

Greenville Local History Group Newsletter

September 2020, Issue 288

COVID #3: Bakery, Bell, Shaw, Member List

Good early-Autumn, Local Historians,

I have to be honest. Although I will be glad to return to the old format of program coverage, for the sake of knowing we are back to normal, I must say that I have been enjoying the new format of finding odds and ends that we might otherwise not have covered.

And not knowing how far into 2021 this will continue, I am encouraging anyone who has a possible topic to create or suggest to do so sooner than later. I like the variety of voices and topics.

This month:

- *Flip Flach: Flach's Bakery
- *Bob Shaw: a few memories
- *membership list of names
- *hotel bell

In the last newsletter, I mentioned I would generate a list of all the subscribers to the Newsletter.

Over this past year, I was able to connect three pairs of people who are/were GLHG members. In case you were wondering who else is part of our local history community, I have generated the following list. Only names are included. If you want to contact someone on the list and need info,

let me know, and I will contact the other person for permission to proceed, and only then would I share contact info.

If you do not see names of people who you think might be interested in Greenville local history, I think it fair you ask the person if they want to be on the email list. Sharing our local history brings me pleasure.

email

Judy Adams
Timothy Adams
Jerry & Bella Adinolfi
Carol Adriance
Deb Allen
Paul Augstein
Ken Baker
William Bardel
Sherry Baron
Connie Barrett
Joanne Baumann
Richard Bear

Linda Berger
Walt Birman
Diane Bischoff
Lori Blair
Gina Blenis
Tracy Boomhower
Cathy Broder
Arlene Brown
Chele Brown
Barbara Brumell
Garth Bryant
Zan Bryant
Linda Bunt

Ross Burhouse
Ronnie Campbell
Virginia Canterella
Aldo Cardamone
Russ & Abby Carlsen
Rachel Ceasar
June Clark
John & Celia Costigan
Curt Cunningham
Susan Cunningham
Robert D'Agostino
Marymichael D'Onofrio
Eliot Dalton

Debra Danner
Greg Davis
Arlene DiBello
Nick DiBrino
Shelly Dobski
Janet Dolias
Margaret Donohue
David Dorpfeld
Richard & Wanda Drake
John Earl
Diane Eckert
Ken Elsbree

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Pat Elsbree
Ramona Fawkes
Barbara Flach
Phil Flach
Anne Foster
Kim McGahan
John Garofalo
Art Gorneau
Jacob Gorneau
Norma Grandone
Sonya Greiner
Dwight Grimm
Roy Gundersen
Gen Hagan
Renee Hamilton
Sylvia Hasenkopf
Krista Haushalter
Jonas Havens
Mary Heisinger
Anita & Bob Helms
Richard Hempstead
Aileen Hesel
Bruce Hilliger
Ted Hilscher
Edna Huffman
Al Hulick
Donna Ingalls
John Ingalls
Paige Ingalls
Stan Ingalls
Don Irving
Kobey Jackson
Martin Kelly
Quinn Kelly
Kate Kieffer
Sue Knott
Hope Konecny
Robert H Krasney
Connie Kudlack
Jack Kudlack
Anne Lafferty
Carol Lamb
Joan Lambert
Bobby Lampoutis
Melanie Lekocevic
Leroy Bear
Kevin Lewis
Roe Lewis
Terez Limer
Ted Loeffler
Ken Mabey
Paul Macko
Debbie Magee

Virginia Mangold
Artie & Harriet Marini
Kathy Martin
Audrey Matott
Linda Matthews
Angela Mauriello
Joanne McFadden
Christine Mickelsen
Bob Miller
Roger Morey
Melinda Mullen
Brian Mulligan
Diane and Jim Mulrenan
Mary Lou Nahas
Wayne Nelsen
Janet Nelson
Gail Nichol森
Sandy Noirot
Hope Nugent
John P. O'Grady
Peter O'Hara
John O'Hara
Mark Overbaugh
Jonathan Palmer
Jackie Park
Zeke Pease
Jeff Pellerin
Heather Ann Petryna
Frank Plattner
Denise Rose Presby
Polly Price
Sharon Pugsley
Bill Quackenbush
Dave Raffo
Bob Randall
Carol Reed
Katja & Paul Rehm
Janet Ricci
Marisol Rivera
Tracey Romano
Jeannette Rose
David Rundell
Barbara Sanborn
Anita Sanctuary
Debra Sanderlin
Carolyn Savery
Bernice Savino
Beth Schneck
Allyn Shaw
Bill Silk
Kathy Smith
Shirley Smith
Marilyn Snow

Howard Snowiss
Bonnie & Steven Snyder
Bob Spees
Emma Spees
Lorrie Spinner
Tom Spinner
Carol Spohler
Kurt Spohler
Joe Staunch
Sally Staunch
Barbara Stevens
Bruce & Carol Stevens
John Stevens
Marla Stevens
Orrin Stevens
Sarah Stevens
Carrie Taranova
Thomas Teich
Wendy Teller
Johanne Titus
Robert Titus
Hilde Tompkins
Joe Trupiano
Dave Tschinkel
Colin Tumey
Barbara Valicenti
Barbara Van Auken
Becky Van de Water
Leigh Van Swall
Vedder Library
Jack VerPlanck
Maureen VerPlanck
Mark Vinciguerra
Ed Volmar
Sue & Bill Von Atzingen
Barbara Walter
Bette Welter
Elli & Art Werking
Robert Whitbeck
Donna Willard
Jeanne Williams
Joe & Phyllis Wolf
Tracy Young

mail only
Gail Biskupich
Diane Eckert
Ron Golden
Stephanie Ingalls
Sue & Lew Knott
Richard McAneny
Bob Shaw
Elsie Turon

Flach's Bakery: An Immigrant Pastry Chef's Dream

Karl Flach, with wife Anna and two daughters, came to America in 1910 from Germany. At 28, he was an accomplished Baker / Pastry Chef. Upon negotiating Ellis Island, they settled in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn where he found a job working in a family bakery. After ten years, and four more children, they decided to leave the big city – he with a dream of starting his own bakery and new life in a country, farm family setting. First purchasing a small cottage in the Indian Fields area (now under the Alcove Reservoir), then being able to purchase a 221 acre established dairy/crop farm in Hannacroix, just west of Alcove in 1921, they settled in to family farm life.

With the bakery ambition on hold, they farmed through the 1920s, enduring the Depression years with the saving opportunity of Karl laboring on the building of the Alcove Reservoir dam while his wife and children carried on the farm operation. The mid-30's post-depression period brought the opportunity to focus on increased farm production, and the means to finally create an upstart of the Bakery endeavor – a building on the property was renovated to accommodate wood-burning ovens, work stations, etc., and using their own farm-produced dairy, grain, and fruit ingredients, Flach's Bakery was off and running. Three house-to-house delivery routes were established and Karl's dream was finally a reality. He did still, however, desire a store-type setting to market his creations.

Along came the terrible World War II years, with of course understandably the side effect of putting the entire country in survival mode and disrupting commerce as a whole. Then once again, as had the post-depression years offered, the post-war atmosphere presented another fresh start. In 1946, Karl took the chance and purchased a building on Main Street Greenville to centrally locate and focus on the growing resort (Boarding House) industry. He quickly became known and within a short time was supplying over two dozen Houses with their baked goods, prepared all night by Karl and his son Fred, who had apprenticed and joined his father in the business. It was then delivered to their door fresh daily early, early A.M. By the mid-fifties, a retail store-front for walk-in customers was added. At that time, Flach's Bakery

became Flach's Bakery; a decision made by Fred, who was now the primary owner, for ease of pronunciation and a more Americanized approach. Business was good and profitable and continued to grow.

By the mid-sixties however, with the growth of large commercial baking companies, such as Freihofers and Entenmanns filling the shelves of relatively newly introduced self-service super-markets, and bulk food product delivery service to resorts by large trucking organizations such as Ginsberg and Sysco, along with increased preservative use and refined refrigeration, the small-town individually operated bakery began to struggle. It no longer proved profitable and Flach's Bakery ceased delivery and closed its doors.

One immigrant's dream had come to fruition and had a "great run", but eventually yielded to the ever-changing atmosphere of the business world.

-- Respectfully Submitted
Karl's grandson - Flip Flach



Main Street, Greenville. Part of Bakery sign seen in back of truck; early-mid 1960s widening of Main Street



The Flachs: top:Louise, Elizabeth, Charlie, Fred, Joe, Ida; bottom: Rose, Mom Anna, Pop Karl, Ann

A Monday Evening of Memories with Bob Shaw

My past conversations with many of you might generate ideas that I occasionally write down or remember for future use. I have told Bob Shaw a half-dozen times over the last couple years that I would call and talk about the Greenville Service Station. Finally, I did so, with the good excuse of using the contents for inclusion in this newsletter.

With the caveat, and Bob's reminder, that memory going back eighty years (even twenty!) may be a bit malleable, and not being sure about many of the dates, and having the memory jogged halfway through two conversations ahead, I captured these snippets. Feel free to add on to the story with your memories.

Service Station

Bob worked at the Mobil Service Station (site of current Tiny Diner) from 1958-1970. He recalls one of the earliest, if not the first, operator as Lawrence Waldron of Gayhead. Waldron may have operated the station for 3-4 years before a short stint by Cliff Powell. Bob Pierce then became operator, with whom Bob Shaw worked his years there. [dt: a FB post by Audrey featured a Local clipping of Pierce retiring in 1970 after working 17 years at the service station.]

Bob recalls that it was just the two of them: oil changes, grease fittings, minor tune-ups (remember condenser, rotors, and spark



Greenville Center corner store and post office.
The youngster could well be Bob Shaw

plugs?), etc. Of course, the big part of the job was selling gasoline.

Bob took the position when Marvin Tallman who had been working with Pierce left to go to Arizona. (He would return and run a well-drilling business.)

Greenville was a busy place back then, Bob says, especially in the summers and even more so on weekends. The guests from the local boarding houses – Shepards, Balsam Shade, Breezy Knoll, among them – would park their cars, lining the street from the bottom of Rt 26 out to the current day post office. Bob remarked how unimaginably busy Greenville was compared today.

Bob and I speculated when the garage was built. He thought it about 1950. [dt: I have information that the oil company bought the house on the corner about 1944 and had it torn down. The actual construction date of the garage remains to be determined.]

Other Work

Bob had graduated with the GCS Class of 1954. A few days after graduation, Pioneer Insurance Company president(?) caught up with Bob and asked if he wanted to work at the Pioneer. When Bob ventured it would be nice to have a week off before starting work, Hook said the job was there then. Bob started work, mostly as file and mail clerk. And he worked there for three years before venturing across the street at the service station.

After 1970, Bob worked at Welsh & Gray (Catskill) for a year before finding his forty year job at the Catskill Country Club, working at anything that came up but mostly the grass and greens at the golf club.

Other Greenville memories

Bob met his future wife Marie while working at the Pioneer where Marie also worked. They would go out to lunch at his mother's house in Greenville Center but close-by was Mrs. Stremke's Corner Restaurant on the four corners. Bob and

Marie lived in Westerlo at her grandmother's house for nine years before returning to Greenville Center.

Bob worked at the Mobil Station, selling, of course, Mobil gasoline. Virgil Clow (site of post office) sold Tydol. Gordon Simpson sold Sinclair. Never a problem about competition, Bob said. They all got together and decided what the new price would be. Oh, yes, one dollar would get you five gallons in Bob's days.

When Bob worked evenings at the service station, and was hungry, he would dine at Hynes (today's Kelly's Pharmacy).

One of Bob's duties at the service station was to sell bus tickets. Mountain View Shortline had a daily bus run that would take guests directly to NYC. On weekends, there might be seven buses; week days often saw five buses. [dt: still hard to believe!]

Buildings: Bob recalls that Wessel's Garage (site of today's Mangold Realty) was torn down 1948/49. And what a shame it was to lose Elsie Roe's house in the early 1960s to the bank. The Flach barbershop had a spot in the west end of Virgil Clow's gas station.

Greenville Center

Bob claimed not a whole lot has changed in Greenville Center from when he was a kid. The

Baptist Church has been a mainstay of the Shaw life, and the Church has received life-long support from the family. The church hall, across the street from the church, had been the site of the horse shed, something Bob remembered seeing before it was razed, perhaps about 1945.

Bob remembered the hamlet store was owned by Townsend, then Mickelsen. The Townsends had had a store and the post office diagonally across the street before it moved to the last site.

A particularly interesting memory was that of the former Nursing Home. Bob's grandparents had bought the old farm house and buildings about 1907. Lightning struck the barn, burning it to the ground, and discouraging the family enough to soon sell the farm. The Shaws then took over the store on the corner, the one referencing Townsend and Mickelsen. The Shaws lived above the store for a while. Bob's father built that house where Bob lived, now owned by the Nugents. Bob's grandparents lived in the house across the street, two houses away from the church (the Longo house).

[dt: This all came from 20-30 minutes on the phone. Thank you, Bob, a worthy trip down Memory Lane. And it is a reminder that this is something you can do with yourself or any other worthy subject.]

More Notes:

—A thank you goes to the contributors of this issue: Flip and Bob.

—The 2021 calendar is at the printer and should be ready by Columbus Day weekend. I will email a short note when it is ready for purchase.

—The September program would have been an area artist—my wife Debra. She has promised to be ready for next year.

—I received this email from a friend: "Just had a family birthday-dinner (Mom turned 95!), and one very distant relation to my nephew-in-law's father is from your area: Greenville. His grandmother (nee Cooper) ran a drugstore/pharmacy/soda fountain kind of place "on the main street." Her second husband - apparently the initial owner of this establishment - had a Slavic surname T...ych?"

Can anyone help identify the people referred to?



Help Needed—Worthy Project

Early in Covid days, I received a generous offer from a person who is able to make presentation boards for a kiosk, much like the one about and at Vanderbilt Park. The Van-

derbilt board has 8-10 photos and text that gives an overview of the family and park. A photograph of it is included (a sunny day made taking a quality shot difficult).

The offer was to create such a kiosk-type board for each of the three major hamlets: Greenville, Freehold, and Norton Hill.

Alas, in early Spring, I had more “on my plate” than time and resources would allow for such an attractive and ambitious project. Just in case an offer like this comes along again, I would like to be better prepared. However, I must admit, I am still finding the project a daunting one. What should go on this display that would capture Greenville and/or the other two hamlets..

I am presenting this to you because I feel inadequate to attempt this project by myself. So if anyone would like to join in and start brain-storming and then gathering the types of information you think worthy, please let me know. And your effort could be for one of the hamlets..

I do not know if the offer would ever be forthcoming again. But just in case, I would like to be better prepared than I was. Of all the projects to come before me in thirty years, this was, and is, one of the most challenging.

For a better idea, please go to the Vanderbilt Park and look over the quality effort at the kiosk at the start of the trail.

Meal Time

The hand bell must have been a much more common device decades ago. Many of us who worked at a resort can even now hear the clanging bell calling in the guests for breakfast or lunch or dinner (or is it dinner and supper?). Some of the larger farms with farm hands would have one the call to lunch. Even some of the one room school houses would have a bell, even though many of them had a larger bell that would defy the term hand bell.

The volume of each bell could vary greatly, with one of the key components being size. So, imagine my surprise when I espied this eleven inch bell which Mary Heisinger was carrying at the Tri-County awards ceremony two years ago. A bigger surprise arose when she presented the bell to me for the local history files. I had not known this bell existed.

And what a clamor it might have made. I will cajole all of you at the next in-person GLHG meeting, whenever that is, to listen to five seconds of this racket that might have been a welcome sound near the four corners of Greenville.

It conjures up, for me, the following scene. A couple guests, sitting on the Greenville Hotel front deck, facing South Street, watching a couple wagons kicking up some dust, kids talking back and forth on their way back from the pond, hunger rumbles noticeable, and smell of dinner/lunch wafting out the open front doors.

--a tag is attached with the wording: This was used to call guests to dinner at the hotel in Greenville which stood where the Pioneer Insurance building now stands. -Mrs Reuben Waldron

