

Greenville Local History Group Newsletter

May 2000, Issue 115

Share Session

A pleasant May evening presented itself for the dozen or so who came out for the GLHG meeting – Connie Teator, Jeanne Bear, Toot Vaughn (Betty was busy elsewhere), Rosemary Lambert, Phyllis Beechert, Ron Golden, Dot Blenis, Cris Ketcham, Alice Roe, Harriett Rasmussen, and Don Teator.

A variety of small stuff was taken care of first. The History Channel presents on June 9 the program – Are We There Yet? America on Vacation. Because the History Channel asked for about fifteen of our file pictures, I suspect a few of Greenville pictures may appear. It's supposed to be a two hour show, starting at 9 pm. (We'll watch part of this at our next meeting.)

Deanna Pleasant had called me to inquire about the history of her new home – the former Fish-Butler-Carelas-Veira property on Carelas' Lake. A few remembered the Puorros, and the Carelases, and a very distant memory of the Butler connection. If anyone has information about the house, please call Deanna at 966-5335.

No one at the meeting attended the barn tour mentioned in the last newsletter. And I hope a few of us got to the Greene County Historical Society's Home Tour this past weekend.

We talked a couple of minutes about the fate of the Presbyterian Church which is

for sale. Rumors abound but none I would want to print for authenticity.

As a Planning Board member, Don mentioned the hearing for changes in the zoning laws proposed by the Planning Board. An important change is proposal that the construction and demolition of buildings in the hamlet residential areas be reviewed first. These areas include Greenville (Rt 32 from Irving Rd to Hill Street; Rt 81 from about the school driveway to Hill Street), Freehold (about one-quarter to one-half mile from the corners), Norton Hill (Rt 81 from the park to just past the former Stevens' store), and Greenville Center (about one-quarter mile from the corners). It is important to remember that this is not a ban on tearing down buildings, but rather a review to show cause why it should be done.

The Town Board will probably hold its public hearing in June, possibly July, and this is the time you should voice your opinion, if you care about this topic. In fact, I would suggest you contact all the Town Board members and make your opinion known, as well as coming out to the hearing. Town Board members include Brian Wickes, Ted Nugent, Kevin Lewis, Lou Kraker, and Greg Seeley.

In another town zoning matter, the former Sherrill property subdivision that was to come before the Zoning Board of Appeals has not been scheduled. It appears

that this issue will probably wait until the zoning review happens. (I would have to guess that the owner is hoping to get things changed for the property instead of facing the ZBA.) If you care about the Sherrill-Ranieri property, call any or all of the Town Board members, possibly to suggest that the current hamlet residential rules should continue. Of course, if you feel differently than that, I would still urge you to have your opinions count in town government, just as I hope you do anyway. I'll keep you posted on the historic preservation issues coming before the town.

Whew! Finally, we got to the topic of the evening. What are the most important events and trends of Greenville's twentieth

century? Of course, we needed to define what "important" meant, which is not as easy as those of you who did not attend the meeting think it is! We did come up with a list, and I have tried to put them in order of importance, something we did not really do at the meeting. Thus, you will need to offer your input if you feel differently. Contact me, and I'll try to come up with a final copy that shows the consensus of the group. This list is on the next sheet, and we may look at it again in June.

Our next meeting is June 12th. For July, I've called Bob Titus who writes about the geology of the Catskills. More information in the next newsletter.

This list was generated at the May GLHG meeting. The purpose was to identify the most important events and/or trends that have influenced the Town of Greenville during the 20th century. Please feel free to suggest additions, different placements, or deletions. (Some dates are indicated; the others will be done at the next meeting.)

1. automobile
2. WWII
3. Great Depression
4. GCS centralization – 1928
5. decline of agriculture
6. rise of resort industry
7. decline of resort industry
8. Bryant's supermarket
9. Main Street decline
10. better transportation (cruises, airfare)
11. NYS Thruway
12. new HS – 1968
13. greater affluence
14. greater comforts (TV, AC, radio, etc.)
15. Erwin road plan – 1954
16. computerization
17. greater dependence on cities (e.g., Albany)
18. women's role in work
19. declining morality
20. closing of Greene County hospital
21. better retirement years
22. Glenn murder case – 1935
23. fatal accidents
24. Movie theater closing
25. credit cards
26. influenza
27. polio scare
28. tuberculosis
29. Blizzard of 1957-58
30. October snowstorm – 1987