

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 crucifix is the center point of the painting "Where Light and Shadow Meet" which hangs over the fireplace mantel in the North Room.

### NEWS FROM THE COAL BIN

By Amy Verone

#### AMY VERONE REQUESTS THE PLEASURE OF YOUR COMPANY

With all the site research done over the last few years (the new **Historic Resource Study, Archaeological Overview, the Natural Resources inventories, surveys of the archival & photo collections**, and more), staff has been talking about a way to share this information with volunteers. However, no one wants to sit down and read through a thousand plus pages of material, especially Amy sure doesn't want to. Instead, Amy and her staff are going to institute a series of "roundtables", informal discussions where staff and volunteers can get together and talk about these research studies and other activities.

The First Roundtable is  
Wednesday, January 24, 2007  
at 3:00 p.m. in Old Orchard  
in the conference room

Subsequent roundtables will be held on different days of the week so that they will be more convenient for different groups of volunteers. Please try to come even on your "off" days. Hope to see you all there.

#### WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

The Cultural Resources staff has been asked to develop training materials for new staff and volunteers. We thought it would be appropriate to start by talking to the staff and volunteers who are currently "on the front lines" meeting visitors, and hearing about what interests those visitors most about the Roosevelts and the Home. There are surveys in the back office of the Roosevelt Home asking about which rooms and objects you feature on your tours. Please complete the survey!! Fill out two or three forms if you need more space!! We need your help to make this project successful!!

#### A WORK IN PROGRESS



Dr. Catherine Forslund in the Drawing Room. Forslund's first book was a biography of *Anna Chenalt*, the Chinese woman who married General *Claire Chenault*, leader of the *Flying Tigers* during World War II. Sagamore Hill is part of the research circuit that has taken Dr. Forslund to Harvard, the National Archives, Library of Congress, the Birthplace and to the papers of Sir *Arthur Lee* in England.

We recently received a visit from Dr. *Catherine Forslund*, an author who is researching *Edith Kermit Roosevelt*. Dr. Forslund is a professor at Rockford College in Rockford, Illinois, where she teaches U.S. history. The book about Edith is part of a series on modern first ladies (of whom Edith is considered the first.) to be published by the University of Kansas Press.

The focus of the book on Edith will concentrate on the presidential years. The tentative title of the book will be *Edith Kermit Roosevelt: Victorian Modern First Lady*. A native of the Chicago suburbs,

# The Rough Writer

The News of the Volunteers at Sagamore Hill



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TR's pistol back on display



Christmas in the North Room

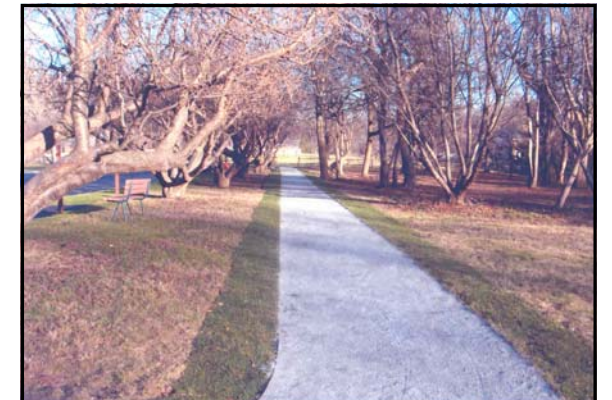


Holiday display of Sagamore Hill in the White House 2001

#### SITE NEWS: EVENTS

The unseasonably warm weather permitted the contractor to complete work on the parking lot, and it looks very nice. Not only is there room for large buses to maneuver with greater ease, but the entrance and exit roads to the parking lot have been widened as well. A new path now leads from the Visitor Center to the path through the field to Old Orchard.

A new drainage ditch constructed along the fence line leads to the "Pig Pool", a quote from *Paul Dama*. The pool is at the intersection of the site, Wang's land and the land to the east, right off the service road to Old Orchard. Go take a look.



#### SITE NEWS: PEOPLE



Cyndy, Toby, Judi and Madeline

Visitors to the site were treated to three Saturday, afternoons of caroling on Nov. 25, Dec. 2 and Dec. 16. Volunteers *Toby Selda* and *Madeline Nelson*, accompanied by fellow singers *Cyndy Gorman* and *Judi Anciewicz* spent two hours each day singing on the grounds of the TRH. The accompanying photo was taken by an enraptured guest.



Congratulations to *Scott Gurney* and his wife *Kristen Herron* on the birth of their daughter, *Jane Neeve Gurney*. George's sister weighed in at 6 pounds 11 ounces on December 14 at North Shore Hospital in Plainview.

*Shaun Roche* has taken issues from the last two years of the *Rough Writer* and put them on the Sagamore Hill web site. If you missed an issue, you can now read it at [www.nps.gov/sahi](http://www.nps.gov/sahi)

## TAKE A MESSAGE: SNOUDER'S DRUG STORE

The *Big Apple Almanac*, drawn as a cartoon by *Patrick M. Reynolds* in the Sunday, July 1, 1990, *Newsday*, featured the following story on the telephone coming to Oyster Bay: "Some time in the 1890's, *Arthur Snouder*, the owner of the drug store in Oyster Bay, decided that his town should have telephones. He convinced enough of his customers to pay for a wire from Locust Valley, the closest point that the telephone lines had reached at that time. Soon there were eight phones in Oyster Bay and the Snouders ran the switchboard in their store. One who did not get a telephone was the owner of Sagamore Hill, *Theodore Roosevelt*."

Even after he was elected governor in 1898, Roosevelt did not get a telephone. Arthur, Jr., the druggist's son, used to carry messages from the drugstore three miles to Sagamore Hill, day and night. The Guv signed a delivery stub for each message. Arthur was paid fifty cents per stub. Mr. Roosevelt finally had a phone installed at Sagamore Hill after he became president of the U.S. in 1901. He made a lot of momentous decisions on this phone in the pantry."

The artist, Mr. Reynolds, correctly shows the phone number 67 on the phone, but his depiction of the house shows its appearance after the addition of the North Room in 1905. Sorry to be picky.

## WHO IS THIS MAN AND HOW IS HE CONNECTED TO THEODORE ROOSEVELT



He is *Thomas Nast* the political cartoonist. Born in Germany in 1840, Nast worked for *Harper's Weekly* for 25 years. His cartoon, *Peace in 1862*, was directed against those in the North who opposed prosecution of the American Civil War. President *Abraham Lincoln*, because of this and other cartoons, considered Nast "our best recruiting sergeant." Nast's cartoons help bring down *Boss Tweed* of Tammy Hall for corruption. His drawing of Tweed helped the Spanish authorities apprehend the fugitive who had

fled to Spain after escaping from prison.

Nast is famous for his classic American version of *Santa Claus*; *the Republican Party Elephant*; *the Democratic Party Donkey*; *Tammany Hall Tiger*; *Columbia*, a graceful image of America as a

woman; Uncle Sam (originally drawn in 1830s but Nast added the whiskers) and John Bull, a rotund image of Britain's spirit. In the 1890's his attempt to start a magazine failed.

Nast visited Sagamore Hill a number of times. His Christmas card depicting Santa Claus and inscribed "New Life in the Old House, I Don't Know When I've Felt So At home Here?" hangs in the Nursery.

In 1902 TR appointed Nast as the United States Consul General in Guayaquil, Ecuador. During a deadly yellow fever outbreak, Nast heroically stayed to the end helping numerous diplomatic missions and businesses close, to escape the contagion. At age 62, in 1902, he died of yellow fever contracted there. His body was returned to the states where he was interred in *Woodlawn Cemetery* in the Bronx.



## TRIVIA

Hanging in the TRH is a painting that shows a large roadside crucifix on what looks like a highway overpass. What is that picture and where does it hang?

## SAFETY COMMITTEE INFORMATION

The Emergency Management Plan will be receiving an update on bio-terrorism as well as a more detailed hurricane provision. New fire evacuation procedures have been incorporated into the Sagamore Hill Safety Program binder. A new map of fire exit routes and the location of all fire extinguishers should be ready shortly, and many of the fire extinguishers now sitting on the floor will have to be wall mounted. Just a reminder, **people are more important than things**, so in case of a fire, get the visitors and yourself out of the building.

## GOVERNOR QUOTES TR IN INAUGURAL ADDRESS

In his inaugural address, Governor *Eliot Spitzer* quoted TR when he said, "It is only through labor and painful effort, by grim energy and resolute courage that we move on to better things."

## TR IN DECEMBER 1906

- 12/3 A resolution introduced in the Senate by Sen. *Joseph Foraker* forced TR to present all the evidence on the Brownsville discharging of the entire *25 U.S Infantry Regiment (Colored)*
- 12/4 Presented his message to Congress
- 12/8 Among his visitors were *Mark Twain*, *John Phillip Sousa* and *Admiral George Dewey*
- 12/10 It was announced that TR became the first American to win the *Nobel Peace Prize*
- 12/15 Had a meeting with *Buffalo Bill* on western irrigation
- 12/17 Special messages to Congress on the Panama Canal, Navy personnel bill an Public Land laws
- 12/19 (& other dates) had meetings on the shortage of railway freight cars
- 12/26-31 was spending the holidays at Pine Knot

## NEWS FROM THE TRA

*Dr. Cathal Nolan*, the recently appointed President of the TRA, who had been selected as the successor of *Dr. John A. Gable* has resigned before his reign even began. Family problems caused *Dr. Nolan* to rethink his move to Oyster Bay. *Norman Parson*, former TRA president, is overseeing the TRA office until the Succession Search Committee has a chance to select a new president.

## STOLEN GUN NOW BACK ON DISPLAY

TR's *Rough Rider* sword has been joined by the pistol he carried up Kettle Hill and on to San Juan Heights. The Spanish-American War case in the museum has been redone by *Cornerstone Displays*. *Bill May* rebuilt the display case holding TR's war weapons.



## NEW DISPLAY IN THE MUSEUM



*Mark Koziol* recently installed a new display in the rotating display case (the display rotates, not the case) in the theater at Old Orchard. The case now contains a display of philatelic information and its relevance to TR.

## NEWS OF AND FOR VOLUNTEERS

*Chris Ghent* volunteers at a hospital in Glen Cove. One of the patients upon whom she called was *Paul Liebold* who was undergoing physical therapy. We wish him a full recovery.

Any volunteer who has an opportunity to make a presentation on TR to a group in their area now has the tools to do a professional job. There are a number of powerpoint programs available for you to use. *Charles Markis* is seeing that each program has captions added to photos in the presentation. When everything is ready, all volunteers will be notified.

## DR. JOHN A. GABLE LECTURE SERIES FOR 2007 PRESENTED BY THE FRIENDS OF SAGAMORE HILL

Thursday, March 22<sup>ND</sup> – "On the Road with Roosevelt" *Theodore Roosevelt's* Railroad Tour of the Western United States. Speaker: *Amy Verone*, Chief of Cultural Resources at Sagamore Hill

Thursday, April 26<sup>TH</sup> – "The Role of a Lifetime" Thirty years of lessons & amusing anecdotes portraying *Theodore Roosevelt*. Speaker: *James Foote*, actor & historian

Thursday, May 24<sup>TH</sup> – "The Roosevelt Women", Sights & revelations about the Roosevelt ladies. Speaker: *Betty Boyd Caroli*, noted historian, biographer & author

All programs begin at 7:30 pm (doors open at 7)  
Christ Church Parrish Hall 61 East Main Street,  
Oyster Bay

Free Admission Refreshments served

For Information: (516) 364-1869

## HOLIDAY PARTY WAS TOP NOTCH

The Swan Club did a great job in preparing a delicious meal but without preparation by individuals, the Holiday Party would never have come off. Thanks to *Ginny Perrell* for coordinating the event and with husband Jay, buying and shlepping wine for the raffle. *Leslie Handler* wrapped presents between tours and her husband Martin had to carry what ever she wrapped. *Greg Marshall* donated many of the prizes and friends of *Milton Elis* donated china and crystal gifts. *Roy Fuchs* saw to it that everyone received a raffle ticket and as luck would have, everyone present received a prize. *Max Kleinman* opened the evening with a heartfelt tribute to the late *Ernie Honig*. *Charles Markis* took care of the publicity by doing the flyer and talking up the event. As has been their custom, the *Friends of Sagamore Hill* subsidized a portion of everyone's registration fee. *Joni Foote*, their treasurer handled the finances. Our thanks go to all of them.

Special thanks go to *Toby Selda* and *Madeline Nelson* and their fellow "Sweet Adelines," Close Enough Quartet *Judi Anciewicz* and *Laura Riffaud*, who serenaded the diners after the dinner. We owe Laura a debt of gratitude. She filled in for regular, *Cyndy Gorman*, who had a conflict that night.

