

This newsletter is produced by Milton Elis and the Volunteer Advisory Board for the volunteers and staff of the Sagamore Hill National Historic Site.

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The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
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Oyster Bay, New York 11771

The Volunteers of Sagamore Hill
20 Sagamore Hill Road
Oyster Bay, New York 11771

TRIVIA ANSWER



The animal skins have been removed from the library for a cleaning.

NEWS FROM THE COAL BIN

By Mark Koziol

Artifacts Re-housed in Museum Storage

Recently, the volunteers worked with the Curatorial staff to re-house and organize miscellaneous *Theodore Roosevelt* artifacts at the Old Orchard Museum. The artifacts were in the TRH basement storage rooms until recent conservation needs made it necessary to move them to a stable climate. The artifacts including framed photographs, glassware and desktop knick-knacks, are now housed in acid-free boxes and are located in the new visual storage cabinets located in the Conference Room.

Also, following the August, 2004 flood of the Old Orchard Museum it was decided that the boxes located on the top shelf of the archives storage room should be re-housed into water-proof boxes. In January, the Curatorial staff and volunteers switched the paper documents from 35 of the older boxes to the new acid-free, water proof archival storage boxes.

Textiles Examined and Re-housed

The Curatorial volunteers and staff also completed re-housing a collection of over 40 assorted textiles stored in the TRH. The artifacts included items such as a woolen, dark blue dress military jacket from the Spanish-American War; numerous women's dresses; and several woolen World War I uniforms once owned by T. R.'s sons. The artifacts had been stored for years on padded clothes hangers, an acceptable practice in the museum field at the time. However, current standards recommended that textiles are best preserved in flat storage rather than hanging storage.



Eleanor Butler Roosevelt's, Mrs. TR Junior, WWII Red Cross uniforms

The volunteers and staff worked over several months to carefully un-wrap, exam and re-house the textiles into acid-free textile storage boxes. The twenty-five boxes will be moved from the TRH to the OOM storage rooms shortly.

Archival News

In late February, Sagamore Hill sent nineteen boxes of archival papers to the National Park Service Northeast Museum Service Center for conservation, organizing and cataloging. These documents include six boxes of miscellaneous *Edith Kermit Carow* Papers and thirteen boxes of miscellaneous Sagamore Hill bills generated from the 1930s to the late 1940s. *Vicki Kalemari*s, formerly of Sagamore Hill NHS and now working for the Museum Services Center, will oversee this project, which is a happy combination of her Roosevelt expertise and archival training.



Other toys that are also in the south bedroom.



The Rough Writer

The News of the Volunteers at Sagamore Hill



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TR on silk hanging



Snow closes site on President's Day



Teddy bear in south bedroom

JOHN GABLE HAS LEFT THE BUILDING



A 30 year era has come to an end. Nearly everyone connected to Sagamore Hill had dealings with John Gable sometime in their career. John, who passed away last week, would pop into the house to give a personal tour to someone he felt would benefit from his knowledge. Some of the interpreters may have known more minutia on the North Room, but there was no one more knowledgeable about TR than was John. He was the fierce defender of TR's name and legacy. He fought vigorously and successfully to see that the house, the site, the museum and any place connected to TR's name showed Theodore Roosevelt in the correct light.

He did not gloss over the foibles and failings of our 26th President, but insisted that they be shown correctly. John Gable was a tough negotiator in the preparation of the General Management Plan. He would have loved to see Old Orchard as the headquarters of the TRA. This

writer has also learned a great deal about the Hamlet of Oyster Bay from John and I hope his unpublished notes will be made available to TR scholars in the future.

When they meet, what will TR think of the man who has examined his life, family and actions in so minute a detail? When he meets John, he will probably say, "Bully."

SITE NEWS: PEOPLE

David Moore, husband of Superintendent *Gay Vietzke*, recently lost his father William. The site and volunteers have sent condolences and have contributed to a memorial for Dave's father.

Former site museum technician, *Vicki Kalemari*s, now working for the Park Service in the Boston area, is getting married this coming August. We wish her and her future husband, *Matt Andrienas*, the very best. *Jerome Stueart* send regards from Texas Tech University where he is working on his Doctorate. He recently taught a creative writing class at near-by Wayland University. During the past few months he has written about Saagmore Hill, not about the people he met but as a setting and historical subject. He misses Oyster Bay and the site and considers his time here not as work but as a great vacation and an opportunity to do research. He appreciates that we have put *Mrs. Pittis*, his former landlady in Oyster Bay Cove, on our mailing list. Jerome would welcome hearing from any and all at his email address, jstueart@yahoo.com.



SITE NEWS: EVENTS

Staff and volunteers attended the Memorial Service for *Dr. John Gable* at Christ Church in Oyster Bay.

MASTERS CLASS VISITS



Led by their instructor, *Kristin Herron*, twelve students from the Masters Program at *Cooper Hewitt Museum*, visited the site on February 17. Part of the Decorative Arts and Design Curriculum, Ms. Herron's group was studying historic homes. The students

received an in-depth tour of the TRH from *Scott Gurney* and then heard from *Gay Vietzke* and *Sue Sarna*. Gay and Sue discussed the decisions that were made in deciding how to interpret some of the rooms at the house. Ms. Herron is part of the adjunct faculty at *Cooper Hewitt*, a branch of the *Smithsonian*.



TR IN FEBRUARY 1905

- 2/7 Sent a message to Congress for the scientific survey of the Philippines
- 2/10 Had a conference with *Booker T. Washington*
- 2/15 The Dominican Treaty was sent to the Senate and TR sent a message to the Senate on the Monroe Doctrine in Santo Domingo.
- 2/22 TR was awarded a Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Pennsylvania and made a speech on that occasion.

TRIVIA QUESTION



What is wrong with this picture of the library?

NEWS OF THE FRIENDS OF SAGAMORE HILL



Jim and Joni Foote and Dr. Linda Shookster

The Friends have established the *Dr. John A. Gable Lecture Series*. The opening program will be a talk by the author & journalist, *Edward J. Renahan, Jr.* Scheduled for

Thursday, March 3, 2005, the topic is: *The Big Stick at Sea: Theodore Roosevelt's Navy*. This free program will be at 7:30 p.m. in the Great Hall of Christ Church on Main Street in Oyster Bay.



Norman Parsons, Walter Fish and Linda Parsons

Norm Parsons, President of the TRA, reporting for *Dr. Gable*, advised that the *Oyster*

Bay Rotary Club had raised enough money to complete the equestrian statue of TR. The statue will be located in front of the Oyster Bay-East Norwich Boys and Girls Club at the intersection of Berry Hill Road and Pine Hollow Road in Oyster Bay.

The *Oyster Bay Main Street Association* plans for the installation of the former Nunnaly's Carousel into Theodore Roosevelt Park in Oyster Bay have been approved by the TRA. The song writer *Billy Joel* has written a song honoring the carousel.

The *Friends of Sagamore Hill* has taken over from the TRA, the planning and logistics for the 2005 *Theodore Roosevelt Public Speaking Contest for Nassau County*. The contest will be held on April 13 & 14 at Old Orchard. The finals will be on April 20th, also at OOM. Volunteers will be contacted to act as judges. The former contest coordinator, *Mike Manson* has come out of retirement to assist in seeing to the success of this year's contest. *Leslie Handler*, *Ginny Perrell* and *Wayne Wagner* from SAHI, are coordinators for Long Island, and assisting *Dr. Manson*.



Michael Manson

The annual TRA meeting will be held in Washington, D.C. on October 21-23, 2005. While John Gable was undergoing chemo-therapy, prior to his death, *Edward J. Renahan, Jr.*, the author and journalist, took over the editing of the *TRA Journal*.

NEWS OF VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers, *Toby Selda* and *Madeline Nelson*, half of the Sweet Adeline group that sings at the site's holiday party, are appearing along with the other half of the group on Saturday, March 5, 2005. The Island Hills Chorus of Sweet Adelines International will be giving a concert at Huntington High School, McKay & Oakwood Roads, Huntington Station. The music is at 7:30 p.m. and a show at 8:00p.m. Tickets are \$15, \$10 for seniors. Questions? Call Judi at 631-754-3015

NOT QUITE VIRTUAL REALITY BUT CERTAINLY 21ST CENTURY



Toby Salda and Kathy McLeavy

Volunteers, *Kathy McLeavy* and *Toby Selda* have been working to design a **Virtual Scavenger Hunt** for Sagamore Hill's web site. Using the format of the hunt that students currently take when they visit the museum, *Toby & Kathy* have been photographing and describing exhibits so that children can do the hunt from home.

CLARIFICATION OF THE NEW PATCHES by Charles Markis

Clarification on the new VIP patches. In consultation with the superintendent, we have determined that those volunteers who have fulfilled one thousand hours of service will be entitled to display the red Master Ranger Corp patch. All others will display the usual green patch. The old arrow-head patches have been superseded and should be replaced by these new ones. There are plenty more if you need them for extra garments.

By the way, we hope that all of you are keeping track of your hours. You may record them at the VC, or at OOM, or at the shop. All your hours will be totaled at the conclusion of the fiscal year.

Most of you are good about letting us know if you are not coming in. But, just a reminder that you may leave a message at the Visitor Center extension by calling 516-922-4271 x33; and the regular park number is 516-922-4788.

Since it is winter and it does snow, please do not come out if conditions are bad where you are. We don't want any one risking an accident to come here. Visitation falls off, as you know, in bad weather.

FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

BY GAY E. VIETZKE



"With all my heart I believe in the joy of living; but those who achieve it do not seek it as an end in itself, but as a seized and prized incident of hard work well done and of risk and danger never wantonly courted, but never shirked when duty commands that they be faced." (TR, *Metropolitan*, October 1918)

The last few weeks have been very difficult, but I find comfort in Roosevelt's words. TR celebrated life – particularly the life of public service and family devotion. These are important ideas as we remember the contributions of John Gable, and get ready for a number of upcoming events and celebrations.

The first lecture in the spring lecture series will be held on Thursday, March 3, at Christ Church in Oyster Bay at 7:30pm. *Edward J. Renahan, Jr.*, author and journalist, will speak on "The Big Stick at Sea: Theodore Roosevelt and the Navy." Look for announcements for the April, May and June lectures – all of which fall under the theme of "BULLY FOR TEDDY! Celebrating the Centennial of the Presidency of Theodore Roosevelt." The series is jointly sponsored by the Friends of Sagamore Hill and the park.

At 2pm on March 10th, there will a session for all volunteers describing the management alternatives for the General Management Plan. There will be other upcoming public meetings – many of you have already attended sessions like these. But, I think you will see your input has been folded into the current possible strategies for the site. Again, refreshments will be served.

To safeguard against another flood at Old Orchard, contractors have begun to install larger catch pans and a leak detection system in the attic. You'll hear a bit of banging there the next week or so – but we all think it's good to have the extra insurance!

On a personal note, I want to thank everyone who has sent cards and greeting to Dave and me over the last few weeks. We were so touched by your generosity and caring. It has been a true source of support.

SITE TO CREATE A NEW AWARD

Superintendent *Gay E. Vietzke*, announces the creation of an award named for the late Executive Director of the *Theodore Roosevelt Association*.

“We feel that it is fitting to create an award memorializing Dr. Gable especially focusing on his scholarship and to uphold a high standard of excellence at Sagamore Hill. We hope this will encourage research and draw attention to the importance of historic accuracy in our interpretive talks, tours, programs and other materials,” Vietzke stated.

**John A. Gable Award
For
Historic Excellence at Sagamore Hill**

The *John A. Gable Award for Historic Excellence* is given to staff members or Volunteers in Parks or other appropriate scholars showing exemplary work in historic accuracy for work on Sagamore Hill. The award may be given to a tour guide for a body of work over the year; a lecture or a talk; or for a program or publication developed for use at the site; or for the creation of materials that are web based; or other similar work.

A sometime award, the prize may not be given every year; and it may be given to a group or persons collaborating on a project or presentation.

The criteria for the award center upon the following:

Historic Accuracy – the candidate or project must show exemplary work in telling or demonstrating history. The debunking of apocryphal and doubtful information with a zeal for telling or showing what really happened is encouraged. The person or work demonstrates the use of scholarship with appropriate citations of primary materials.

Excellence—The candidate or work must be of the highest quality showing scholarly endeavor and first rate presentation. The work is presented publicly or published or chosen for inclusion on a significant website.

The award carries a cash prize.

NAME CONFUSION



Quentin Roosevelt's
WWI Uniform

Curatorial volunteers were re-housing a few family uniforms. The first uniform, a WWI U.S. Army jacket (blouse) had embroidered pilot's wings. Also note the Signal Corp flags on the collar. The jacket belonged to Quentin Roosevelt. The next uniform had a name tape with Quentin Roosevelt in the collar.

The second uniform was a WWII U.S. Army jacket with two rows of campaign ribbons. The first Quentin was TR's son. The second Quentin was TR Jr's son.

The Roosevelt family is partial to names like Quentin, Kermit, Eleanor and Edith.



Quentin Roosevelt II
WWII Uniform

PRUNE WE MUST

This is the season for pruning bushes and trees around the site. The bushes, winged euonymus, had grown out of control in the area of the Visitors Center. Bo Stein, George Dziomba and Jim Cocks worked on the bushes.



George Dziomba shows
how it is done properly



Bo Stein and Jim Cocks admiring
George's handy work

IT WAS A SLOW DAY FOR TOURS...



Rod Smith
waiting
for
visitors.

THINGS YOU NEVER SEE



Canisters and china from the pantry.

DID YOU KNOW?

As per *Edmund Morris* in the notes for *Theodore Rex*, “On or about 11 Dec. 1904, TR had been sparring in the White house with a Navy aide, Lieutenant *Dan Tyler Moore*, and took a ‘hot one’ to the side of the head. It ruptured a blood vessel in the left eye, and his vision immediately began to blur, degenerating into spotted half-blindness. The disability remained a secret, even from Moore, throughout TR’s presidency.”

SCENES FROM THE BOYS’ ROOM



A Victrola



Jai Alai cestas (baskets)



The Franklin Stove in the fireplace

THE NATIONAL MOTTO

When photocopying some articles in the site’s archives, this writer came upon an undated newspaper clipping, probably dating from between 1910 and 1918, written by *William Shepard Walsh*. The first two paragraphs follow with the author’s punctuation.

The motto “In God We Trust”, which *Colonel Roosevelt*, when president, discovered was quite essential to American coins (referring to *August Saint Gaudens* \$20 gold piece), has a curious history. Before 1865 it was unknown. In November 1861, *Salmon P. Chase*, Secretary of the Treasury, received a letter from a Maryland farmer urging that as a Christian people we should put some recognition of the deity upon our coins. *James Pollack*, Director of the Mint, indorsed the suggestion and proposed as a motto either “Our Country – Our God” or “God Our Trust.” Chase preferred the latter, and again and again urged its acceptance upon Congress. Thus in 1863, he wrote, “The motto suggested ‘God Our Trust’ is taken from our national hymn, The *Star Spangled Banner*. The sentiment is familiar to every citizen of our country; it has thrilled millions of American freemen. The time is propitious; ‘tis an hour of national peril, an hour when our strength and salvation must be of God. Let us reverently acknowledge this sovereignty, and let our coinage declare our trust in God.”

The appeal was successful. On April 22, 1864, the coinage of a two-cent bronze piece was authorized by Congress. On this coin the motto “In God We Trust” appeared for the first time in lieu of the long standing “E Pluribus Unum.” On March 3, 1965, the Director of the Mint, with the approval of the Treasury, was authorized to place the new motto upon all gold and silver coins susceptible of such addition. And thus was fulfilled the suggestion of *Francis Scott Key*:

Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just,
And this be our motto “In God is our trust.”

Editor’s Note: The words of *Francis Scott Key* are from the fourth stanza of the *Star Spangled Banner*. This stanza replaced the singing of the first stanza in most New York City schools during World War II.

The motto “E Pluribus Unum” returned to U.S. coins at a later date.
