

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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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 “Eisenhower Bathroom” was set-up on the first floor under the stairs. After the president’s visit, it reverted to a utility closet.

TR in Colorado

Many volunteers are on the lookout for TR memorabilia or stories when they travel or take a vacation. *Ginny and Jay Perrell* are no different. They recently took a trip out west and stayed at the **Brown Palace hotel** in Denver, CO. They opted not to stay in the TR Suite at \$1,400 per night. Ginny found an article in **Colorado Biz** about TR’s visit to the hotel.



“*Teddy Roosevelt* ambled into the *Brown Palace Hotel* on May 8, 1905, after a hunting trip on the Western Slope. An orchestra played ‘In the



Good Old Summer Time’ and 2,000 pink carnations, 1,000 American Beauty Roses and carloads of apple blossoms scented the entire building. TR was the first of thirteen presidents to visit the venerable Brown. Today, he is one of three presidents who have suites named for them. Brown spokeswoman *Deborah Dix* said the presidential suites, named and styled after *Roosevelt, Dwight Eisenhower* and *Ronald Reagan*, are part of a \$6.5 million renovation completed in February 2001.”

About that Colorado hunting trip- It was significant in that TR brought home with him, one of the Roosevelts’ favorite pets – *Skip* the dog. Skip was one of a pack of dogs owned by TR’s hunting guide *John Goff*, and the only terrier. Goff successfully employed dogs in the hunt and Skip was one of his most tenacious, despite his size. TR wrote to his son Ted:

“We have about thirty dogs, including one little absurd terrier about half Jack’s size, named Skip. Skip trots all day long with the hounds, excepting when he can persuade Mr. Stewart or Dr. Lambert, or me to take him up for a ride, for which he is always begging. He is most affectionate and intelligent, but when there is a bear or lynx at bay he joins in the fight with all the fury of a bulldog, though I do not think he is much more effective than one of your Japanese mice would be. I should like to bring him home for Archie or Quentin. He would go everywhere with them and would ride Betsy or Algonquin.”

Skip died in 1907 and was buried at the White House. Edith had his body exhumed and re-buried at Sagamore Hill in the pet cemetery in 1908, as TR was preparing to leave office. Terriers like Skip are sometimes referred to as “Teddy Roosevelt Terriers.” In a family photo, Skip is shown sitting on Archie’s lap.

CURATORIAL LOOKING FOR IDEAS

The current wall displays at Old Orchard feature correspondence between Edith and the Historical Society librarian as well as correspondence from the children. At a recent Volunteer Advisory Board meeting, *Rita Onorato* requested suggestions for future displays. You can put your suggestions in writing and mail them to *Sue Sarna* at Sagamore Hill. One of the suggestions was a display of uniforms in our collection and of the medals won by the family. These could be appropriate for next year’s Veterans Day.

WHO WILL FIX IT?

If it breaks, who will fix it? If it grows, who will cut it? If it needs to be moved, who will move it? If you answered, “the maintenance crew, you were correct.” The four full-time stalwarts of the Maintenance Division are shown celebrating *Rich Althaus* birthday. Left to right, they are: *Bo Stein, Eric Witzke, Rich Althaus, and Martin Moffat.*

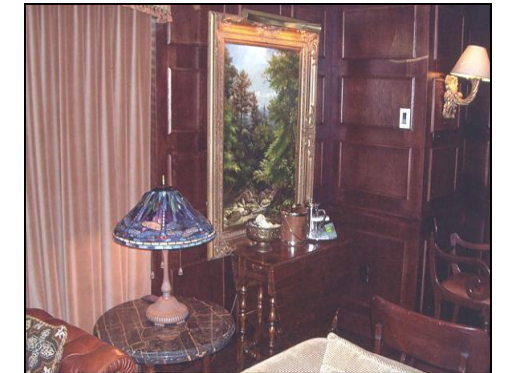


The Rough Writer

The News of the Volunteers at Sagamore Hill

Volume 12, Issue 10

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Photos of the Theodore Roosevelt Suite in the Brown Palace Hotel in Denver, Colorado (see article page 4)

TR NOW WELCOMING VISITORS TO OYSTER BAY

Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. collaborated with *Grantland Rice* on a book called “**Taps Famous Poems of the World War.**” *Grantland Rice* was a major sports writer of the 1920s, ‘30s and ‘40s. Rice was also a poet and a coiner of phrases. He nicknamed the Notre Dame backfield of *Stuhldreher, Miller, Crowley* and *Layden* after the mythical **Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse**, best known to all football fans as **The Four Horsemen of Notre Dame**. But Rice, as a poet, wrote a poem, the last two lines of which, are known by every Little Leaguer.

“When the one great scorer
Comes to write against your name-
He marks- not that you won or lost-
But how you played the game.”

VETERANS DAY WAS FEE FREE

The tours were at maximum the entire day. Every half hour saw a fourteen person tour, most which were half children and half adult. During the day, *Scott Gurney* made two presentations on the Roosevelt Family in the service. The morning program, sparsely attended, covered World War I, while the afternoon talk centered on World War II and was a sell-out.

REMINDER

Did you send in your reservation for the Sagamore Hill Holiday Party? If not, please send it to *Ginny Perrell* today. The cost is \$30 per person and the check should be made payable to the Friends of Sagamore Hill. Send it to:

Ginny Perrell, 619 Edgewood Drive, Westbury, NY 11590

The equestrian statue of TR made from the mold created by *A. Phimister Proctor* has been moved from its temporary home at the **Boys and Girls Club** in Oyster Bay. It is now in the triangle at the entrance to downtown Oyster Bay. As fate would have it, *Mark Koziol* recently answered a call from a model maker company about the breed of TR’s horse *Little Texas*, for a model project upon which they are working.



Researching TR’s book **Rough Riders** has led to discovering that in 1898, on the way from Texas to Cuba, TR bought several horses of unknown breeds. TR wrote: “My horses were purchased for me by Texas friend, *John Moore*...I only paid \$50.00 each, and the animals were not showy; but they were tough and hardy, and answered to my purpose well.”

Ironically, lately, several researchers had questions about the pedigree of *Little Texas*. This led Mark to look into what horse Proctor used for his famous TR as *Rough Rider* statue. As it turns out, the artist did not use photos of *Little Texas* when he created his artwork. According to Proctor’s grandson, *Sandy Church*, of the Proctor Museum in Seattle, “the horse was not *Little Texas*, but just a horse found at the time of the commission.” Mark, continuing his research, found that the 2006 book, *Wildlife and Western Heroes: Alexander Phimister Proctor, Sculptor* by *Peter H. Hassrick* states, “General *Leonard Wood*, who fought with Roosevelt in the Spanish-American War, helped Proctor identify the right horse: a north range horse with a strain of thoroughbred.”

SCANNERS

In last month's *Rough Writer*, Tom Ross told about his trip to **Dickinson State University** and that the university's TR Study Center is working on a comprehensive *Theodore Roosevelt* digital library. Our site has benefited from the work of two Dickinson-sponsored museum assistants, *Sarah Curley* and *Jackie Billig*, who have been working with *Mark Koziol* in scanning our archival collection for this project.

Jacqueline Billig is a teaching artist, educator and life long learner. She holds a Bachelor's degree from *SUNY New Paltz* in Elementary Education with a major in Psychology. She recalls in vivid detail, the everlasting majesty of Sagamore Hill upon taking a field trip in fourth grade. That combined with her profound curiosity about the past and love of history is the reason she is happily here today as digitization assistant (aka "Scanner".)

Sarah Curley is a true artist at heart. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in English from the *University of Massachusetts at Amherst* and has a true appreciation and passion for the arts and history. She found the position as digitization assistant to be genuinely remarkable opportunity both professionally and personally.



L/R Jackie Billig & Sarah Curley

TR ON THE OP-ED PAGE OF THE NY TIMES

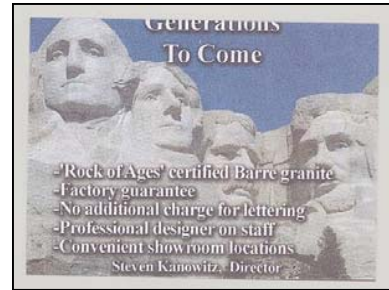
Edmund Morris, the author of **The Rise of Theodore Roosevelt**, **Theodore Rex** and the just published **Colonel Roosevelt**, wrote an op-ed piece for the New York Times on November 1, that compared the election of 1910 with the recently concluded election of 2010. One section of Mr. Morris's article stood out above all others. He pointed out that, "In 1910, the dominant party in Washington and most states was the Republican. However, Democrats could have comfortably accepted *Newt Gingrich* as their ideologue. By the same token, I think TR reconstituted today, would support Mr. *Obama*."

TRIVIA



QUESTION: In 1953, what was behind this window?

BORGLUM MUST BE TURNING OVER



If you live long enough, you get to see all kinds of things. A recent ad for a local funeral home featured a picture of **Mount Rushmore**. Superimposed on the four presidents was the following: A Monument for Generations to Come

- 'Rock of Ages' certified Barre granite
- Factory guarantee
- No additional charge for lettering
- Professional designer on staff
- Convenient showroom locations

Where is TR and his big stick when you need him?

SITE NEWS: PEOPLE

October was a birthday month, with parties held for *Rich Althaus* and *Sue Sarna*. For Rich, the party was held in the conference room with all Monday people in attendance



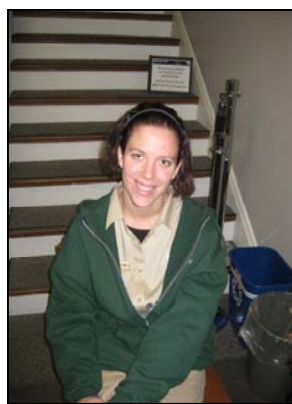
Mark Koziol & Tom Ross

and with Sue, in the backroom of the TRH. It was nice to see that nearly everyone working on Tuesday made their way to the house to wish Sue well (and have some cake.)

NEW VOLUNTEERS



Colin Wakefield



Lizz Farrell

SAGAMORE HILL DAY

Theodore Roosevelt would have enjoyed his birthday celebration even though the festivities were five days prior to October 27th, his one fifty-second. Twelve hundred visitors flocked to the site and were treated to games, displays and activities. In an effort to show what farm life was like during TR's time, there was a cow and sheep shearing. Although the site never had sheep, some neighbors did have them. The day was an opportunity to educate children who think that food comes in a can, box or frozen package. Some adults need the education as well. *Steve Gilroy*, a former tour guide and currently a teacher in Manhasset, who is also a member of the *Friends of Sagamore Hill*, supplied the photos accompanying this article.

The *Friends of Sagamore Hill* had a table and were recruiting potential members. They were able to watch the children's tug-of-war which was supervised by *Noreen Hancock*. The biggest draw for staff and volunteers was the farmstand that did a booming business. Superintendent *Tom Ross* is already planning for a bigger and better Sagamore Hill Day next year with emphasis on the SAHI farm history.



L/R Brother Lawrence Syriac, Dave Robbins, Walter Fish, Adrian Bogart, Jr. & Gerry Alfani



JUSTUS FOR ALL

Old Orchard is to be given a "facelift" beginning shortly. The contractors who will be working on the project will use the OOM parking lot for their trucks and equipment. If you have business at Old Orchard or are volunteering there, please park your car in the east end of the visitor's parking lot.



We are looking for a few volunteers to help maintain the plantings at the park's entrance (under the sign) and the planters around the Visitor Center. Maintenance will do the regular watering. If you are interested, please contact me at 516-9224271 ext. 15.

An education and training event will be held on February 8 & 9. Please hold those dates. More information as to content will be sent to you in December.

A GOODLY CROWD WAS THERE



The farewell party for *Shaun Roche* was a rousing success. The theme of the pot luck supper was to be "German" however, not everyone brought items that fit that parameter. The thirty-three attendees brought delicious items and *Josh Reyes* handled the grilling. Superintendent *Tom Ross* presented Shaun with an Arrowhead plaque signed by nearly everyone. He also gave Shaun a travel bag. It's ironic that now that Shaun is thirty miles from home he gets a travel bag and

when he worked here ninety miles from home he used a plastic bag. It was a sign of how everyone feels about Shaun in that volunteers joined with the staff to wish Shaun "Auf Weidersehen." This article was written two weeks after he left the site and we sure could have used his presence on Veteran's Day.

