

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.

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U.S. Department of the Interior
 **Sagamore Hill National Historic Site**
20 Sagamore Hill Road
Oyster Bay, New York 11771

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

TRIVIA ANSWER



The framed piece of wood is from the barn that was the only building on the land that Theodore Roosevelt purchased that became Sagamore Hill. The date 1844 is the year when the barn was constructed.

NEWS FROM THE COAL BIN



EDITH ROOSEVELT RETURNS TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

In commemoration of the 2005 Presidential Inauguration of *George W. Bush*, the Department of the Interior had an inaugural exhibit with 18 historic objects on loan, including the beaver top hat worn by *Franklin D. Roosevelt*, an invitation to *Abraham Lincoln's* Inaugural Ball and a 1905 framed photograph of First Lady *Edith Roosevelt* wearing her Inaugural gown. The photograph of *Edith Roosevelt*

was on loan from the Sagamore Hill collection.

THE MAN WHO SAVED THEODORE ROOSEVELT

While making copies of old newspaper clippings for the curatorial vertical file, I came across an article from the *Chicago Tribune* of March 4, 1951. The article, excerpted below, detailed how *Congressman Hoffman* (R-Ill) was introducing a bill in Congress to award Congressional recognition to *Frank Bukovsky* for saving *Theodore Roosevelt's* life in 1912. Bukovsky, a baker, had lived in Milwaukee before moving to Chicago. He was a naturalized citizen from Bohemia. It was the fact that Bukovsky was a recent immigrant at the time and didn't know English very well, that caused him to remain a virtual unknown and a forgotten hero of the event that took place nearly 40 years ago.

On October 14, 1912, Butkovsky had waited for over an hour in front of TR's Milwaukee hotel to get a glimpse of the colorful politician and ex-president. He was 10 feet away as TR stood in a car and waved at the crowd. Standing next to Bukovsky was *John Schrank* of New York City who opened fire at TR. The bullet hit a rolled up speech and TR's glass case in his pocket and inflicted a relatively minor chest wound. As Schrank was about to fire a second shot, Bukovsky subdued him.

Mistaken for an accomplice of the gunman, Bukovsky was clubbed twice on the head by a policeman. "Kill Him, kill him!" Bukovsky had cried as he grabbed the gunman's arm and jumped on him with all the weight of his 200 pounds. But the crowd thought he was referring to Roosevelt, and Bukovsky, whose command of English was fragmentary, couldn't explain quick enough. That's when the policeman's club descended and the crowd moved in.

How does the story end? Was the bill passed? Did Bukovsky get Congressional recognition? I don't know the answer. Maybe I'll find another article or I'll ask *Dr. John Gable* if he knows what happened.

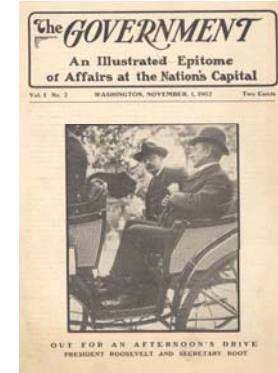
The Rough Writer

The News of the Volunteers at Sagamore Hill



Volume 7, Issue 2

Febru-



TR and Elihu Root, November 1, 1902



Cartoon by Leon Barritt, of TR as Police Commissioner



A rare photo of a thin TR with a cane in 1914, when he returned from Brazil

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 have 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*, 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.

NEWS FROM THE VOLUNTEER BOARD

In order to make the *Volunteer Advisory Board's* meeting time more accessible, so that volunteers who would like to attend one of its meetings can, the Board will now be meeting at 3:30 p.m. in the conference room at Old Orchard on the first Wednesday of every other month. On occasion, the meeting will be on the second Wednesday, so check with *Charles Markis* or *Milton Elis* if you plan to attend.

Three vacancies on the Board will be available come this September. If you would like to be considered for a nomination, please contact *Roy Fuchs* or *Wayne Wagner*, members of the Nominating Committee.

The *Volunteer Awards Ceremony* will be held on Thursday, April 21. The exact location will be announced in the invitation you receive to that event. This year a buffet will be served before the event. Now you have been advised NOT TO EAT before the event.



Special thanks is owed to *Roy Fuchs* for taking all the data from the volunteer sign-in book and putting it into a useful form for the awarding of hours-bars at the awards ceremony..

To date, we have only heard from three volunteers who have made suggestions on how to improve the current or future operation of the site. Here is your chance to be heard. The superintendent has asked for your input, not only for the *General Management Plan* but also for the day-to-day operation of the site. So stop mumbling or grumbling and start writing. Send your comments to *Milton Elis* for the Volunteer Board at the address on the rear of this issue.

THE CLONES ARE ALL RIGHT

So read a heading in the *NY Times* on 1-23-05 referring to same trees that are part of *Barlett Tree's Mount Rushmore Project*. The article went on to say that growing in containers in a greenhouse in Oregon, four clones are only an inch in diameter and four to six inches high. But they are each an exact genetic duplicate of the gray-skinned European copper beech that *Theodore Roosevelt* planted at Sagamore Hill in 1894. *Amy Verone* is quoted as saying, "If we get to a point where it (the tree) is structurally unsound we would have to take it down rather than risk it falling on the house." *Neil Hendrickson*, an arborist with Barlett, who has been treating the copper beech, said there is no rush since the tree was feeling better and may survive for decades.



The Copper Beech

Ed. Note: How do you tell if a tree is feeling better?

TR IN JANUARY 1905

Following the New Years Reception for the foreign embassy representatives, *Henry James*, the American expatriate author, visited the White House and was invited to a private supper. Later that month he wrote to *Mary Cadwalader Jones*, "Theodore Rex is at any rate a really extraordinary creature for native intensity, veracity and bonhomie—he plays the part with the best will in the world and I recognize his amusing likeability." From the notes of *Edmund Morris* in his book *Theodore Rex*.

ANOTHER PIECE OF TR HISTORY

Among the clippings found, when making copies for curatorial, was one column that was part of a larger article. It was from coverage of a speech made by TR just prior to America's involvement in World War I. The column had three points that are extremely relevant to today.

1. While talking about preparedness, TR said, "I want to call attention of the individuals who sing about the mother who didn't bring up her boy to be a soldier, to the fact that if the song had been popular from 1776 to 1781 there wouldn't be anyone to sing it today.
2. In the opening paragraphs of his address, Colonel Roosevelt attacked those who permitted religion to creep into their political activities. It had invariably resulted, he said, in putting unworthy men in office, and no such movement could ever permanently succeed here.
3. "There is no room in this country for hyphenated Americans. I do not refer to naturalized Americans. Some of the very best Americans I have ever known were naturalized Americans born abroad. But a hyphenated American is not an American at all. "The one absolutely certain way of bringing this nation to ruin, of preventing all possibility of it continuing to be a nation at all, would be to permit it to become a tangle of squabbling nationalities, an intricate knot of German-Americans, Irish-Americans, English-Americans, French-Americans, Scandinavian-Americans, or Italian-Americans, each preserving its separate nationality, each at heart feeling more nationality than with the other citizens of the American Republic.

Editor's Note: TR was some seer.



Box Brownie Cameras in Ted's Room



Bar soap in the kitchen

TR FOUND IN STRANGE PLACES



Mark confers with TR

Mark Koziol recently opened a bottle of Snapple. Inside the cap was "Real Fact #149." "Theodore Roosevelt was the only president who was blind in one eye." TR certainly gets around.

In the food-related news, an article appearing in *Newsday* highlighted a new cookbook, *Politics and Pot Roast: A Flavorful Look At The Presidency*. The cookbook, written by *Sarah Hood Salomon*, is in her words, "an unofficial, unauthorized, and completely unclassified cookbook" featuring recipes from the nation's first families. The TR recipe follows:



SAGAMORE HILL SAND TARTS (TEDDY ROOSEVELT)

These cookies were a favorite of the Roosevelt family. The recipe was written inside the cover of one of first lady Edith Roosevelt's cookbooks at Sagamore Hill, the family home in Oyster Bay.

1 cup (2 sticks) butter
2 cups plus 1 teaspoon sugar
3 eggs
2 teaspoons vanilla
4 cups flour, plus more for

1. Cream butter and 2 cups of sugar until light and fluffy. One at a time, add 2 eggs, beating after each is added. Beat in vanilla.
2. Separate remaining egg and add yolk to the mixture. Mix in flour and salt.
3. On a lightly floured board, roll out dough to about 1/4 inch. Using a 2-inch cookie cutter, cut out circles of dough, dipping rim of the cutter in flour, as needed, to keep the dough from

flouring 2-inch cookie cutter
Pinch of salt
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon

4. Place dough on a greased baking sheet. Beat the remaining egg white slightly and brush on cookies.
5. Mix the cinnamon and 1 teaspoon of sugar; sprinkle on the top of the cookies.
6. Bake in preheated 350-degree oven for about 15 minutes, or until edges are light brown. Makes about 75-100 cookies.



NEWS FROM THE TRA



In a memorandum to the *Theodore Roosevelt Association* dated January 3, 2005, and released to the press, entitled, *The Health of the Executive Director*, *John A. Gable* writes, "Most of you have noticed in 2004 my declining health and have spoken to me about it. I regret to inform you that I now have been diagnosed with inoperable cancer of the

lung, liver, and elsewhere. I look forward to working with you for the good of the *Theodore Roosevelt Association* as long as I am able. Those who wish to contact me may do so through my email or call my office. "Both life and death are parts of the same Great Adventure." (signed) *John A. Gable*"

It is always difficult to learn of such news and we are all saddened to hear of his diagnosis. Dr. Gable has been the executive director of the TRA since 1974. He has been treated with gamma knife radiation therapy and is resting at home.

The *Volunteer Advisory Board* has sent well wishes to *John Gable* on behalf of all volunteers. If you would like to send your own message, he may be reached through the *Theodore Roosevelt Association*, PO Box 719, Oyster Bay, NY 11771-0719; or his direct email, at TRA_Gable@sprynet.com. Keep fighting John. John admitted to trademark infringement in his November 23, 2004 book review in the *New York Sun*. He used the heading "The Rough Writer" in his review of the *Letters and Speeches of Theodore Roosevelt* and *The Rough Rider/An Autobiography*. Sorry, but we can't sue John since that term has a long history. *The Rough Writers* was how the White House press corps referred to themselves during TR's administration.

INAUGURATION DAY

The inauguration used to be March 4, but starting in 1937 it was moved to Jan. 20 to put it closer to the November election. Planning goes into an inauguration, but one thing that can't be controlled is the weather. Bad weather helped delay Washington's 1789 swearing-in by more than eight weeks.

William Henry Harrison, 68, stood hatless and coatless in bitter cold to deliver a nearly two-hour inaugural speech in 1841. The icy chill may have contributed to his death from pneumonia one month later. Perhaps remembering this, organizers moved *Ronald Reagan's* 1985 ceremony indoors and canceled the parade because of below-zero temperatures. Reagan was nearly 74 at the time. It was so cold for *Ulysses Grant's* inaugural parade in 1873 that some West Point cadets passed out before they could march past the presidential reviewing stand, near the White House.

From the start, presidents and their first ladies have wanted to **look spiffy** on their big day. Washington powdered his hair and put on a new brown suit, white silk stockings and silver-buckled shoes. *John Quincy Adams* (1825) was the first to wear long pants, *Franklin Pierce* (1853) the first to don a top hat. In 1961 a sagging hat industry asked *John F. Kennedy* to wear a top hat to his inauguration. He did -- the last president to do so.