

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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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



His boots and gloves are located in TR's Dressing Room. His riding crop is located on the desk, in the Boy's Room.

NEWS FROM THE COAL BIN

By Mark Koziol

NEW ARTIFACT

Recently, Sagamore Hill received a donation of a comic book featuring *Theodore Roosevelt*. The December 1957 issue of *Classics Illustrated* comics, titled *The Rough Rider*, appeals to both adults and children. The book is a testimony to wonderfully accurate historical research of TR's life and times. The detailed drawings accurately illustrate the President's life. Thorough research went into the making of this comic book as seen in the pages that depict the rooms at Sagamore Hill, TR's activities out west and his time in the presidency.



ARTIFACTS RETURNED

In late August, NPS personnel from *Harper's Ferry Conservation Lab* drove to Sagamore Hill to return the original Buffalo hide depicting *The Battle of the Little Big Horn*, as well as a resin cast of the Borglum bust of TR. The original hide has been placed in storage and the copy will be used for display in the foyer.

COLT PISTOL TO BE DISPLAYED

In September, if all goes as planned, Colonel Roosevelt's Rough Rider .38 caliber Colt pistol will be back on display in the museum. The *Cornerstone Company* is fabricating a display pedestal as well as a mounting mechanism to keep the pistol secure in its alarmed exhibition case.

TRH AIR CIRCULATION

Six fans were purchased for the TRH in July to help alleviate the warm indoor conditions. Besides making the house less stuffy for the visitors and staff, the fans are important because they keep the air circulating and prevent mold growth on the artifacts. The fan in the foyer near the stairs gives tour guides competition for their group's attention.

NPS TRAINING

Mark attended a five day intensive training course in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. The program on **teamwork**, included both classes and hands-on activities, and covered problem solving, developing effective interpersonal communication skills, conflict resolution through cooperation and many other topics. While in the general area, Mark had a chance to visit the site of the September 17, 1862 Civil War *Battle of Antietam*, where over 20,000 men lost their lives.

THIS KID MAKES CENTS

In a letter to the editor in the August 5, 2006 issue of *Newsday*, *Michael Mascio* of Bethpage writes, "I am ten years old and I read the article about pennies (*Newsday*, 7/25/06). I don't think they should stop making pennies because I feel they are useful.

After the Revolution, people had to take the time to make a new currency. They worked hard and I think it would be disrespectful, in a way, not to keep it in use.

The only thing I think should change is who and what is on the penny. *Abraham Lincoln* is on the five dollar bill. I think *Teddy Roosevelt* should be on the penny and on the other side should be the country's motto."

Ed. Note: Way to go Michael!

The Rough Writer

The News of the Volunteers at Sagamore Hill

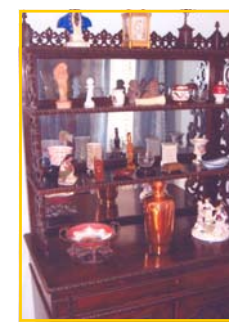


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Griffin heads on Herter Bros. cabinet in Drawing Room



Display shelves in Drawing Room



Curio cabinet in North Room



Mosaic of Pope Leo XIII in the Library

WAS TR A TEATOTALER?

The following is extracted from an article by *Eric Felton* in the Feb. 18, 2006 *Wall Street Journal*.

Over the years, many mistook Roosevelt's high spirits for being under the influence of spirits. When TR ran for president on the *Bull Moose* ticket, *George Newett*, editor and publisher of *Iron Ore*, the newspaper of record in Ishpeming, Michigan, wrote about TR, "He gets drunk too, and not infrequently, and all his intimates know about it." TR sued him for libel, asking for \$10,000 in damages.

When the case went to trial months later, TR took the stand. "I have never been drunk or in the slightest degree under the influence of liquor. I never drank a cocktail or a highball in my life." TR allowed that he might have a glass of "light wine" with dinner, a glass of champagne when protocol demanded it, and perhaps a "measured spoonful of brandy" in a glass of milk before bed when the doctor prescribed it. Oh, and yes, Mint Juleps.

"There was a fine bed of mint at the White House", TR remembered. "I may have drunk half a dozen Mint Juleps in a year." His lawyer got a good laugh when he asked the

former president, "Did you drink them all at one time?" TR testified that in the years since he had left the White House he had put only two Mint Juleps to his lips. *George Newett* knew when he was licked and read a statement in court: "I am forced to the conclusion that I was mistaken." With bully magnanimity, TR waived the damages, and the court awarded him exactly six cents. The *Washington Post* headline described the aftermath: "COLONEL QUAFFS MILK: Celebrates Libel Suit Victory with Bovine Bumpers."



T.R.'s Libelous Mint Julep

COLONEL QUAFFS MILK: Celebrates Libel Suit Victory with Bovine Bumpers."

VOLUNTEER TRIP

The **Volunteer Trip** is scheduled for Monday, September 18, 2006. We will be traveling from Sagamore Hill to Farmington, CT. The bus will leave from the Visitors Center at 7:45 a.m. and should return by 6:00 p.m. We will be visiting *Hill-Stead*, the home of *Theodate Pope Riddle*, the architect for the rebuilding of the TR Birthplace. After lunch, we will pay a visit to *Oldgate*, the home of TR's sister, *Anna*, and her husband, *William Sheffield Cowles*. The cost of the trip is five dollars per person and is open to volunteers and relatives, staff, *Friends of Sagamore Hill* and, space available, to friends of volunteers. *Ginny Perrell* will be coordinating the event. Watch for the flyer which will have all the details concerning the trip and the method of payment.

TRIVIA QUESTION



Where in the TRH would you find TR's riding boots, gloves and riding crop?

PARK SERVICE CONDUCTING VOLUNTEERS SURVEY

On August 25, 2006, **Founders Day** for the NPS, a survey was sent to randomly selected VIPs (Volunteers in Parks). At the early part of this year, *Charles Markis* received a request from Washington for the names of volunteers who would be interested in possibly participating in a national survey. Those volunteers, who responded to Charles's request, had their names forwarded to Washington. Of some 22,000 volunteers nationwide, about 9,000 were selected to receive the survey. Those who received the surveys have until September 25, 2006 to respond. Hopefully, the Park Service will be able to gather some worthwhile information that will impact upon the scope of the volunteers activities.

CURATORIAL ANNUAL INVENTORY



The book was presented to TR, by the *San Diego Chamber of Commerce*, when he spoke to them in 1903. The very ornate bookmark is inscribed to TR.

The annual inventory of SAHI books and artifacts turned up an interesting book. *Phoenixiana: Sketches and Burlesques* by author *John Phoenix* was published in 1889.



ARCHIE PAYS UP

Direct from the *NY Times* of October 3, 1916 via *Lara Chmela*.

"When *Archibald B. Roosevelt*, son of Colonel Roosevelt, appeared as a defendant before Justice of the Peace *Frank P. Seaman* at Mineola, L.I., yesterday, to answer to a charge of having driven his automobile along the Jericho Turnpike at thirty-five miles per hour, the court was thronged with persons curious to see how he would plead. The charge was made by motorcycle officer *Willett Seaman* of Nassau County, who told the Justice that he had chased the ex-president's son four miles last Thursday before overtaking him and serving him with a summons.

'Do you wish an adjournment in order to obtain counsel, Mr. Roosevelt?' asked the court.

'No, your Honor. I'll just throw myself on the mercy of the court,' responded the defendant. But the court fined him twenty-five dollars which Mr. Roosevelt paid."



Archie Roosevelt shown in 1916 at Plattsburg Training Camp

SITE NEWS: EVENTS

The *Annual Antique Automobile* show of the *Horseless Carriage Club of Long Island* will be held on the site on Sunday, September 10th.



David Smith

SITE NEWS: PEOPLE

By the time you read this, nearly all the summer staff will be gone, some back to college and some to their regular jobs. Congratulations to *John Mahoney* who has received a permanent Park Service appointment at Fire Island. John will be commuting from his home in Glen Cove. We welcome a new temporary employee, *David Smith*, who is working for maintenance. *Scott Gurney* is due to return from Fire Island sometime in the middle of September.

TR IN AUGUST 1906

TR spent the entire month at Sagamore Hill. He had a number of meetings with politicians at his home but most of the month he relaxed.

8/23 TR met with General J.F. Bell to discuss the Brownsville affair.

JUNIOR RANGER PROGRAM EXPANDS



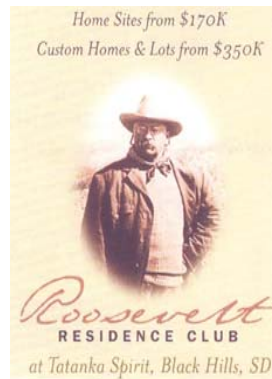
Volunteers and rangers have been working diligently to expand the scope of the *Junior Ranger Program*. At present, any child visiting the site may complete a Junior Ranger Program on TR, the answers of which are found either in the museum or in the TRH.

Successful children are awarded a *Junior Ranger Badge*. In the future, those children who do a total of three additional projects away from the site will be eligible to receive a *Junior Ranger* patch that can be sewn on a garment. This program helps to keep alive the spirit of *Theodore Roosevelt* in the next generation.

FRIENDS OF SAGAMORE HILL GALA A SUCCESS!

Under friendly skies, over ninety people turned out at the *Friends of Sagamore Hill Evening Awards Gala* to honor *Roger Bahnik*, the owner of *Mill-Max Manufacturing* in Oyster Bay. Roger was instrumental in bringing the equestrian statue of *Theodore Roosevelt* to Oyster Bay. Under the direction of Friends Chairman *John Hammond*, Friends Treasurer *Joni Foote* saw to it that the guests had plenty to eat and drink at the affair. It looks like it was a financial success for the Friends.

IT DOESN'T LOOK LIKE SAGAMORE HILL



Toby Selda recently returned from a visit to Alaska flying on *Northwest Airlines*. The in-flight magazine featured an ad for the *Roosevelt Residence Club* at Tatanka Spirit, Black Hills, SD. The two page ad told how you can save \$845,000 when you buy a million dollar



vacation home for only \$155,000. I question whether TR would approve his likeness being used to sell time shares. Selling Teddy Bears would be okay.

NEW TRA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR APPOINTED

Cathal Nolan, a *Boston University* professor has been named Executive Director of the TRA. With fall semester teaching commitments, Mr. Nolan will take over full-time in January. Good luck to him.

TR TIDBIT

In our last issue, we told how *Boston Red Sox* slugger *Ted Williams* was named after TR. Recently *Jim Foote* told *Mark Koziol* that *Brooklyn Dodgers* legend, *Jackie Robinson* was also named after TR. On January 31, 1919, only three weeks after *Theodore Roosevelt* died, *Jack Roosevelt Robinson* was born. Does anyone know of any other 20th Century athlete that was named after TR?



WE GET THANK YOU

We recently received a thank you note from a seven year old girl. She dropped her favorite pencil in the North Room during a tour and the next day the pencil was retrieved and mailed to her.



"Dear Ranger Mark J. Koziol and Mr. Milton,
Thank you for getting my pencil back? I had fun there.
From,
Kathryne Gerol"

There was a post script from her mother, who said that *Kathryne* had been repeating some of the facts mentioned on the tour to her grandparents.



Artists love the Gazebo



The finished product



The Lonely Flower

This single flower was found by *Paul Dama* when he was mowing the grass in the field by the Gazebo.

The name of the flower is *Joe Pye Weed*. This writer nicknamed it the *Dama Lily*.