothy Potter, on their upcoming nuptials. Joe serves as liaison to the Society on behalf of the Village Board.

REMINDER

If you have not paid your dues for the 2002-2003 membership year, this is your last issue of Panorama.



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EVELYN McQUADE

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

AY ME, AY ME, I SIGH THE SCYTHE A-FIELD
ANONYMOUS (CA. 1578)

Ay me, ay me, I sigh to see the scythe a-field;
Down goeth the gross, soon wrought to wither'd hay:
Aye, alas! Ay me, alas, that beauty needs must yield,
And princes pass, as grass doth fade away.

Ay me, ay me, that life can not have lasting leave,
Nor gold take hold of everlasting joy:
Ay me, alas! Aye me, alas, that time hath talents to receive,
And yet no time can make a suer stay.

Ay me, ay me, that wit can not have wished choice,
Nor wish can win that will desires to see:
Ay me, alas! Aye me, alas, that mirth can promise no rejoice,
Nor study tell what afterward shall be.

Ay me, ay me, that no sure staff is given to age,
Nor age can give sure wit that youth will take:
Ay me, alas! Ay me, alas, that no counsel wise and sage
Will shun the show that all doth mar and make.

Ay me, ay me, come, Time, shear on and shake thy hay,
It is no boot to balk thy bitter blows:
Ay me, alas! Ay me, alas, come, Time, take everything away,
For all is thine, be it good or bad, that grows.

ANOTHER TYPE OF FOOD

AUTUMN HARVEST POPCORN

INGREDIENTS:

2 quarts popcorn, unsalted
3 cups shoestring potatoes
1 cup mixed nuts
¼ cup butter, melted
1 teaspoon dried dill weed
1 teaspoon Worcestershire Sauce
½ teaspoon lemon/pepper
½ teaspoon garlic powder
½ teaspoon onion powder

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. In large roasting pan, mix popcorn, potatoes and nuts. Combine butter and remaining five ingredients. Pour over popcorn mixtures, stir until well covered. Bake in preheated oven 8 to 10 minutes, stirring once. Cool. Store in tightly covered containers. Great for snacks, or for gifts.
Makes 2-1/2 quarts

Valley Stream Historical Society
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PANORAMA

Valley Stream Historical Society

Volume XXIX, No. 12

November, 2002

PAGAN-FLETCHER RESTORATION

143 HENDRICKSON AVENUE, VALLEY STREAM, NY ♦ (516) 872-4159 ♦ FAX: (516) 599-7069

<http://www.nassaulibrary.org/valleyst/vshist.html> ♦ VSHistorical@earthlink.net

PROGRAM

November 20, 2002
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
7th Street and Brooklyn Avenue
Valley Stream, New York
8:00 p.m.

"CREATED IN VALLEY STREAM"

Anthony Tallarico, local artist and illustrator of children's books will show books and pamphlets in which his work appears as well as several examples of his art work where Valley Stream was his inspiration.

Desserts will be provided by Helen Dowdeswell, Agnes Libath, and Carol McKenna.

ANTIQUe Doll Exhibit

The Restoration will host an Antique Doll Exhibit on Sunday, November 17, 2002, between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. Bring your doll for an evaluation.

CALENDAR

On December 8, 2002 the Restoration will hold its annual Gingerbread House Contest. We will be open on that day at 11:00 a.m. to accept entries. Please call 825-2490 if you want to drop off your entry on another date and time.

REMInder

The Society will also hold its annual bake sale on December 8 and would very much appreciate contributions in the way of baked goods from its members.

On December 15, 2002 the Society will hold its annual Caroling Party at the Restoration. Come listen to the Pagan-Fletcher Carolers sing and join us as we celebrate this festive season in song. Refreshments will be served.

NOTEworthy ANNIVERSARY

Thirty years ago, on January 17, 1973, the Society was formed and its provisional charter granted. Look to a future Panorama for plans on how the Society plans to celebrate this milestone.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Society wishes to acknowledge its gratitude to Hank Anholzer and Gabe Parrish for the time and effort both gentlemen put into the display of "Early Aviation in Valley Stream" during the month of October. The Society would also like to thank Bill Vivenzio for lending some of his artifacts to the exhibit, as well.

OUR VOLUNTEERS

Agnes Libath's photo recently appeared in Focus on Health, the newsletter of Franklin Hospital Medical Center where Agnes was identified as a long-time volunteer. Agnes has served the Society well over the years in many capacities and currently serves as its Corresponding Secretary. Well done, Agnes. We are proud of you.

CONGRATULATIONS

Society President and Village Historian, Carol McKenna, was elected Second Vice President of the Association of Public Historians of New York State ("APHNYS") at its Fall conference in Chautaugua, NY. She had served the predecessor organization as its Secretary from 1996-1997 and APHNYS as Corresponding Secretary through 2002.

HANUKKAH

The Society wishes its members and neighbors of the Jewish faith a Happy Hanukkah. Hanukkah is the eight day celebration starting on the 25th day of Kislev, commemorating the rededication of the Temple by the Maccabees. The first day of Hanukkah is November 30, 2002.

SOCIETY RECEIVES A THANK YOU

The Society has received a gracious letter from Paul van Wie, President of the Franklin Square Historical Society, thanking us for our contribution to their building fund.



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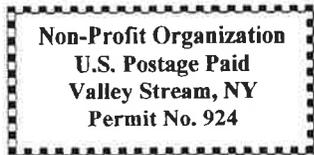


WHEN THE CLOCKS CANNOT TELL OUR TIME OF DAY©
By: Joan Bridget Manney*

We make of this place
The time for the robins
Who land with feet already running
Ready to stretch their necks to browse
To bargin hunt for worms.
The air is full of sweet mulched grass.
Everywhere tints are childering
Composing comfortably
With the odor of hot wet pavements
Slaked with water from sprinklers
Lightly varnishing the robins
Taking the last rays of the warning light
On their wings.
Standing on the edge of my jetsam
I watch the robins try to grab
The Mad Hatter's coat-tails
As he dashes headlong
Through our Wonderland
As the vanishing summer of varnished weeks
Disappear as mysteriously
As a conjurer's rabbit.

*Ms. Manney is the Vice President of the Society

Valley Stream Historical Society
P.O. Box 22
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Mr. William Stris
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PANORAMA

Valley Stream Historical Society

Volume XXX, No. 4

Dec '02- Jan '03

PAGAN-FLETCHER RESTORATION

143 HENDRICKSON AVENUE, VALLEY STREAM, NY ♦ (516) 872-4159 ♦ FAX: (516) 599-7069
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GREETINGS

The Society wishes its members and neighbors
A Happy and Healthy New Year

PROGRAM

January 15, 2003
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
7th Street and Brooklyn Avenue
Valley Stream, New York
8:00 p.m.

"PREDATORY BIRDS"

Robert Young, a falconer at Kennedy Airport will bring a menagerie of birds, including a Snow owl, falcon, Harris hawk, Great Horned owl and Barrel owl. He will explain how they help the environment. Young is the only individual licensed to handle and show a Snow owl.

CALENDAR

George is Back

On Sunday, February 16, 2003, at the Restoration, from 1-4 p.m., members of the Society will be dressed in costumes appropriate to Presidents' weekend. Join us for refreshments.

YES, VIRGINIA, THERE IS A SANTA CLAUS—
AND FOR THE SOCIETY, HIS NAME IS
HANS SEMDER.

Semder conducted two gingerbread house-decorating sessions at the Restoration on Gingerbread Sunday. For his generosity, Semder was awarded a life membership in the Society. Thank you, Hans.

The Society would also like to thank those individuals who contributed baked goods for our sale on Gingerbread Sunday.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Society has accepted two tapes, a transcript, and a business card from Joseph Rau. Rau was on the 33rd floor of Tower One of the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. The tapes and transcript contain an interview of Rau

conducted by Chris Jagger, Julie Fisk and Jim David of "The Morning Edge", a broadcast of 1021FM, a radio station in Dallas, Texas, on September 12, 2001. Paula Schultz, the producer, is a family friend.

Robert LeFavi, Ph.D. on the faculty of Armstrong Atlantic State University, has sent the Society a copy of his book, *Reasons to Believe*. Dr. LeFavi graduated from Valley Stream North High School in 1978.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR LITTLE MARGIE

Marge Chvatal was presented with a "Make A Difference" Award from the Town of Hempstead on Monday, November 25, 2002. Marge was described in the nominating letter written by Karen and Hank Selah as "whimsical and charming, tactful and funny, spiritual and practical, warm and caring."

Among those present at the ceremony were Marge's two daughters, Joanie and Kathy, her two sisters, and other members of her family.

The Society was well represented by Jim Buckley, Florence Gunther, Hank and Karen Selah. Barbara Ehlinger and Carol McKenna. The Central High School Alumni Association was also well represented by Joe Bergen, Mary O'Connell and Florence Rothage.

Editor's Note: Those of us who have been fortunate enough to have Marge Chvatal in our lives feel extremely blessed.



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EVELYN McQUADE



Christmas customs have evolved from seasonal, pagan, religious and national practices steeped in tradition and legend, many of which predate Christianity. Medieval customs included the yule log, wassail bowl and mummers' plays. Mistletoe was used by the Druids as a remedy for sterility and an antidote for poison.

Prior to 1644 the holiday in England was celebrated with a great deal of revelry and occasionally excess. In 1644 under Oliver Cromwell and the Puritans, Parliament passed an edict making Christmas a somewhat somber occasion. Carols became illegal and churches were locked even to their own clergy. The atmosphere created by the Puritans, which crushed the spirit of the English, continued until the ascent of Charles II to the throne in 1660. The bans were lifted but a return to the celebrations of the past did not occur. If anything, conditions became worse. The Industrial Revolution in England had begun. Miserable working conditions prevailed along with long workdays and work weeks. Child labor was an institution.

Victoria became Queen on June 20, 1837. On December 8, 1842, William M. Egley, Jr., a 16 year old young man, designed and etched what is accepted as the first Christmas card. In 1843 Charles Dickens wrote "A Christmas Carol" which was an indictment of life in Great Britain particularly during Christmas. Victoria married her first cousin, Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha. Prince Albert is credited with bringing the Christmas tree, a German custom, to England. Improvements in the postal system and the Victorian love of writing were responsible for the custom of greeting cards during the season.

The Victorian Christmas Eve was usually spent having dinner with family, gift giving and opening, singing carols and pantomimes. On Christmas Day the family attended matins and visited the less fortunate. Seasonal music was also provided by street musicians looking for gratuities (called writs). Dinner was usually turkey, goose or roast beef with mince pie, Yorkshire and plum puddings, wassail and eggnog.

Queen Victoria and Prince Albert are credited with re-establishing the joy, happiness and sense of family that had been lost to the English for so many centuries during the Christmas season.

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