



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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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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NEWS FROM THE COAL BIN



During the week of March 24, a contract architectural photographer, *Carol M. Heighsmith* photographed a variety of artifacts in the TRH and at OOM for use in the updating of the SAHI website. Carol took over 2,500 pictures of 250 objects that will be used to enhance the virtual tour of Sagamore Hill for the internet user. The second phase of the project will be an on-site workshop during the week of June 27 to develop teaching guides that compliment this on-line show.



Sue Sarna holding a painting of Ethel Roosevelt's debut



Inscription in TR, Sr.'s bible

Museum Services staff, *Amy Verone, Sue Sarna and Mark*

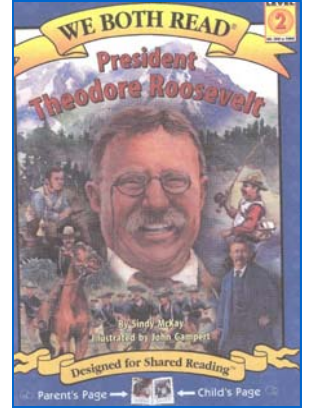
Koziol were joined by volunteers *Chris Ghent, Rita Onorato, Milton Elis* and *Ron Bonnano* in moving all the objects so that they could be photographed in the most advantageous location. Also giving muscle to the project were, *Charles Markis, Josh Reyes, Shaun Roche,* and *Noreen Hancock.*

SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING NEWS

Julie Abbate, of Administration, distributed a codified version of the **Sagamore Hill Safety Procedures Handbook**, which will be made available at all site locations. In order to also familiarize staff and volunteers with **Materials Safety**, data will be available at Old Orchard, the maintenance

building, Visitors Center and the TRH. The info will cover items such as: ingredient content, hazard identification, first aid measures, fire fighting procedure and exposure control. It is suggested that all familiarize themselves with this data source.

NEW BOOK ABOUT TR



A new children's book, part of the *We Both Read* series has just been published. Titled, *President Theodore Roosevelt* and written by *Sindy McKay*, this is a Level 2 (Second Grade) reader. A number of illustrations in the book were supplied by the curatorial staff. However, the illustrator, *John Gampert* took a little license with the cover illustration which shows TR in a number of poses. One pose shows TR fly-fishing. According to research done by *Mark Koziol*, there appears to be no record of the president ever fly-fishing. The rod and reel probably looked more macho than a tennis racket.



Sacagawea, Shoshone Indian, guide to Lewis and Clark in the North Room

Josiah, the badger, resting in the Library

Texas cow horn with TR's picture, in the Gun Room

Kit Carson, by Frederick Macmonnies from the North Room

THE HAT THAT WASN'T THAT BIG



On average, men's hat sizes run from 6 7/8 to 7 1/2. The average men's size being 7 1/8. According to *Edmund Morris* in his book *Theodore Rex*, TR and *Ashley Wilcox*, his host in Buffalo, NY, for his inauguration upon the death of President McKinley, were the same size. TR borrowed formal clothes from Wilcox to wear for his inauguration. However, Wilcox's head size was smaller than TR's. "*John Scatchard*, a **macrocephalic** neighbor of Wilcox, lent TR his own **capacious** top hat." (Edmund Morris's description)

As a former hatter, this writer thought that the hat TR wore would be at least a 7 1/2 if not larger. However, within the past few weeks, upon examining TR's Panama hat in our site's archives, I found that the size was a 7 1/4. Also, TR's top hat in the museum is also a size 7 1/4. If the hat TR borrowed, was as large as Morris described, then TR would have had to put plenty of paper under the sweatband. Morris gleaned his information from the scrapbook of *Ashley Wilcox*. Wilcox must have worn a 6 5/8 and every other hat must have seemed gigantic to him.



SITE NEWS: EVENTS

There will be a First Aid/CPR/AED training class on Monday, May 22. The all-day program will be given by a *Red Cross* instructor. Check with *Josh Reyes* to see if space remains in the class.

Summer uniforms became optional on April 13 and will be mandatory starting May 15 *Charles Markis* emphasized that you cannot mix uniforms. If you are wearing a long sleeve shirt, you must wear a tie.

SITE NEWS: PEOPLE



Bo Stein, shown in the photo, and *Paul Dama* have been repairing the paths around the site with hot asphalt patch. Hopefully the next step will be major roadway repair. In preparation for the contract photographer, *Charles Markis* and *Mark Koziol* were busy moving furniture from the TRH while *Sue Sarna* handled the artifacts. Most items were moved to the porch where they were photographed (see news from the "Coal Bin" for more details).

TRIVIA QUESTION



Answer: It is in the Cook's Room on the western wall. It is the side access to show where the 500 gallon copper water tank had been, and it allows maintenance to service electric lines and pipes.

TRIVIA QUESTION



Where is it? What is it? Why is it?
Answer on Page 4

NEWS OF VOLUNTEERS



Gay and Aurelie

Aurelie Miller-Hendry and her husband John recently visited Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine, outside Baltimore, MD. While there, they visited with the site's superintendent, Gay Vietzke. As most of us should know, Ft. McHenry is where *Francis Scott Key* wrote the poem, *The Star Spangled Banner*. When set to the tune of *Anacron in Heaven*, a British

drinking song, the poem eventually became our national anthem, 117 years later.

Aurelie's comments follow. "The park is a delightful one. The fort's outdoor buildings and their military artifacts interestingly tell the story of a critical battle in the War of 1812. The Visitors Center exhibit has much to offer, too. In its large comfortable theater, an excellent historical film is shown at frequent intervals. Other information regarding future programs of this site were easily accessible. A few of these events are: bird walks in the wetlands, a concert series and a military tattoo.

The film shown depicts *Dr. Beanes*, an American physician held captive on a British ship in the harbor. *Francis Scott Key*, a young American lawyer, was sent to persuade the British to release the doctor. After the battle for the fort, Key penned his famous poem. Little did he realize that this famous conversation/poem would become our national anthem."

ARTIFACTS RETURNED TO MUSEUM CASES



After the photographing of objects from the museum, *Rita Onorato* returned them to their appropriate cases and cleaned the display as well.

LAST GABLE LECTURE OF THE SEASON

The Friends of Sagamore Hill announced the last program of 2006—*Dr. John A. Gable Lecture Series*, to be held on Thursday, May 18.

Dr. John Staudt, Executive Director of the TRA will speak on "*A Priceless Heritage: TR and The Protection of America's Resources*". The free event will begin at 7:00 pm at Christ Church Parish Hall, 61 Main St., Oyster Bay. Refreshments will be served.

WHAT DO YOU DO ON A QUIET WEDNESDAY?

It was windy, still chilly and the school tour cancelled out. Volunteers *Leslie Handler*, *Ginny Perrell* and *Wayne Wagner* were sitting around chatting with very few visitors touring the house. *Jesse Ponz* was reading about the height of the average American male in 1900. At 5'8" this isn't much different from today's average height. The conversation got around to visitors' comments about how short the beds in the rooms are, so therefore they assumed that the occupants of the house were short. But are the beds short? The archives had the dimensions of the beds but nothing on the mattresses. Further research was required.

Ginny knew that the standard mattress sizes today are: king 72" x 80"; queen 60" x 80"; full 54" x 75"; twin 39" x 75" and she happened to carry a tape measure in her pocketbook. Under the direction of *Shaun Roche*, Leslie, Ginny and Wayne, all seasoned curatorial assistants, donned white gloves and received permission to enter the rooms on the second floor. The results:

Alice's mattress measured 37" x 75", close to twin (39 x 75).

Boy's Room mattress measured 45" x 74", even larger than twin.

Large Guest Room mattress measured 58 1/2" x 76", larger than a standard full size (54 x 75).

Small Guest Room mattress measured 38 3/4" x 73", close to a twin (39 x 75)

South Bedroom mattress measured 59" x 79", basically a queen (60 x 80).

Gate Room mattress measured 48 1/2" x 73, Wayne thought this might be called a 3/4 size.

Master Bedroom/Mother's Room mattress measured a whopping 63" x 81, a little bigger than a queen (60 x 80).

Now you know what to reply to a visitor who comments on the size of the beds.

Editor's thanks to Leslie and Wayne, who each wrote a version of their joint research.

NEWS FROM EASTERN NATIONAL By Debbie Bulck

With our summer season fast approaching, we are getting the shop in order with new books, DVDs and fun items for the whole family.

For "Ted Heads" out there, we will have *TR on Hunting*, *TR and World Order* and *Kids Discover TR*. For presidential fans, the newest books are *25 Great Inaugural Addresses*, *Presidential Trivia for Kids* and *Cabins, Cottages and Mansions of U.S. Presidents*.

Also, an old favorite has been released on DVD. It is from PBS; *American Experience: The Story of Theodore Roosevelt*. The gift shop will have new books on bears, antiques, gardening and of course National Parks.

Stop in and visit the gift shop during the next few months and see what is new! Our volunteers are always given a 15% discount.

TR DURING APRIL 1906

4/7 *Boone and Crockett Club* Dinner in Washington, DC

4/10 Meeting to discuss preservation of Niagara Falls

4/14 At laying of cornerstone for House of Representative Building gave "*Man With the Muck-Rake*" speech

4/19 Made public appeal for aid to San Francisco earthquake victims

4/21 *Man With the Muck-Rake* published in the *Outlook* magazine

4/24 Went to Annapolis for *John Paul Jones* exercises and gave a speech.

FIRST LADIES



Mark Koziol recently attended the first annual *First Ladies and American Women's History Symposium* at

the *National First Ladies Library* in Canton, Ohio. The site is in the former home of *Ida Saxon McKinley* and administered by the NPS. The morning session covered *Where First Ladies Fit into Women's History* while the afternoon was devoted to *The Disclosed Lives of Public Wives*.

Prominent authors brought to life the success and tragedies of *Martha Washington*, *Abigail Adams* and *Jane Pierce*. Mrs. Pierce's mental and physical health suffered from the premature death of her three sons. She failed to participate in White House functions from 1853 to 1855 because of her problems.

The afternoon session discussed *Mary Todd Lincoln*, *Edith Gault Wilson* and *Lou Hoover*. The author *Phyllis Lee Levin* detailed how Mrs. Wilson actually wielded more influence during her husband's post-stroke years than had previously been known. With the release in the 1990s of the papers of *Dr. Cary Grayson*, Wilson's personal physician, the extent of the President's stroke in 1919 was shown to be much more severe than had previously been known.

Mark will be happy to share additional information about this interesting conference.



THEY DON'T MAKE INKWELS LIKE THEY USED TO

This writer always thought the Hippo Foot inkwell in the Gun Room was larger than the Rhino Foot inkwell in the North Room. Seeing the two inkwells side-by-side during the recent photo session at the TRH showed that both inkwells are of comparable size.

Hippo on left; Rhino on right

GERÓNIMO

When U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice *Sandra Day O'Connor* visited Sagamore Hill a few years ago she was in the Gun Room. Upon learning that the Indian Blanket, then on the couch, was reputed to have been a gift to TR from *Geronimo* she asked this writer, "Did *Geronimo* give TR the blanket before or after TR pardoned him?" We did know that *Geronimo* did march in the 1905 Inaugural Parade but there was no fact available about the blanket.

Papers recently uncovered in the site's archives indicate that TR's first contact with the Apaches was when he and *Tom Jeffords* (whose Indian name was *Taglito*) went into Old Mexico to try and recruit Apaches for service in the Spanish-American War. In his account of this meeting, *Nino*, grandson of the famous Apache Chief *Cochise* and a nephew of *Geronimo*, relates, "The soldier-chief turned back to me as we stood up. 'I have the feeling some old time Apache tactics might come in handy. Are you sure you can't spare me a few men?' When I shook my head he sighed, 'Well thanks anyway. If you ever come back to America, ask *John Slaughter* or *Tom Jeffords* to get in touch with me and we will have another visit. Possibly I can do something for you'.

It may be properly surmised that the reason *Geronimo* was willing to come to the Inaugural in 1905 stemmed from this original contact between TR and *Nino Cochise*. A footnote in



Nino's book (page 224) states, "When Theodore Roosevelt was inaugurated as President on March 4, 1905, *Geronimo* rode in his inaugural parade." Incidentally, *Geronimo's* Apache name was *Golthay*.

This information was prepared by the artist *Phyllis Kellar* on January 1, 1972. Mrs. Kellar wanted to paint a picture of six Indian Chiefs on horseback in front of the White House. The painting would have been based upon a photograph of the same subjects in the TR archives at Harvard. Mrs. Kellar was looking for a sponsor for the painting. Two years prior, in 1969, *Ethel Derby* gave Mrs. Kellar a tour of Sagamore Hill. "The artist was fascinated with the Remington painting of *Geronimo** and the famous Indian Chief's saddle blanket." The painting was just found in the attic of Old Orchard.

*Editor's Note: The painting is of an anonymous Creek Indian.