

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: His men could defend themselves but could not kill any attacker.

FRIENDS GALA SHOWS OFF HIDDEN TREASURES



Nearly sixty people turned out for the **Friends of Sagamore Hill Gala** held at the *Sagamore Yacht Club* in Oyster Bay. The Chair of the event, *Ginny Uhlinger* is to be congratulated on a job well done. The food, catered by *Harborside*, exceeded anticipation. It was good and plentiful. *Sue Sarna* and *Mark Koziol* made presentations on artifacts that rarely see the light of day. They showed an interesting cross-section of TR's gifts and gave background on those items whose provenance was known. *Shaun Roche* saw to it that the same number of items that came from, went back to Sagamore Hill. A good time was had by all.



WAS SAGAMORE HILL THE FIRST SUMMER WHITE HOUSE?

In the 2007 revision of the **Historic Resource Study, "Theodore Roosevelt and His Sagamore Hill Home"** edited by *Charles Markis, Lewis L. Gould* in his introduction on page three, noted that "while *Roosevelt* hit the stump in 1900, President *McKinley* spent his time at his home in Canton, Ohio, in observance of the tradition that sitting chief executives did not campaign. *McKinley* and his secretary *George B. Cortelyou*, had already begun to lay the groundwork for enabling the presidency to operate outside Washington during the summer months. The president had bought his old home in Canton in 1899 and told *Cortelyou* that with a base to work from, 'I can get away any time, and could take you with all the help we need, and we could transact all the executive business there.' In 1900, the administration set up a long-distance telephone connection between Canton and Washington, over which presidential business was conducted during part of the summers of 1900 and 1901." Does this mean that interpreters have to qualify their remarks about the summer White House by saying Sagamore Hill was the first fulltime summer White House? Comments!

NEWS OF VOLUNTEERS

Congratulations to *Roy and Asenath Fuchs* on the birth of their tenth grandchild, a son for *Scott and Annmarie Fuchs* born on September 21. The younger Fuchs live in Ridgefield, Conn. Now all that is needed is a quarterback.

Colin Wakefield has joined the ranks of volunteer interpreters. Colin, a resident of Huntington Station, is a recent college graduate of Gettysburg College and is waiting for an opening in graduate school. *Alexis Barr* and *Rita Onorato* are working with *Sue Sarna* and *Mark Koziol* on preparing an installation about Roosevelt correspondence for the lobby of Old Orchard.



FORKS YES! KNIVES NO!

If you are planning to visit the **Statue of Liberty** and/or **Ellis Island**, be advised that you will go through airport type security. This includes removal of your shoes and all metal objects from your person. Four of our group learned that you should not carry knives. These knives were confiscated and even though *Josh Reyes* was his most persuasive, he was unable to get the knives returned.

The Rough Writer

The News of the Volunteers at Sagamore Hill

Volume 12, Issue 9

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Water Traffic in Upper New York Bay visible on the volunteer trip

TEACHER-RANGER-TEACHER PROGRAM

Volunteer *Teresa Kepertis*, an Assistant Principal at PS207 in Brooklyn, has been leading a team of retired teachers at Sagamore Hill in developing a **Traveling Trunk** program. During eight weeks this summer, *Teresa* worked for the Park Service through the **Teacher-Ranger-Teacher Program**. The trunks being developed will accompany teams of rangers and volunteers to local schools and bring the story of Theodore Roosevelt to students. With the planned closure of the Theodore Roosevelt Home, school children will not be deprived of the visual story of TR. The Site is planning to have *Teresa* return as a ranger next summer to finalize the trunk program. *Josh Reyes* and *Andrew Buttermilch*



Alert

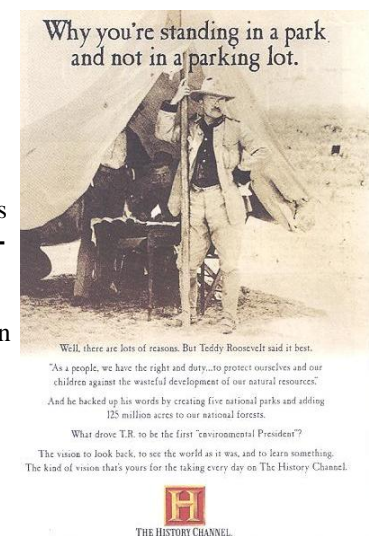
The site will be celebrating the Holiday Season on a Saturday & Sunday in December (Date has not been finalized). There will be Caroling & refreshments will be served to the visitors

A NEW DESCRIPTION FOR TR

The September 19, 2010 *New York Times*, in an article titled "Just Manic Enough: Seeking the Perfect Entrepreneur", that described the interaction of a young inventor and a venture capital firm, the classification **hypomaniac temperament** is used. "The **hypomaniac temperament** is, of course, not limited to entrepreneurs. It is found in politics (*Theodore Roosevelt*), the military (*George S. Patton*), Hollywood (the studio head *David O. Selznick*) and virtually any field where outside risks yield enormous rewards." The article continues, "But the business world has contributed more than its share of **hypomanics**, particularly the abusive, ornery kind. The most colorful of the breed was arguably *Henry Ford*." Within the article is a quote from *John D. Gartner* who wrote the book "*The Hypomaniac Edge*", in which he wrote "that grandiose thinkers have shaped the business world." Interpolating that to *Theodore Roosevelt*, he certainly did shape the political world of his time.

TR ADVERTISES THE HISTORY CHANNEL

During the late 1990s, the *History Channel* used the accompanying ad. The ad appeared in publications put out by **Mount Rushmore, Yellowstone** and the **Grand Tetons**, among others. *Theodore Roosevelt's* likeness was a great pitchman for the National Parks and the *History Channel*.





VOLUNTEER TRIP TO ELLIS ISLAND

Forty-five people were signed up to be part of the Volunteer Education Trip into New York City. Three individuals traveled by train on their own. The rest had bagels, muffins, coffee and orange juice at 8:00 am behind the Visitor Center. This gave people a chance to socialize prior to the trip. The bus ride seemed to take forever, through Queens (plenty of fallen trees from a storm the previous day) and Lower Manhattan (a busy Chinatown), before reaching our destination at Battery Park.

Leslie Handler had purchased the boat tickets when she arrived before the bus. *Josh Reyes* was our tour director and everyone went through security, with hundreds of other visitors, before boarding the boat. The day was gorgeous but on the water it was chilly. Most of the group was prepared with sweaters or jackets.



Upon arrival at Ellis Island (the boat stopped first at the Statue of Liberty), we went into the cafeteria where, thanks to the generosity of the **Friends of Sagamore Hill** (in the person of *Walter Fish*), we had lunch. The food was good, varied and reasonable and many of us ate outside on the side of the museum. We received an extensive tour of the facility, following the footsteps of arriving immigrants. Our ranger guide was *April Antonellis*, whose grandfather *Pasquale* had arrived here in the early 1900's. She explained that, on average, most immigrants were in and out and on their way in about four hours. Only about 1% of the arrivals were rejected for admission for either health or legal reasons.

After the guided tour, we had about an hour to visit different displays in the museum before our boat departed at 3:15 pm. Now the intrigue began. What happened to this couple or that couple who were missing when Josh took head count? Thanks to the wonders of cell phones he located two couples who had made an earlier boat. But on the ferry ride back to Battery Park, one person was unaccounted for. After everyone returned to the bus another person wandered away, to buy a pretzel, I was told. By the time the wanderer returned the next ferry had arrived and our missing person was reunited with the group. The bus driver made a quick getaway before anyone else went missing. On the way home we watched a video that centered on the relationship between NYC's Mayor *Fiorello LaGuardia* and master builder *Robert Moses*. Trip consensus: everyone had a very educational experience and an enjoyable time. Our thanks go to the site for paying for the bus, *Josh Reyes* for making all arrangements and the **Friends** for their generosity.



Shaun way back in 2005

TRIVIA



QUESTION: Col. *Candido Rondon*, the Brazilian co-leader of the **River of Doubt** expedition, gave his men specific instructions on what to do if attacked by Indians. What were his instructions?

SITE NEWS: PEOPLE

Shaun Roche is deserting the Island. Shaun will be taking a position with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Connecticut. This will be an increase in grade which translates into a larger paycheck. His new work station is about thirty-five minutes from his home in Glastonbury. His wife *Angelica* will now see him a little more regularly. We all wish Shaun well in his new endeavor. There will be a **pot luck supper** on Thursday, October 21 at 6:00 p.m. behind the Visitor Center where we will bid him farewell. If you can make it, please contact *Josh Reyes* at 516-922-4271 ext. 26

OLD ORCHARD GOES GREEN



New lighting has replaced the old in Old Orchard. All the florescent lighting fixtures have been replaced with more energy efficient units. All the display lighting in the Museum has also been changed. This energy saving trend will be carried forward in all buildings on the site. The TRH presents a different type of challenge. The general contractor will be factoring "green" into the final plans for the house but still keep it looking as it was when TR was in residence.



ROOTS

Twelve United States Presidents can trace their roots back to Ulster, Northern Ireland. *Theodore Roosevelt* is one of them. His mother's family came from Larne in County Antrim, Ulster. TR's maternal forebears emigrated to the U.S. in 1729. The other presidents having a connection with Ulster are: *Andrew Jackson*, *William Henry Harrison*, *James K. Polk*, *James Buchanan*, *Andrew Johnson*, *U.S. Grant*, *Chester A. Arthur*, *Grover Cleveland*, *Benjamin Harrison*, *William McKinley* and *Woodrow Wilson*.

Editor's Note: This information came from the Ulster American Folk Park in Omagh, County Tyrone, Northern Ireland.

THE ROOSEVELT BOYS

It is a known fact that **TR** graduated from Harvard. But what about his sons? **Ted, Jr.**, like his father, graduated from Harvard. **Kermit** was a wiz. He completed his Harvard education in two and a half years. **Archie** followed in his brother's footsteps and graduated from Harvard as well. **Quentin** left Harvard during his sophomore year to join the Flying Corps, the forerunner of the Air Force, but then a part of the Army Signal Corps. He was awarded his degree from Harvard posthumously.

JUSTUS TO ALL NEWS FROM THE CHIEF OF INTERPRETATION

SAGAMORE HILL DAY

On October 23, the site is celebrating Sagamore Hill Days. TR lost out on his birthday party because October 27 was in the middle of the week. Of course there will be more events, more happenings, more cool things on the 23rd and that would have made TR very happy.



UNIFORM CHANGES

From now through October 31, it is your decision what uniform--summer or winter--you wear, based on the day's weather and your own comfort. Beginning November 1, everyone must be in winter uniform. Please check your "parts" to make sure that they are in good condition or please reorder as needed. If you have any questions about what you should be wearing for either summer or winter dress, please address your questions to Noreen, our park uniform coordinator.

SPECIAL NOTES ABOUT OLD ORCHARD

Please refrain from reading newspapers and other such periodicals while working at the desk in Old Orchard. No more than two people should be working at the Old Orchard desk at any given time.



Researching their ancestors at Ellis Island: Jena, Andrew and Rich