

This newsletter is produced by Milton Elis and the Volunteer Advisory Board for the volunteers and staff of the Sagamore Hill National Historic Site.

Superintendent
Gregory A. Marshall

Editor
Milton Elis


Layout/Design
Charles Markis/Noreen Hancock

Contributors
Mark Koziol
Charles Markis

Comments?
Milton Elis
1 Jarvis Avenue
Syosset NY 11791
516 921-3414

Phone
516 922-4788
922-4271 x33 Visitor Center direct line

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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 statue is **Stone Age in America** by *John Boyle*, done in 1887. For eleven years this writer has been referring to it as *Sacagawea*.

NEWS OF VOLUTEERS

GET WELL WISHES

We send our best to former volunteer *Seth Amols*. Seth was recently hospitalized with a broken hip. He is now in his 89th year and wants to send good wishes to all his friends at Sagamore Hill, in particular to *Scott Gurney*. He recently enjoyed watching *Ken Burns* "The War", which brought back memories of his service in Italy. We hope Seth will be back home soon. We also send good wishes to his wife Jean.

Max Kleinman, a Wednesday volunteer, who had been out recuperating from being the recipient of a defibrillator, is now back on the job and giving tours on Thursdays.

WINTER IS APPROACHING

Friday volunteer, *Natasha Price* and her husband Lorne have headed south to their winter retreat in Key West. If they are gone, can winter be far behind?

VOLUNTEER ADVISORY BOARD

At the September 19th Board meeting, *Milton Elis* was re-elected Chairman and *Leslie Handler* was re-elected Secretary of the Board. On behalf of all the volunteers, Superintendent *Greg Marshall* and Chief of Interpretation *Charles Markis* were thanked for the hooded green sweat-shirts that were given to all volunteers.

SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS

Karen Heiser, 58, is a resident of Babylon. Karen is a retired administrator in the West Islip School District where she supervised computers. Prior to administration, she was an elementary teacher and then an elementary school principal. Karen has had an interest in TR for many years. Teaching history in the fourth grade, she came to Sagamore Hill every year and made up her own scavenger hunt.

Since retiring, Karen has had more time to enjoy golf, tennis, gardening and computers. That interest in computers is now helping Cultural Resources where Karen is a Friday volunteer updating site inventories on the computer. Karen is a former Board member of the *Fire Island Lighthouse Conservancy*.

FIRE EXTINGUISHER TRAINING PLANNED FOR VOLUNTEERS

At the October 22 meeting of the **Safety Committee**, *Bo Stein* demonstrated the ten different-sized fire extinguishers used at Sagamore Hill. There are two main types of units: the dry chemical unit and the CO₂ unit. For the most part, the CO₂ extinguisher will be found near electrical panels because this type of unit is made to put out fires that ignite from liquids and electrical sources. The dry chemical extinguisher is rated to put out fires that start from wood and paper and are also used for liquids and electrical sources.

Training will be offered during November in order to afford all staff and volunteers the opportunity to learn how the different fire extinguishers are used.



The Rough Writer

The News of the Volunteers at Sagamore Hill

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Turquoise bowl in drawing room.



Newly caned porch rocker.



1918 Almanac in cook's room.



TR's shaving mug in splash closet.

GAS FOR ILLUMINATION

When you are giving a tour and you are outside of Alice's Room, do you ever point out the original gas line? The gas for illumination was made in the basement. The type of gas made was acetylene. The use of acetylene gas for lighting purposes marks an era in artificial illumination. Acetylene is produced by the contact of calcium carbide (which has somewhat the appearance of gun powder) and water. The result of this chemical reaction is the production of a gas which burns with a pure white light, giving the nearest approach to sunlight, and has an illuminating power more than twelve times as great as ordinary gas. When installed by the Roosevelt family, the use of acetylene was a fairly recent procedure.

If a proper apparatus is selected, acetylene may be regarded to be as safe as any other illuminant. The various generators were of two types: one, in which the gas is produced by placing the calcium carbide in a suitable receptacle and allowing water to gradually fall upon it; the other, in which a receptacle is filled with a relatively large quantity of water and the calcium carbide is allowed to drop into the water in small quantities. The latter type of generator is the safer and therefore is preferred. A miner's lamp uses the principle of having water drip into calcium carbide.

Ed. Note- most of the information for this article was extracted from *Household Discoveries: Encyclopedia of Practical Recipes and Processes* by *Sidney Morse*, published in 1908, a copy of which is in the Visitor Center back office.

SITE NEWS: EVENTS: TREES CUT DOWN

Recently the *Bartlett Tree* company cut down six diseased trees on the site. Small cross-sections of certain trees are saved so that at some future date, research can be conducted to determine which trees had been here during TR's lifetime. Bartlett is replacing the trees with those of the same species at the same locations.



SITE NEWS: PEOPLE

Shaun Roche was given a party in honor of his 28th birthday. Shaun, who is known for his modesty, appreciated the attention.

GOOD NEWS, SAD NEWS

Superintendent *Greg Marshall* has become the new Superintendent at the **Edison National Historic Site**. This is *Thomas Edison's* laboratory and home in Edison, NJ. This is good news for Greg but sad news for us. Greg has been a very positive influence at Sagamore Hill during the two years he has been here. Much has been accomplished. Much still remains to be done. An interim replacement will serve until the new superintendent, *Thomas E. Ross*, arrives in January. Tom is coming from the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor in Rhode Island.

Greg, who lives in southern New Jersey, will be only an hour's drive to his new work place. We wish him well in his new position. A farewell party was held at Old Orchard on Wednesday, October 17th. Greg received an **NPS Arrowhead Plaque**, signed by all staff and some volunteers. A beautiful color photo of the TRH was also presented. The photo by *Brian Forseth* made sure to capture the huge flag that Greg insisted on flying from the flagpole. *Paul Dama* presented Greg with a huge picture album of all the National Parks and the fly leaf contained photos of all staff and volunteers arranged by Paul.



Bob Wulfhorst reading farewell poem at Greg's party.



Left to right: Monica Chirot, Max Kleinman, Mayor Tom Zoller, Ginny & Bill Uhlinger, James Foote, Brian Forseth, Mark Koziol, Paul Dama, Dennis Mott, Rich Althaus, listening to Greg's farewell address, Oct. 17th.

TRIVIA



Question: What is the official name of this statue which stands just inside the North Room gate?

Teaching American History

Sagamore Hill was the host site for partners Long Island University (LIU) C. W. Post Campus and Nassau County Board of Co-operative Educational Services (BOCES) for the announcement of a three-year one million dollar grant from the Department of Education for Teaching American History. Representatives from LIU and BOCES and teachers from the thirteen participating Nassau County School Districts assembled at Sagamore Hill for a kick off press event and a day of discovery at the home Theodore Roosevelt, 26th US President.

Grant Coordinators *Patricia Koehler*, Supervisor of Curriculum Instruction and Technology, Nassau BOCES, and *Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad*, Associate Professor of Education, LIU, were joined by *Fred Podolski* Executive Director, Curriculum, Instruction and Technology, BOCES, *Dr. James D. Mapes*, District Superintendent, BOCES and *Dr. Jeffrey Kane*, Vice President for Academic Affairs of LIU C. W. Post Campus for the announcement of the one million dollar grant from the U. S. Department of Education. It is the first such grant awarded in Nassau County. Thirteen school districts and some sixty teachers will participate in the three year program of Teaching American History in Middle and High Schools.

Chief of Interpretation, *Charles Markis* was master of ceremonies and host for the event and took the opportunity to explain the educational offerings available for class field trips at Sagamore Hill to the assembled educators. The teachers received a tour of Sagamore Hill and participated in a pilot version of a new middle school history hunt developed for this event in the Theodore Roosevelt Museum in Old Orchard.

Following the tour of Sagamore Hill, every one had a photo op with *James Foote* portraying *Theodore Roosevelt* in front of Sagamore Hill.



Left to right, Greg Marshall, Joan Mahon, James Foote, Norm Parsons.

GRAFFITI MARS QUENTIN'S BENCH

Mark Koziol put a great deal of time and elbow grease in cleaning **Quentin's Bench** outside the North Room. His spring cleaning was marred by some thoughtless person, probably one of the school children, within the past week. Someone took a "star" rubber stamp and put three stars on the bench. The same individual also used the stamp on the wooden bench leading from the house to the Visitor Center and used it about twenty times.

WINTERIZATION OF TRH UNDERWAY

New storm windows were constructed and installed in the Cook's Room. There had been no storm windows there for many years. *Rich Althaus* and *Paul Dama* are also checking over, installing and cleaning all storm windows. The south side of the TRH has been the focus of the current work.

BOOKS-BOOKS-BOOKS

There are books in nearly every room of the TRH. Some books are in bookcases or on shelves. There are also books on many tables and pieces of furniture. There are no books in the four bathrooms. Which other rooms have no books in them? On the first floor, there are no books in the Dining Room and the Pantry. There is at least one book in every room on the second floor, including Quentin's Hideaway. On the third floor, only the Linen Closet and the Trunk Room are bookless. Although there are books in the first floor foyer and the second floor hallway, there are no books in the third floor hallway.

FRIENDS OF SAGAMORE HILL

The Friends have again agreed to subsidize the **Annual Holiday Party**. Even though the cost per person for the evening has risen, all attendees will continue to pay the same \$30.00 per person, as they have for the past four years that the event has been held at the Swan Club in Glenwood Landing. Remember that the date is **Thursday, December 6th**.

Next year's *Dr. John A. Gable Lecture Series* will be held at the *Matinecock Masonic Lodge*. Christ Church Vestry Room is undergoing a face lift and *Ginny Uhlinger* has arranged for the Lodge to house the series. The lectures will be held on Thursday evenings and feature *Dr. Natalie Naylor* on March 27, *Amy Verone* on April 24 and *Dr. John Staudt* on May 15. Mark your 2008 calendars now.



Ginny Perrell gets last piece of pizza.