

The Wave Editorials and Special Features

Improved Fire Protection For West End

It is now up to the Board of Estimate to approve the site for a new fire house in Jacob Riis Park, facing Beach 169th street. For some years there has been demand for additional fire companies west of Beach 116th street to give protection to the Belle Harbor and Neponsit sections. Chief delay to date has been in selecting a site for a firehouse.

The Fire Department favored a site in Riis Park, near Beach 149th street, but there was objection from residents in the vicinity. Most recent suggestion of the department was that it be given a slice of the Neponsit Beach Hospital property. That met with objection, too. But the Department of Parks came forward with the suggested site facing Beach 169th street which was approved last week by the City Planning Commission.

There is additional strong reason for the new fire house. The City, in recent years, has exerted more authority than ever before in the Rockaway Point communities. Although the large tract is privately owned, it does lie within the limits of the city and was therefore ordered to file a map of its holdings with the city a few years ago. Now the city has ruled that there shall be no more volunteer fire de-

partments within city limits. Roxbury and Rockaway Point, along with Broad Channel and Hamilton Beach, have been served for years by volunteer departments. Now these are being outlawed and there is no city department, in the case of Roxbury, nearer than Beach 116th street, several miles away. Every fire alarm must be relayed to the Beach 116th street fire house. But in most cases the grass fires, as they usually are, have been extinguished by the volunteers long before the city companies arrive.

The question naturally arises, what would be the situation if there were no volunteers and the fires were allowed to gain headway until the firemen could arrive from Beach 116th street? A fire can gain great headway, even in ten minutes. Of course the volunteers are needed and it is unrealistic on the part of the city to make an attempt at outlawing them now.

The city's position will not be changed until the new fire house is in business. It is difficult to see how the Board of Estimate can do otherwise than to approve the new fire house. Before long, if the present trend continues, it will have to approve other fire houses still farther to the west.

Proof Positive For The Skeptics

There is little to support the thinking of people who doubt that a start is soon to be made on the construction of the new Rockaway Beach Hospital. Some expressions of that nature have been heard in the community.

It is evident to everybody who attended the hospital's annual meeting last week that the actual start of construction at last is imminent. There have been delays, but there was good reason for them. Besides the requirements of state and city departments, the hospital officials also had to satisfy the requirements of the Hilburton Foundation and the federal government, both of which are supplying part of the funds for the new building. Among other things, the plans had to be re-drawn. The result has been that now, with all requirements met, the new building will be modern and may even set the pattern for other hospitals in its price class.

The people of the Rockaways must never lose sight of the fact that this is a community hospital, something that belongs to every one of us for the benefit of us all. Our job is to raise \$1,500,000 as quickly as possible so the hospital will be

able to open its doors unencumbered by debt.

Already, generous, public-spirited individuals have come forward with substantial donations. More such people are needed to help reach the goal at the earliest possible moment.

A community hospital, however, needs more than the sizable gifts of the affluent. It needs a much broader base. This is a case where a million dollars made up from ten-dollar donations from 100,000 people would be much more valuable than a million-dollar gift from a few individuals. That must be the thinking of the hospital officials as they set about raising the final \$1,500,000 to build the hospital.

For that reason it is fortunate that William F. Brunner has been elected to head the hospital's official board for another year. Under his leadership the hospital has come far in recent years. He and the members of the hospital board are dedicated to the construction of a new hospital, an undertaking in which they deserve the unanimous support of the people of the Rockaways.

Transit Authority Has A Problem

Members of the Transit Authority know very well by this time that the people of the Rockaways are a long way from being satisfied with the transit system now giving service to this community. In the past the transit officials have heard from local civic representatives. Now they apparently are being deluged by letters from private citizens who are becoming wrathful.

Many of these complaints reach The Wave office, a good many in the form of letters said to be copies of complaints sent direct to the Transit Authority. Little, if anything, is new in the letters. For the most part they repeat the old story. The trip takes too long. The trains are cold in the winter. Passengers object to changing trains and, believe it or not, service on the Long Island Rail Road was much better. Something must be done.

In spite of the recent detailed explanation of Chairman Patterson of the Transit Authority that it cannot be done, there is increasing demand for service via Rego Park. Now things are reaching the point where people refuse to listen to explanations. They want to have something done

and there are mutterings about this being election year and if the people who are in office cannot do something about it, then it's time to put somebody else in office. That may not be the solution, but it shows how people are thinking.

These Are Your Representatives Let Them Know Your Wishes

- U. S. Senators**
Irving M. Ives, 174 North Broad Street, Norwich, N.Y.
- Representative**
Emanuel Celler, 9 Prospect Park West, Brooklyn
- State Senator**
James J. Crisano, 187 Beach 144th Street, Neponsit
- Assemblyman**
J. Lewis Fox, 1179 Beach 9th Street, Far Rockaway
- Borough President**
James A. Lundy, Borough Hall, 120-56 Queens Boulevard, Kew Gardens
- City Councilman**
Eric J. Treulich, 107-13 111th Street, Richmond Hill

Short Wave Quiz

Mrs. Fan G. Greiff, 159 Beh. 142nd st.: "I'm much too busy at this time of the year to buy clothes. I think a person can feel Easter spirit without having to express it with finery. Besides my husband and I much prefer flow-ers."

Diane Braver, 12, 564 Beh. 136th st.: "I don't believe it's important to get new clothes for Easter. To me it's better to dress up one's soul and search for faults and get rid of them. But to some people it's the time of year to outfit the family."

Alfred Wheatland, 214 Beach 117th st.: "Sure I'll buy a new hat and that's about it. The season means nothing to my buying habits and I certainly don't like bucking crowds anyway. Oh yes, I will probably buy a bottle of Scotch, too."

Mrs. Kay Hayes, 84-16 Blvd.: "We're just buying for our six children and they will be the prettiest in the Easter Parade. I do think all families should turn out in their very nicest finery. It certainly helps dress up the spirit as well as the person."

George Henry, 308 Beach 91st st.: "You bet. A new suit, hat, and shoes. The works. Every year I do the same thing. I may not be the prettiest on parade but I am sure all new and it certainly makes me feel very good."

The York State Story

By Mary E. Cunningham

This April morning spring seems not only officially but actually here. Already York Staters are taking to the road. Do you know that among the most fascinating spots they can visit are the twenty-one historic sites maintained by New York State?

Coming up the Hudson — as the earliest settlers did — first of the sites encountered is the first of the two great houses built by Frederick Philipse on the estate he acquired from the Dutch West India Company, who brought him to the Hudson Valley as their master carpenter. This is Philipse Manor in Yonkers. Here legend says, George Washington came a-courting Mary Philipse, granddaughter of the houses' bulker.

Associated with Washington, too, is the next of the State's sites, the great General's headquarters at Newburgh used by him from 1782 to 1783. Here Washington announced the successful end of the American War for Independence. Here he spurned the suggestion that he become king and here he created the Order of the Purple Heart.

Four miles southwest of Newburgh is the headquarters of Washington's chief artillery officer, General Henry Knox, used in those same years, 1782-83. Knox, you know, was later first Secretary of War for the new United States. Temple Hill, a west of Knox Headquarters, and the Clinton House in Poughkeepsie associated with the name of George Clinton, are other Hudson Valley York State sites.

The first Senate of the State of New York met at the Senate House in Kingston, September 10, 1777. Near the bend of the Hudson and Mohawk at Rensselaer is Fort Crallo, believed to have been built about 1705 for the Patron of Rensselaerwyck. According to legend, a British army surgeon, Dr. Richard Shuckburgh, wrote the derisive words of the song "Yankee Doodle" while seated on the well curb at the rear of the fort, really an old brick residence.

Schuyler Mansion in downtown Albany, built in 1762 by General Philip Schuyler, has seen many a stirring scene, among them

which attempted the capture of General Schuyler during the Revolution. British General John Burgoyne was a prisoner here after his surrender at Saratoga. Alexander Hamilton was married here to Elizabeth Schuyler, daughter of the General.

Two other New York State sites have special reference to the Battle of Saratoga. One is Bennington Battlefield where Colonel John Stark repulsed a British force dispatched to Bennington, Vermont, to capture American military supplies. And, of course, there is the Battle Monument itself, commemorating the surrender of Gentleman Johnny to General Horatio Gates of the American forces on October 17, 1777. The Battle of Saratoga, one of the world's fifteen decisive engagements was the turning point of the American Revolution.

At Grant Cottage, ten miles north of Saratoga Springs, Ulysses Grant died in the summer of 1885. At Guy Park House, in Amsterdam, Sir William Johnson's daughter Polly dwelt with her husband, Guy Johnson, incidentally, her cousin. At the John Brown Farm, at North Elba, John Brown's body lies a-mouldering in the grave.

Two great Valley homes are next in the parade of New York State's official historic sites. One is Johnson Hall at Johnstown, last and largest home of Sir William, which saw momentous meetings of Indian and colonial leaders. The other is the home where Nicholas Herkimer, General of the Mohawk Valley militia and hero of the Battle of Oriskany, breathed his last.

Steuben Memorial, where the State has built a replica of the log house of Baron Von Steuben, drillmaster of the Revolution, recalls another hero of the fight for freedom. At Oriskany Battlefield, eight miles west of Utica, is the scene of the bloodiest battle of the Revolution. Fort Ontario on the United States Military Reservation at Oswego has flown three flags — the French, British and American.

Two of the State's sites concern the Sullivan-Clinton expedition sent out to punish the Iroquois for the massacres at Wyoming in Pennsylvania and Cherry Valley and Springfield in New York. At Groveland a marble shaft commemorates the ambush and massacre of scouts sent out by General Sullivan, while the Boyd-Parker Memorial recalls to mind the dreadful deaths of Lt. Boyd and Sgt. Parker following that massacre.

The Beachcomber

When Mr. and Mrs. Edward B. Richard of Rockaway Park sent an alligator from Florida to their grandchildren here, it was just a fingerling. Now it has grown to 15 inches in length, scares the kids and presents a knotty problem to their parents.

The H. C. Bohack market on Beach Channel drive at Dix avenue has become something of a rendezvous for Rockaway old-timers. Manager George Decker says hardly a day passes that he does not see several "reunions" enacted as customers in the store greet old friends.

There are the makings of a real, old-fashioned firemen's tournament in the Firemen's Day now being planned by the Volunteer Firemen's Association of the City of New York. Traditional contests will be staged, along with drills, a parade and dancing, at the event to be held at Broad Channel.

Rockaway will have natural gas next year, according to an announcement by the Long Island Lighting company. No wells have been drilled in this vicinity, but the stuff will be piped in from out west. No more shivering in order to conserve gas as we did a few years ago — perhaps.

In order to keep the juvenile activities of the American-Irish association going, a finance campaign soon will get going full blast. Rockaway already has received much favorable publicity from appearances of the group's band.

Opinion along the Rockaway Park business front is that hopes are dim for the municipal parking lot that was supposed to be ready for this summer. Present indications are that the lot will privately operated for at least another summer season.

First of the Seaside eateries to open this year is Gus Cholakis' New Crystal, on the Boulevard near Seaside avenue. It's on account of the construction men employed nearby on the erection of the new junior high school. Gus says that so far the trade has met his expectations.

John Ryan expects to have piles driver next week for small boat slips at his new boathyard at the foot of Beach 76th street.

Meet Your Neighbor

James P. Smyth has been an ambulance driver for the past 17 years. He has driven ambulances for the Downtown Hospital in Manhattan, which is now known as the Broad Street Hospital; several years for the Army, and at present he is an ambulance driver for the Rockaway Beach Hospital, where he has worked for many years.

Few of his co-workers deny that he is a good driver and well experienced in his field, especially when they consider that he holds the record for making a run from the Rockaways to King's County Hospital in Brooklyn.

Several years ago, an Arverne youngster accidentally was shot in the head with a 22 calibre rifle. There was no neurosurgeon at the Rockaway Beach Hospital who could handle the case at the time, but there was one available at King's County Hospital.

Smyth made the 14-mile-trip in 11 minutes with no police escort to help him. When he arrived, the boy was still alive and the neurosurgeon was ready to supply the necessary treatment.

Doesn't Drive Fast "Fast driving isn't an ambulance driver's job, however," Smyth says. "It's seldom we find it necessary to exceed the speed limit, we concentrate more on safe driving."

"If more persons would follow our driving example," he adds, "there would probably be less accidents and not quite so much work for us."

The veteran driver, when asked his opinion of the new hospital



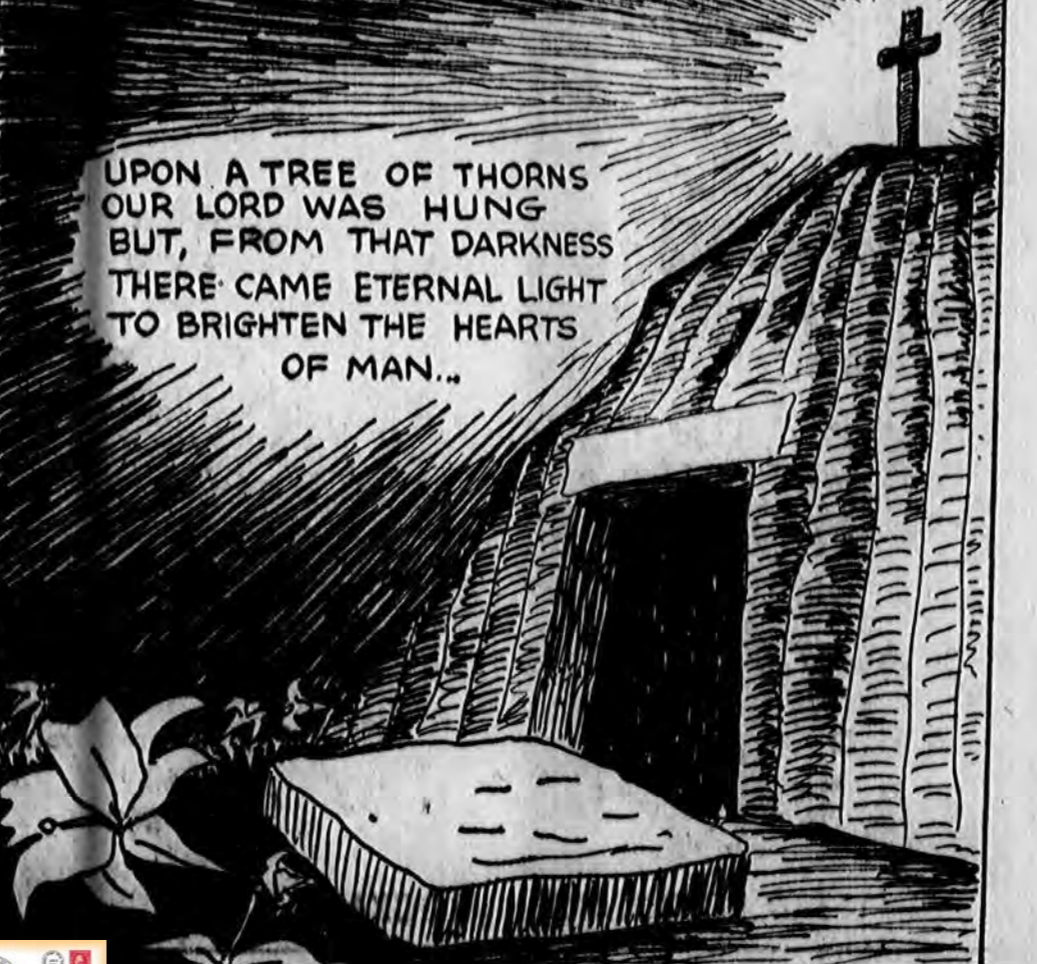
James P. Smyth

scheduled to be built to replace the existing 50-year-old structure, said he was glad to see it was finally going to be constructed. "We need a new hospital in the Rockaways," he remarked, "and it will be nice to work in modern surroundings."

James Smyth was born on the Red River Indian Reservation in Oklahoma 47 years ago. His family moved away from the reservation and Smyth attended school at P.S. 70 in Flatbush, Brooklyn Tech High School, and studied for two years at the University of Columbia.

He served five years in the Army, four of which were spent in the Pacific, and when he was

(Continued on Page 2)



Looking BACKWARD

What The Wave said 20 Years Ago This Week

The newest traffic link to the Rockaways, the Marine Parkway Bridge over Rockaway Inlet between the Peninsula and Brooklyn will be opened for service on July 3, according to a report made public this week by Robert Moses, Commissioner of Parks.

Daniel M. O'Connell Post No. 272, American Legion expects today to take possession of the former Dalcassian Clubhouse on Beach 92nd street. The post's committee headed by Austin Brant, has been negotiating for several weeks with the Jamaica Savings Bank, owner of the building.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Eastwood of 111 West 8th road, who recently sold their home at that address, have just purchased a new home at 27 West 10th road.

Mr. John Ross is recovering at her home on the Boulevard and Beach 73rd street from a recent attack of the grip. Last Sunday evening a miscellaneous shower was tendered to Miss Jennie Johnston of Broad Channel. The shower was held at Pachinger's Hall, Beach 85th street and the Boulevard.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Cohen of Beach 86th street, entertained Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Bassman of Richmond Hill, last week. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kuttner of Beach 114th street, returned this week from an extensive tour through the southern states.

George Kupper of Neponsit, led the singing of the annual men's dinner which was held last Tuesday evening by the First Congregational Church.

Mrs. Julia Stutzel of Burchell avenue, celebrated her birthday on Wednesday. In the evening, friends and members of the family tendered her a surprise party. Mr. and Mrs. Max Gabriel and family are moving from their Holland avenue address to 124 Beach 93rd street.

The evening of May 1, will be a memorable one for the combined societies of St. Rose of Lima Church, at which time the various members will gather to celebrate "St. Rose Night." The affair will be in the form of a supper dance, the chairman is Harry Adams and Ita Callendar, secretary.

... and 30 Years Ago

One of the largest, if not the largest delegations in the history of the Rockaways is being sought by the Chamber of Commerce of the Rockaways to attend the meeting of the Committee of the Whole of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment next Monday when the boardwalk matter is to be given a hearing that may lead to the final authorization of funds with which to start actual construction.

The Columbia Theatre, Far Rockaway was packed last Monday night, upstairs and down, where the curtain rose on the annual minstrel of the Church of St. Rose of Lima, popularly known as "St. Rose Minstrels." It seemed as if every grown resident of the Rockaway Peninsula, was present.

Catherine Lennon, age 57, a resident of the Beach for the past 20 years, died last Sunday evening at Rockaway Beach Hospital where she had been confined for a short time. She was well known on the Beach and was an active member of the West End Democratic Club and St. Monica Society of St. Rose of Lima Church. The bar mitzvah of Albert Greenberg, son of Mr. and Mrs.

Samuel Greenberg of 226 Beach 81st street, will be solemnized at Temple Israel, Beach 84th street, next Saturday morning by Rabbi Joseph Kessler.

The infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Rowland Seaman was baptized last Sunday at the First Congregational Church, following the Easter Morning service.

Hyman Goldstein of 138 Beach 74th street just out of the hospital after a long stay is convalescing at his home and contemplating a trip to the mountains as a means of recuperation.

Mr. and Mrs. D. B. Lundy entertained the Rev. Mr. Cuff of the Union Church over Easter Sunday. Mr. Cuff conducted services at the Union Church last Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Max Hirsch, who have just returned from their honeymoon, spent the week-end with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Morris Hirsch of Beach 117th street and Mr. and Mrs. A. Price of Beach 124th street and left Sunday for their new home in Bensonhurst.

Irwin Langel returned to his Belle Harbor home for the Easter recess from the University of Pennsylvania, there he is a second year student.

... and 40 Years Ago

Bill McGinnis of Hammel is getting considerable attention as a neutral shell maker, his activities being confined to the painting of pastoral and other peaceful scenes on the interior of sea shells.

The Rockaway Aerie of Eagles conducts its minstrel entertainment on Monday evening April 16, at Arion Hall. Miss Leona will instruct, Mr. Magnolia, will vocal stars and Dan Valenti will have charge of the musical settings.

First Lieutenant Draves of the Coast Artillery Corps, former commander of the 82nd company, Fort Totten, has been transferred to Fort Funston at Rockaway Point. He will be in temporary command of the new coast artillery corps which is composed of men formerly at Fort Tilden.

A house-warming was enjoyed at the clubrooms of the Italo-American Progressive Club by entertaining members on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Leonard and daughter have returned to their cottage on South Seventh avenue and will remain here for the entire season, until September. Mr. and Mrs. Lyons returned

to the Park yesterday and opened their cottage in North Brighton avenue.

Robert Drysdale has returned to Rockaway Park for the season. Residents of Rockaway Park are elated at the soon-to-be-realized prospects of having a new depot on Beach 116th street.

Miss Amelia Cowing spent last week-end visiting her mother in Beach 112th street. She is a student at Suffern Academy, New York.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Oliver of Lincoln avenue, accompanied by Mrs. V. Kupper, Mrs. Louise Schuster and Miss Anna Rau, motored to West Islip last Sunday to visit friends.

Mrs. Schneller of Kneer avenue, entertained a number of friends last Wednesday afternoon at a coffee party in her home.

Harry Eyerman celebrated his birthday on Tuesday by entertaining a few friends.

Miss Cecilia Farrelly and Miss Mary Cole, attended the St. Patrick's party held recently given at the home of Miss Cole's uncle, Steve O'Hara at the Utica Hotel, Brooklyn.

... and 50 Years Ago

Mrs. A. Maney of Maple place has been on the sick list. Easter arrangements are going on, actively in the local churches. Mrs. Hatfield is very ill at the home of her son, Dr. F. P. Hatfield.

Tomorrow Charles Richter, holds a beefsteak at his Manhattan Hotel.

Mr. and Mrs. John Jamieson have passed a week in Virginia and are expected home today. Quite a large number of new buildings have been started in the last few days in all sections of the Beach.

Next Thursday, Rockaway Aerie No. 1544, Fraternal Order of Eagles, will hold a meeting at their rooms in Kraus' Hall.

The Atlantic Athletic Association will give another beefsteak dinner and smoker at its clubhouse the latter part of the week.

Miss niece of the Beach any, who ing. Mrs. ering fr nia at the meeting in the A. A. Club-

The Wave, Rockaway Beach, N. Y., Thursday, April 18, 1957

MEMBER
National Editorial Association, Audit Bureau of Circulations, N. Y. State Press Association
NATIONAL ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVES
Greater Weeklies Associates, Inc., 912 Broadway, New York 16, N. Y.

Published every Thursday by The Wave Publishing Company, Office and principal place of business, Wave Building, 87-21 Rockaway Beach Boulevard, Rockaway Beach 33, N. Y.

HUBERT D. MURRAY, Editor

Sent by mail, postage included: One Year, \$4.00; Six Months, \$2.00; Single Copies: 10 cents. All subscriptions are payable in advance. Foreign postage must be added to these rates. Back copies charged additional 10 cents each month.

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Entered as Second-Class Matter at Post Office, Far Rockaway, N. Y., under Act of March 3, 1879.

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