

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

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

TR IN JANUARY 1906

He worked to see passage of Railroad Rate legislation which became known as the Hepburn Bill in the House. Passed by the House on Feb. 8

NEWS FROM THE COAL BIN *By Mark Koziol*

White House Time Capsule

According to the book, *The Presidents House, Volume 2*, by *William Seale*, there was a time capsule buried in the White House during *Theodore Roosevelt's* tenure as president. In 1902, TR oversaw a major White House remodeling. Many of the rooms of the mansion and East Wing were modernized and updated. Also, the west end greenhouses were demolished for the construction of a West Wing for office space including the Oval Office of the president.

On December 3, 1902, following the completion of their work, about one hundred workmen from the construction firm of *Herter, Marcotte and Norcross* assembled at the White House and buried a time capsule under the marble floor of the great entrance hall. With TR's approval, the workers buried objects, such as a copy of a recent TR speech to Congress, several American coins, several autographs from the Roosevelt family and a chisel worn from use in the renovation project.

When opened over a half century later, the capsule's contents did not prove to be breathtaking. However, TR's 1902 speech does reflect a time when many Americans were filled with unlimited optimism and hope for the future.

A portion of President Roosevelt's speech:
"We shall continue in a period of unbounded prosperity. This prosperity is not a creature of law, but undoubtedly The laws under which we work have been instrumental In creating the conditions which made it possible... The wave will recede; but the tide will advance. This Nation is seated on a continent flanked by two great oceans. It is composed of men, the descendents of pioneers, or in a sense, pioneers themselves; of men winnowed out from among the nations of the Old World of the energy, boldness, and love of adventure found in their own eager hearts. Such a nation, so placed, will surely wrest success from fortune."

The Presidents House, Volume 2 by *William Seale* (Washington, DC, *National Geographic Society*), 1986

TRIVIA ANSWER



The leopard is on the back of the chair. The jaguar is on the back of the bench

The Rough Writer

The News of the Volunteers at Sagamore Hill



Volume 8, Issue 1

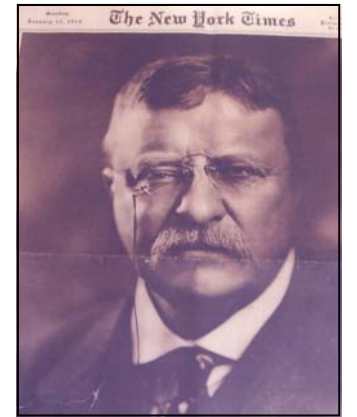
January 2006



Edith's teapot in the Drawing Room



Porcelain egg container in the pantry



January 12, 1919 NY Times Rotogravure Section Memorializing TR

SITE NEWS: EVENTS



The new crushed-stone surface, covering the picnic area behind the Visitors Center is a vast improvement over the broken concrete patio that was there previously.

Now this surfaces matches the path to Old Orchard from the parking lot. If this works well, it may be used in other locations.

SITE NEWS: EVENTS



It was good to see *John Mahoney*, home from college for the holidays, giving tours and enlivening the staff room at the TRH. *Shaun Roche* looked different when I stopped by the Visitors Center. Then I realized he had shaved off his moustache. *Noreen Hancock* quickly informed me that it was the absence of his beard that gave him a different look. Never said I was observant.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION REQUEST

Chief of Administration *Monica Chirot* has requested that all volunteers submit the name of someone to be called in the event of an emergency situation involving a volunteer. Enclosed with this issue of the Rough Writer is the form to be completed and returned to *Julie Abbate* in the Administration office. Everyone's cooperation is appreciated and we hope that the named party will never have to be contacted.

TRIVIA QUESTION



Two skins hang in the North Room. Which is the leopard and which is the Jaguar?

Answer on Page 4

DOES YOUR HANDWRITING GIVE YOU AWAY?

As many of you may know, volunteer *Rose White* is a *Certified Master Graphoanalyst*. Rose does professional handwriting analysis. A while back she took a look at TR's handwriting and in the following, shares some insights into his personality, most of which have already been verified by historical information. The traits Rose chose to write about are the most outstanding in his handwriting—not to say that there aren't many others.

"TR was an emotionally responsive person who would let others know how he felt, either by attitude or action. Under pressure, he could become exasperated and impatient and he had a "short fuse" or temper at times. He often had a very direct approach, which meant he could come straight to the point when dealing with others and hoped they used the same approach in return. TR could hold his own when defending his position. His ideas were thoroughly analyzed before they were expressed. Here again, his direct approach aided him in problem-solving. He was able to get to the heart of the matter quickly. TR had an innate ability to sense sincerity or insincerity in others and could also sense difficult and troubling situations. Socially speaking, he liked people, was open and honest in his dealings with them, and was an interesting conversationalist.

To sum it up, the basic personality traits which we have all read about are VERY evident in his handwriting and confirms what we know about TR the man."

NEWS FROM THE TRA

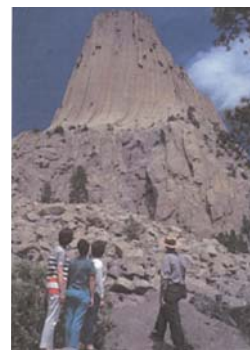
The TRA recently sent out an e-mail that they are looking for a full-time replacement for *John Gable's* position. No mention of the title Executive Director appeared in the e-mail. If you are qualified or know some who may be interested in the position, contact past TRA president *Rob Dalziel* at robdaziel@mindspring.com or fax 570-595-7308.

BIRTHPLACE UNDERGOES RENOVATION

Many of you have read the *New York Times* real estate section of December 18, 2005. In fact a copy of the article is on the bulletin board in the staff room of the TRH. Most volunteers and staff are familiar with the events of TR's life and the opening of the Birthplace by the *Women's Roosevelt Memorial Association*. To this writer, the best line in the article was the concluding sentence. "...restoring Roosevelt's birthplace to exactly the way it looked when it was built – four years after his death."

REMEMBER: Volunter Awards Night is Thursday April 27.

ANTIQUITIES ACT CENTENNIAL



Mike Shaver has forwarded *National Park Service* information on the centennial of the *Antiquities Act*. You don't have to be an archeologist to appreciate the value of the Act. The *Antiquities Act*, passed by Congress on June 8, 1906 became a cornerstone of the preservation for both cultural and natural resources. Of the NPS's current 388 units, 122 were originally established as national monuments. The Act granted the President the authority

to protect "...historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other object of historic or scientific interest that are situated or controlled by the government of the United States..." *President Theodore Roosevelt* quickly demonstrated the Act's significance to natural resources when he declared *Devils Tower* the first national monument on September 24, 1906.

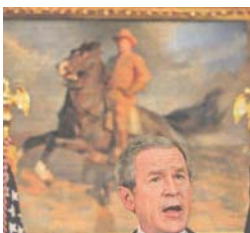
A QUANDRY

We received a note from former volunteer, *Bill Hildebrandt*. Bill appreciates receiving the *Rough Writer* on a regular basis and he forwarded an article that appeared in the September 3, 1903 issue of the *New York Times*. The article was a report on a potential assassination of President Theodore Roosevelt at his home in Oyster Bay. Many of us are familiar with the story and may have read about it in *Edwin Morris's* book *Theodore Rex*.

My quandary is that two of my icons have differing details of the incident. On page 266 of *Theodore Rex*, Mr. Morris refers to the would-be assassin as a "youth" while the Times states that the man was 28 years old. Mr. Morris said that the youth brandished a revolver when TR appeared on the porch and his guards knocked it to the ground. The Times stated that the man was put under the guard of two stablemen and then a revolver was found in the would-be assassin's buggy.

The probable cause of the discrepancy is that Mr. Morris took his information from the *New York Herald* and the *New York World*. I guess that if you read three different newspapers you then get three different accounts. The would-be assassin was *Henry Weillbrenner* of Syosset, who said he wanted to marry *Alice Roosevelt*. He was judged to be insane (a lunatic). TR joked that he must be crazy if he wanted to marry Alice.

BUSH GETS TR BACK-UP



In December, *President George Bush* gave a live radio address from the Roosevelt Room of the White House. The speech defended his domestic eavesdropping program. TR was quite visible backing-up the president.

NEWS OF VOLUNTEERS



Sorry to report that *Robert "Bob" Ghent* has passed away. Bob began volunteering a little while after his wife Chris started in 1987. He was a member of the initial *Volunteer Advisory Board*. Bob, a retired teacher, had an interest in videography and in 1997 made a volunteer recruiting video which showed some of the jobs that volunteers perform at the site. A short time later he filmed *Dick Brummer* giving a tour of the house with only the camera as his audience. Bob and Chris took part in every volunteer trip and videotaped *Mike Shaver* giving us a tour of Governors Island. All of his filming is available for volunteer use.

Bob was such a gentle person that it was difficult to picture him jumping out of an airplane. As a member of the 11th Airborne Division during World War II, Bob did plenty of jumping. We offer our condolences to Chris and their sons and daughter.

SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS



Richard "Rich" Handler has been a Sunday volunteer since last April. The 54 year old Amityville resident is an attorney during the rest of the week. Rich specializes in zoning, land use and historic preservation law. He has been an

Adjunct history teacher at *Adelphi University* for the past 29 years. He traces his lifelong interest in TR to his childhood in the 1950s when his family would make regular visits to Sagamore Hill.

Rich feels that TR's home is a profoundly inspiring place and through his tours, he tries to pass on that inspiration to both young and old visitors so that they leave the site with a pleasant memory. A past president of the *Amityville Historic Society*, Rich is also a trustee of the *Association of Suffolk County Historical Societies*. During the past eight years, he has taught law at the Delaware campus of *Widener University*. Rich and his wife Susan have three children and one grandchild

QUENTIN ROOSEVELT'S PLANE

This drawing of *Quentin Roosevelt's* Nieuport fighter plane is oil on board and was done in 1996. The caption on the back of the print says, "Saints" Nieuport 28's 95 Aero #14 *Quentin Roosevelt* July 1918 and is by or from *Michael J. O'Neal* of North Brunswick, NJ. This print is in our archives.

NEWS FROM THE VOLUNTEER ADVISORY BOARD

The VAB has asked the superintendent to arrange for the plaques, honoring *Volunteer of the Year* and *Interpreter of the Year*, to be relocated to the Visitors Center. The date for the annual *Volunteer Recognition Night* will be Thursday, April 27 at 6:00 p.m. The awards ceremony will be preceded by a buffet dinner at Old Orchard.

Board member, *Evelyn Heath's* husband Bill, successfully underwent quadruple heart by-pass surgery and then had a bout of double pneumonia. Bill is now on the road to complete recovery. You have to keep out of hospitals. They seem to make everyone sick.

Wayne Wagner, also a VAB member recently made a presentation in Bellmore on TR to 75 members of the Homemakers Council of Nassau County.



NEWS FROM EASTERN NATIONAL

By *Debbie Bulck*

Happy New Year to all. We have hit the big time at *Eastern National*. Sagamore Hill's gift/book shop was mentioned in the November 25th edition of the *New York Times*. The article, titled *Long Island at its Best*, included museum shops that offer unique, unusual and authentic items.

We fit all three categories with our beautiful bears, Edith's family sampler and the collectibles we carry. Stop in and view local artist *Regan Tausch's* print *Kezia's Kiss* and local author, *John Hammond's* book *Oyster Bay Remembered*. We also have two different counted cross stitch of Edith's sampler.

As always, volunteers receive 15% off on all purchases. I look forward to seeing you soon.

