



## Homes For The Holidays

Invitations are in the mail for our first Holiday House Tour on Saturday, December 18th from two till six p.m. We have five festively decorated houses to visit. And, all Patron ticket holders are invited to a special party in one of the most splendid homes in Quogue. The holidays are a wonderful time in the Hamptons, especially Quogue By The Sea. Your participation will help the Society to move into our new home and to maintain our rich historical collections.



*Confessore House*

This house was one of several fishermen's shacks built along the Quogue Canal. It suffered a lot of damage in the 1938 hurricane. Afterward the walls were re-constructed with debris picked up in the village, some pieces were green, some were painted blue, but it was good wood. The place was a colorful fixer upper, so in 1978 the owners bought it. Over the years they have lovingly created a personal paradise; rebuilding the house, adding a second floor and bulking up the bulkhead. They say the pleasures of living on the canal are the blazing sunsets and daily boat activity.



*Treuholt House*

A Masterpiece of the traditional Long Island shingle style home with wraparound porch, this Victorian gem was built in 1892. Originally it had a boat house, sunken garden and a sweeping access to Penniman's Creek. One hundred ten years later, the current owners began restoring it. Almost every inch of the interior was removed and marked for replacing; then they removed the porch, raised the house, stabilized the foundation, created a basement and began authentic restoration which then took the next two years... until the 2004 season. The front rooms, original fireplaces, staircase and carved newel post are preserved for another century.



*Sessa House*

Constructed as a salt box, this history-rich house was converted to Georgian design in the early 1700s and was continuously lived in by the same family until 1936

when the last descendant, Miss Sally Foster died. (She and her sister were the belles of Quogue in the early 1900s) One day, during reconstruction, when workers were carefully removing boards in the parlor, they found moccasins and a pair of small shoes behind the walls. The dining room is jaw-dropping; it has been preserved completely to its totally wood clad historic heritage. (A historical note from the QHS: During one winter of the Revolutionary War, British officers were quartered with the family and the troops slept in the barn. On their departure the barn was burned to the ground.)



*McDermott House*

From the exterior this house looks like a traditional American farm house, but step inside and you are enveloped in an English country home. The front parlor and upstairs remain as they were when it was built in 1920 as a board and batten cottage for the caretaker of the surrounding farmland. Behind the house is the original barn built at the turn of the century for horses, but now stables horsepower of another

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## Letter From The Chairman...*Lee Wadelton*

We welcomed five new Directors of the Board at our Annual Meeting: Marsha Ambler, Jean Duffy, Cecelia Lazarescu, Maureen Leness and Kelso Sutton II. They bring new skills and energy to our organization.

A review of our accomplishments from September 2009 includes the completion and voting on 25 new By-Law revisions, completion and signing of our Lease Agreement with the Village of Quogue for our Future Home and the introduction of our Newsletter with Spring and Summer issues published with Fall and Winter issues to follow. The Schoolhouse opened in July with an exhibition of Shipwrecks and Lifesavers; our 36th annual Art Show in August was very successful, as well as another great year for the Children's Art Classes and Show. We had two presentations of "Shipwrecks and Lifesavers." The Plaques program has extended to include all houses built before 1916 and we have created the Preservation Committee for the purpose of

establishing a speaking program covering preservation of artifacts, papers, letters, photographs, houses, etc. We created the Oral Histories Project in memory of Marguerite Post Rich. This is an excellent way to preserve some historic memories from members of the community on DVD, video and in writing. And, we are

planning our first Holiday House Tour as a fund-raiser to finance improvements to our Future Home which will not only have storage for our collections, exhibition space, but also research facilities for the Quogue community for everything relating to Quogue history. We look forward to another successful year and being in our new Home.

### Margaret Perry



When her cup runneth over, she shared the spill with her cats.

When the fire department needed a boost she organized a dinner, when anybody or anything needed repair, she could fix it with a box of nails, a paint brush, some soothing words or a big hug. She was always the one to go to, whether you wanted to rent or buy a house, catch up with school news or needed to know how to entertain and educate members of the many organizations in which she was

active. From its earliest years, she was one of the most important members of the Quogue Historical Society. In 1977, when the old Historical Committee of the Library developed its own identity, Margaret Bernadette Burding Perry was among the five women and one man who became the original incorporators of the Quogue Historical Association by a charter from the Regents of the University of the State of New York. Later, in 1980, it was amended to change the name to Quogue Historical Society. She probably had as many artifacts in her collection as the Society itself. She has donated old maps, books, papers, pictures and many of the original typewritten papers of interviews with eye-witnesses of the 1938 hurricane. A prized possession which she is giving to the Society is the huge flat top desk used by Captain Alfred Thayer Mahan, U.S.N. in his sound proof library in his house at Quogue. Mrs. Perry had said she hopes the Society will use it in their new home on Jessup Ave.

Margaret Perry died September 21, a beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, and typical to the end, this wonderfully munificent resident asked that memorials be donated to the Society and the Fire Department Benevolent.

### Pond House

Our future home has been buzzing with lots of activity in the last several weeks. The result, the interior drywall is up, the heating and air-conditioning systems are in place and the rough electric and plumbing are completed. A dumbwaiter to help us move our collections throughout the building is currently being manufactured. Village Trustee Jeanette Obser has even begun preliminary landscaping of the site. As soon as all the work is completed, we will begin to make the building ready to house our archives and welcome the community to view our historical displays by next summer.



*If you would like to make a donation to help ensure the survival of the Society's irreplaceable collections for generations to come, you may send your contribution to the Quogue Historical Society and mail it to Box 1207 in Quogue 11959. Your support is always appreciated.*



# Life In The Past Lane...

with Bill Happel

Bill Happel has been coming to Quogue since he was a gleam in his father's eye. His parents had rented a house and were popular guests of members of the Quogue club and they fell in love with the quiet elegant village. That fall they looked at and bought Narioch- the house on the easterly corner of Quogue Street and the Montauk Highway. Narioch is an Indian word for point of land or corner. In reality, Henry Happel said, it means "empty pit in which to pour your money." That was in 1943, the year Bill was born. Recently, he recounted some memories:

"To me, Quogue was a magical place, away from the confines of apartment living. Special was Jessup Avenue and I would like to take you there as it was then, 60-some years ago. The big changes are the Village Green, addition to Village Hall, the expansion of the telephone company building into the Police Department and the updated Fire Department. Staying on the west side Quogue Plumbing was exactly where it is, but Otis LeBleu was the owner and, apparently, very much a self-featured ladies' man.

One of the highlights of a trip to the village was Stevens Fish Market north of the police station which also sold fresh eggs, my mother had a thing for fresh eggs. Mr. Stevens had about 200 chickens out back. Next door was the telephone building- it was tiny and looked like an outhouse. It had a plug-in wall along one side where the operators made the connections. Most of the telephones had party lines, of course, everyone listened in.

Across the street was a real estate store owned by Charlie Stephens until Charlie Miller came along and bought the building and opened a hardware store. This was the store where one purchased 6 nails, the gizmo that goes in the watchit to make the toilet stop running, and summer flower seeds. Next door in the two columned stucco building was the Post Office run by Mrs. Cardo and Mrs. Phillips. Farther south was the Fountain of Youth- a soda shop owned by

Al Affinto. All the kids loved this place with its 5-cent candy, 10-cent comic books and ice cream cones. Next was a liquor store owned by Jerry Wimpfheimer. An anecdote fits in here. One weekend during the 1930s the Field Club held a boxing match for entertainment, hundreds of people came from all over the south shore and parked their cars haphazardly around the club and golf course. It was a sight never before and never again seen at the field club. Because of the bright lights and loud cheering, the police were summoned. They arrested the president of the field club for not having a boxing license and conducted him to the Riverhead Jail. Bail was set at \$100. But it was a Saturday night at the club; no one had cash on him. So, it was somewhat after midnight when Mr. Wimpfheimer was awakened by the telephone and learned that Mr. Arthur C. Holden was in the Riverhead Jail, in need of a hundred dollars in cash. He revved up his motor car and drove to the county jail to bail out his friend in need and, indeed, the president of the Quogue Field Club!

Erben Jenkins bought the liquor store in the 1960s. He put his children through college writing True Detective/True Romance stories on his Remington in the back of the store keeping warm in winter by a wood stove. At night he opened a rear window just enough for feral cats to come in, feed and get warm.

Pat and Howard's, a small food store came next and then the Quogue Market. The last store in that group was Kathryn Peterson's beauty parlor. Today, her daughter, Jean and her hus-

band, live above what is now Have Your Cake. Down around the corner was the Burden Real Estate office (Missy Lynch's grandfather) connected to the Quogue Pharmacy. Eventually Al Affinto moved "the best soda fountain anywhere" to the old pharmacy. Beth's Café is there now.

We had fun! It was the 1950s and we boys felt free as birds; we could ride our bikes all over town, up and down Jessup Ave and Quogue Street and over to the beach where we would flick rolled-up wet towels at one another, called sky larking -not allowed anymore. We got our bikes from George Beckwith, Doug's father. My dad bought me a Hercules when I was six years old. Old Mr. Beckwith called all the boys Bub and the girls Sis. He didn't sell bicycles, he sold wheels. When you went there he would say, "Well Bub how'r your wheels?"

Ross Federico was Chief of Police. He was more than Quogue's guardian, Mr. Federico was a founding father of the Quogue Wildlife Refuge. The police squad ran from A to Z, Ace Barker to Ziggy Misiewicz. Ziggy could intuit the style of mischief and usually the perpetrator. (ahem) Quogue has maintained its charm to this day. Freud created the word "Imago," a non-person thing which takes on the characteristics of a person: For instance, alma mater, meaning "bountiful mother." Quogue has been an Imago for the ideal family. People return generation after generation."

Bill Happel lives in California but comes back often to his home here and plans to come back permanently one day.



## Homes For The Holidays...continued

kind. The current owners are only the second family (after the caretaker) to live here, and over the years they have enlarged it for their growing family from the original 1200 to 2800 square feet, blending the new and old rooms seamlessly.



*Dietche House*

In its lifetime, this house, known as Pen Craig, has been

home to the devout Ellen and Samuel Craig (they are buried behind the Church of the Atonement) who built it in 1880, and the Swan family from 1916 to 2000. Bill Swan was the most controversial resident in Quogue history. He ran Pen Craig as a boarding house which by the 1950s gained media attention for its Saturday night parties. New owners bought it in 2001 and with great respect for its durable structure and historical significance, have renovated it to the depth of its original awesome architectural beauty.

The Party House residence was designed by George H. Skidmore of Riverhead in 1903. It may be



*Mullan House*

the only house in Quogue with a "conservatory", a Gazebo with an interesting past, the original bathrooms and all leaded-glass windows. Inside it is a little bit country, French country, English country and one is impressed with the elegant décor that has invited you in and with the easy sophistication that keeps you there.