



12 DECEMBER 2005



## A Fine Fiddle



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The Andre Watts concert that kept me from the picnic went great. He is skilled and musical, and his contact with the orchestra during the performance was at a level few soloists attain. This makes it all worthwhile. I had my violin reconditioned in Albuquerque last summer; it was long overdue. Down there at Robertson & Sons Violin Shop I had the opportunity to fiddle for about 20 minutes on the Havemeyer Cremona Strad violin, priced at \$3.5 million. Pocket change for some, but I probably won't see that opportunity again. One can check out Don's shop, which includes a recital hall, on his Web site, including Bach solo violin music in the background. He has done very well, and I think he now does about 10 or 15% of the string business in North America.



The first three pictures show Don Robertson (white beard) and his son with the Havemeyer Strad. The fourth picture shows me with the Strad (just so people know this is not a tall tale). The last two pictures show my violin after reconditioning by Don's son. It is a Gand, one of the top French makers, and was made in 1849, among the last instruments he made. Gand is known for his orange red varnish and single piece backs. The picture shows it well. The backs are maple and the fronts are spruce, a more acoustic wood. The lighter spots are from wear and tear over the many years it has been used by its many owners.





## Byram Man Whittles A way the Hours

By Michael Dinan Staff Writer  
The Greenwich Time

Published 20 November 2005

Lifelong Byram resident Daniel Jasensky and his wife, Ann, moved their young family into the little Cape-style house with barn-red shingles at the end of Talbot Lane 60 years ago. The house offered for sale had neither heat nor insulation at the time, plaster fell from the walls and the floorboards were crooked. A carpenter by trade, Jasensky soon went to work on the repairs. Then he went a step further.

"I always liked to work with my hands," Jasensky, 92, said one morning last week from the living room in the house that now stands as a monument to his enormous talent. "I'm a lifetime woodworker."



In his arms Jasensky held the World War II bombardier insignia that he carved in 1942 at the Myrtle Beach Air Force Base -- one of hundreds of works the restless whittler would create over a lifetime.

"I was at the bombing and gunnery range, and just got through building the shipping crates for equipment," recalled Jasensky, who served as a sergeant and squadron carpenter with the 9th U.S. Army Air Force from 1942 to 1945. "I just picked it up and started working on it. It actually was hanging up at my commanding officer's headquarters at Myrtle Beach."

The carving joins handmade model boats, benches, desks, French-style cradles, bureaus and chairs of teak, mahogany, pecan and pine, scattered throughout the three-story Jasensky home. Every radiator in the house is hidden behind intricately carved wooden casings that curl into the floor. The chimney that sprouts through the third-floor attic -- the attic itself is topped with a pitched pine ceiling that Jasensky installed -- is entirely encased in a functional knotted pine cabinet with mirrors. Model boats and knick-knacks stock the shelves. Burnt-wood sketches and pencil and acrylic drawings adorn the walls.

Much of Jasensky's work, including an oil portrait of a Native American that he finished in Cromwell during the Great Depression as a 20-year-old member of the Civilian Conservation Corps, was completed in the woodworking shop at the rear of his home.

The shop includes a workbench -- filled with drawers of drills, saws and vices -- that Jasensky built from wood he salvaged from the stairwell of a demolished house next door about 50 years ago.

His passion for woodworking started long before then.

Jasensky, who has never kept a permanent residence more than two blocks away from his Henry Street birthplace, began by whittling boats and setting them adrift on the Byram River as a 5-year-old. A lifelong member of the Byram Shore and Yacht Club, Jasensky and his brother Frank "Fritz" Jasensky built a 16-foot Philippine mahogany powerboat in 1934. The brothers co-founded Greenwich Linoleum & Cabinet Co. in 1948 and worked there for 30 years, until it was ruined in the Arch Street fire of May 1977, caused by a natural gas explosion.

Jasensky -- a father of five, grandfather of seven and great-grandfather of 3, whose wife died two years ago today -- recalled that his clients offered to pay for repairs to set up the shop again, but he opted to retire.

Even so, Jasensky kept working on his personal projects until his eyes "gave out," he said, a few years ago.

Jasensky's daughter, 46-year-old Cathy Buckley of Byram, said her father supplied his children and grandchildren with homemade toys their entire lives. He made 4-foot-long, 18-wheel trucks with functioning cranes for her kids one recent Christmas, she said, carrying on a tradition from her own childhood.

"We never bought building blocks growing up," said Buckley, who balances the books at Glenville Medical Associates. "He always made them."

When she was 30 years old, Buckley recalled, her father asked what kind of house she'd "like to live in some day." She showed him a picture of a Victorian farmhouse, and a year later, Jasensky gave her a dollhouse exactly like the photo she'd shown him, complete with 1,000 shingles. Jasensky later painted the house in her favorite color.

"You just don't see that any more, how well he works with wood. Wood is like magic to him," said Buckley, who called her father "an inspiration."

Jasensky has shared his talent with more than his family.

Pat Boraski, 58, who has lived across the street from Jasensky for 38 years, recently unearthed a baseball rack he made several years ago for her son A.J. while cleaning out her attic.

"He made it as a birthday present and he burned my son's name in it and it had a peg for a glove and everything," Boraski said. "He's just a wonderful neighbor and a hugely talented guy. My husband (John) often says they're the reason we stayed on this street for so long."

For Jasensky, a lifetime of working with wood has offered its own rewards.

"I'm lucky. I mean, I loved what I did and I never did anything that I didn't like to do," Jasensky said. "I always tried to take on any kind of challenge."

## Annual Rite Brings Chickahominy Denizens Back Home

By Michael Dinan Staff Writer  
The Greenwich Time

Published 27 November 2005

The football game that broke out at a western Greenwich park yesterday had this in common with the professional league that resumes with its week 12 match-ups this afternoon: There were 11 players to a side. "I got a knife, I'm telling you right now," Billy Foster, 57, joked as he slipped a yellow mesh jersey over his dark leather jacket, dress shoes and pants to join a backfield of teenagers, 20-, 30-, 40- and 50-somethings at Christiano Field in Chickahominy.

Billy scrambled off the field one play later, to spend some sideline time with a group of fellow Chickahominy natives. "That was my farewell debut," he announced, slipping off the jersey. "Just to get into the records books, that's it."

More than 50 former and current Chickahominy residents gathered under an overcast sky at the park beside the town dump for the 19th Annual Turkey Bowl or "Leftovers" Bowl, as some called it.

An event that re-connects a past generation of one of Greenwich's last working class neighborhoods and introduces them to younger town residents, the Turkey Bowl grew out of an informal, post-Thanksgiving Chickahominy tradition. "This whole thing is about friendship, diversity and the fabric of Chickahominy," said Mike Panza, 54, a neighborhood native and retired Greenwich police officer who works as an investigator with the state Division of Criminal Justice. "This was always the melting pot of Greenwich."

Shivering daughters, wives, girlfriends, mothers and sisters documented the touch-football-game with cameras and camcorders from the sidelines while the players -- a mix of past and current Greenwich High School football standouts -- hollered light-hearted insults across the scrimmage line on a roughly 50-yard field. Brian Foster, 50, football coach of the Byram Archibald Neighborhood Center Raiders, recalled that he "warmed up" for the Turkey Bowl the previous night by "eating two slices of pizza."

Halfway through the game's opening period, Foster, a gifted high school quarterback was seeking refuge on the sideline. "I'm pretty evenly distributed with pain, from my ankles to my neck," a doubled-over Brian Foster confessed. "My adrenaline is what's keeping me going." Bob Harris, 48, a communications worker who grew up with Foster, shouted encouragement when his old friend re-joined the game.

"Before Steve Young, Foster," Harris shouted, comparing his buddy to the recently inducted NFL Hall of Famer. "Before Steve Young, there was you." Harris recalled that the post-Thanksgiving pickup game had always been played at the field behind Hamilton Avenue Magnet School. That old field is now off-limits as the school is under construction, and Harris thanked the Greenwich Department of Parks and Recreation for the use of Christiano Field. Yesterday's game was played in honor of Turkey Bowl co-founder Frank "Subby" Sabito, a beloved Chickahominy native who died three years ago and whose nickname lends itself to the tiny trophy that goes to the game's MVP.

That trophy is a likeness of the rear half of a horse. Vince DiMarco, a Chickahominy native who now lives in Pemberwick, explained that the strip of red tape circling the horse's backside is a thong, as Subby used to like wearing a Speedo to the town's beaches in the summertime.

Frank's son, 23-year-old Jason Sabito, greeted his dad's friends during the game and recalled watching the Turkey Bowl as a kid growing up in Chickahominy. "It was always about just getting together with my dad's friends," said Sabito, an electrician's apprentice who lives a strong football toss from Christiano Field. "And I sometimes see my old friends here, too." It wasn't clear after the first half yesterday exactly who would take home the MVP Award.

Chickahominy native Dave Reid, 51, a landscaper, made a good case by quarterbacking for most of the first half and landing some big bombs. Reid wore a bandage around his jeans to support his knee, and took some ribbing from his pals when he came out after a major tumble. "My bones are cracking," Reid said. Southpaw Ian Barto, a standout baseball player who also led Greenwich High School's football team to 2004's FCIAC championship game as quarterback, tossed the pigskin, too.

"It's a lot of fun out here, meeting these guys and watching them get together," Barto said. Chickahominy native Joe Masi, 51, now of Cortlandt Manor, N.Y., said he hadn't seen his childhood pal Jerry Mall, also 51, in more than 30 years. "It's so hard to get together with work and everything that you really want to come out for this," Masi said as he and Mall reminisced on the sideline. "These are all the guys I grew up with. It's still the old neighborhood with these guys around."

Billy Foster, a stay-at-home dad in Bridgeport who sings lead vocals for a local band, Billy and the Showmen, recalled that the old gang used to refer to his childhood home of Armstrong Court as "UCLA, that's the University of Chickahominy Left of Arnold's (Bakery)," Foster recalled with a laugh, as his daughter played on a swing set nearby.

"This was it, this was the place to be," Foster added. "We were real tight here and it was a unique experience. I remember going to Vietnam and hanging out with all these guys from big towns like Chicago, Detroit and New York. They would start telling stories about their neighborhoods and I'd start talking about Chickahominy. They'd be like, 'Where the hell is that? What are you talking about?' But it was a community. My community, and everybody, every different type of person you could think of, was here."

## A Visit to the Archives

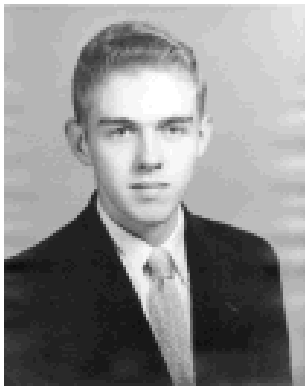
A trip down Memory Lane will take you to the website of W3W2 at:

[www.TheMcMillanGroupLtd.com](http://www.TheMcMillanGroupLtd.com)

There you will find thirteen pages of archives similar to the image at the right side of this page. Each of the W3W2 panels shown is a copy of the newsletter as published in order from the very beginning on 01 June 2003 up to the present day. There is also the full Photo Directory in its latest printing.

While you are perusing the files from the past, pop over to TMG Ltd and have a look see about The McMillan Group Ltd. It is probably the best description of "What Have I Done with the Last 44 Years".

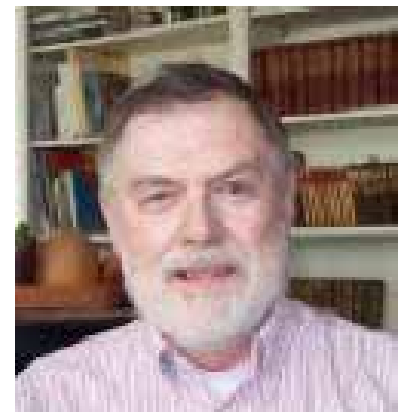
## And Questions Arise



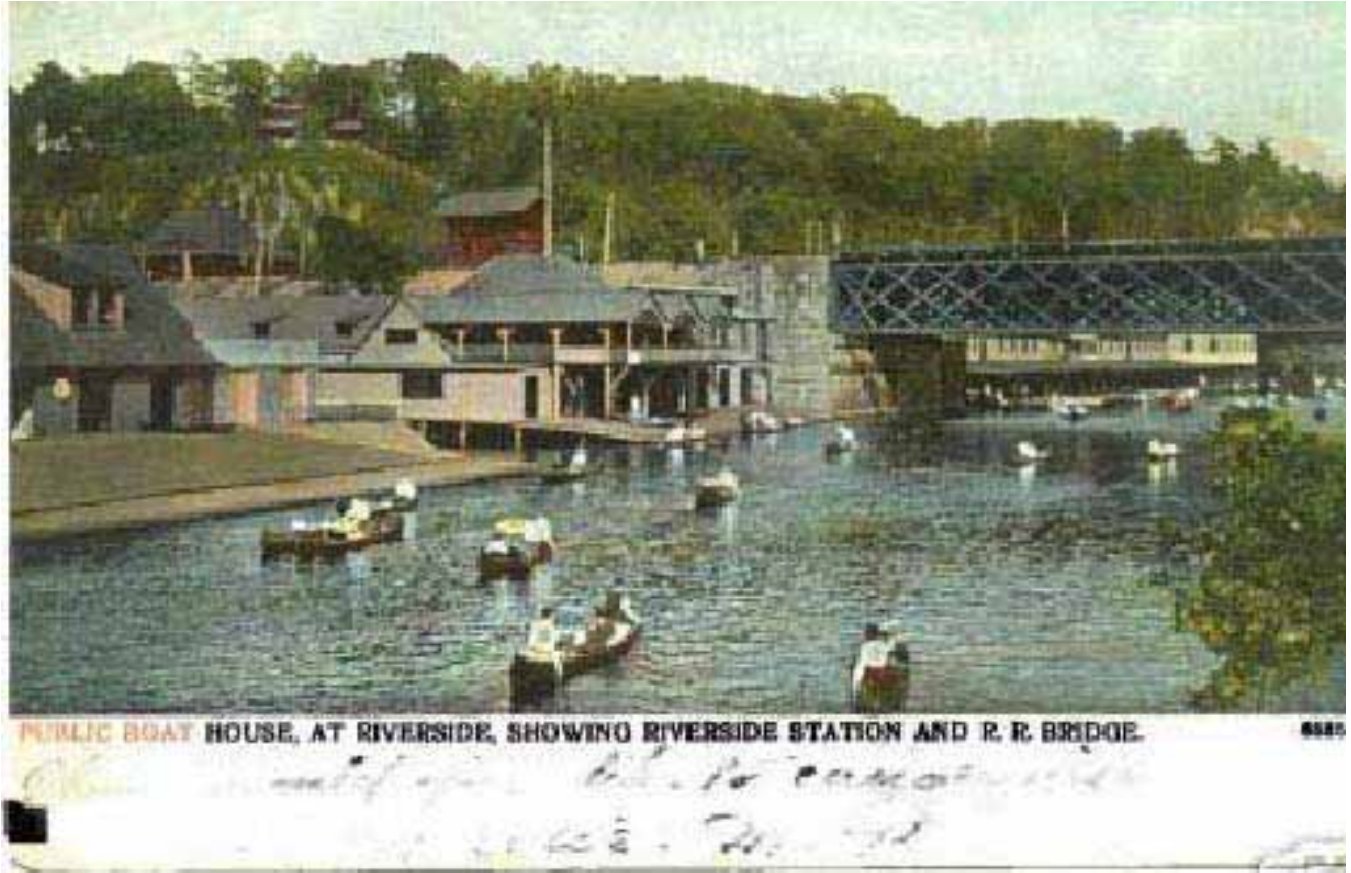
Peter E. **HUCKEL** (1957)  
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I've been reading your publications, going back to issue 3. I note the discussion regarding the post card of the RR Railroad Station in Riverside on the water with structures and boats. What happened? Anyone ever figure out where that was taken. It was not Riverside, CT. I grew up in Riverside... 1939 to 1987. I lived from

1947 to 62 on Glen Avon Drive, right on the water, across from the CC Power Plant. We boated, swam, fished, clamed, crabbed in Cos Cob Harbor. We could swim from our house to the RR Bridge. The eastern stone work of the bridge was not straight down. You could easily walk under the bridge. Even at high tide, the water rarely went to the stone work. The channel there is on the other side of the harbor, always has been. Remember, the power plant was there in the late 1800's and coal was brought in by barge. Miltiades Ave on the south side of the bridge is fairly new. I remember when it was put in. It was always flat at the river. There were no remains of any structures. The houses on Glen Avon Drive were quite old; ours was put up in 1898. I also lived from 1972 to 1987 on Chapel Lane. I came into some pictures of Chapel Lane taken about 1913. There was a long single pier from Chapel Lane almost to the channel. It was taken out in 1938 storm. The old, large Victorian house at the foot of Chapel Lane has been there since the late 1800's. The RR station was put there by Luke Lockwood in the 1850's or 60's. They were



tired of walking across the RR Bridge from the CC railroad station to Riverside. His house was on Chapel Lane.



The post card shows all sorts of structures. No record of them is in the Greenwich histories as far as I know. Also, there seems to be a large ridge above the structures. I don't recall one that tall. Glen Avon did have a hill but it was not that high. The area from Chapel Lane to the RR Bridge now has Juniper Lane. That is very new. There is not enough property between Chapel Lane and RR to have all those structures. Also, coastline on Riverside portion of CC harbor has lots of eel grass since it is very tidal. None are in the scene. Also, at high tide, there is about 3', max' at the sea walls along Chapel Lane and Glen Avon. Very interesting, though. Answer????



Does anyone have a picture of the Pickwick Theater? Or the Starlight Drive-In that was on Shippan Ave in Stamford?

Regarding old photos of Riverside... here are two aerial shots of the Cedar Cliff Road area of Riverside. In the first one, you can see some notations on the picture in ink. This was a layout of Dawn Harbor Lane which my grandfather bought in the early 1920 and built an estate house at the end of Dawn Harbor Lane. The lane was his driveway before it was a private road. His estate was called Dawn Harbor... it faced east, looking over the cove and Todd's estate and LI Sound.

I'll have to look for more... have them around. Mom came to Riverside in 1924, my father to Greenwich in

1917 (his father was Dr. Rev Oliver Huckel, minister at Second Congregational Church in Greenwich 1917-35.)

Found some info:

(Before and After 1776, A Comprehensive Chronology of the Town of Greenwich, 1640-1976)

The first Railroad Bridge was made of wood. It was partially destroyed by fire 1866.



1870: RR station in Riverside established along with a post office (now Ada's).

1872: Sound Beach Railroad station.

1893: Four-track Railroad established.

1894: Riverside Road Bridge over railroad tracks was installed, moved from Devon, CT.

1906: Steel Railroad Bridge over CC harbor was completed.



Jane **BENJAMIN** Sheen. St. Thomas. VI

[jbsheen@islands.vi](mailto:jbsheen@islands.vi) Bob, I'm glad you sent me the second email. I was most confused for a few minutes.

I'm not totally convinced that is not Cos Cob harbor, but then again I am certainly not sure. At

the time the discussion came up, Ken Bennett and I exchanged some emails on the topic. I can't remember if some of them made it to the newsletter. I



do know he communicated with a woman from the Greenwich Historical Society. Also, I know for sure, based on some old maps and info in an old Greenwich history book that the Railroad Station was originally practically next to the bridge and was later moved to it's present spot.

I grew up on Terrace Ave just up the hill from the RR Station. I used to sail out of Riverside Yacht Club and as a kid played



down by the edge of the bridge on the edge of the river, so I knew that area pretty well too. We even used to occasionally sneak across the bridge to the Cos Cob side. There was a little walkway, probably to get the man to the house to lift the bridge or for repair etc. Good thing my parents never knew! Certainly no structures like the boathouses were on the river then, Burt who knows what could have been there earlier. The original RR station opened in 1870. Postcards started to be made in the late 1890s - early 1900s.



There was an old dirt road that ran from Riverside Ave. to the river right along side the RR. It was not on the Miltiades Ave. side, but nearer to the "Louse House". I used to wonder why it was there. I'll dig around in my books and see what I find.



## History of Greenwich Fairfield County Connecticut

The smaller towns of Greenwich:  
Old Greenwich, (site of the first settlement), Banksville, Byram, Cos Cob, Glenville, and Riverside.

Other neighborhoods:  
Chickahominy, Havemeyer Park, Mianus, Millbrook, Pemberwick, Quaker Ridge, Rock Ridge, Round Hill, and Stanwich.

The town was named after Greenwich, Kent, England.

1640 (July 18) -- Daniel Patrick and Robert Feakes, in the name of New Haven Colony, purchased all lands between the Asamuck and Potommuck brooks, in the area now known as Old Greenwich from the Siwanoy Indian "owners" for a sum of "twentie-five coates." It was the tenth town established in Connecticut between 1633 and 1640.

1642 -- For fear of not being protected by the New Haven colony, the Greenwich settlers signed an allegiance to the Dutch, who claimed control of the area. The Dutch then made Greenwich a manor and Patrick and Feakes lords of the manor.  
1642 - 1650 -- the settlement of Greenwich was officially part of the Dutch colony New Netherland.  
1643-45 -- years of the Wappinger War. At first, The Wappinger Indians and their allies almost overwhelmed the Dutch.  
1644 -- Two companies of Mohegan scouts and Connecticut colonists commanded by Captain John Underhill along with Dutch forces combined to attack a Siwanoy village near Greenwich that killed almost 700 people.

1650 -- After settlement of a boundary dispute with the Dutch, Greenwich became once again part of the New Haven Colony.

1656 -- Greenwich was told by the New Haven jurisdiction to "fall in with Stamford."

1664 -- Greenwich asks the General Assembly in Hartford to be allowed to separate from Stamford.

1665 -- The General Assembly in Hartford declared Greenwich a separate township.

1672 -- From the Native Americans, the so-called "27 Proprietors" bought land at what became known as "Horseneck." The land was laid out for home lots, divided and granted to the Proprietors.

1730 -- Bush-Holley House, a waterfront mansion, built on the historic Cos Cob Harbor.

1749 -- Captain James Waring built his house nearby Mill Pond (aka, Strickland's Pond) in Cos Cob. It still stands today.

### **Revolutionary War**

1779 -- General Israel Putnam made a daring escape from British troops under General William Tryon at the Israel Knapp tavern while the British pillaged and looted Greenwich. Putnam went to warn Stamford. "Putnam's Cottage" is now maintained as a museum by the Daughters of the American Revolution (243 East Putnam Avenue).

1826 -- Greenwich Academy, the oldest girls' school (though originally coeducational) in Connecticut was founded.

1829 -- Samuel Lyons sold 3.5 acres on the southeast part of Great Captain Island to the federal government for the building of a lighthouse.

1848 -- The railroad arrives in Greenwich.

1860s -- William M. "Boss" Tweed built his Americus Club at which he held lavish gatherings.

1871 -- The new Americus Club built. It became the Indian Harbor Hotel after Boss Tweed's departure.

Commodore E. C. Benedict, a Wall Street financier, later had the building torn down to make room for his new mansion.

1878 -- Boss Tweed dies in a New York City jail.

1889 -- The old Victorian clubhouse of the Riverside Yacht Club built at the mouth of Cos Cob Harbor. (It was later replaced in 1929 by the current clubhouse.)

1890-1920 -- the Cos Cob mansion, the Bush-Holley House, became a boardinghouse for an art colony. The colony was summer home to American Impressionists Childe Hassam, Theodore Robinson, John Twachtman, J. Alden Weir, and their followers.

1890 -- The Civil War monument erected.

Wealthy New Yorkers and others (Benedict, Bruce, Converse, Gimble, Havemeyer, Mallory, Milbank, Rockefeller, and Teagle) started to build mansions in Greenwich, creating such areas as Belle Haven, Field Point Park, Byram Shore and Rock Ridge.

1893 -- the actor Edwin Booth (brother of Johns Wilkes Booth), who lived at the western end of the Mianus River railroad bridge, would jump off the train as it slowed down to cross the bridge. On the night of June 7 he misgauged his leap, landed in the river and drowned.

1895 -- Commodore E. C. Benedict had his mansion built at the mouth of Greenwich Harbor.

1900 -- at the top of Put's Hills, the Daughters of the American Revolution erected an historical marker that reads: "This marks the spot where on February 26, 1779 General Israel Putnam, cut off from his soldiers and pursued by British cavalry, galloped down this rocky steep and escaped, daring to lead where not one of many hundred foes dared to follow."

1901 -- Trolley tracks lay.

1901 -- Greenwich High School built a gift from the "Sugar King," Henry O. Havemeyer. Today it is home to the Board of Education.

1903 -- Greenwich Avenue paved with soft-colored bricks that gave the road the nickname the "Yellow Brick Road."

1905 -- The new town hall built a gift of Robert Bruce and his sister Sarah. (Today it is home to the senior center.)

1905 -- At this time the Edgewood Inn was probably the largest and finest hostelry in Greenwich. (It was torn down in 1940.) Another popular inn was the Maples, where Commodore E. C. Benedict had lived before building his Indian Harbor mansion. (It was torn down in 1967 to be replaced by Cheesebrough-Ponds, now Unilever.)

1909 -- R. A. C. Smith, founder of Connecticut Light and Power, bought the Miralta mansion (built 1902 around the edge of the oval racecourse in Field Point Park).

1910-1913 -- the mansion "Northway" built for heiress Laura Robinson on North Street (today the Greenwich 5th Avenue).

1911 -- The old Greenwich Country Club built with great views out over Long Island Sound.

1912 -- Wealthy Belle Haven mansion owner W. T. Graham survived the sinking of the Titanic.

1915 -- Ernest Thompson Seton (1860-1946) had a falling out with James West over the military style of the Boy Scouts, set by Baden-Powell and West and left the movement. Seton then founded the Woodcraft League of America. He had an estate in Cos Cob. Today it is a preserve. The Montgomery Pinetum is nearby.

1919 -- The old Indian Harbor Yacht Club building burned down.

1920 -- The Spanish Mission-style cottage on North Street owned by iron and steel baron John Haldane Flagler burned down.

1925 -- Ye Old Greenwich Inn in Sound Beach (now known as Old Greenwich) burned down.

1926 -- Founding of the Greenwich Country Day School. (Former president George Herbert Walker Bush attended the school; his boyhood home on Grove Lane.)

By the late 1920s -- the trolley tracks had disappeared.

1929 -- The Wall Street crash brought the era of the inns of Greenwich to an end.

1931 -- The Historical Society of Greenwich founded to collect and preserve the history of the town.

1933 -- Greenwich adopted the representative town meeting (RTM) as its legislative unit.

1938 -- The Merritt Parkway cut through the northern section of Greenwich.

Late 1930s -- the huge Percy A. Rockefeller residence, Owenoke Farm, demolished.

1940 (April) -- Representative Town Meeting (RTM) accepted what is now called Binney Park.

## **Post World War II**

This period witnessed the dissolution of many of the mansions into smaller building lots that were then taken by commuters to New York City who did not want to live in the City.

1950 - 2000 -- increasing efforts to conserve both historic buildings and park land as well as to acquire more park land.

1950 -- Bobby Kennedy married Ethel Skakel at St. Mary Roman Catholic Church.

1953 -- RTM accepted the gift of the Montgomery Pinetum.

1957 -- I-95 cut through Greenwich on the south.

1960 -- Dedication of the Ernest Thompson Seton Reservation for Boy Scouts.

1962 -- The Greenwich High School sends off the Greatest Class in the History of the School, 435 of the Best and Brightest, to lead our nation into the Twenty First Century (This is a plugged addition... just to see how many of you read this far... if you see this, then you are deserving of this tribute. Thanks)

1966 -- RTM approved funds for the new Greenwich High School.

1966 -- The Town of Greenwich acquired most of Great Captain Island.

1970 -- Great Captain Island Light was extinguished and replaced by an automatic light.

1973 -- Greenwich purchased the Captain Island lighthouse and the surrounding 2.6 acres.

1975 -- fifteen-year-old Martha Moxley was bludgeoned to death with a golf club in her Greenwich, Connecticut backyard with Michael and Tommy Skakel, nephews of Ethel and Robert Kennedy, as suspects.

1983 -- The Mianus River bridge on I-95 collapsed killing three people.

1990 -- the 350th Anniversary of Greenwich.

2000 -- the census finds there are 61,101 residents in the town of Greenwich.

2000 -- Michael Skakel, nephew of the late Sen. Robert Kennedy, surrendered to face charges that he beat a childhood friend to death 24 years before. He was convicted.

2002 -- Greenwich forced to open its parks to the public.