



THE SENTINEL

Vol. 19, No. 1

The Newsletter of the New Scotland Historical Association

Fall 2010

Memories

By Wyman (Cookie) Osterhout

There are four remaining Osterhout family members who actually lived most or some of their lives at the restaurant. [*Osterhout Brothers' Indian Ladder Lodge, located above New Salem on Route 85.*] I am the oldest of the four and spent my entire adolescence and teenage years growing up there.

The family certainly expected you to help out whenever possible and the first job I had was parking cars on Friday and Saturday nights. This was quite exciting for a young man of 14 or 15. Some of the patrons would just toss me their keys and say "park it, son," while they went on inside. This offered many possibilities. Quite often I would take their car on a little shakedown cruise through Sime Winne's orchard before parking it. One particular evening, Dicko Schultz, a gentleman from Voorheesville, tossed me his keys and went inside. I was feeling particularly adventurous that night so Ernie Rivenburg and I took a joy ride up through Thatcher's Park and beyond. Unfortunately that gentleman ran out of gas on the way home and couldn't figure out how that happened because he was sure he had plenty of gas. It wasn't until many years later that I confessed to him about the whole incident.

I graduated from parking cars to tending bar in the service bar. The service bar was where drinks were made for the patrons of the dance hall. It was out of sight of the general public so I could work there even though I was not yet 18 years old. It was a great place to learn how to mix drinks; you could refer to your bartender's manual without anyone knowing. The waitresses would pick up the orders and deliver them to the tables in the dance hall. This is where I had my formal training as a bar tender, so when I turned 18 and moved to the main bar, I had become quite a mixologist. There were still rare occasions when someone would order something you didn't know and you would still have to look up the ingredients in your manual.

There was a large walk in cooler in the cellar where kegs of beer, various kinds, were kept cold for the taps upstairs at the bar. The large door of the cooler was opened by pushing on a rod with a knob on the end that would pop open the door. There was only one problem with this operation, there was no inside handle! If the door accidentally swung closed while you were in there, you could not open the door. Your only solution was to

Marker Dedication

Sat., September 18
1 P.M.

VonRonne Home
Unionville

See page 3 for details



bang on the beer pipes leading upstairs behind the bar until someone heard you and came down and let you out before you got too cold. I don't think OSHA would have approved of this set-up.

During the war years when "Black Outs" were observed and there were black out wardens, some unique forms of advertising were used. One in particular I remember was, "come at eight, you can't stay late." Cars with their headlights had to be off the road at a certain hour. Buster Myers, the father of my friends Rick and Tad Myers, was the warden. He had his headlights taped over except for a small slit so he could just see to drive around and make sure the black out was being followed. How many of you remember pulling down the blackout shades in your home?

I recall the winter of 1939-40 when my grandfather built the playhouse in the cellar for my sister Marilyn. Marilyn was his first granddaughter. When spring arrived and it was time to take the house outside, it was too tall to fit out the cellar doors and Gramp had to take the roof off. I'm not sure if that was a design flaw or if

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NEW SCOTLAND HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

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President's Letter

Dear Members and Friends,

This has been a summer to remember when it comes to uncomfortable, humid days. A year ago, we wondered where summer had gone. It was cool and rainy. A year ago, garden produce was rotting. This year everything was plentiful. There is nothing dull about living in the great Northeast.

This is the 40th year of the New Scotland Historical Association. Marion Parmenter is the chairperson of the committee that is planning many interesting and fun-filled events to celebrate the milestone. Peg Neri, our vice president and program chair, has arranged for seven wonderful programs that are educational and entertaining. At the conclusion of the 40th year there will be a birthday party for this organization. We expect to have the New Scotland book of memories available at that time.

For many, the summer provided opportunities for family gatherings or reunions. During these events, I'm sure you relived happenings of the past. Remember when---? These are the stories that are so enjoyable to hear again and again. With the new book that the Historical Association is publishing, you have an opportunity to be a part of this collection of memories. This is an exciting project! As the committee members read the many articles that have already been received, we have learned much about life in our Town, laughed at many happenings, and recalled similar events in our own lives.

Take a few minutes to recall some special times in your life (before 1970) and write it down. Send a copy to Peg Dorgan, 1412 Delaware Tpk., Delmar, NY 12054 or use email: (pdorgan@nycap.rr.com).

Peg Dorgan

Exhibit Committee

The Exhibit for 2011 will be a celebration of NSHA's 40th anniversary. We will be using photographs from our archives showing all 40 years worth of exhibits, displays, activities, etc. If you have any photos you would like to add to next year's display, please contact Sandy Slingerland at 768-2462; your pictures will be scanned into the computer for further use and your original will be returned. There will be other activities throughout the year of 2011 as recognition of the Town of New Scotland's history and for our Historical Association.

Sandy Slingerland, Exhibit Chairperson

Raffle

Tickets for the New Scotland Historical Association raffle are being sent to members at the beginning of September. Proceeds from this year's raffle and donations received will help the Association with the cost of upgrading our technology equipment and also help purchase a swinging display panel board for the museum.

In Memoriam

With deep sympathy we note the passing of NSHA Members,
Beverly Gallup and Eleanor Turner.

Collection Committee

Back in the spring, I received an email from a person in Florida who said he had a tape that NSHA may be interested in. He was selling it on Craig's list, but contacted me after seeing our NSHA web site. His original message said he had purchased several boxes of reel-to-reel tapes about five years ago at an estate sale in Deland, Florida. The tape he thought we might be interested in had been recorded in 1958 at the dedication of the Clayton A. Bouton Jr-Sr High School. It also had a segment on it called "This is Your Life, C.A. Bouton." I knew that at the time of the dedication, Mr. Bouton was in the hospital and couldn't attend.

Mr. & Mrs. Bouton had moved to Florida after he retired, so the fact the tape showed up there was logical. My dad had been on the school board at the time and I remembered the taping of the program. A description that this man sent me said the tapes mentioned facts about the school project that was conceived in 1954, began construction in 1956 and opened in 1958. It contained a wealth of information.

I contacted the school and they had no copy of such a tape, but were very interested. I contacted a few local folks who all thought I should purchase it—it would be a wonderful addition to our archives. There was concern about tape quality, so the man arranged to play part of it over the phone for us to listen to. Bob, Janet (Berger) Klopp and I listened for quite while, and for Janet and me, it was like going back in a time machine. Bill Brayden's voice was talking about the project (he was High School Principal at the time), then many other folks we remembered spoke.

NSHA did purchase it, and we have it in our possession. Bob and I have listened to some of it. This fall we will explore ways to get it put on a CD so that folks can listen to it. We'll let you know as soon as it is available.

Another project we have undertaken is to transfer all of our photos to new acid free albums, which also have slipcases to protect the albums. We have purchased the albums and they should be transferred by mid-October. While we have always had our photos in acid free sleeves, these albums will offer much more support and protection for our photo collection.

Marion Parmenter, Collection Chairperson

Mission Statement

The Town of New Scotland Historical Association preserves, protects and promotes history in the Town of New Scotland through the stewardship of material culture directly related to the town. The purpose is to promote an appreciation of local history, heritage and culture through research, publications and educational programs.

Marker Dedication

The New Scotland Historical Association and the Historic Sites committee will be dedicating a marker at the VonRonne home in Unionville, NY. This site is also known as the Smoke House Farm. The Reveal take place on September on September 18, 2010, at 1 P.M. Refreshments will be served. The home is almost across the street from the Fire House in Unionville.

The home was built in the early 1800s by Peter H. Bradt. The original front door step that faces Rt. 443 (Delaware Tpk.) was once level with the highway. This road is now 20 feet below the front step. The most remarkable artifact is the front door, which came from the original First Jerusalem Church. In 1824, this church was razed and divided into two churches, the Jerusalem Reformed Church of Feura Bush and the Union Dutch Reformed Church of Unionville. The front door is all that remains of that original First Jerusalem Church. It will be available for viewing during the festivities. Everyone is welcome to share this historical event.

Sandy Slingerland, Historic Sites Committee

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he had planned to do it all along. The playhouse sat in the backyard behind the restaurant for many years and was played in by Marilyn, Butch, Dood and many other children who came to visit.

Another time my grandfather decided to buy a pony for his first granddaughter, my sister Marilyn. This presented a problem because he didn't own a truck to pick it up with! Gramp being the resourceful person that he was, decided to remove the back seat from the car and use that to solve the problem. I can imagine it created quite a scene to see a man driving down the road with a pony in the back seat of the car.

Inside the main entrance, the lounge area, there was a cloak room on your right, just before you would go into the dance hall. The patrons could check their coats and hats here for the evening. Many people worked here at different times and there was always a basket on the counter for tips. As a young boy, I would wait by the tip basket until no one was looking and I would snatch some change. I would drop the change somewhere in the dance hall so I could find it the next day. I didn't think that was stealing if I happened to find it on the floor. The beginning of my career in crime!

In 1937, the Osterhout Brothers purchased a Ford Woody station wagon. They had Osterhout Brothers' Indian Ladder Lodge painted on the side for advertise-



**Main bar at Osterhout's, 98 ft. around,
required 4 bartenders**

ment.

When you were serving draft beer, it was expected that you would have Hedricks on tap along with whatever other brands you might choose. The distributor for Hedricks was Emil Gunlack. The distributor for Doblars was John Oliver.

All of the table cloths, aprons and perhaps waitresses uniforms were obtained from Albany Coat and Apron Company.

When produce, ice and other items were being picked up in the city, a stop was also made at the Eagle Pie Company. The pies were placed in a wooden container with shelves, six to a side as I remember and a wooden bar was fastened in place to insure they did not slide out.

At the top of old New Salem Hill as you turned left on Rte. 85, was a small gas station and snack bar known as "Fineview."

Every evening after closing, the large mahogany bar had to be oiled. This was done with linseed oil and Turkish Towels. The oil would soak in over-nite and help preserve the shine and luster of the mahogany. It also eliminated any chance of water marks from the glasses or bottles.

What a treasure trove of memories Cookie has shared with us. Cookie's dad was Wyman Osterhout, for whom our Community Center is named.

Does any one else have memories of growing up in New Scotland? Businesses in New Scotland? School stories? Railroad memories? Church activities? Please share them with us!

**Cider Apples
Wanted**

HIGHEST CASH PRICE
WILL BE PAID FOR
GOOD SOUND CIDER APPLES
DELIVERED TO OUR FACTORY
AT VOORHEESVILLE, N. Y.
BEGINNING OCT. 1, 1928
DUFFY-MOTT CO., Inc.

More of Central Avenue Remembered

In the September, 2009, *Sentinel*, we visited a number of shops on Central Avenue, Albany, but left out a few for another issue. Compare what you remember with the following list and see how you did. These are more businesses I was able to find and they are in no particular order.

Brody's Kitchenware and Giftware, Central Silk and Curtain Shop, Central Wallpaper and Paint, Edison's Restaurant, Endicott-Johnson Shoes, Fox Shop, Madison Specialty Shop, Rubin's Fountain and Luncheonette, State Home and Auto Supply Co., Cooper Crossly Carpets, Clover Stores, John Kurtz, Jr. and Son, Bamer and McDowell Inc., The Religious Art Shop, Waterville Laundry, Miss Albany Diner, Albert E. Oliver Inc., Yager Pontiac, The Milne Shop, Weber's Bicycle Shop, Zwack's Funeral Home, Goodyear Tire, White Tower, Detroit Supply, and Western Auto.

Well, there you have it, the list that I could come up with. How well did you do and how many places had you completely forgotten about? As for myself, I didn't remember there being many businesses along the Avenue, but we all know how our memory is as we grow older! Fortunately I had a lot of help compiling this list from people who actually grew up on or near the Avenue. I hope you have as much fun reading the list as I did putting it together.

Remembering life experience is food for the soul.

Will

YARN-O-RAMA

1593 CENTRAL AVE.

ALBANY, N.Y. 12205

Telephone 869 7446

Do you remember this store?

Dues Reminder

Membership renewal notices have been sent out. If you have not sent them in, please do so as soon as possible. Or plan to pay them at the October meeting. Thanks to all who have already done so!

The following excerpts were taken from an article written by Arthur Gregg, that appeared in the *Altamont Enterprise* Feb. 25, 1977. Mr. Gregg lived in Voorheesville for three years about the time of the Spanish-American War, moving there when he was ten years old. His dad had become the Methodist Minister. He was Guilderland's Town Historian for many years. *(Article is reprinted with permission of the Altamont Enterprise.)*

Voorheesville's Post Office

By Arthur B. Gregg

.....Now let us see how Voorheesville village got its name. In 1862 a wealthy lawyer supposedly connected with the Albany and Susquehanna Railroad that was planning a line from Albany to Binghamton moved out to the village and built a large, imposing house still standing on the hill north of the village. Soon there after, the new village took the name of Voorheesville from this same Alonzo B. Voorhees.

The railroad was completed through this section in 1863. The station was built the next year, but was called on their timetables "New Scotland" until the 1880's.

Still there was no post office, but from an interview given in 1950 by my old friend Frank VanAuker, then 90 years old, we learn that the mail for the new Voorheesville village was brought from Albany by stagecoach to New Scotland, from there by horseback, and dumped on the counter at Reid's General Store (now the home to right of present elementary school parking lot), where the citizens searched through the pile for their own mail.

Officially, the first post office in Voorheesville was established Feb. 11, 1868 and the first postmaster was James A. Reid, the owner of the general store mentioned previously.

In 1890, Mr. Voorhees left town and a man named Farlin, said to be another lawyer of wealth, moved into the village, and had enough influence to have the name of the post office changed from Voorheesville to Farlin. It was on Aug. 27, 1890 that it officially became Farlin, and the postmaster was John H. Shafer.

Mr. Farlin stayed only two years and when he left, the people hastily showed their desire to have the name of their post office changed back to Voorheesville. It must have been hectic times for the citizens.

The name of the post office was changed back to

The “Rawleigh Man”

Lorraine Felter

Life on our farm in the early 1940s was secluded by today’s standards and there was always a lot of work to be done. The diversion of visitors was always welcome and the Rawleigh man’s arrival was a big deal and looked forward to because he came bearing all sorts of goodies!

Our Rawleigh man was from Clarksville; Frank Gates was his name. The Gates lived on Slingerland Avenue in the house next door to where Mimi Houck lives now. My mom and dad knew him from living on a farm near the village for a number of years before moving to the farm. His vehicle would pull into the yard and we’d gather around to learn/hear about the newest items he had to offer; there were salves, ointments, liniments (camphor balm was one my mom bought regularly,) and tonics. He always had pudding mixes and pie fillings (coconut and lemon pie mix were popular at our house,) spices and fruit mixes. If we were lucky, mom would get a fruit drink mixture or two to please us kids (the forerunner to today’s Kool-aid), a pudding or pie mix, camphor balm to ease sore throat symptoms and dad’s aches and pains from strained muscles. Flavorings—vanilla and maple. My mom made our pancake syrup with the maple flavoring for years.

What an amazing array of products for children who did not get off the farm often!



(cont. from page 5)

Voorheesville Aug. 19, 1892 and has remained the same to this day.....

.....Up until some 40 years ago [about 1937], the position of postmaster was determined by whether a Democrat or a Republican was in the White House. Thus it was when I first arrived in Voorheesville the postmaster was Jesse Joslin, who had received his appointment during the administration of President Grover Cleveland, and housed his post office in the Joslin Brothers Hardware and Tin Store at the very end block of lower Main St.

But soon afterward, President William McKinley was inaugurated. The postmaster appointed was Frank Bloomingdale, and he located the post office in his hay, grain and coal business building up the street a bit. I remember that in 1899 the village was incorporated and Postmaster Bloomingdale became the first mayor.

The Village of Voorheesville is to be congratulated for having an unbroken history of having its own post office for 109 years—certainly a record in these days of consolidation and discontinuation of small post offices.

Mr. Gregg wrote this article in 1977. The Voorheesville post office has been in existence 142 years at the current time!

The following was reprinted from the Albany County Post, Oct. 19, 1928 issue, with permission of the Altamont Enterprise.

Literacy Tests For New Voters

VOORHEESVILLE, Oct. 18—Literacy tests for new voters will be offered and certificates issued at the Voorheesville school Wednesday, Oct. 24, from 3 to 4 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 31, from 7 to 8 p.m. Election day, Nov. 6, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

At other times during the two weeks preceding election by appointment with the principal of the school, Clayton A. Bouton.

**The Museum will be open all day on
Election Day
November 2**

Don't forget to Vote!!

New Scotland Historical Association Program Schedule 2010—2011

October 5th Tuesday 7:30 P.M. *The Life of a Civil War Soldier*

A living history presentation by Private Matt George of the 134th New York Infantry. Private George describes the everyday life of a soldier at this pivotal time in American history. Matt George is the president of the Capital District Civil War Roundtable.

November 1st Monday 7:30 P.M. *The History of the Trolleys in the City of Albany*—presented by Tony Opalka, local author and City of Albany historian.

December 5th Sunday 2 P.M. *An Old Fashioned Christmas Celebration*---
We will be kicking off the 40th Anniversary of the New Scotland Historical Association with an old-fashioned celebration featuring holiday songs and refreshments from an earlier time.

February 6th Sunday 2 P.M. *The Art of Surveying, Now and Then*

A historical overview of the art of surveying and the equipment used with some famous and not-so-famous local highlights. Presented by Cynthia Elliot, licensed surveyor and local resident.

March 6th Sunday 2 P.M. *The Civilian Conservation Corps*

A look at the history and operation of the CCC presented by Diane Galusha, author of Another Day, Another Dollar: The CCC in the Catskills.

April 5th Tuesday 7:30 P. M. *Sparks From the Fire*

A detailed look at the devastating fire that damaged the NYS Capitol Building one hundred years ago. Presented by local historian, educator and historical re-enactor Stuart Lehman from the NYS Office of General Services.

May 3rd Tuesday 7:30 P.M. *Songs To Make A Difference*

A musical program highlighting the use of parody in song as a means of political persuasion in the 19th century. Presented by Kate Boardman, musician and historian from Cooperstown, N. Y.

All programs will be held at the Wyman Osterhout Community Center, 7 Old New Salem Road, New Salem, off Route 85; they are free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. The museum will be open one half hour before the program begins.

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Smith's Tavern
Stanton's Feura Farm
Stewart's Shops
Voorheesville Hannaford**
Thanks to all of our Corporate Sponsors for their continued support!

Mark Your Calendars!

Tuesday, Oct. 5th 7:30 P.M.
Our first NSHA Program of the year!

The Life of a Civil War Soldier
Private Matt George—134 New York Infantry

**If you would like to become a member,
please fill out the form and mail!**

- \$10 Individual
- \$15 Family
- \$25 Sustaining
- \$100 Life (per person)

Name _____

Street _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

**Please send dues to: Melanie Ernst
Membership Chair
P.O. Box 250
Clarksville, NY 12041**

Museum Hours

**The museum is
open year-round
on Sunday
from
2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.
Handicap Accessible**

THE SENTINEL

New Scotland Historical Association
P. O. Box 541
Voorheesville, New York 12186