



GHS

*Reading Writing & Remembering
From the Editors Desk
06 December 2003*

The Davino Collection

This whole saga began when Gene Davino sent the first of several "scans" of Postcards that were found in his attic. The previous Editorial Newsletter, prepared with the help of both Gene and George Devol, was illustrated with JPG's of The Castle on the Green (later Mitchell) Property, and the mention of other local landmarks including the restaurant at the Pickwick Arms Hotel. Much of this was generated from George's Greenwich Circa 1962 editorial. During the past week we have had a series of interchanges concerning several of the other Landmarks found in "The Davino Collection". Out of the Gate, we have The Maples, which was mentioned in Georges trip along Putnam



EDGEWOOD INN, GEORGE A. RICHARDS, PROPRIETOR



Avenue, The Maples was torn down for the purposes of building the Cheeseboro-Ponds Office Building. A question came up from George, in another eMail from George, wherein he asked about the "whereabouts" of the Edgewood Inn. Now this is where we leave off and let the "Players" take their roles:

(Preface No. 1: George still doesn't have a GHS Yearbook Photo, and we need one of him.)

George **DEVOL** . New Canaan . CT
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(Preface No. 2: George started the exchange of eMails about the Edgewood Inn and suggested they might have been along Ridge Street between Chickahominy and Byram, just before reaching Byram Park. My return eMail named the two properties as being the Bagley Estate on Belle Haven and the Anchorage which belonged to the Roebuck Family of the "Sears Roebuck" catalogs. We continue with George's response.)



Thanks for the info on the property between "Chick" and Byram. Where did



the property for Byram Park and the Beach come from?

My guess for the Edgewood Inn is near Belle Haven, Not the area south of Bruce Park that you mentioned. I think that entire area was always exclusive homes (still is). What makes me think Belle Haven is because it is depicted being on a hill, and that would fit the area just south of the t-pike near Belle Haven and Where the Homestead Inn is. It had to be somewhere near the town (my guess) and can't think of any other place. Any idea the time frame from when it was built to when torn down? Seems like late 1800s to me.

Hopefully someone will come up with a quick answer. I wonder if Rick or Brad Hvolbeck know s?

(Preface No. 3: This eMail was followed immediately by a second eMail from George)



Here's one for the Riverside / Old Greenwich alumni if the Edgewood Inn is too "edgy" for them. Pre-turnpike era, I remember an old structure near the Riverside/Old Greenwich line, in fact, it was located exactly where the entrance and exit to Exit 5 is positioned.

The place was called Rich's. It was a hotel,



roadhouse or restaurant. I recall it as always being "closed" (i.e. never in operation). Does anyone remember this building, too and what it was? Maybe Gene has a postcard or someone a picture - Another Greenwich structure of the past.



Bob **McMILLAN** . Scarsdale . NY
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Okay, gang. George Devol has started the stone rolling and I would like to slow it down to guarantee that we gather as much "Moss" as we can for the next Newsletter. This objective started when Gene Davino,

uncovered a "wellspring" of information from his attic. Originally it was a set of Post cards showing the Castle that George grew up in... Now we are expanding to other "landmarks" in the GHS Area. Above are two eMails from George that discuss two potential Landmarks, the



Edgewood Inn as shown in the photos and the other is a place called "Rich's" at exit 5 in R/OG area. There are many more that Gene has been able to uncover and "scan". The next issue of the Newsletter will focus

on "finding these landmarks" and naming some of the others in Gene's collection. I would like to ask everyone to come up with other "little know n" but earth shattering 1962 GHS Facts that can help round out this and upcoming newsletters. I can see things like "The Felt Mill in Glenville" or what George asks, what was there before Byram Park, or Binney Park, etc. Another site is the Original Tod's Mansion at Tod's Point, which George skipped school and witnessed the tearing down as well as the comments from Gene that the Tod's Mansion was used for "warehousing veteran's" before the demolition.





Eugene **DAVINO** . Greenwich . CT
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The Edgewood Inn was really off of Glenville Road. Don't know exactly where. There's a post card of it in 1907 and it was demolished in 1940, just a little before we were all born!

There's actually a soft cover book of oral history on it which is really interesting if you have the patience to wade through it.



Kathie **TEMPLE** Azoff . Old Greenwich . CT
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The Edgewood Inn, one of the largest and most fashionable summer hotels along the Sound was demolished in 1940. It was located in the Rock Ridge area, the original Zaccheus Mead farm, between Glenville Road and Lake Avenue.

The Tod's Mansion was demolished in 1962. It was given to veterans of WWII for \$1 a year to keep it in the hands of the town. The veterans did all the

work to create 12 apartments of different sizes for the men and their families. I went there for a birthday party when I was about 5 years old and all the kids were riding their bikes around and roller skating around. Apparently they did not take very good care of the structure. That would have been a good project for you, Bob, to help out with. There's more I could tell you but at another time.



George **DEVOL** . New Canaan . CT
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Glad to see Kathie came up with the location (along with Gene). My guess that it was located where Edgewood School (now Eagles Hill School) is located. Also Gene sent me a photo copy of the bit on the Castle from the book "Great Estates of Greenwich" In the first part it mentions the property, over 3 acres, was bought from Edgewood Park Land Company in 1903. Maybe same people who owned Edgewood Inn! It's amazing how large properties were back then.



Jane **BENJAMIN** Sheen . St. Thomas . VI
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I have some material that may be helpful in the quest to locate pictures and information about Greenwich landmarks etc. I have a great love for history and over the years have amassed quite a postcard collection. The bulk of it (350+) is of the Virgin Islands, which has been my home for 37 years. However, I have been working on a small "Memories of my Childhood" collection. I have old cards of Riverside School, EJHS, GHS (of course), Binney Park, Riverside Yacht Club, Indian Harbor Yacht Club, Island Beach, The Cove at Old Greenwich, Pickwick



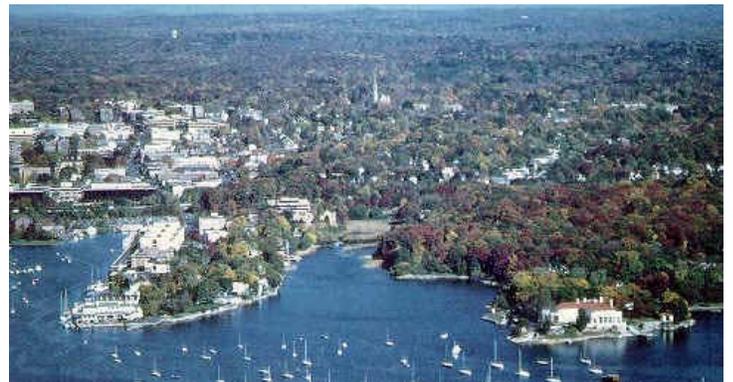
Arms Hotel, Old Public Library, Town Hall, Putnam memorial, Bush Holley House, Greenwich Hospital, Bolling Memorial, Round Hill Community Church, Post Office & Town Hall. I'd be glad to share them.

I also have two books on Greenwich History, which I'm sure could provide some information and pictures. *Muskets and Mansions, the Greenwich Story*, by Daniel Knapp, published in 1966 by Fairview Printers; and *Greenwich, An Illustrated History*, published in 1990 by the Greenwich Times and the Historical Society of the Town of Greenwich. I would imagine both books are available at the public libraries.

Regarding the questions about local parks. Both Bruce and Binney parks were donated by wealthy (and apparently civic-minded) members of the community. The Edwin Binney family of Old Greenwich gave Binney Park to the town. They were part of Binney-Smith - the Crayola people. Binney Kitchel, who was related to them in some way went to Old Greenwich School and EJHS with some of us. Robert Bruce donated Bruce Park to the town. He also gave the building and the endowment for The Bruce Museum and the Town Hall Building (the one we remember which is now some sort of Senior Center, since the old GHS became the Town Hall). I don't know anything about Byram Park, since it was not located in "my end of town".



Regarding Belle Haven - According to the Greenwich Times, History of Greenwich book, it was originally the Nelson Bush farm. It was broken up into lots that were sold beginning in 1882. The early developers were Captain Thomas Mayo, Nathaniel Witherell and Robert M. Bruce. Belle Haven was incorporated as a community in 1883. The development was considered important for the town, because it marked the beginning of the change from a farming community to a suburb.

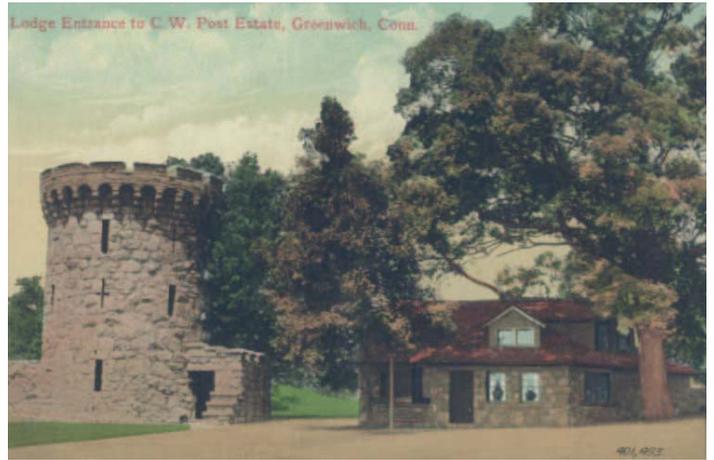


What Can I Say?

Below are a series of postcards that Gene has sent along, perhaps we have other historians or just something great to say about some of these old Landmarks of our Youth.



Ye Olde Greenwich Inn, Sound Beach, CT



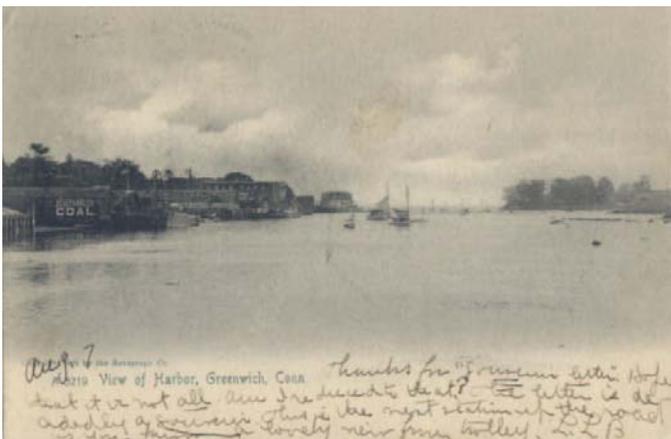
C. W. Post Estate Greenwich CT



E. C. Benedict Estate on the Sound



The Ely Estate on North Street



Greenwich Harbor



Railroad Plaza