

# Greenville Local History Group Newsletter

June 2000, Issue 116

Share Session / 20th Century

A very cool June evening felt more like April. A good sized group showed: Kathie Williams, Toot & Betty Vaughn, Connie Teator, Ron Golden, Gerald Boomhower, Joe Mangold, Dot Blenis, Vern Sharp, Alice Roe, Phyllis Beechert, David & Judy Rundell, and Don Teator.

A bunch of short items filled a part of the meeting.

The Greene County Bicentennial booklet, with a brief history of each town, has just come out and is available for sale (\$5 plus tax). Each Town Historian was asked to write a brief town history.

Toot and Betty gave to the files a four inch circular souvenir with a line drawing of the Greenville Methodist Church.

Dot Blenis gave to the files brochures from Ingalside Farm (about 1970) and Pine Lake Manor.

Joe Mangold updated some information about the Presbyterian Church from the Library Board's view. The Library, being a town function, cannot buy property on its own. It seems as if anything could happen at this point. No one has stepped forth to buy the church; the Presbyter has not been very realistic about the transfer price of the building and property, from my point-of-view. It makes one wish to be rich enough to straighten out the situation.

The Town Board is reviewing zoning. By the time you get this, they will have had one workshop (the 21st) and may have another meeting on the 28th. The public hearing date remains to be set. I'd suggest you keep posted to the local newspapers (the Press seems to cover these meetings more thoroughly) and, if it looks crucial, I'll make some phone calls.

Don had dragged out the Pioneer photo album collection that the Pioneer created. The big

question was the location of the Hartt Store that also shared space with the insurance company. I was under the impression that it was a building that stood next to the hotel on the corner. It stood on its south side, followed by the telephone building, then the physical therapy house which still stands, and then the Greenville Arms. Someone else thought it might have been on Main Street. If someone knows for sure, give me a call.

What had been planned for part of the evening turned out to be a good give-and-take for the rest of the meeting. What were the top events of the 20th century for Greenville?

Last month's newsletter showed you the results of a brainstorming session. This month gave more shape to it, with a little more to go. Some suggested condensing, or eliminating, or adding parts. Memories and details about most of them were offered and was a good snapshot of the last 2/3 of the century. The results of our paring down is on the back.

Next month's meeting (July 10) is a program to be put on by Bob Titus. Dr. Titus is a professor of geology and environmental science at Oneonta and will discuss the bedrock of the Greenville area. Couple with this is a second meeting on August 2 at 7 pm, hosted by the Library, about the Ice Age in the Greenville area, a topic that will be featured in an article in the summer edition of Kaatskill Life. Both are topics we usually don't hear too much about.



Here is the revised list of the top events of Greenville's 20th century. We'll try to make a final revision in August or September. If you have an opinion, please share it.

1. automobile
2. WWII
3. Great Depression
4. GCS centralization – 1928
5. decline of agriculture
6. rise of resort industry (should 6 & 7 be combined?)
7. decline of resort industry
8. Country Square supermarket & shopping center / Main Street decline
9. better transportation / Rt. 32 a state road / NYS Thruway / Erwin Road Plan
10. greater affluence / greater comforts (TV, AC, radio, etc.) / credit cards / better retirement years
11. greater dependence on cities (e.g., Albany)
12. new HS – 1968
13. computerization
14. women's role in work
15. declining morality
16. better emergency care / fire & rescue / closing of Greene County hospital
17. Glenn murder case – 1935
18. Movie theater closing
19. influenza / polio scare / tuberculosis
20. weather events (blizzard of 1957-58, drought of early '60s, etc.)