



G.H.S

Wreadin' Writin' 'n' Wreminiscin'
From the Editor's Desk

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It is the Saturday of the Thanksgiving Holiday weekend and the November Nocturne issue is cooling it's heels in you eMail Inboxes, but Eugene Davino, is rummaging through his attic to unearth the most amazing collection of Old Postcards of Greenwich. Triggered by the recollections in George Devol's article about the Mitchell Castle, Gene found these following images among "many" other local memories. These cards and others to be used in future Newsletters will become known as:

The Davino Collection

The objective of the Collection will be to spark memories of the Greenwich which existed around 1962 and now may have "disappeared" from all but our memories. The postcards that Gene has scanned to date, reflect a Greenwich starting at the turn of the Twentieth Century. Can you identify the "Dining Room" at the right side of the page? As a teaser to the "riches" that are coming... we offer a republication of George Devol's:



Greenwich Circa 1962

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Yes the "Castle" is still there and was first restored about 25 to 30 years ago, with additional restoration work done since that time, I am sure. The last time I saw it offered for sale was about 8 to 10 years ago for around \$4.5 million.

When I get up to speed with this computer stuff, I'll scan two photos for you. One is a Christmas card my parents had made showing the outside. The second is of my sister and I sitting on a window bench in the "Grand Ballroom"



For a more accurate history of the "Castle" see if you can find a copy of a book, I think titled "The Grand Estates of Greenwich" Also some mention was made in the Greenwich Times, in a special done for the Town's 300th Anniversary.



From my recollections, it was modeled after a Spanish (or Mediterranean) castle. But I think the stone came from Scotland! The person who owned it while I was growing up (and the person my parents rented it from) was Mrs. Mitchell, and everyone called it Mitchell's Castle. She was widowed back, before or during the war and lived, I think, until the 1970s. She spent most of the year in Palm Beach, FL and only a few months of the year in Greenwich. Her husband, either worked for or owned a large NY advertising agency. His claim to fame was that he came up with the slogan "I'd walk a mile for a Camel". Maybe the free cigarettes did him in. The Mitchell's bought the castle from a man named Green sometime in the 20s. Someone else actually started it, but Green (I think) was the one who completed it.

I recall my father saying even when Mitchell's owned it was never really finished. (My dad is still around, 91 and still quite sharp, so he might be able to recall some more facts about it). The main centerpiece was the "Grand Ballroom" that's the part that sticks out towards the road. At one end was a huge organ complete with pipes and large fireplace. It has around 40 rooms, 3 swimming pools (two of which I think were more reflecting pools than actual swimming type) a soda fountain, a "Chinese Room" and many other features.



During the time, when we lived on Brookside Drive, while growing up, we always admired the castle even though then it was looking a little shabby and run down. I think at least two movies were filmed there over the years. I was too young to remember any of it and would love to see it now. My parents told me they had a couple of really wild parties the short time they lived there.

My second favorite house in Greenwich that I do remember was Old Mill Farm on Old Mill Road off Round Hill Road. It is an English manor style with over 70 acres of land. I went to grammar school with one of the families children (the Maher's owned it, and recently was sold (I think) to Mel Gibson. I'll detail more in one of my future "recollections of growing up in Greenwich".