



The Rough Writer

The News of the Volunteers at Sagamore Hill

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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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NEWS FROM THE COAL BIN

By Mark Koziol

While looking for historic photos of the Old Orchard Building and property, *Mark Koziol* was able to solve another photographic mystery. For years, photograph #8033 (archive reference number) had been labeled as depicting TR during his presidency posing with a group of miners. It is obvious, after careful examination of the picture, that the president is in his late 50s and not in his mid-40s and the men gathered around him all did not appear to be miners. The question: when was the photo taken and where was TR when he posed with the workers?

Going through a box of over-sized photographs, Mark discovered a hand written notation on the back of picture SAHI-8033. The notation indicated that the group of men were farm implement

PUTTING A LABEL TO A PHOTO

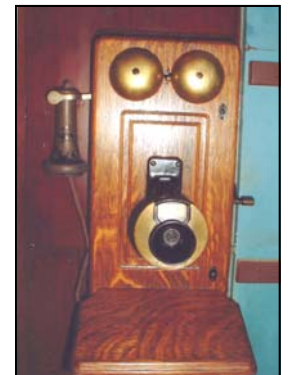
factory workers of Minneapolis Steel and Machinery Company and the event took place in 1917. According to the chronology printed in *Volume 8 of the Letters of Theodore Roosevelt*, TR was traveling in the west in the fall of 1917 and spoke in Minneapolis, MN on



Jesse Ponz & Josh Reyes lower the flag after a busy Thanksgiving weekend



Sweet Adelines, Toby Celda, Cyndy Gorman, Madeline Nelson, and Judi Anciewicz, are joined by Aurelie Miller-Hendry (L) and Kathy McLeavy (R)



Want to reach TR? Call Oyster Bay 67

NEWS OF THE VOLUNTEER ADVISORY BOARD



L to R: Leslie Handler, Nancy Hall, Adrian Bogart, Mike, Vezzi, and Ginny Perrell

At the Board meeting held on November 2, plans were finalized for the Holiday Party and arrangements were made to try to have door prizes for as many people as possible.

We critiqued the recent volunteer trip to *Walt Whitman's Home* and to *Meadowcroft*, the home of *John Ellis Roosevelt*. *Charles Markis* hoped that those on the trip would focus on ways to improve the public's experience at Sagamore Hill by seeing what was well presented at other sites.

Greg Marshall reported that the Regional Director had selected the preferred General Management Plan and this was presented to the attendees at the Annual TRA meeting in Washington, DC. Greg also updated the VAB on up coming improvements to the site. The new path through the hay field is nearly completed and the picnic area behind the Visitors Center is also undergoing new surfacing. Greg also indicated that he welcomes suggestions and comments from the volunteers.

If a volunteer has a constructive suggestion, please relay that suggestion to a member of the Advisory Board for the superintendent. Talk to *Max Kleinman*, *Adrian Bogart*, *Mike Vezzi*, *Ginny Perrell*, *Leslie Handler*, *Nancy Hall*, *Evelyn Heath*, *Roy Fuchs*, *Rita Onorato*, *Wayne Wagner*, *Toby Selda* or *Milton Elis*.

SITE NEWS: EVENTS



If you are out walking at the end of the parking lot you will see that the new visitors' path to Old Orchard and the Museum has been cut. By the time you read this the composition that will make up the path will be in place. Then all that will be needed is the relocation of the signs directing visitors to the museum.

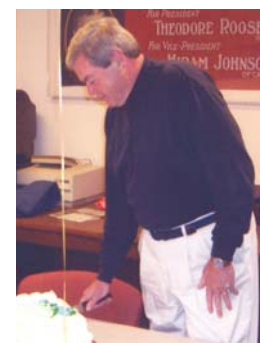
New conference room furniture is in place in Old Orchard. The old wooden tables have been replaced by sleek metal tables that can be folded in order to reconfigure the room. There are also new comfortable padded chairs that weigh about 50 pounds apiece. No one will attempt to steal those chairs.



CONGRATULATIONS BOSS



Greg Marshall, who has been Acting Superintendent at Sagamore Hill since June of this year, has been made permanent Superintendent. Greg, who lives in the boonies of New Jersey will continue to live in Grey Cottage during the week and resume his married life on the weekends. Greg is a true professional, with a long career as Commissioner of Parks for the State of New Jersey. Staff and volunteers are pleased with his appointment. We especially appreciate his update memos to all, keeping us abreast of what is or will be happening on the site.



Greg is a regular attendee at the meetings of the *Volunteer Advisory Board* and, when a problem is uncovered, we know the information gets directly to the top man.

Here are a few photos of the surprise party thrown by staff and volunteers upon the news of Greg's promotion. Since this was held on a Tuesday, only two volunteers were present.



TRIVIA ANSWER



The needlepoint sampler hangs in the servants' room on the third floor

TRIVIA QUESTION



In which room of the TRH does this sampler hang?

GET WELL WISHES

A speedy recovery to *Lila Kleinman*, wife of Max, who underwent heart surgery. Heal fast to *Bob Ghent*, husband of Chris, who had abdominal surgery and has spent a long time in the ICU section of North Shore Hospital. Get better *Rod Smith* who became ill the morning of the holiday party.

THE STATUE

The equestrian statue of TR is in place in front of the *Oyster Bay Boys and Girls Club*. It is located at the intersection of Pine Hollow and Berry Hill Roads. The dedication was well attended and TR is most imposing from his high perch. But alas there is no rest for the weary. Stories abound about the possible relocation of the statue to the pie shaped piece of land forming the gateway to Oyster Bay, across the road from its present location. This was the location that the sponsors originally wanted. Wherever it is located, if you haven't seen it, a drive-by is well worth your time, but watch out for the traffic coming down Pine Hollow Road.



TIMING IS EVERYTHING

We've just received these July 4th, Oyster Bay Parade pictures.



Above, Rough Riders ready to charge.
Right, Jean Quinn trying to stand tall.



"John, Yosemite is nice, but we missed a bully holiday party!"

HOLIDAY PARTY A BASH



Josh Reyes & Lindsey Reis



Norman & Linda Parsons

Maybe the word **bash** is a little strong, but it was a great evening for volunteers, staff and *Friends of Sagamore Hill*. The *Swan Club* put out a delicious buffet during the cocktail hour and the meal that followed was outstanding. But one doesn't go to a party just for the food. It is the friendship and conviviality that really makes for a wonderful evening. This year there were enough door prizes donated, that everyone present received a gift.

We want to thank the following for their generous donations: *Mike Vezzi* for the wine; *Debbie Bulck* and *Eastern National* for gift items; *Ginny and Jay Perrell* for the wine:

Milton Elis's friends Bob and Linda for the china and crystal; *Charles Markis* for some gift items and Superintendent *Greg Marshall* for a generous donation that turned into wine (sounds almost Biblical).

A few regular attendees at the holiday parties were unable to attend due to illness and a few others had scheduling conflicts, but all

wanted to wish everyone a happy holiday and a healthy New Year. Two very **BIG THANK YOUS**, go to the following: *John Hammond* and the *Friends of Sagamore Hill* for absorbing part of the cost of the evening and the second to *Ginny Perrell*. Ginny took on the arrangements for the holiday party and did a superb job. To quote Ginny, "Now I know how Pearl Mesta felt."

NEWS OF VOLUNTEERS



Jim Foote is having a one-man show of his paintings at the Sea Cliff Library. On Sunday, December 11, 2005 from 2-4 PM. There will be an Artist's Reception (partially funded by the Sea Cliff Civic

Association). The show itself is sponsored by the Sea Cliff Arts Council. Try to attend. Jim would appreciate your support.

We welcome *Del Demontreux* who is a new Curatorial volunteer. He will be working on Mondays and Tuesdays.

NO DOUBT ABOUT "RIVER OF DOUBT"



Janet Maslin, in her review in the NY Times, praised the new book by *Candice Millard* about TR's "Darkest Journey". The book, *The River of Doubt* is about TR's exploration of the river in Brazil now known as the *Rio Roosevelt* or the *Rio Theodoro*. The author is an historian and a former editor for the *National Geographic*. But what does *Janet Maslin* know? A better appraisal came from a former educator and current volunteer, *Aurelie Miller-Hendry*. Aurelie said she had difficulty putting the book down. "It was gripping, mysterious, adventurous and an exposition of nature", is how she described it. After reading the library's copy, Aurelie went and bought her own book. Check with Debbie in the bookstore to see if it is in stock. Volunteers get 15% off.

THE SEASON FOR RED

As you look at the pictures of the Holiday Party you will see red. Of the 35 pictures that were taken at the event only nine had no visible red articles of clothing. This puts a strain on our color printer, but it gives a lift to this publication.

Our writer, photographer, graphic layout artist, and proof readers wish everyone a Merry Christmas or a Happy Chanukah and good health for the coming New Year.

NEWS FROM EASTERN NATIONAL

By *Debbie Bulck*



Our Sagamore Hill Christmas tree ornament has arrived, just in time for the holidays. Boxed with a blue velvet backing, the ornament is 24 carat gold plate over brass. The ornament is a treasure that will become a family heirloom. Priced at \$12.95 each, you'll want more than one. As always volunteers get a 15% discount on all purchases.



Thanks to *Sherry Boylan* at the Ornament Company of Williamsburg, VA for expediting delivery and to *Charles Markis*, Eastern National coordinator, for helping to make "our ornament" a reality. Happy Holidays to all.

Ed. Note: The ornament is featured on this year's *Sagamore Hill Holiday Card*

TR DURING NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 1905

- 11-1 His *Wolf Hunt in Oklahoma* was published in *Scribners Magazine*.
- 11-8 Held a conference in Wash., DC on Oklahoma statehood.
- 11-27 Had lunch with, among others, *Mark Twain*.
- 12-5 Released his message to Congress which included proposed railroad rate legislation
- 12-13 *Alice Roosevelt's* engagement was announced.
- 12-28/31 Was at Pine Knot with Edith and the children.

TR WOULD HAVE APPRECIATED THE COMPLIMENT

Pictured is *Brendan Whelan*, age 10, of Bellmore in his Halloween costume. The picture which appeared in *Newsday*, shows Brendan as TR being part of the *Mount Rushmore Memorial*. Brendan would have made TR's day.

