



# The Rough Writer

The News of the Volunteers at Sagamore Hill

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My-June 2005

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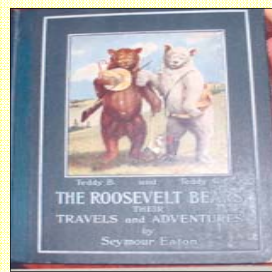
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The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

**National Park Service**  
**U.S. Department of the Interior**  
  
**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 book is on the table at the foot of the bed in the South Bedroom.

## NEWS FROM THE COAL BIN *By Mark Koziol*

### MAGAZINE NAPPERS STRIKE AT TRH

On Friday, June 3, 2005, during her routine morning check of the first floor at TRH, *Sue Sarna* discovered that *Harpers Magazine*, May 1918 (SAHI-10000.26) was missing from the bookshelf at the side exit door. She checked the entire first floor including the back office area. Sue informed all rangers and asked if any one had borrowed the magazine? The magazine contained an article about TR. *Scott Gurney* checked all garbage cans on the property and found no trace of the missing magazine. The other two magazines were still on the book shelf.

The theft must have taken place sometime on Thursday, June 2. Thursday the house had a large number of visitors. The magazine had been purchased by *Harpers Ferry* in 1992 for the *Historic Furnishings Plan*. The Old Brookville police were notified and a police report was filed

It seems that not all visitors to the TRH are trustworthy. Therefore all volunteers and staff have to be alert as they usher visitors out of the house.

### ALARM SYSTEM UPGRADED

The alarm systems at the TRH and the maintenance building have been upgraded and will be integrated with the new system at Old Orchard. The entire system can be monitored by computer. Maybe the two remaining magazines should also be wired into the system.

### AUTHOR WILLIAM HARBAUGH HAS DIED

*William H. Harbaugh*, 85, a history professor emeritus at the University of Virginia passed away on April 28. He was the author of the well-received *Theodore Roosevelt* biography, "Power and Responsibility: The Life and Times of Theodore Roosevelt." Reviewers called the 1961 book, "One of the best single-volume resources about the president." Mr. Harbaugh also worked for the preservation of TR's presidential retreat, *Pine Knot*, south of Charlottesville, VA.

## NEWS FROM THE FRIENDS OF SAGAMORE HILL FINAL JOHN A. GABLE LECTURE OF THE SEASON

*Dr. William Tilchin* presented an interesting lecture on *How Theodore Roosevelt Won the Nobel Peace Prize*. The May 25<sup>th</sup> program was held in the Great Hall of *Christ Church* in Oyster Bay. The audience had many questions for the speaker and he fielded them competently. Dr. Tilchin received his Bachelors and Masters Degrees from *Michigan State University*.

During the evening, *Edward Renahan*, Executive Director of the TRA introduced the new Associate Director, *John Staudt*. Ginny Uhlinger served as the master of Ceremonies for the *Friends of Sagamore Hill* sponsored program and *Joni Foote* saw that no guest went hungry.



Dr. William Tilchin



Vase in South Bedroom



Superintendent receives Farewell Gift



Horse Chestnut tree in full bloom

## SITE NEWS: EVENTS

The meeting regarding the General Management Plan (GMP) that was held with the site's neighbors from Cove Neck, brought out the fact that the land north of the entry road, that had been considered a possible future site for a Visitors Center, had been deeded to the site with the proviso that it remain a buffer zone with the neighbors. Therefore the preferred alternative places the visitor center in the New Barn, with a low impact addition to its southside, so as not to be visible to visitors in the parking lot.

## WHO WILL PORTRAY TR?

The Wall Street Journal of 3/18/05, had an article about the British actor *Kenneth Branagh* playing the role of FDR in the television movie *Warm Springs*. And now with actor *Leonardo DiCaprio* having purchased the movie rights to *Edmund Morris's* book *The Rise of Theodore Roosevelt*, who will portray TR? Mr. Morris would like to see Mr. Branagh do this role. This writer remembers seeing the Hollywood actor *Sidney Blackmer* as TR in the 1940 movie, *Teddy the Rough Rider*. The newspapers of the time quoted *Edith Roosevelt* as saying, "That's my Teddy." I always believed that quote to be true until I began working at *Sagamore Hill* and found that Edith never referred to TR as Teddy.

*Tom Berenger* did a creditable job portraying TR as a *Rough Rider* in the film of the same name. Do you, the reader have any suggestions for the role? We will print any responses in next months *Rough Writer*.

## TRIVIA QUESTION



Where is this book located?

## SITE NEWS: PEOPLE



*Lorrie Emberton* has joined the Administrative office as a part-time employee. Lorrie has a degree in art history. A resident of Huntington Station, she volunteers on week-ends at the *Walt Whitman Birthplace* on Route 110 across from the mall. Her title is Temporary Administrative Assistant and she will be assisting *Bob Wulforst*.

## EVERYONE WANTS TO GET INTO THE ACT

*Jackson Hyland-Lipski*, a seventh grader in the *Ross School*, recently toured the museum at Old Orchard. After taking the treasure hunt about information found in the displays, Jackson drew this picture of TR.



## NEWS FROM THE VOLUNTEER BOARD

*Nancy Hall* and *Adrian Bogart* were elected to the *Volunteer Advisory Board (VAB)* for the three year term beginning September 2005. The *Volunteer Handbook* is no longer a question mark. *Charles Markis* distributed the finished handbook to all volunteers.

Discussion centered on having this year's volunteer trip on the Island. *Gay Vietzke* invited a future trip to come to *Fort McHenry* in Baltimore.

A date for the **Annual Picnic** has been chosen. It will be **Friday evening August 12**. The recent picnic for Gay's farewell was held under the trees on the north side of the road by the side of the maintenance shed. This is a cooler location than in the field in front of Old Orchard. This might be the best location for August's Volunteer-Staff-Friend's Picnic.

The next VAB meeting will be on Wednesday, July 20, 2005 at 3:30 pm at Old Orchard. All volunteers are welcome or if you can't make the meeting and have something to say, please leave a note for *Milt Elis* or *Charles Markis*, in either the back room of TRH or at the office in OOM.

## NEWS OF VOLUNTEERS

*Paul Liebold* is now up to having visitors during his recuperation. He is working on a curatorial project from home. *Aurelie Miller-Hendry* is about to return to volunteering as soon as her new knee begins to cooperate. The surgery on her second leg went well but the rehab was not fun. She is glad she doesn't have three legs. Aurie wants to thank all for the cards and best wishes. We have a new volunteer at Old Orchard and once she returns a second time we will be able to get a profile on her. *Melissa Ruhry*, 20, an intern, has joined curatorial for the summer. She is a junior at Boston College, majoring in history. A Garden City resident, Melissa visited the site as a child but had little knowledge of TR. A lifeguard in college she has also donated her time to *Habitat for Humanity*.

## A THANK YOU TO THE ADMINISTRATION

At this time all volunteers have picked up their new rain jackets with the exception of *Evelyn Heath* and *Bob Mackin*. They are in the back room at TRH. *Chris Ghent* took hers on a vacation in Europe. On behalf of all volunteers, we want to thank *Charles Markis* for ordering the jackets as a token of appreciation for the work done by volunteers. Please pick up your copy of the *Volunteer Handbook*, also in the back room.



Melissa Ruhry

## FRIENDS ANNUAL MEETING

New officers were inducted at the Friends of Sagamore Hill annual meeting on June 8. *John Hammond* was inducted as Chairman. *Dr. Linda Shookster*, *Richard Althaus* and *Walter Fish* were also inducted as officers. Curator *Amy Verone* told about TR being instrumental in forming the *Bird Club of Long Island* and displayed a recently acquired sign that the club had posted on the Island.



John Hammond sworn as Chairman



Rich Althaus, Walter Fish and Linda Shookster



Curator Amy Verone

## ACTING SUPERINTENDENT APPOINTED

by *Charles Markis*

Gregory A Marshall has been appointed Acting Superintendent of Sagamore Hill National Historic Site.

Marshall was Director of the New Jersey Division of Parks and Forestry in the Department of Environmental Protection from 1985 to 2002. As the senior executive responsible for the administration, direction and development of all programs, services and activities of the NJ Division of Parks and Forestry including the State Park Service, Forest Fire Service, the Historic Preservation Office and the office of Lands Management. Marshall was responsible for thirty-six parks, eleven forests, fifty-seven historic sites and some 360,000 acres of land with an operating budget of \$39,000,000 and a capital budget averaging \$13,000,000 per year. The division staff numbered more than 670 full-time employees.

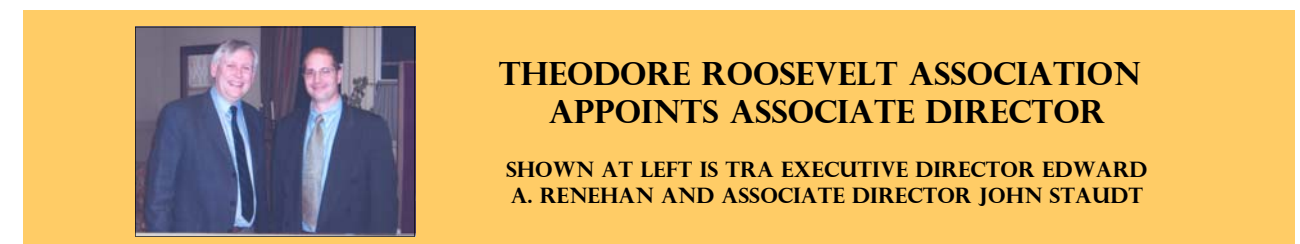


In 2002, Marshall assumed a position with the National Park Service as Assistant Director of Planning and Partnerships with the National Parks of New York Harbor and he has been working on the negotiation and execution of the lease for the Fort Hancock Rehabilitation and Long Term Preservation Project at Sandy Hook.

Marshall has a life-long career as a "park person" having served in local New Jersey County Parks prior to his appointment as NJ Parks Director. He has Bachelor's degrees in both Business Administration and Recreation and Leisure Services and a Master's Degree in Government Administration from the University of Pennsylvania.

Married to his wife, Judy, for thirty-three years, they have two children Kyle, and Jessica. On June 25, he will participate in the wedding of his daughter in Boston.

We wish Greg success in his stay here at Sagamore Hill.



### THEODORE ROOSEVELT ASSOCIATION APPOINTS ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

SHOWN AT LEFT IS TRA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EDWARD A. RENEHAN AND ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR JOHN STAUDT

## THE PLUNGER AND THE PLUNGEE OR WHY THE SUBMARINE SERVICE LOVES TR

The following is excerpted from an article appearing in the quarterly *American Submariner* and was submitted by volunteer *Aurelie Miller-Hendry*, whose husband, *John Hendry*, is a former submariner.



On August 25, 1905, TR boarded the *USS Plunger (SS-2)* which submerged beneath Long Island Sound. The *Plunger* was the second of the US Navy's modern submarines, commissioned three years after the *USS Holland (SS-1)*. It has often been asked, "Should *Theodore Roosevelt* be considered the patron Saint of Submariners?" TR was the first president to go aboard a submarine and make an experience what a dive was all about. As *Edmund Morris* notes in *Theodore Rex*, "Then taking the controls, he essayed a few movements himself, including one which brought the ship to the surface rear end up."

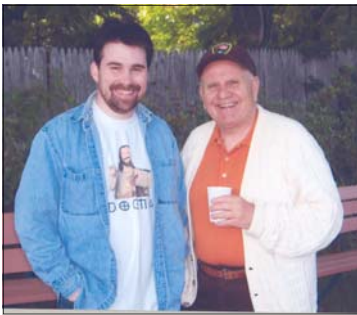
The Navy hierarchy in 1905 considered submarine duty neither unusual nor dangerous and classified it as Shore Duty. Therefore submariners received twenty-five per cent less pay than sailors going to sea in destroyers, cruisers, battleships and similar surface craft. Roosevelt's two-hour trip on board the *Plunger* convinced him that this discrimination was not only unfair, but considering the risk, inappropriate and totally unrealistic in view of what the submarine had to do to be a part of defending their country. Roosevelt described submarine duty as hazardous and difficult (hence the name Hazardous Duty Pay). He directed that officer service on submarines be equated with duty on surface ships. Enlisted men, qualified in submarines, were to receive ten dollars per month in addition to the pay of their rating. They were also to be paid a dollar for every day in which they were submerged while underway. Thus was launched "SubPay" as it is known today in addition to being called "Hazardous Duty Pay."

## FAREWELL PICNIC FOR SUPERINTENDENT

Nearly fifty people (staff, volunteers and Friends) turned out to bid farewell to *Gay Vietzke* and her husband, *David Moore*. Gay starts her new position as Superintendent of *Fort McHenry* on June 12 and the ghost of *Francis Scott Key* will be watching over her. Gay became an honorary member of the *Nassau-Suffolk Rough Riders* with a presentation by *Bill Uhlinger*, Colonel of the troop. She received a blue and white bandana and a Cavalry (crossed swords) pin.

*Charles Markis* presented Gay with a framed colored rendition of the TRH, so that it will be difficult to forget her two years with us. *Amy Verone* made the critical presentation, a gift certificate from *Home Depot*. This will help Gay and Dave fix up their new home. In her thank you remarks, she welcomed the next volunteer bus trip to *Fort McHenry*. It's an intriguing possibility.

Everyone enjoyed the hot dogs and hamburgers, prepared as only *Bo Stein* can. *Roy Fuchs* and *Walter Fish* helped on the assembly line. The desserts were brownies and two types of cookies all made by *Amy Verone*. When she retires from being a curator, Amy should bake for a living. Before everyone departed, we wished Gay and David a great future. Let it be noted here, that this writer can visualize Gay some day being the head of the *National Park Service*. A good time was had by all.



Jim Cocks and Mike Vezzi



Scott and George Gurney



Bill Uhlinger, Norm Parsons and Dave Moore



Jim and Joni Foote and Ed Renehan



Asenath Fuchs and Ginny Uhlinger



Bo "the chef" Stein



L to R: Dan Arena, Rod Smith, Dick Brummer, Wayne Wagner and Max Kleinman



L to R: Kathy McLeavy, Toby Selda, Aurelie Miller, Betsy Davison, Madeline Nelson, and Barbara Lozier



John Mahoney, Shaun Roche, Mark Koziol



Lyla Kleinman, Gloria Czychk and Lore Smith



Bill and Lucille Steibel



Alain and Monica Chirof, Bob Wulfhorst



clockwise: Chirots and Bob Wulfhorst, Jim Cocks, Natalie Naylor, Gay Vietzke



Josh Reyes and Lindsay Ries



Sue Sarna, Natalie Naylor, Ginny Perrell and Milton Ellis



L to R: Kendall and Sue Sarna, Wayne Wagner and Ginny Perrell



Nancy and Bill Hall



Amy Verone



A word from Gay and Dave

June 2005

**SUPER THANKS!**

***TO THE STAFF, VOLUNTEERS AND PARTNERS-***

***DAVE AND I CANNOT THANK YOU ENOUGH FOR THE LOVELY PICNIC AND SEND-OFF GIFTS. THE PHOTOGRAPH OF TRH WILL COME TO MY NEW OFFICE- BUT WE PROMISE TO USE THE HOME DEPOT GIFT CARD MAKING SURE WE HAVE A VERY NICE GUEST ROOM FOR ANY VISITORS FROM OYSTER BAY. MY TIME HERE AT SAGAMORE HILL HAS BEEN VERY SPECIAL. THAT'S DUE LARGELY TO THE INCREDIBLE PEOPLE ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PLACE. THANK YOU FOR MAKING ME FEEL LIKE PART OF THE TEAM AND MAKING ME INTO ANOTHER TR FAN!***