

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**  
**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 picture is located in Mame's Room on the eastern wall

**NEWS FROM THE COAL BIN**

By Mark Koziol

During the winter, Park Ranger *Josh Reyes* will be detailed to the Sagamore Hill Cultural Resources Division one day per week. He will work with Amy, Sue and Mark in a variety of projects including performing research and answering public queries, and cataloging archival artifacts and photographs.

In one project, Josh and Mark have started to work with Amy to reorganize the photograph collection. The idea of the project is to identify related photographs and rehouse them together, which will make retrieval and use easier. The groupings of photographs are based on different kinds of relationships, including photographers (such as Edward Curtis or the J.H. McFarland Company) or subjects (such as the Rough Riders or Theodore Roosevelt Jr.). Then new groups will be re-housed into newly purchased, water-resistant storage boxes; the boxes will be inventoried; and the locations updated in the ReDiscovery computer database.

**LOAN OF THE BORGLUM BUST**

Amy and Sue delivered the *Gutzon Borglum* bust of TR to the Secretary of Interior's office at the Main Interior Building (MIB) on Monday, October 2, 2006. The bust will be exhibited in the Secretary's office for the next two years. The sculpture is the model of the head of TR that Borglum carved on Mount Rushmore. Secretary *Dirk Kempthorne* was particularly pleased about the loan because he is a big TR fan and, like Borglum, is a native of Idaho.



**NEVER TOO YOUNG TO LEARN**

*George Gurney* loves the TRH. To be more specific, George loves the animals and toys in the house. On occasion, George will visit his father, Ranger *Scott Gurney*, and accompany him when he gives a tour. George, who is four, will point out the various animals to three and four year olds who are accompanying their parents on tour. Given a flashlight, George will show the children some of TR's trophies. When he is up in the Gun Room, George moves the flashlight back and forth over the Barn Owl so that the owl appears to move. The South Bedroom also appeals to George's sense of showmanship. The brown locomotive suddenly appears red when the light is shined on it. The children love this kind of personal experience. However, no Child Labor Laws are broken, since Scott and the children's parents are just a few feet behind George at all times. Before you know it, George will be ready to be a summer intern.



# The Rough Writer

The News of the Volunteers at Sagamore Hill



Volume 8, Issue 10

October 2006



No denying fall. The Horse Chestnut tree in front of the windmill



Before polishing  
The silver pitcher in the dining room. A wedding present to Ted Jr. from President William Howard Taft



After polishing



Alice Roosevelt Longworth as painted by James Roy Hopkins. Date unknown

**TOM CAMPBELL WOULD HAVE LOVED THIS**

Former volunteer, *Tom Campbell*, loved to talk about the moose-antler chair. Tom would wax eloquent when he talked about the chair and its history whenever he gave a tour. Most of the volunteers knew the story of the chair, as did Tom, but everyone followed *Archie Roosevelt's* advice, as shown in the following letter to his sister, *Ethel Derby*.

"May 18, 1955

Dear Ethel,

I enclose a letter from Mrs. Hauser and a copy of a letter written to her by *Harold Anthony* along with some pictures of a moose horn chair. I wonder if you remember that there was an elk head chair set up on the porch of the house where the Secret Service men sat. With this in mind, I thought that the Roosevelt Memorial might want to take this chair and put it

out there. In a few years, nobody will know whether it is the original or not, provided we tell enough lies about it.

Much love,

Archie"

Ed. Note- Most of us told those lies until Curator *Amy Verone* removed the chair from the back hall near the pantry and put it in storage.



The moose antler chair now in storage

**TRIVIA QUESTION**



Where in the TRH would you find hanging, this picture of *Edith Kermit Roosevelt* as a young girl?

**TR IN OCTOBER 1906**

A number of days were spent holding conferences on the situation in Cuba, including that country's financial stability and the possibility of annexation.

- 10/4 Spoke at Pennsylvania State Capitol and the York Fair.
- 10/5 Appointed C.H. Robb as Associate Justice of District Court of Appeals.
- 10/8 Reception for Supreme Court Justices
- 10/10 Reception for Spanish War veterans
- 10/27 Celebrated his 48<sup>th</sup> birthday
- 10/31 Left Washington for a few days at Pine Knot.

## SITE NEWS: PEOPLE

Another milestone has been reached. *Rich Althaus*, of maintenance, was given an almost-surprise birthday party on Tuesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>. One of *Greg Marshall's* outstanding talents, is the ability to buy good cake. This was attested to by the fact that after everyone sang Happy Birthday to Rich, the cake disappeared as if by magic. Rich doesn't look a day over forty.



## TR SUBJECT OF A NEW PLAY

From October 13 through October 28, 2006, the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC hosted a world premier play for "Young Audiences." *Teddy Roosevelt and the Treasure of Ursa Major* is a mystery set in the White House and it is up to the Roosevelt children to track down the clues. The show was written by *Tom Isbell* with the songs composed by political satirist *Mark Russell*. If it is demand is a success, perhaps it will go on tour.

## SIX WEST 57<sup>TH</sup> STREET

By Jim Ferreri

A frequent question that arises among TR aficionados, like me, is the location of TR historic sites. In August of 2005, while in NYC, I purposely went to find the site of the Roosevelt family home at 6 West 57<sup>th</sup> Street. Ever since I began working at Sagamore Hill, I had always heard that the *Bergdorf Goodman* department store was presently located on the site of the former Roosevelt home. In the book, *Conversations with Alice Roosevelt*, by *Michael Teague*, Alice mentioned that she heard that Bergdorf Goodman now stands on the site where she was born and she found that pleasing.

Now my dilemma arose when I arrived on West Fifty-Seventh Street. I found that Bergdorf Goodman is located at #1 W. 57<sup>th</sup> St. and that diagonally across the street is #6. Currently that site is occupied by *Club Monaco* with a golden doorway and next to it written wording "Six West Fifty-Seventh Street."

For me, this was a major historical dilemma. Where was it that Alice was born and Theodore Sr., Mittie and *Alice Lee* had died? When I had discussed this with Ranger Scott Gurney he speculated that perhaps the street had the houses re-numbered. This was a possibility, but not a solid resolution of the issue. This summer, while attending a class in Manhattan, I met *Steve Laise*, the Chief of Interpretation for the Manhattan Sites in New York City. In posing this issue to him, he noted that although streets of NY City have been re-numbered at times, the authorities would not change the odd and even system. In other words, #1 is located on the north side of the street and #6 is located diagonally opposite on the south side of the street. Therefore the Roosevelt home would have been on the south side of 57<sup>th</sup> Street.

Was Bergdorf Goodman ever on the south side of 57<sup>th</sup> Street? Ranger *Noreen Hancock's* father, who worked for Bergdorf, was only familiar with the stores current location. My next step is to check the New York County land records for the #1 site. This I hope to do when I have an opportunity.



## FROM THE DESK OF SUPERINTENDENT GREG MARSHALL

### SAGAMORE HILL NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE – STRATEGIC PLAN

Do you know what our "mission statement" is for Sagamore Hill? Do you know what our "vision statement" says? What our values are? And perhaps most important, what our goals are for Sagamore Hill?

If you are not familiar with any or all of this information, I hope you will request a copy of our Strategic Plan.

I have always advocated the importance of sharing our goals to assist in enhancing the understanding of what we are striving to accomplish here at Sagamore Hill.

Our five major goals are as follows:

**Visitor Services Goal:** We will provide excellent services and appropriate programs that anticipate and respond to our visitors' needs and interests, while respecting the integrity of our cultural and natural resources.

**21<sup>st</sup> Century Relevancy Goal:** Sagamore Hill NHS, with a focus on engaging the public and protecting our cultural heritage, will strive to fulfill our potential for being relevant to contemporary America.

**Resource Stewardship Goal:** The staff of Sagamore Hill NHS will achieve the highest level of responsible stewardship of our cultural and natural resources.

**Management Excellence Goal:** We will continue to implement an efficient, relevant and accountable performance management and leadership system. Management excellence will be manifested in financial/budgetary areas and through the consistent evaluation and improvement of our professional development and training opportunities for our employees, partners, and volunteers.

**Partnerships Goal:** Sagamore Hill will enhance and grow the capacity and support for our partnership program.

Under each goal, specific objectives have been crafted to articulate specific projects or tasks that must be accomplished to achieve that goal.

If you would like a copy of our Strategic Plan, please let me know.

Being a supporter and advocate for Sagamore Hill National Historic Site, it is important to be familiar with our mission. Help us all achieve our vision, celebrate our values and work together to accomplish our goals!

Thanks as always for your efforts and support!

## SAFETY NEWS

### Fire Extinguisher Training

*Bo Stein* and seven park staff members attended the Thursday, October 12 fire extinguisher training. *Bo* discussed the proper way to tackle a SMALL fire by crouching low, and sweeping the extinguisher spray broadly from left to right. Participants used both the dry chemical extinguisher and the CO2 extinguisher. Both types will put out a variety of fires with the dry chemical type leaving behind a fine powder after being discharged and the CO2 version not leaving a fine powder behind thereby not permanently damaging such delicate things as electrical panels.

Chief of Cultural Resources *Amy Verone* stresses that Staff and Volunteers are reminded that there is nothing in the Roosevelt Home or Old Orchard that is worth anyone's life. In the event of a fire, the first priority should be to get all staff, volunteers and visitors out of the building to safety before trying to extinguish the fire.

## VOLUNTEER NEWS

This writer met retired volunteer *Bill Hildebrandt* in the supermarket two weeks ago. Bill looks good and he appreciates the opportunity to keep up with the doings on the site. He is a happy recipient of this news letter.

Many of you are probably not aware that the pin, depicting Sagamore Hill, being sold in the Visitors Center, was produced for the benefit of the volunteers, who sell it to *Eastern National*. *Rich Cashman* was the impetus for the design and sale of the pin. The fund has now accrued roughly \$2,500 and the Volunteer Advisory Board is open to suggestions for the best use of the accumulated funds now roughly \$2,500. Please share your idea with *Greg Marshall*, *Charles Markis*, any ranger, or member of the Advisory Board.

## SAFETY NEWS CONTINUED

### Automatic External Defibrillators Arrive at Sagamore Hill

After months of diligent research and work by *Noreen Hancock*, Sagamore Hill now is the owner of three Automatic External Defibrillators (AED). These are now located at the TRH, Old Orchard and the Visitors Center.

While Sagamore Hill offers First Aid/CPR/AED classes twice a year for the staff and volunteers, the AED's are made for anyone to use regardless of medical training. The AED computer takes the user on an easy, quick three step procedure to analyze the victim and give shock when needed to save the patient's life.



This unit located in the back office of the TRH

## THE GREAT WHITE FLEET

*Theodore Roosevelt* is remembered for many accomplishments, but in his own words, "The most important service that I rendered to peace was the voyage of the battle fleet around the world." An interesting sidelight to that voyage was when the fleet anchored at Honolulu on its cruise, a group of officers made a visit to Pearl Harbor – then just an isolated bay. Congress was appropriating funds for the creation of a naval base in the Pacific, and this was the site under consideration. Among the group were four junior officers whose lives and careers would be dramatically changed at Pearl Harbor more than three decades later: Ensigns *Hubbard Kimmel*, *Harold Stark* and *William Halsey*, along with Midshipman *Raymond Spruance*. Kimmel and Stark would be blamed for the losses at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941 while Halsey and Spruance would become two of the most respected fleet commanders in the Pacific war against Japan."

Quoted from *The Keynoter* Fall 2005

This wall-hanging, depicting the voyage of the Great White Fleet, was made by a seaman who was part of the crew of the battleship *Louisiana*, shown in the picture.



## THE ESTATE OF THEODORE ROOSEVELT

When TR died on January 6, 1919, he left an estate, appraised four years later at \$801,171. It consisted principally of United States government bonds and wisely selected industrial stocks. New York State law required an application by *Edith Roosevelt*, the sole beneficiary of the estate, in order to get permission to change trustees and to have an accounting of the estate performed. On October 8, 1936, the estate was valued at \$908,056. The President's will, drawn on December 13, 1912, left everything to Edith and upon her death, the balance was to go to their six children.

Extracted from the *Herald Tribune*, February 19, 1937

## INTERPRETATION AND EDUCATION HIGHLIGHTS by Charles Markis

A grant from the Unilever Corporation from the National Park Foundation, matched by the Friends of Sagamore Hill for the development of Junior Ranger Activities has also provided us with the opportunity to examine, refine and enhance our educational outreach. The development of several curriculum based junior ranger programs (JRP) is now the basis for our educational offerings for school groups. Two of the JRPs are geared to the class visit: one is done as a scavenger hunt --*Theodore Roosevelt History Hunt*--here at site; and one is designed as a post-visit activity and is distributed to be taken back to class--*Theodore Roosevelt and His Sagamore Hill Home* and is an overview of TR's life and accomplishments.

Two other JRPs are suitable for scouting groups: *Letterboxing Adventures* teaches the skills of compass orientation and direction finding, and *The Wonderbook of Nature* is a field guide to selected species of plants and animals found on the site.

School children coming on a class field trip will typically complete two JRPs; if a child returns and completes one or more additional activity books, he or she will earn a special Junior Ranger Patch suitable for application to jacket or hat.



All four of the programs are appropriate for families visiting, weather permitting, (since two are outdoor activities).

These programs were developed over the course of the year as a team effort by NPS professional staff and several of our "Teacher Corp" VIPs, whose help in making these programs curriculum-based and targeted at the fourth and fifth grade level has been invaluable.

We have been able to pilot these in draft form over the year and have worked to refine and hone the activities to be successful and engaging educational tools. The response from the teachers and scout leaders has been consistently positive.

In addition to these JRPs one of our volunteers has written a children's book, *Simply Father: Life with Theodore Roosevelt Through the Eyes of His Children*, by Toby Selda. The book is designed to be a pre-visit activity for the fourth and fifth grade classes coming on field trips. Created as a stand-alone book, it is also designed to be a Powerpoint presentation. Ms. Selda was aided by NPS staff and other volunteers in researching, assembling and refining her book. We were also able to pilot this with about twelve classes as both a book and a Powerpoint presentation. The work is being published by Eastern National and will be available this fall.

We now have curriculum-based activities for preparation, onsite and post-visit activities, that are specifically designed to present and reinforce the important concepts of the life and accomplishments of Theodore Roosevelt and his family.

With the creation of these activities, we are also able to introduce children to the concepts of conservation, preservation and stewardship, and to encourage them to come back to Sagamore Hill with their families.

It has been a very productive year and we thank the staff and volunteers for all their hard work. It is gratifying to see our resources bearing such productive results.

### HE IS A BUSY PERSON

Superintendent *Greg Marshall* has been doing a lot of traveling these past two weeks. After attending the Philadelphia, PA installation of *Mary Bomar* as the new Director of the National Park Service, Greg was off to Atlanta, where he briefed the trustees of the Theodore Roosevelt Association attending the annual conference, on the current status of Sagamore Hill's General Management Plan. During Greg's absence, no one bought food for the staff members. Thirty pounds were lost by all.

**NOTE:** Volunteers should you be unable to come to the site on the day you are expected, please call so we know your services will not be available. Thank you.

The new trash receptacle and bench located in front of Old Orchard Museum

