

Greenville Local History Group Newsletter

September 2021, Issue 299

Baumann's Brookside Centennial

A pleasant September evening greeted the thirty of us who convened at Baumann's Brookside. It was classic local history, made even more so by the ambiance of the rec hall, our meeting place for the evening. Attendees included: Bette Welter, Pat Elsbree, Sonia Greiner, Linda Berger, Kathy Smith, Randall Schmollinger, Stephanie Ingalls, Bob Shaw, Christine Mickelsen, Gail Nicholzen, Garth & Theresa Bryant, Al Hulick, Larry and Laura Brown, Lee and Arlene Brown, Joan Smith, Tom & Joanne Baumann, the BB contingent (Carol Schreiber, Kevin & Roe Lewis, Courtney Reinhard, Tucker & Jessica Lewis), and Don & Debra Teator.

Don opened by expressing how thankful and relieved and proud he was. Relieved, because only a year earlier, early in the season, the discussions he heard was about the uncertainty of opening the resort for the season and then yielding to forces bigger than them. Thankful, for letting GLHG share a centennial celebration with the family. Proud, to watch three generations pull together after a non-year and deal with the issues of this year.

Roe had prepared a 25 slide program, with the first slide giving the history of the start:

"In 1913 Cornelius (Neil) Baumann and his wife Bertha made the move to Greenville via Long Island and Brooklyn for the clean country air. The city boy and his wife struggled to make a go of country life- he was a draftsman and machinist by trade- certainly not a farmer."



Main House 1921

Soon relatives began arriving, showing up in droves, eager to spend time away from the city at Neil and Bertha's country farm. The couple quietly shouldered the burden of feeding a growing family -now four sons- and a never ending stream of visitors, until Neil's brother suggested they started charging board. Thus in 1921, the family boarding business was born.

For \$7.00 per week guests in the 20's had to entertain themselves. They pitched hay, picked fruit, went hunting for woodchucks and swam in the creek. More buildings were added through the 30's, and the pool was dug in 1939 using two horses and a scoop. Neil and Bertha's son Russell and his wife Vivian ran the business through the booming 50's. Russ's daughter Carol and her husband Richard came into the business in 1965.

100 years later, what started as a depression era solution to feeding too many mouths, has evolved into a full service resort, with a staff of nearly 40. We think Neil and Bertha would be quite proud!"



Bertha & Neil 1907

Everyone in the room agreed with that last sentiment.

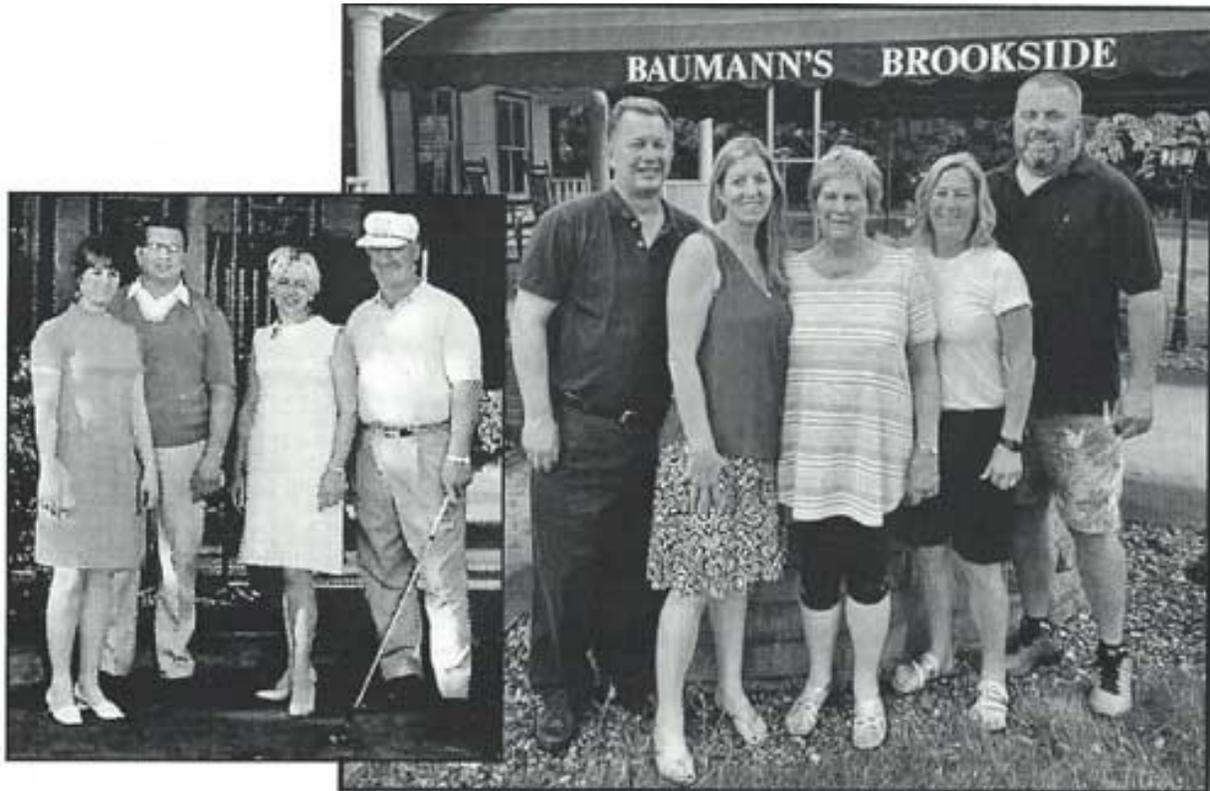
Roe's presentation the buildings that define the resort, with dates, and some gently ribbing about the original names:

- Main House: 1921, as resort (farm house before)
- Rec Hall: 1938
- Pool: 1938
- South Annex: 1941
- North Annex: 1955
- Pool Motel: 1960
- West Motel: 1962
- Yanke Motel: 1977
- Overlook Motel: 1982

More of the presentation included photos, especially of people:

The GLHG had visited Baumann's Brookside in May 2013 (newsletter 225). Most interesting was a history of the resort as penned by Con Baumann on his car dealership letter-head.

<https://www.dteator.com/glhg/glhg%20225pdf.pdf>



from the June 2021 GLHG Calendar
and caption below

In 1921, Cornelius (“Neil”) and Bertha Baumann opened their farm house to boarders. Son Russell and wife Rose Denowski joined the business in 1945; when Rose died, Russell’s second wife Vivian Calapa Callahan joined the business in 1951. Russell and Rose’s daughter Carol and her husband Richard Schreiber Jr entered the business in 1965, to be joined by fourth generation son Richard III and his wife Lynn,

daughter Rosemary and her husband Kevin Lewis, Courtney and her husband Jason Reinhard. The fifth generation include Pierce and Emily Schreiber, Tucker and Russell Lewis, and Ben and Julia Reinhard. Celebrating the 2021 centennial: Richard Schreiber III, Courtney Reinhard, Carol Schreiber, Rosemary and Kevin Lewis. The inset, taken from a mid-century brochure, shows Carol, Rich Jr, Vivian, and Russell.

Time allowed for an around-the-room recounting of personal experience with local resorts. We mostly fell into two categories: one group with ownership ties and another group who had worked at a resort.

Those with ownership ties: the Schreiber, Lewis, and Reinhard families, of course, with Baumann's Brookside; Joanne & Tom Baumann with Pine Lake Manor (Tom, double-dipping, having been born at Baumann's Brookside); Gail Nichol森 with Sunny Hill. These represent the three surviving resorts that have maintained the tourist resort structure.

Other owner/near-owner connections: Linda Singer Berger



Pool 1938



Russ & Rose

with Alberta Lodge; Stephanie Ingalls with Ingalside Resort; Randall Schmollinger with Schmollinger's Pleasant View; Arlene & Lee Brown with Balsam Shade/Brown's; Al Hulick with Hulick's Farm; Bette Welter with Maplewood on the Lake.

Other resorts named, in addition to the one indicated so far, were Spohler's Elm Grove, Brusini's Beverly Farm, Birch Hill, World Top Acres, Shepard's, Naughtons's Farm, Colonial Manor, Pine Crest Farm, Breezy Knoll, Mary's Elm Rest, and a couple more that have escaped my memory. (I have a map of about 110 places over the last century and a quarter.) In addition, there were a couple who worked outside the Greenville area. The life lessons of meeting a schedule, welcoming the "outside" world, going with the flow, being part of a team, making money/living, and so much more was a common element of those attending this evening.

Only a handful had not experienced resort life. We also noted that other local experiences teaching a few life lessons were farming and store/market, and those life les-

sons are just as valid as the ones we heard about during Roe's slide narration.

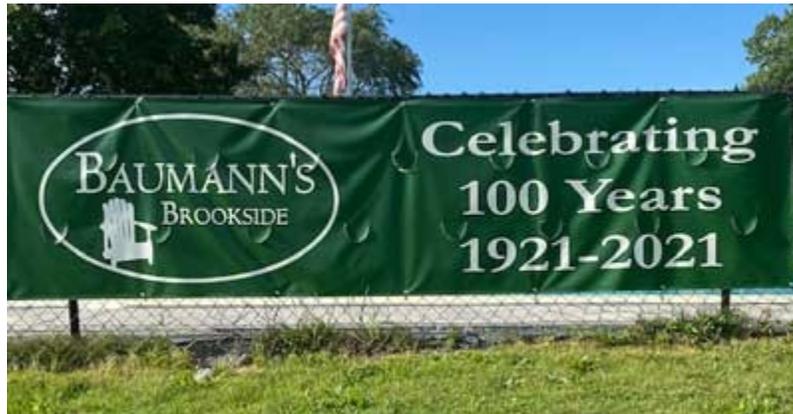
What was rather ubiquitous fifty years ago is much less common today, leading to a stray question of where are today's teens learning their lessons of life. (Somebody want to tackle that for a program or newsletter article?)

An interesting "small world" crossing of paths this event came when Gail Nichol森 remembered a family story that one of her family had first come to the area, possibly at Brown's. With Lee & Arlene present, and Don remembering there was a guest register

from the Brown's days, that connection was found in the register of guests, nearly a century after the fact. Small world! Great timing!

Another part of the program tonight was Kevin and Roe detailing the agony of last year's pandemic start, the changing of safe dates and hot spots, and the decision to close for the summer, the first in a hundred years. Roe kidded that she got to have a summer vacation!

A **thank you** for the cornucopia of refreshments goes to the GLHG team of Stephanie and Christine as well as the generous platters courtesy Baumann's Brookside.



October 11 – GLHG 2022 Calendar

Our next program is the traditional October unveiling of the GLHG calendar. I am hoping the result of my usual 75 hours of joyful labor is one that is enjoyable and enlightening.

After a short program of past calendars, we will take time to look over the 2022 calendar.

Twelve pages of photos or combinations of photos are featured. This year, posthumous recognitions go to Ray Beecher, Helen Brown, Phil Ellis, and Ruth Stevens.

Later in the week, calendars, \$10 each, will be available at Kelly's, GNH, Tops, and the Library. For those attending the October meeting, a special of \$8 each might lure you.

If by mail: \$10 each, make check out to Greenville Local History Group; and send check to:

Don Teator,
3979 Route 67,
Freehold, NY 12431.

Thank you, Sonia Ziller Greiner, for sharing your experience.

BAUMANN'S BROOKSIDE SINGING WAITRESSES – 1956

Marg Armstrong, Barbara Schenk, Sue Schlegel, Carol Cunningham, Nancy Giffin & Sonia Ziller



I worked at Baumann's for two summers as a waitress in 1955 and 1956. Was a wonderful place to work and I met many nice people. Carol and Rich met during this time period. We always looked forward to meeting the city boys coming up on vacation.

In 1956 we started a singing group, there were six of us, Marg Armstrong, Barbara Schenk, Sue Schlegel, Carol Cunningham, Nancy Giffin and myself, Sonia Ziller. We sang for our guests in the recreation room and they enjoyed listening to us. If I do say so myself, we sounded pretty good. Was a fun time in our lives.

I remember one night walking back down to Baumann's in the dark, as we were suppose to sing that evening. I had a flashlight and saw these two shiny eyes and it was a fox, scared me half to death and I ran to Mat Chesbro's house and he drove me to Baumann's. My clothes were even in the road, in my terror I dropped them. As they say, "the show must go on".

