

Greenville Local History Group Newsletter

April 2017, Issue 258

Town Supervisor Paul Macko

A delightful spring day that edged toward summer awaited those attending the April meeting:

Donna Willard, Carolyn Savery, Mary Heisinger, Bob Shaw, Allen Shaw, Christine Mickelsen, Rachel Ceasar, Richard Ceasar, Kathy Smith, Bette Welter, Edna Huffman, Marge Donohue, Nick Nahas, Flip & Barbara Flach, Rachel & Patrick & Collin & Samantha Traver, Phyllis Beechert, Ken & Charlene Mabey, Orrin Stevens (from Denver way), Don Teator, and a few others who eluded my memory and the sign-up sheet. And of course program guest, Paul Macko. (Get well, Walter!)

Although the topic of the evening seemed to be an unconventional local history topic, I had hoped that a presentation by current Town Supervisor Paul Macko would remind us that local history is more than the past. And Paul aptly confirmed that feeling with a personable and responsive give-and-take that dealt with past, present, and future.

After a ten minute opener, the floor was opened to audience questions and those questions took us almost to the end of the meeting.

Topics covered:

- definition of politician
- 2016 Town Board confirmation of the town's Comprehensive Plan
- the 24 hour operation of the rescue squad, the Fly Car in Greenville, an overview of current volunteer rescue squad operation
- good financial situation
- the enjoyment of helping people



- the practically full-time nature of the Supervisor's job
- reaction to the Mavis building, the mountain view, effect on local businesses
- date collection to start soon for future re-evaluation, last time 2003
- Orrin Stevens's donation of antique safe
- driveways into the plaza and Mavis

- sidewalks, and a possible grant
- confusion between the Greene County Greenville and the Orange County Greenville
- becoming a Supervisor
- population of Greenville (town of, and hamlet)
- lighting districts, and recent improvements
- location of defibrillators
- the road between Country Estates and GNH, and Paul's commitment to a usable road
- sewer progress, and possible future expansion
- where the huge turbines that came through town are going
- senior housing, site by St John's
- new fire house and town's role in the decision
- fire districts

A wide range, as you can see, was discussed.

I had given notice that if no one asked my question by 8:45, I would interrupt and allow fifteen minutes for my question. No one asked my question so I hogged the last fifteen minutes.

"Tell us about Macko family history in Greenville. Where did they come from? What did your parents and grandparents do? What is the legacy? And what are the current Mackos doing?"

Paul took all of fifteen minutes to give us attendees an overview of his family, followed by comments and more questions from the floor.

Joseph and Eva Macko moved from Yonkers to Rt 67 (Urso farm, now Tom Teich photography) before moving to a farm on Plattekill Rd (now the backside of the Sunny Hill Golf Course's first nine). They had three boys – Joe, Tom,

and Andy. Paul's father Andy would become a Greenville Town Board member and Supervisor in the 1960s and then a County Legislator.

Paul recapped what his siblings, and the next generation was doing. (Of course, Andrea Macko is publisher of the Greenville Pioneer.) A few more thoughts of what he has seen, and additions from the audience, finished off Paul's presentation.

Thank you, Paul, for giving your views of current local history. I was

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Carelas to Build New Drive-In Movie Theatre

GREENVILLE — Work is starting this week on the new drive-in theatre on Route 32, Greenville, which when completed will be one of the larger theatres of its type in the county. Peter Carelas, owner of Carelas Restaurant and Grill is the builder of the theatre.

Bulldozers of the Greenville Excavators are now at work grading the grounds for the theatre which will be situated on a five acre plot of ground across the street from the Carelas Farm Boarding House and Restaurant.

The theatre will accommodate 400 cars and will be equipped with the latest type of fine sound equipment, and a screen of the latest type measuring 35 feet by 85 feet. It is presently planned to have the theatre ready for its opening on Memorial Day.

Mr. Carelas says that all of the pictures will be first class high rated shows, and popular prices will prevail.

The new project will fill a long felt need for a larger theatre in the area which has a very heavy boarding population in the summer season.

The prospect will also provide additional employment for several people in the area, and the estimated cost of the theatre is approximately \$55,000 exclusive of the land value.



pleased both for Paul's sharing of what I think is an important piece of local history and for his agreeable style that a few audience members later remarked to me on what a nice, friendly, and knowledgeable Supervisor we have.

The "light refreshments" I promise in our newspaper pr accounts followed, and a **thank you, again, goes to Stephanie and Christine** for providing a sociably pleasant way to finish off an evening. (If anyone else wants to pitch in, arrange with Stephanie.)

May 8 meeting: 7:30, at the Drive-In! Dwight Grimm and Leigh Van Swall of the Greenville Drive-In will be the guests at the next Greenville Local History Group program. Started in 1959, the Greenville drive-in sat empty for a time until Dwight and Leigh gave new life to the drive-in as a creative business niche last year. The owners will describe their business model, narrate almost sixty years of a local history institution, and place the Greenville Drive-In in the national trends, including an important local centennial.

One caution. If weather prevents us from comfortably meeting at the Drive-In, Plan B is to transfer to the Library. I will put out an email the morning of the meeting to confirm which site, and I will call those of you who usually attend but do

not have email. If anyone wants, you can always email me or call 634-2397.

As usual, light refreshments will be served, and I hear Leigh may have to make some popcorn!

The Greene County Historical Society's 2017 Home Tour takes place in Greenville on Saturday,

June 3 from 10 am to 4 pm. Headquarters is at the North Barn at the Town Park, with a driving tour to explore the ten sites. It will be Greenville's chance to show scenic landscapes and interesting houses.

I know some of you have attended this event many years, wherever in the county it is, and this year is similar. For those of you who have never or rarely experienced these home tours, consider supporting this year's tour in our backyard. One purchases tickets (and a driving tour brochure to accompany) from headquarters and then you drive to any or all the houses you want. View the houses, wander the permitted grounds, and enjoy the scenery as you drive. I will forward an email from GCHS in a couple weeks.

(from GCHS publicity) Tickets can be purchased the day of the tour for \$30 at tour headquarters. To reserve advance sale tickets for \$25, send a check payable to GCHS to: Greene County Historical Society, P.O. Box 44, Coxsackie, NY 12051. Advance sale tickets **will not be mailed** but will be distributed the day of the tour. Reservations must be received by June 1st.

On May 6 (two days before our meeting), the **Greenville Drive-In** hosts their annual season kick-off party. **Casablanca** will be shown, preceded by an evening of Andrew Stein music of that era to accompa-

ny food and beverage inspired by the movie's North African location. For more info, go to www.drivein32.com and click on Casablanca, or check local papers' publicity.

For those of you checking, I am closer to having my website up-to-date but not yet. I am hoping another month will see that resolved.

Summer is full of local goings-on. Enjoy them as we can, and try to support local. If you have a special project that this newsletter might include, contact me.

Enjoy the wonders of May!

North Barn Question:

I was told years ago that the North Barn was a Sears kit barn. My source's info was second-hand, and my source is now deceased. Does anyone know if this claim is true? At top is a 1930ish photo of the North Barn just after being built. The bottom photos is tantalizingly close in appearance. Contact me if you have more info.



68 GORDON-VAN TINE COMPANY, DAVENPORT, IOWA, U. S. A.

A Practical Farm Barn, Costing \$1160

FLOOR PLAN OF BARN No. 202

BARN PLAN No. 202

\$761⁰⁰

For the sum of \$761.00 we will furnish all lumber, nails, bolts, hardware and paints needed to erect this building. We guarantee to furnish material in good grades, and in sufficient amounts to complete the building. There will be no extras.

By allowing a fair price for carpenter work, which we do not furnish, this building can be erected for \$1,150.00, including all labor and material.

Plans for this Barn, \$1⁰⁰

Includes specifications and bills of materials, which cost zero nothing. Also complete set of working drawings and blue prints, with all details and drawings plainly marked, drawn to the scale of one-quarter inch to the foot.

and extend the same construction all round. This plan therefore answers the purpose of a small, medium and large sized barn. For a general purpose barn it cannot be improved upon, and is adaptable to a farm of any size, large or small. The cost of erection will vary somewhat in different localities. We figured on good material and workmanship throughout, as this is the cheapest in the end. All dimension stock is strictly No. 1, and other lumber is accordance.

The building is 32 feet 6 inches by 44 feet. The side posts are 14 feet high, and it is 34 feet from all to ridge. The lower story is 8 feet high in the clear. The ground floor is covered with two-inch plank, well supported by heavy girders.

Gordon-Van Tine Co., Davenport, Iowa. It is the price for me to say that all the building material I have purchased of you is fully equal to your reputation of it. For one day, I have had my barn shipped from your yards in St. Louis in good order. The lumber available in this country, and especially "Clear Pine" and "Red Pine" are of inferior quality. The quality of your material is of the best, and the price is very reasonable. I am sure you will be pleased to hear from me again. Very truly yours, W. H. ALLEN.