

# Greenville Local History Group Newsletter

September 2017, Issue 263

## Fifty Years Ago in Greenville—Audrey Matott

The Greenville Local History Group gathered during an unseasonably cool summer's evening on September 11, 2017, to look back at what Greenville was like 50 years ago, as seen through the eyes of the prominent town newspaper at the time, The Greenville Local. Gathering for the meeting were: Allyn and Mary Shaw, William Matott III, Sherry and Ed Baron, Carolyn Savery, Walter and Donna Ingalls, Kathy Smith, Arlene DiBello, David Tschinkel, David Philipp, Garry and JoAnn South, Nick Nahas, Margaret Donohue, Edna Huffman, Peter and Rita Buttiker, Marvin Smith, Marilyn Snow, Robert Shaw, Harry Finnin, Sally Staunch, Marie Henning, Joanne Pryor, Susan Cunningham, Hilde Tompkins, Bette Welter, Carmella Bucci, Janelle Bucci, Cecilia Bucci, Dianne Smith, Curtis A. Cunningham, Stephanie Ingalls and Christine Mickelsen.

Audrey Matott, a contributing reporter for The Greenville Pioneer hosted the meeting. Through a series of slides she presented numerous clippings from the Local showing some of 1967's headlines and highlights as well as a look at some of the common news features from the time.

Among the common news features in every issue of the Local was a "Calendar of Events" of which many events were often held at area churches, Vernon Haskins' The Woodland Reporter and Museum Notes from the

## Durham Center Museum, Library Notes and Servicemen's News and school lunch menus



The above photo shows Greenville F. F. A. members with their Advisor looking at a road map the morning before they left for Kansas City and the National Future Farmer Convention.

vention.  
Front Row - L to R:  
John Bensen, Mr. Ketcham, Geo  
Vrooman.

Vrooman.  
Rear:

Hillicoss, Walter Vaughn

Parks, Bates and Hillicoss will represent New York State in the National F. F. A. Poultry and Egg Judging Contest Wednesday October

The group left for the Convention Saturday morning at 6:00 A. M. going by way of St. Louis, where they will spend a day on the Purina

## **Area's Medical Needs Cited In Newspaper Series**



The Medical problems of the Greenville Area is being given much publicity this week in a two-part article in the Knickerbocker News. The series opened on Monday with the above photo of Dr. Bott in front of the new Medical Center Building. The article is not limited to Greenville only but points up the problem faced by many rural communities in getting general practitioners to replace the older doctors who have served their communities faithfully and well over a long period of time. Perhaps through this additional publicity some doctor may become interested and in this way help solve the serious medical problem in the area.

from Greenville Central School and Cairo-Durham Central School.

Matott presented a comparison of the school lunch menus from 1967 to today and many remarked not only on the difference in choices but the difference in cost for lunch. One attendee reported that school lunch cost 35 cents in 1965 and were appetizing. An elementary student present remarked that that she was not enthusiastic about school lunches and that they now cost \$3.00.

Some of 1967's biggest stories included the groundbreaking and start of construction for the Greenville Central Junior/Senior High School building (a \$2.5 million dollar project), the newly constructed St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Church (which was a larger church built to replace a smaller church at the same site), a new medical building and the need for local doc-

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY

A DEMOCRATIC WEEKLY PAPER THAT IS PUBLISHED BECAUSE IT IS APPRECIATED

VOLUME THIRTY-FIVE      \$4.00 a year      GREENVILLE, NEW YORK      WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 1967      10 CENTS PER COPY      NUMBER THIRTY-NINE

**What's New  
In Your Own  
Community?**

On March 23rd a meeting was called at the Westerner in the Greenville Arms Hotel where 22 interested persons gathered. Again on March 28th, 1967, 22 interested persons gathered for an identical meeting concerning the new community.

Guest speaker for both meetings was Bradford N. Stanton who is with the State Department of Parks and also Director of Trust Development.

Mr. Stanton conducted the meetings in such a way that those who attended stated the facts concerning the new community organization. Each meeting was divided into groups of four or five people. At each table held its own discussion period and between them picked from their group the one person believed to be the most important thing mentioned during the discussion. Mr. Stanton had prepared with one copy of the new community plan several to put down each table choice. To those who were not present on the board **COMMUNITY GET EVERYONE IN THE COMMUNITY TO WORK. THE END IS COMING FOR YOU!** It is residents. Together greater things can be done. If you leave a job to only a few often results in a loss of money.

The March 23rd meeting resulted with the following outline, each being chosen the most important from the group:

1. More People
2. Transportation
3. Transportation Building Codes
4. Transportation
5. Transportation
6. Legislation
7. Recreation

On March 28th the results were similar:

1. More People
2. Transportation
3. People
4. Community Organization
5. Light Industry
6. Transportation

Typical seating arrangement for "The Westerner" which opened up on April 12, 1967 in Greenville, New York. Charcoal Steaks will be featured along with an interior deer of western legend.

**Interior of the Westerner, New Greenville Restaurant**

**UFOs Reported Seen By Several Near Greenville**

**Calendar of Events**

|                         |           |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Wednesday, April 12th   |           |
| Baseball - Greenville   |           |
| All-City Council        | 1 p.m.    |
| Greenville Library      |           |
| Schultz Cafeteria       | 6:15 p.m. |
| Artificial Flower Show  |           |
| Dominick Supper         | 5 p.m.    |
| Dominicville Church     |           |
| Everyone "Go to Church" |           |
| Everyone "Go to Church" |           |
| Emergency Supper        |           |
| Cornwallville Hall      | 5:30 p.m. |
| Boat Launch             |           |
| Greenville P. T. A.     |           |
| School Board            |           |
| Thursday, April 20th    |           |
| Rust Bed Supper         |           |
| Westgate Inn            |           |
| Woodman's Hall          | 5 p.m.    |

**Special to the Greenville Local**  
Resident and society can highly appreciate the many comments by some of our residents on Monday night. One man, Mr. H. L. Miller, stated when Lefty, before he left his main house around 8:00 P.M., was asked if he had seen any lights which he had recently built. An answer came back that he had seen a single bright light which he thought to be a star in the western sky. Another man, Mr. J. E. Miller, later on looked again and this time saw a second bright light. The two later on talked again and this time he was sure he had seen a third. This was all he could see. Let us add that many of his neighbors also saw lights. Let us add that he drove over in the Quackenbush car. The object however over the hill was a very bright light which "took off" toward Greenville with a roar. Mr. H. L. Miller, his son, Danby, and his sister observed the object over the G. C. B. baseball diamond and made up of changing lights for about 10 minutes.

By this time the P.T.A. was aware and wanted to go home. As the lights were still there, Mr. H. L. Miller just seemed to head up into the hills. He did not return. He was seen the next morning in the Quackenbush car. Danby didn't sleep right off, stopped, and looking out the window saw a bright light on one of the two objects. He got up and went outside. He took his sister home and called his son, Wayne Day, who was in the city. Wayne Day, who says he was in the city, says went back to the G. C. B. baseball diamond and saw the lights. Danby and followed the ufo's through the trees, commented that the lights seemed to rise in from the ground and merge with the trees. After this they disappeared and was never seen again in a north direction.

**Don Tuttle Is Speaker At FFA Annual Dinner**

The Annual FFA Dinner and Banquet of the Greenville and Seneca Valley High School FFA and Seneca Valley Community Senior Cafeteria, Wednesday evening, April 12, 1967, was a success. Parents, friends and Chapter members enjoyed a delicious chicken dinner.

Laurence G. Gandy, Chapter adviser and Tommie Gandy, president welcomed the gathering. Superintendents of the schools, parents, friends and Chapter members enjoyed a delicious chicken dinner.

After the meal, Tommater

tors, the expansion of Bryant's Supermarket, a restaurant at The Westerner of which members of the group commented did not last long, a fire at the Stiefel Laboratory in Oak Hill, the 50th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Scott M. Ellis, the 30th anniversary of Greenville Norton Hill Lumber Company and a fascinating story about a UFO sighting.

As part of the presentation, clippings of advertisements were included, particularly of businesses that are no longer in operation. Included were John I's General Store, Hynes Liquor Store, Mary's Snack Bar, Bill's Service Station, Greenville Pharmacy (Quackenbush) and Far Hills Nursing Home.

The group also examined ads for businesses and events that are still operating including ads for the Altamont Fair and the Greenville Drive-In.

An ad and a photo feature for Yeomans Garage was included as well. Yeomans' Garage was owned and operated by Harry and Mary Yeomans until they sold it to Don Fett, who worked for the Yeomans for many years prior. Similarly, Don and his wife, Patti, run the garage now known as Don's Auto Care.

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## What's New In Your Own Community?

On March 25th a meeting was called to order at the Greenville Arms Hotel where 32 interested persons gathered to discuss the needs of both another group of 25 persons gathered for an identical meeting concerning their community.

Guest speaker for both meetings was Mr. John D. Stanton, Director with Area Development in Albany and the Director of Trade Dev't.

Mr. Stanton conducted the meetings in such a way that those who attended were able to determine the reason for the meetings, the purpose of the two groups and surveys taken. Each table held its own discussion and then picked up from their survey what they believed to be the needs of their community at their table.

At the conclusion of the meeting Mr. Stanton stood prepared with colored chalk and large black board to put down the main points discussed. Before doing so Mr. Stanton wrote on the board "The Community". Everyone in the Community to work together for the betterment of **YOU**, its residents. Together great things can be done but to think that you can do it alone will result in failure.

The March 25th meeting resulted with the following conclusions being chosen the most important items of its group:

1. Better People
2. Zoning and Building Codes
3. Transportation
4. Housing
5. Employment
6. Recreation

On March 26th the results were submitted to:

1. Town People
2. Zoning and Building Codes
3. Transportation
4. Housing
5. Employment
6. Recreation

Steaks will be featured along with an interior steer of "western legend".

**Interior of the Westerner, New Greenville Restaurant:**

An Elk Head on display at "The Westerner" funded by the famous Winchester 73 rifles - the rifles that won the west. The dinner opens Wednesday night, April 12, 1967.

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**Calendar of Events**

|                       |                       |           |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| Thursday, April 13th  | Baseball - Greenville | 4 p.m.    |
|                       | Grenville Relay       | 4:15 p.m. |
| Saturday, April 15th  | Donative Supper       | 5 p.m.    |
| Sunday, April 16th    | Greenville Church     | 5:30 p.m. |
| Tuesday, April 18th   | Corporalville Supper  | 5:30 p.m. |
| Wednesday, April 19th | School Cafeteria      | 5 p.m.    |
|                       | Rock Hill Supper      | 5 p.m.    |
|                       | Westerlo Fire Dept.   | 5 p.m.    |
|                       | Woodmen's Hall        | 5 p.m.    |

**Special to the Greenville Local:** On April 10th at approximately 11:45 in our area as a UFO was sighted by some of our residents. At 11:45 I all started when Lefty Leffersen left his house to check out his new shed which he had built. As he did so he noticed an exceptionally bright light which he thought was a plane. It was in eastern part of the skies about ½ hour away from the sun. He said that he was quite certain it wasn't a star as it appeared to be made up of several stars. It was very bright red and orange. Lefty at this point stopped to call his wife, Danny Quackenbush and his sister driver over. They all saw the same thing. The object hovered over the area for a short time and then disappeared. It was last seen near Quackenbush in pursuit. Danny Quackenbush was driving a 1964 G.C.R. over the G.C.R. baseball diamond, described by Danny as sort of long and low. It was moving very fast for perhaps an hour or so. No other people in town saw it and wanted to go home. As they drove out of town they saw the object again. They had to break up into two sections and headed toward the town. They all saw the same thing. It kept flying off, stopped, and then came back again. The two objects came together again. Danny then drove to the home of his friend, Wayne Daly, who was also watching the object. They both went back to the G. C. R. baseball diamond and saw the object again and followed the object through the fields for a minute. It then took off and was seen to drop from the ground and merge with another object then picked up speed and disappeared in a northwesterly direction.

**Don Tuttle Is Speaker At FFA Annual Dinner**

The Annual Parent and Son Banquet of the Greenville F. F. A. was held at the Central School Cafeteria Wednesday evening, April 18th. Approximately 150 members enjoyed a delicious chicken dinner.

Lawrence Gardiner, Chapter President, welcomed the gathering. Superintendent Edward Hitchcock, Dr. Charles L. Johnson, and the Flower Committee passed out certificates.

After the meal, Tommaseau

### Part of the Cast At Old Timer's Party



Old Timer's Christmas Party was a huge success. "From 100 to 4" was the approximate range in ages that attended the party. Above is a picture of some of the younger children as they prepared to take part in the program. Pictured from left to right in the picture are John Albers, King; Mike Zehnter, King; Wayne Ellsbree, King; Scott Ciuffo, Shepherd; Jeff Albers, Shepherd; Sheila Carpenter, Angel; Becky Dumrauf, Mary; Peter Gill, Joseph; and Eddie Benson as the Innkeeper.

A brief look at the 1967 candidates for local offices was also included in the presentation. The republican candidates swept the election in 1967 Greenville, which included Fred Flack for Town Supervisor, Jeanne Bear for Town Clerk, Andrew Macko for Town Coun-

cilman, Alvin Halverdson for Assessor (four years) and Mel Rash for Assessor (two years), Carol Olsen for Tax Collector and Edward McDonald for Justice of the Peace.

The group also looked at what social media was like in 1967 as they read over some of the correspondence columns that consumed a significant portion of the Local's inside pages. Columns from every section of the local area shared details about the comings and goings of local residents. Local areas reported included Greenville, East Greenville, Oak-Hill Durham, South Westerlo, Durham Center, Preston Hollow, Lambs Corners and Medusa, among many others.

As the presentation concluded the group reflected on how much Greenville has changed and how much it has remained the same. A photo from the 1967 "Old Timer's Party" was included and reminded us that Greenville always has been and continues to be a warm and supportive community.

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You have just read the first ever GLHG Newsletter write-up not composed by me!

It is with pleasure and pride I read this account and recognize the work and motivation that Audrey demonstrated. She accepted a challenge that few others even consider and produced an evening that many attendees enjoyed.

Congratulations, Audrey, and thank you.

And I thank the 35-40 of you who came out to support local history and to give moral support to Audrey. It is this community attitude that I have noted and utilized for nearly thirty years as Town Historian.

Yep, Deb and I are back from our Baltic cruise—a rewarding, educational, and entertaining trip. Perhaps, if there is interest, I can share the highlights in a travelogue program next year.

The October 9 meeting will present the 2018 calendar. Preceding the main event will be a slide show, *The Quirky Quarter-Hundred*, a short presentation of 25 past calendar pages that capture an unusual or seldom publicized slice of Greenville life.

The November meeting features the second annual Sylvia Hasenkopf presenta-

tion, the topic of which she and I will soon decide.

I heard from Mary Heisinger that the October 11 Civil War Round Table will feature Ron Gabriele on Pearl Harbor. Although the topic is not Civil War, the chance to hear Ron Gabrielle was too good an opportunity to pass up.

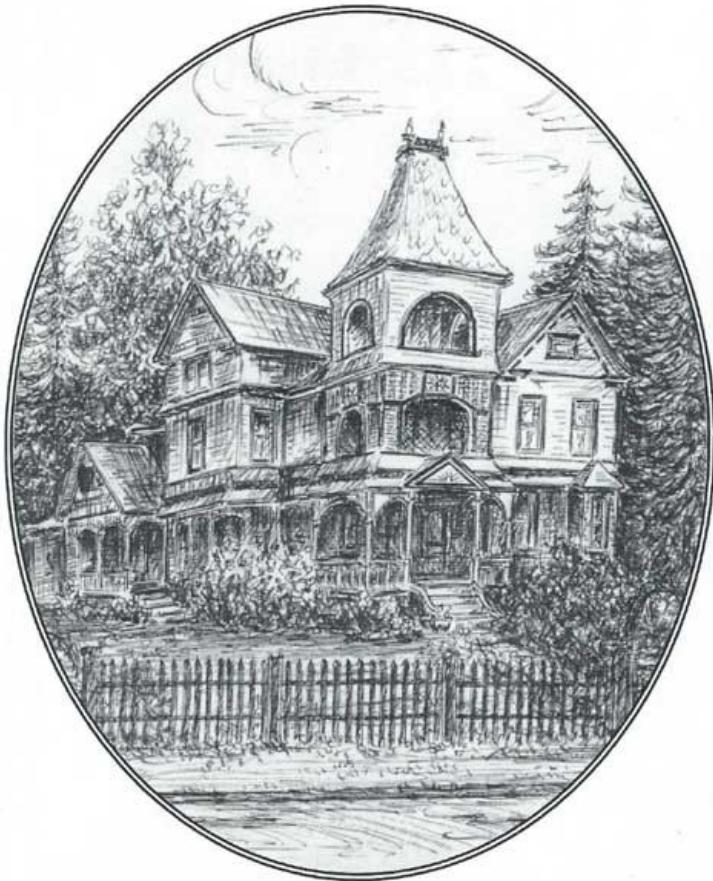
I need to arrange for our usual businesses to carry calendars. If you can think of one that would be an additional good spot for visibility, let me know. (Our usual is Library, Kelly's, Tops, and GNH.)

Your best two chances to purchases discounted calendars will be the next two meetings. The usual \$10 cost will discounted for “members” (those of you who attend meetings or receive the newsletter by mail or email).

Upon my return, I learned of the passing of Leona Flack. Although she did not attend meetings, she was a fan and maker of Greenville history. She somehow talked me into co-chairing the Library Addition drive of the 1990s, and one of our calendars marked Leona’s driving force to have an addition to the Library. (Imagine the Library without this southern wing, both main floor and large community room! I am already feeling constricted.) Maybe, I will sneak it in the October slide show.

The photos of old Locals are courtesy Audrey Matott and the historian’s files.

## Greenville Local History Group 2018 Calendar



The **Henry Botsford house**, in a 1992 sketch by June Mead Daniels. To be presented at the October meeting, the calendar again features twelve slices of Greenville history, as well as recognize the life achievements and service to the area by Tom and Joanne Baumann.

For now, it is nice to be home, even though the travel experiences will be remembered for a long time. Take care.