

The Rough Writer

The News of the Volunteers at Sagamore Hill



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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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TRIVIA ANSWER



The box is located on the bookcase in the Drawing Room.

NEWS FROM THE COAL BIN

By Mark Koziol

Be ready for the December 22, 2006 nationwide release of the movie *A Night at the Museum*. The movie is a fantasy, thriller, comedy starring *Ben Stiller* as a nighttime guard in a history-science museum. Strange things happen at night when the museum displays come alive. Stiller is chased by Rough Rider *Theodore Roosevelt* as portrayed by *Robin Williams*. Mark, who saw a trailer for the film, says that through the wonders of make-up, Williams resembles TR in appearance.

The *Gutson Borglum* bust of TR is on the move. It will be out on loan for two years to the office of Interior Secretary *Richard Kempthorne*. Both Borglum and the secretary are natives of Idaho. Amy and Sue will be transporting the bust to Washington, DC on October 2.

ALICE RAKES IT IN

The Jan.26, 1906 *NY World* reported the following under the headline *The gifts to Miss Alice* with the sub-heading *Will Surpass Any Collection Ever Seen in This Country*.

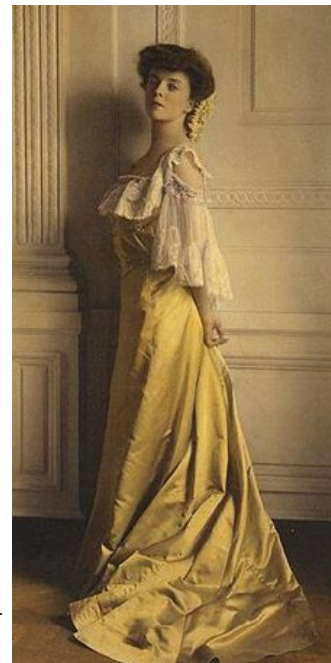
“The gifts Miss Roosevelt will receive for her bridal display will be many and costly. These will include presents from the Czar, the Mikado, the Empress of China, the King and Queen of England, the Sultan and possibly the King and Queen of Italy. Nearly all royal gifts take then-form of jewelry, laces or silk, all of which are among the highly-rated articles, when it comes to paying duty. However, if gifts are sent to the legations there is no duty, and the presentations can be made by the envoys and ambassadors in person.

Miss Roosevelt’s gifts will surpass any collection ever gathered in this country. Invitations have gone abroad to every ruler who has a representative in this country or to whom this country sends an envoy. There are 39 nations holding friendly relations with Hail Columbia, and this does not cover all to whom representatives are sent.

News of the marriage has awakened great interest abroad. The Roman Pontiff, who admires the vigorous American President so greatly that he is having all his (TR’s) works translated into Italian.....a gift of a mosaic, designed in the papal institution in the Vatican. This gift is meant to compliment Mr. Longworth as well Miss Roosevelt.

The Sultan of Turkey is another who is deeply engrossed in the preparation for the nuptials. His gift, according to those who know his traditions, is sure to be a priceless gem – a diamond, ruby, emerald or sapphire.”

In an adjoining column, *Envy Lucky Guests*, the writer relates that between 1,200 and 1,500 invitations to the Longworth-Roosevelt wedding were sent out. 1,500 is not that large a number and there may be some disgruntled people. At least ten Washington matrons are making reservations at Florida hotels. No woman with any social pretensions will care to acknowledge that she was not invited to the nuptial ceremony. But, of course if she is ill and has to go to Florida, her reputation will be saved.



Front Porch of TRH under repair



Wood nymph candlestick with rosebud candle holders located in the Drawing Room



TR’s sword hanging next to George Washington in the Library

TR AND THE MODERN NAVY



The submarines were named after prominent Americans, starting with *George Washington*, and included Native Americans (*Tecumseh*), educators (*Booker T. Washington*) and of course, presidents. The third vessel in the series was the

When we think of TR and the modern Navy, we usually think of the *Great White Fleet* and then fast forward to the *USS Theodore Roosevelt*, the nuclear carrier that bears his name. However in the early 1970s, the Navy launched a series of ballistic missile submarines, whose primary function was to protect the United States. They were armed with *Polaris* missiles that were ready to retaliate if the US were attacked from the air.

USS Theodore Roosevelt (SSBN 600). These submarines were phased out after a number of years and replaced by the *Trident* class vessels carrying *Poseidon* missiles with nuclear warheads. The *Submarine Force Museum* in Groton, CT also has a model of the third modern submarine purchased by the Navy, the *Plunger*. This is the sub that TR submerged in when it visited Oyster Bay harbor in 1905.

Since TR is considered the “patron saint” of submariners, having recommended that they receive “hazardous duty pay.” A contingent from the *Fleet Reserve Association, Submarine Group* visits his grave every year. This year’s visit is scheduled for October 29, 2006.



SITE NEWS: EVENTS

TRIVIA QUESTION



Where in the TRH would you find this cloisonné box?



The front steps at the TRH took a hit from an unauthorized vehicle on the driveway. This means more work for *Dennis Mott* and his cohorts, who have been working diligently replacing the wood floor on the piazza. Now we will need repair the steps.

The roadway leading from the entry gate to the maintenance building has been resurfaced. If you look around the site

you will see that many sections of the split rail fence have been replaced. Two noticeable sections are in front of and behind Old Orchard.

The Long Island horseless Carriage Club held a display of their vehicles on September 10 and attracted an additional four hundred visitors.



ELDERHOSTEL PROGRAM A PLUS FOR THE SITE

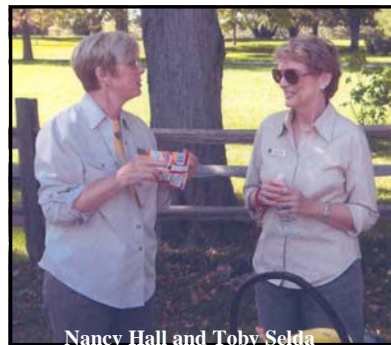


The last of the four Elderhostel programs held at Sagamore Hill concluded on September 26, 2006. One hundred twenty individuals signed up for the four single session programs with close to ninety others on standby. The Elderhostel attendees have rated the events held on the site to be above average for one day programs run by that organization. Thanks go to speakers *Amy Verone* and *Edward Renehan*, house tour guides

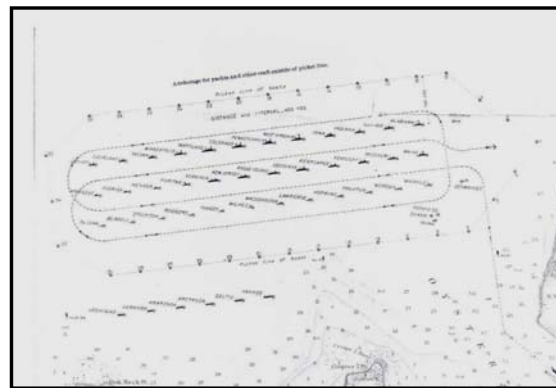
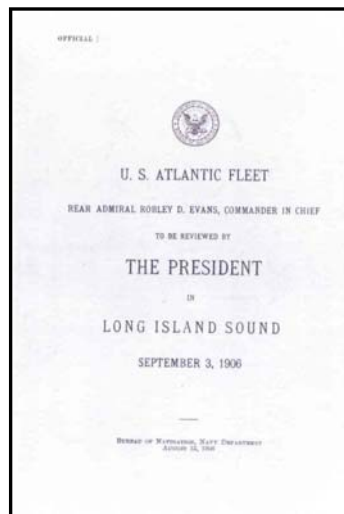


Edward Renehan

Charles Markis, Howard Ehrlich, Josh Reyes and *Milton Elis*. Logistics coordinators *Toby Selda, Nancy Hall* and *Rita Onorato* handled signs, registration and food service. But the biggest thanks go to volunteer *Toby Selda* who had the idea for the Elderhostel program and followed up for two years before the event became a reality. Toby was assisted by *Charles Markis* in the administrative details.



Nancy Hall and Toby Selda



SAFETY COMMITTEE NEWS

Regular fire extinguisher drills and fire evacuation drills are now a part of the site's standard procedure. The early summer walk-through, with staff and volunteers pointed out the need for better evacuation procedures. Evacuation maps are being updated and will be in all occupied site buildings.

Noreen Hancock is overseeing the purchase of three Automated External Defibrillators (AED) following extensive research and lengthy paperwork required by New York State law.

The law requires that public places with AED's have a physician to oversee the program. Sagamore Hill's program is being overseen by Mineola cardiologist, Dr. *Jeffrey Snow*. According to the machines manufacturer, Medtronic, the **Lifepack CR Plus AED**, "uses the latest technology that allows the internal computer (of the unit) to analyze the heart's rhythm, making it possible for individuals without medical training to deliver potentially lifesaving treatment." Sagamore Hill's first aid classes currently include AED training. The units will be in the TRH, Old Orchard, and the Visitors Center.

TR IN September 1906

During the entire month TR was at Sagamore Hill

- 9/3 Reviewed the North Atlantic Fleet from the Mayflower in Oyster Bay Harbor (see program on lower left)
- 9/8 Delivered a speech at Christ Church in Oyster Bay
- 9/14 Held a conference on Cuban insurrection
- 9/19 Signed proclamation opening acreage in Oklahoma to homesteaders
Signed an order extending eight-hour law to government workers
- 9/28 Left for Provincetown, Mass on the Mayflower, to review the North Atlantic Fleet
- 9/29 On board USS Missouri for target practice and lunch

VOLUNTEER TRIP BEATS EXPECTATIONS



Hill-Stead

Over the past two years, *Charles Markis* has preached the gospel of *Theodate Pope Riddle*, the architect responsible for the rebuilding of TR's Birthplace. To hear Charles enthuse about Theodate you would expect a combination of *Mother Theresa, Clara Barton* and *Eleanor Roosevelt*. Our visit to her home, *Hill-Stead* in Farmington, CT proved the Charles had every reason to enthuse. Her home, inherited from her father has a huge collection of impressionist paintings in nearly every room. The paintings are displayed for the benefit of the home's occupants and would make any museum director salivate.

Ms. Pope's will stipulated that no artifact or painting can leave the living areas and nothing new can be brought in. There are no "of the era" furnishings and visitors can walk through all the rooms. Our visit to the house and gardens ended with a top notch lunch from a local caterer.



Lunch at Hill-Stead



Oldgate host Evan Cowles. Sharon Stotz & Peggy Hall, our guides from Hill-Stead

Our group then visited *Oldgate*, the home of *Evan and Bree Cowles*, the grandson of TR's sister *Anna "Bamie" Cowles*. The house is not open to the public but the Cowles most graciously welcomed our group. Although the house is not a museum, Charles emphasized that we were not to touch and not to take pictures in the house. *Bree Cowles* then showed us some "family treasures". She showed us pictures of the exterior of 6 West 57th St., *TR Senior's* home and the floor plans for that house. *Amy Verone* had never seen the floor plans prior to the visit and had to restrain herself from appropriating them.

Our thanks go to *Ginney Perrell* for arranging for lunch and keeping track of all the bus passengers, and to *Charles Markis* for the arrangements with our respective hosts and for securing transportation. Special thank to the *Friends of Sagamore Hill* for paying for the lunch.

NEWS FROM THE VOLUNTEER ADVISORY BOARD

At its September 13 meeting, current VAB members *Max Kleinman, Virginia Perrell* and *Wayne Wagner* were re-nominated for another term in office. They were re-elected, along with *Milton Elis* as Board Chairman and *Leslie Handler* as Secretary.

Ginny Perrell reported that 25 people had signed up for the volunteer trip to Hill-Stead (see separate article about the trip). *Toby Selda* reported on the *Elderhostel* program on 9/12 at Sagamore Hill. (see separate article).

Charles Markis reported on the growth of the **Junior Ranger Program** that now includes four different booklets. Two of the booklets are geared to students visiting the site, usually 4th & 5th graders. In addition to Junior Ranger status awarded at the time of the youngsters visit, there is an additional requirement that will earn the child a Junior Ranger Patch.

Superintendent *Greg Marshall* distributed letterhead made especially for the VAB. This will avoid confusion where previously volunteers had used official site letterheads. Thanks go to Administrative Officer, *Monica Chirot* for designing the new letterhead.

Greg also asked for input into the design of the **Public Use Report**, a copy of which is posted each month at the TRH. We are asking all volunteers to examine the report and to make any suggestion on the format, understanding and usefulness of this document.

Milton Elis asked about the status of useable flashlights at the TRH. VAB was advised most of the flashlights are at the manufacturer for overhaul and should be on site soon.