



Historical Highlights

Official Publication of the Sand Lake Historical Society

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Fall 2007

Upcoming Programs

- On **September 11th** there will be covered dish picnic at Salem United Methodist Church beginning at 6:30PM. Bring a dish to share. Place setting, dessert and beverage will be provided. William H. Frueh, Jr. and friends will be in costume and bring stories and music of Revolutionary War.
- **September 15th** is our appraisal day for “antiques and everything” (*see below*).
- On **September 20th** at 7:00 PM at Algonquin Middle School, a narrated presentation to whet your appetite for over 200 new pictures on the Town of Sand Lake will be given at a reception for our new book *Images of America SAND LAKE REVISITED*. Books may be ordered and will be arriving October 1st. Refreshments will be served
- Our **October 9th** program, 7:30 PM at Sand Lake Baptist Church 2960 Route 43 will be "Post-Katrina New Orleans: A Preservationist's View of Loss and Recovery." Since Hurricane Katrina struck in 2005, Trina Mace Learned has worked with the National Trust for Historic Preservation to survey and save New Orleans' devastated historic neighborhoods. A native of Averill Park, Trina currently lives and works in New Haven, CT. She is principal and founder of Learned 1 LLC, a facilities planner, Vice Chairman of the City's Historic District Commission and serves on the board of the New Haven Preservation Trust.
- **November 13th** at 7:30 PM at the Town Hall, Annmarie Lanese will present a preview of the documentary, “Sittin’ on a Million”, which she and Penny Lane have produced on the many faces of Mame Faye, who ran a brothel in Troy from 1905 to 1943.
- **December 11th** we again will enjoy the hospitality of Ron Berti and Barbara Neu at their historic home, the Knowlson House on Schumann Road. Everyone brings a sumptuous covered dish to our Christmas party. The program will be a slide presentation, “From Holly to Bubble Lights” highlighting the evolution of Christmas traditions and decorations by Kathy Sheehan, registrar and historian of the Rensselaer County Historical Society. Included will be the evolution of Santa Claus from Myron King's illustration in the poem “A Visit from St. Nicholas” first published in 1823 in the Troy Sentinel Newspaper to the evolving department store tableaux of the late 19th century to bubble lights and decorations of the 1950s.

Antiques and Everything appraisal day and consignment sale

The Sand Lake Historical Society (SLHS) is sponsoring a fall appraisal day at the Sand Lake Town Hall at junction of Routes 66 & 43 in Sand Lake, N.Y. on Saturday, September 15th from 10 – 2. This appraisal day promises to be bigger and better than ever, because there will be multiple appraisers with a wide range of expertise, and an antique consignment sale. Where else could you receive an expert's verbal evaluation for \$5 per item and/or bring an item to sell???

Appraisers for the event are Charles Flint of Art and Antiques Inc., Lennox, Ma. (who served as a consultant for the television program “Antiques Roadshow”) and Donna Fisher of Always Antiques, Loudonville, N.Y. They specialize in American and European 18th and 19th century porcelains, linens, jewelry, paintings, early glassware and furniture, Native American items, 18th century textiles, baskets, Shaker items, clocks, dolls and general antiques and collectables.

A consignment sale opportunity will also be part of the day's activities. Do you have attic or garage sale antiques that you are tired of dusting or storing? Would you like to have the SLHS sell them for you, on consignment, during the Appraisal Day?

Anyone having historical documents/pictures relating to Sand Lake is urged to contact Mary French at 674-5710. A document scanning service is anticipated, so the items can become part of the town's permanent record. SLHS will return the artifacts to their owners on the spot.

Don't miss this opportunity to have your valuables appraised by experts, sell your no longer needed items, record your town artifacts and, while you're at it, purchase a delicious homemade lunch.

For more information please call Mary French @ 674-5710.

SLHS memorial scholarship awards

Jeffrey L. Snyder and Alicia Bentley were recipients of the Sand Lake Historical Society Memorial Awards for excellence in history given in memory of William Freeman, Arthea Gibbs, Willis Larkin, Donald Radz, Philip Pierce, Marion Smauder, and Theresa Rutherford.

The following thank you was received:

Ms. Annamae Hebert,

Thank you for awarding me the "Sand Lake Historical Society Memorial Award". It has been my great pleasure to work with the Sand Lake Historical Society through my Eagle Scout Project. Through this project I have gotten to know the historical society. I am honored to be recognized by such a wonderful organization. Sincerely, Jeffrey L. Snyder

SLHS on the Internet

Just a reminder that we're on the Internet at:

<http://members.aol.com/sandlakehistory/>

See a schedule of upcoming meetings and events as well as a number of feature stories!

Dues are due!

The number after your name on this issue of *Historical Highlights* is your membership date. Dues are for the year June 1 - May 31. If the number is 2007 you're due and we thank you for renewing your membership (form elsewhere in this issue). Not renewing means your subscription ends with this issue.

From the president

Thanks to current members of the Board for serving. Your effort, interest, commitment of time and imagination are appreciated. Rewards are results. You make "it" work! The privilege of being a part of "it" is mine. Thanks to Grace Briscoe, Alan Fuess, Barbara Mohan and Clare Radz for serving on the Board. Welcome, Mary French, Michael Middleton and Millie Warger, and those who continue, Annamae Hebert, Marion Hacker, Edith Gundrum, Karen Wood, Andy Mace, Ross French, and Gary Meislin. Gratitude is worth repeating.

Encouragement to read this issue of *Historical Highlight* for events vital to the Society and informative to all!

Two special meetings of the Board were held this summer for planning participation at the June 23rd Library Day and a meeting to respond to the Sand Lake Planning Board as "persons of interest" about the planned construction of Rite Aid at West Sand Lake.

The booth at Kiwanis Summerfest was visited by several interested people, young and old.

Memberships are, yet, arriving. Several include contributions. Thank you to all who continue by

renewing and joining. Contributions help cover increased postage so are applied to "good use."

See you at meetings! Read the *Advertiser* for announcements. The Society Logo signals announcements. Note the location change to Town Hall for November 13th. — *Nancy W. Davis, President*

Fill 'er up!

Publisher's Note: "You can trust your car to the man who wears the star...the big, bright Texaco Star!" ... or to the man at the sign of the Flying Horse (SOCOY, later Mobil), "put a tiger in your tank" (at Esso), "custom blend" your gasoline (at Sunoco), or just fill up on either Good Gulf or Gulf No-Nox!

These were just some of the gasoline brands available in the Town of Sand Lake, back when you pulled up to the pumps, your tires running over an air hose that rang a bell inside and signaled an attendant to approach your car. He (yes, almost always male back then) not only pumped your gasoline while you sat in the car, but usually washed your windshield and at least offered to "check under the hood"! And you remained in the car while the attendant brought back your change or your gas company card and receipt!

That's just one reason they were called "service stations" back in those days. Most of these stations also offered tires, oil and lubrication and at least some level of repairs.

Nowadays, it's different. Gas stations (most also "convenience stores"), with their 6, 8, 12 or more pumps, all self-service, most all set up to take your credit card to save you the walk inside...unless you're hungry or need a quick coffee, gallon of milk or Lotto ticket! Oh, if you look hard enough, you might find that quart of oil you need – and then you get to put it in yourself. At least most pumps have large awnings overhead to keep the rain and snow off you.

"Full service" is pretty much a thing of the past nowadays. But many of us can still remember pulling into Werger's in West Sand Lake in the family's 1956 Plymouth wagon, or filling up the '36 Ford at Nash's in Sand Lake. If the old Chevy Bel Air didn't mind, maybe you filled up on discount "GULFTANE" in Averill Park. Dad's and my sporty little Triumphs needed to use Gulf "No-Nox" or Mobil "Special" premium! My current antique Triumph also takes "premium"; it's now usually better known by the octane rating number, possibly easier to remember than clever names from the marketing departments!

As Mary suggests, this is a work in progress. Larger images, and hopefully more of them, will be available soon on the SLHS web site. Meanwhile, return with us now to those "filling" days of yesteryear! ☺ — *Andrew Mace*

Gas stations in the Town of Sand Lake

Thank you to Andy Mace for generating this issue with his interest in our Town's gas stations. Although there were other garages, only those with gas pumps are included here. And we welcome further input from our readers for additional information on this topic.

Our tour begins at the eastern end of the town line on Routes 43 and 66.

Les and Edmund Wagner operated a station on this location



in the early 1950s and sold it to Harry Griswold. Later it was Mark Perry's cemetery stone business.

At Sand Lake corners, there have been gas stations on each corner.



Nash's post office had gas pumps. After Crape's Hotel was razed, a gas station was built on that corner and run by Alvin Teal. On the other corner of Taborton Road, Henry Zweibel ran a gas station and garage in the 1940s.

Cumberland Farms is now located where there was an Esso station run by Paul St. Germain.



We're traveling west on Route 43.



Across from the Sand Lake School, Fred Robertson operated Standard Oil Company Station in the middle 1930s. Jean Robertson Fleming's brother Clifford, told her, when the new road was built, Lane Construction always got their gas at the station. Her mother made doughnuts and they were a big hit!



Here's a 1952 picture of the above station when it was run by Ben Budesheim as Benny's Auto Repair. Ben's son Bob is on the bike and Ben, Jr. is standing. Later candy and school supplies were sold by Mrs. Budesheim.

Continuing toward Averill Park we come to William Rendert's Ford dealership (now the law office of Richard Ceresia); he had one gas pump. Walter Strope also ran a business there.



In the late 40s, Fred Kainer, Sr. had this Texaco station built on Route 43 at Eastern Union Turnpike. Operators included Alvin Teal and Marty Butler. It's now Miller's Automotive and has no gas pumps.

Farther up the hill look to the left.



Over the years this building was Wright's Drug Store, the A&P, and Gauch's Gift and Appliance. Does anyone know when gas was sold at this location?

Let's travel to the intersection of Route 43 and old Route 66.



The building currently housing Jiffy Mart was formerly a Mobil station, this building replacing an earlier Mobil station. Gas stations on this site date back to one being operated by Harold Garstang, Leon Smith, Brian Hallett and in the late 1930s by "Doc" Ferguson. It is shown here as a Neasco station.

Continue west on Route 43. On the left, across from the Averill Park High School, we find two stations.



Around 1954, Les Wagner built a station according to Sunoco specifications and ran it until the mid 1970s, when the gas crunch made it difficult to operate. It was also a favorite spot for kids to stop in for soda and candy bars. He later leased it to Carlton Hughes and then to Spencer Hughes. Ernie Hoffman worked for Les for several years.



This is the current Sunoco station located a short distance west of Les Wagner's station.

We're getting closer to the hamlet of West Sand Lake.



Harold Foster had his first garage at this location, which is now an apartment house at the corner of Brookview Court, (the first left turn traveling east, past the 43 Mall) and Route 43.



Garage-hand Ethan Miller is standing in front of Harold Foster's Olixir Service station, when he moved to the corner of Springer Road and Route 43. In 1963, Tom Cipperly bought it from Foster, ran it for two years and then sold the building to the Sand Lake Ambulance.



Bashford's Market (previously known as Hardin's) would be today's convenience store and gas station. Notice the price of gas in "the good old days." It is now an apartment house and is located across from Stewart's Shop on Route 43.

(The previous three pictures and captions are from our forthcoming book Sand Lake Revisited.)

Now we are in the hamlet of West Sand Lake and find – at various times – gas stations on three corners.



Judging by the Buick parked near the Mobil gas pumps of Mike Miller & Sons Meats – Groceries, this view is c.1939. The building was built in 1878.



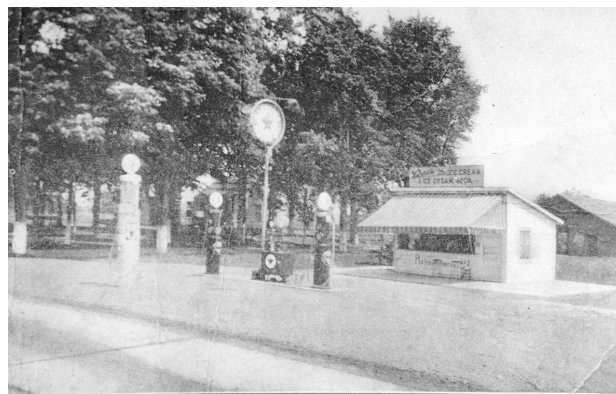
In the 1930s to mid-1940s Chauncey V. Waterbury, Charlie Ryemiller, and Charlie Coons ran this station located on the northeast corner of Route 43. Roland Sewell was running it when WWII ended, as did gas rationing. It was J. Ken Van Hoesen's gas station in 1948. Until very recently a Mobil station was operated on this site.



The Greenman and Apple Garage, started in 1925 by Zenas Greenman and Howard Apple, was located in the north end of the old Brewster House Hotel, which stood on the northwest corner of Route 43. It was used temporarily by the KLWM bus company. A.K. Wolfe's Appliance Store and several gas stations have since occupied this corner, including Joseph Werger's Mobil gas station Negotiations for a Rite Aid Pharmacy at this site are currently underway.

Irving Sewell remembers that, in the 1930s, Chauncey V. Waterbury had two gas pumps in the front yard of his home, close to the town line on the west side of Route 150 near Stop 13. He also remembers that, c. 1932, the last house on the right hand side of Route 43 before going up the hill out of West Sand Lake had been a gas station. It was later the residence of Bob Hitchcock.

Another remembrance for Irv is Jack Bink's station in the 1940s at the corner of Route 150 and County Route 50, known more recently as Connie's Corner or Maple Leaf Floor Covering.



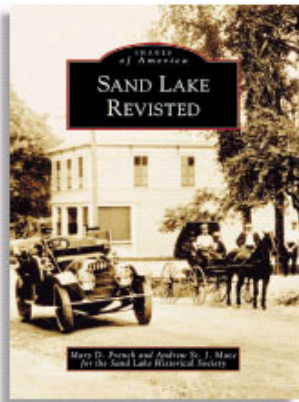
The Maple Shade, Averill Park, N. Y.

This postcard shows "The Maple Shade, Averill Park, NY." We need help with its location.

Our trip has come to an end ... for now!

Leads to gas stations/pumps located on Route 150 South near Sherwin's Laundry, at the point of Crystal Cove near Larkin's Funeral Home, and on Burden Lake Road have not been able to be substantiated.

Again, we welcome any of you reading this article to fill in the blanks and/or add new material. Please let us know. — *Mary French*



<http://members.aol.com/sandlakehistory/>

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Historical Highlights

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FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Sand Lake Historical Society

Membership Application

Membership: Join / Renew

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

\$3 per student (13-22) _____ \$5 per individual _____ \$8 per family _____

Total enclosed: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to *Sand Lake Historical Society*. Mail to: Sand Lake Historical Society, Post Office Box 492, West Sand Lake, New York 12196