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April, 2003

MEETING NOTICE

The Society's meeting for April 2003 will be "Nassau County Police History." Our speaker will be Officer Douglas Stiegelmeier.

The meeting will begin with a short business meeting, in which the Society's committees will report their current activities, and then adjourn to the program by Officer Stiegelmeier.

Following the meeting, our Hospitality Committee will provide refreshments appropriate for the beginning of spring, if it has begun by then. If you'd like to help with refreshments, call Theresa Donahue at (516) 221-2152. 📖

RAILROAD MUSEUM SOCIETY

Railroad fans will be pleased to know that a new society of organizations which have been involved with Long Island trains is being organized. It will start with representatives from "Locomotive 35," a group interested in preserving a historic LIRR locomotive, and our Society, whose major display is the historic "Jamaica" parlor car. Representatives from any other railroad-centered organization are invited to join – call Harry Strole (516)781-5058 for more information. The purpose of the "RMS" will be for the member societies to help each other with common problems. 📖

NEXT MONTH'S PROGRAM

The Society's program for April will be a discussion of the Vanderbilt Motor Parkway, a forerunner of today's parkways and interstates, and certainly an enduring landmark in many of our Long Island communities. 📖

GARAGE SALE NEXT MONTH

The Society's Spring "Garage Sale" is coming in May this year, on Saturday, May 3, with a rain date the following day, May 4. A separate flyer has been mailed to all members and to our Garage Sale mailing list, telling all the details, with an application form for those who want to be vendors. If your flyer hasn't arrived yet, call Christine Marzigliano (516) 679-8348.

We will have all sorts of vendors, who will have all sorts of good things for exhibit and for sale. Customers will be welcome on the big day, and can come for lunch as well as to see and buy all the wonderful things on display. 📖



Preservation Society Calendar

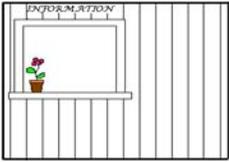
Tuesday, April 22: Membership Meeting, "Nassau County Police" in the meeting room of the Wantagh Library, 8:00 P.M.

Saturday, April 26: Museum grounds cleanup for the Spring Garage Sale, 10:00 A.M.

Saturday, May 3: Preservation Society Spring Garage Sale, 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. at the Wantagh Museum. (Rain date May 4)

Tuesday, May 20: Trustees meet in the waiting room of the Wantagh Museum, 8:00 P.M.

Tuesday, May 27: Membership Meeting, "Vanderbilt Motor Parkway," in the meeting room of the Wantagh Library, 8:00 P.M. 📖



THE INFORMATION WINDOW

OF THE WANTAGH PRESERVATION SOCIETY

TO JOIN OR RENEW MEMBERSHIP

Name _____

Addr. _____

_____ ZIP+4 _____

Phone _____ New Renewal

Circle one: Indiv. \$6 Family
\$12

Send to: Wantagh Preservation Society

MEMBERSHIP STATUS

Society dues for the 2003 season are gradually coming in. The mailing label on the front of this *Information Window* has a clue about *your* dues. Your address should have a first line something like:

134M04Jan CR20

The initial number represents your position in the mailing list, depending on your ZIP code and the alphabetic sequence of names. It is used as part of the bulk mailing accounting.

The capital "M" indicates "member," and may be replaced by a "C" for "complimentary" or "A" for organizations belonging to ANCHO, a group of museums in Nassau County.

The next part is a date that refers to when dues should be paid; "04Jan" indicates you are paid up until January 2004. If your date is earlier than that, or missing altogether, use the form up at the top of this column!

The final "CR 20" refers to the postal carrier route required for delivery to your address. Wantagh route numbers run from 1 to 34; we don't use CR numbers in many other towns.

THE INFORMATION WINDOW

The *Information Window* is a publication of the Wantagh Preservation Society, and is published preceding its monthly Membership Meetings.

The Editor of the *Information Window* is Dick MacMillan, at (516) 785-3951. Articles and notices are invited on subjects of local interest.

MORE ON WANTAGH SCHOOLS

Last month's Information Window featured an article by Robert Huhnken on "Wantagh's First School," describing the Seymour Avenue School.

This month's article is an excerpt from an article prepared by Joshua Soren for the Wantagh-Seaford Citizen in 1991, as part of the 100th anniversary of Wantagh. It describes the further development of Wantagh schools, of particular interest since the Beech Street School took its current form just about 50 years ago.

LOOKING BACK 100 YEARS

By Joshua Soren, Historian
Wantagh Preservation Society

With a growing school age population, the school board in 1928 purchased two parcels of land on Beech Street. In 1929 the Sunrise Park School was built at a cost of \$185,000. The eight-room school was located on the corner of Beech Street and Walters Avenue. The second property from the 1928 purchase is between Beech Street and Roosevelt Street and serves as an athletic field. Additional land was bought on Beech Street between DeMott and Bunker Avenues in 1940. Nine years later the Wantagh Elementary School was built on that site with 14 classrooms. In three years, a high school was approved and built upon land acquired on Beltagh Avenue. For the first time, Wantagh students could attend the upper grades in their own district. In 1952, thirty-three classrooms were added to the Wantagh School on Beech Street and the Sunrise Park School.

When more housing developments were built after World War II, the need for more schools grew, and in 1958 two new elementary schools, Forest Lake School and the Mandalay School, were constructed.

The next addition to the district was the Wantagh Junior High School (now known as the Middle School), built in 1963 on Beltagh Avenue near the high school. Overcrowding became a problem, and in 1966 additions were made to both the junior and high schools.