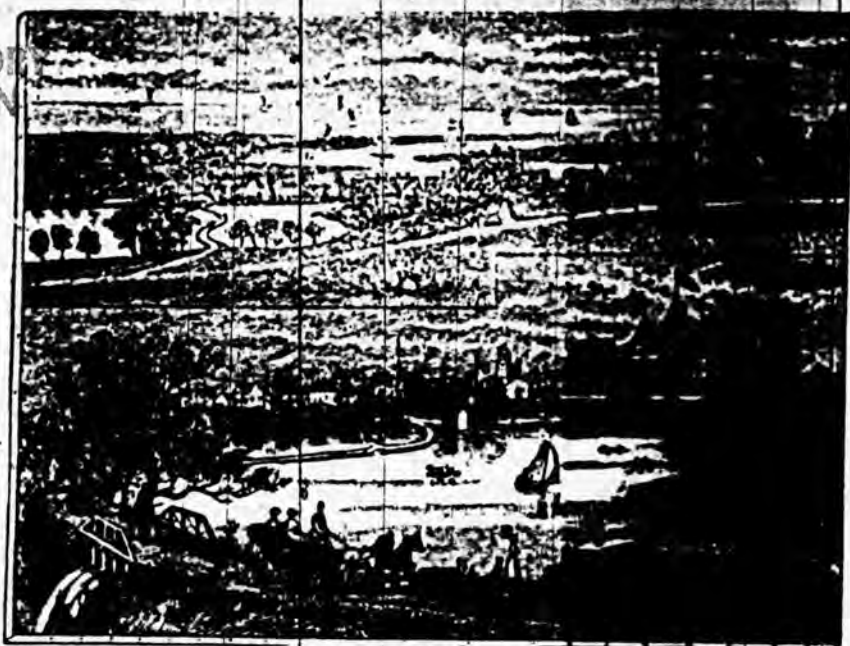


The Southside Signal
Saturday, March 5, 1904

ARGYLE HOTEL

THE SIGNAL: DEVOTED TO NEWS, L...

OF LONG
LOCAL HISTORY
COLLECTION



"IT" 5c
& Co., Makers,
RIVERHEAD L. I.
ons to be vote d
tion on Tuesday,
the Village of
parate Board of
be composed of
y of the residents
is dark as to the
summed by the fire
the proposition
benefit of these,
00, Village Laws,
rs of fire commis-
desired informa-

THE ARGYLE HOTEL LOCAL HISTORY COLLECTION

CARETAKER PETER JOMMES of the Argyle Hotel property in this village, which is owned by William Ziegler of New York, and managed by the Realty Trust Company, received orders from the company late Monday morning to begin the total destruction of the hotel property, and forty carpenters and laborers were immediately set at work on the job of demolishing the building. All the furniture, bedding and crockery was removed to the large dining room on the north, a building 50x100 feet in size, which is not to be disturbed until later, when a public hall will no doubt be made out of it. The work of demolishing this immense building has gone on steadily day by day, until now over 100 men under the directions of Boss Carpenter George von Maur, are doing their best to get the building off the site before the middle of the month. Some of the principal drives in the park will be changed so as to allow room for convenient cottage sites. Then the erection of twenty cottages of attractive design, which will average a cost new of about \$3 500, will be built from the hotel lumber. Each cottage will have a new system of plumbing and lighting and when completed will be fully furnished and either offered for sale or rented to desirable tenants. Mr. Ziegler will retain the ownership of Blythe...

Please Remember

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- Plaster & Garden Tools
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- ECONOMY IN LABOR
- ECONOMY IN MATERIAL
- ECONOMY IN TEMPER

We shall be pleased to furnish you with sample cards or catalogues. Qualities the best we know of.

Higbie & Robbins

without their hearty and loyal support these results would have been impossible. Not only is it the desire of the members and attendants of the M. E. Church that Dr. Stiebler will return,

We have just f
STOCK TA
but have sc
Good Bai

in
BOYS' SUITS ANI
MEN'S SUITS,
AND HA
RUBBER SHOES, :

JUST

a few advance style
DERBIES and F
Call in and see them

O. S. Davis
INCORPORATED

Amityville

The following games
the Amityville Club:

FRIDAY EVENING	
PUSHERS	1ST GAME
Baldwin	144
Hast	138
Hudreth	119
Chichester	172
Allowance	10
Total	623
2ND GAME	
ALL BUT	
Inglee	211
Willmarth	184
Wright	181
Ireland	154
Total	730
3RD GAME	
BRIGHT LIGHTS	
Ketcham	110
Louden	161
Willey	151
Wood	149
Total	611
1ST GAME	
Ketcham	
Baldwin	
2ND GAME	
Baldwin	
Inglee	
3RD GAME	
Ketcham	
Inglee	
MONDAY EVENING	
1ST GAME	
YANKEE BOYS	

interesting social for Men
 will be held in the M. E. Church
 lay evening at 8 o'clock under
 auspices of the Wm. R. Foster
 board. Dr. Barthelow of Brook-
 G. of Old Fellows and a 321
 and one of the most prominent
 in Brooklyn will deliver the
 after which refreshments will
 d. Men and growing boys will
 ally make welcome.... On Sun-
 day the pastor, Rev. Dr.
 will baptize, receive members
 minister the communion.... In
 noon the Brotherhood will have
 religious meeting from 4 to 5 P M.
 music, male quartette, pastor
 old, and others will take part.
 be brief and the meeting, for
 d boys only, will be bright,
 land brotherly. Come.... The
 League, at \$0. will be in
 of Miss Grace Abbott; subject,
 "Stilling the Storms of Life"
 7:30 the pastor will preach on
 unity, the Measure of Respon-
 The usual Sunday after-
 d Friday night cottage meetings
 held at West Babylon.... The S
 onary Society will be addressed
 John D. Long on Sunday after
 2:30.... The Epworth League of
 E Church is cordially invited to
 a social at Bay Shore M. E.
 on Tuesday night of next week
 gues from Amityville and Say-
 ve also been invited. Train will
 Babylon station at 6:40 P. M.
 ING equals the delightful sensa-
 having the face laundried, steamed,
 purified, as practised by Prog. Laun-
 e opening of the club house of
 rida Gun Club held at Palm
 on Tuesday of last week. J. S. S.
 of Babylon, who is spending
 ter south, made a score of 23 out-
 rds. He was beaten by Isaac E.
 n of Baltimore, who killed 23
 5, the remaining two counted no
 which was therefore equivalent
 lls. Mr. Emerson won the Gun
 up, while Mr. Rensen won the
 tion Cup. The Palm Beach
 news refers to Mr. Rensen as
 : "Young Mr. J. S. S. Rensen,
 nt of the club, takes a great
 t in the organization and was
 mized complimented by being
 as the executive of the club,
 sed for the main part of older
 men. Mr. J. S. S. Rensen,
 nt of the gun club, won the
 rida Cup, making the best shots

erection of twenty cottages of attractive
 design, which will average a cost now
 of about \$3 500, will be built from the
 hotel lumber. Each cottage will have
 a new system of plumbing and lighting
 and when completed will be fully fur-
 nished and either offered for sale or
 rented to desirable tenants. Mr. Ziegler
 will retain the ownership of Blythe-
 burne Lake and ten feet of land sur-
 rounding it, granting to dwellers in the
 park boating privileges. The casino
 will remain on its present site. The
 Argyle Hotel, one of the largest sum-
 mer hostleries on Long Island, was built
 about 1881 by a syndicate of American
 and English capitalists, of which the
 late Austin Corbin, then president of
 the Long Island Railroad, was a mem-
 ber. It was built at large expense and
 was elaborately furnished and ap-
 pointed. The hotel was not very suc-
 cessful from a financial standpoint, de-
 spite the fact that every effort was
 made to make it popular. After a time
 the property was sold to William
 Ziegler of Brooklyn, who sold the cot-
 tages at auction, but retained the
 hotel, casino and lake. Lately the
 principal of a large military school on
 the Hudson came here with a view to
 purchasing the hotel for the use of his
 school, but the deal was not consummat-
 ed. Officers of the Realty Trust Company
 visited the hotel on Wednesday to give
 better and more definite orders to their
 architect. A Signal representative was
 assured that none of the property on
 South Country road was for sale, but
 that the company expected to improve
 and beautify it. The destruction of the
 building will necessarily result in large
 quantities of lumber being made unfit
 for use and this will be sold cheap to
 anyone desiring it. The illustration
 above shows the Argyle Hotel and a
 portion of the grounds and lake looking
 east from the hotel.

On Thursday night at the regular
 monthly meeting of the Official Board of
 the M. E. Church a resolution was of-
 fered extending to the Rev. Dr. Stiebler
 a call to the pastorate of the church for
 the coming conference year. Since Dr.
 Stiebler came to Babylon to assume the
 pastorate of the church, which he did
 at the commencement of the conference
 year in 1899, the society has been in a
 state of spiritual and material prosper-
 ity. On his coming to Babylon he
 found a discouraged people, a heavy
 floating indebtedness and the church
 property sadly in need of repairs.
 Under his cheering and cheerful en-
 couragement the people took heart, and dur-

South Side Signal
 Saturday, March 5, 190

these results would have been
 side. Not only is it the desire
 members and attendants of the
 Church that Dr. Stiebler will
 but also the residents of the
 village who honor, respect a
 him.

THE Democratic village caucus
 held in Fire Department hall
 on Saturday evening last. The
 a large attendance and much
 was taken in the proceeding
 caucus was called to order by
 Committeeman Smith. Former
 President Van Weelden was
 chairman, James B. Casper, Jr.
 tary; Max Soprano and Ir-
 Smith, tellers. The ticket ran
 as follows: President, Tread-
 Kellum; trustee, James C. Bar-
 lector, Edwin M. Wilson; treas-
 T. Edward Dowden; Capt.
 Jackson; William P. Ketchum
 E. Smith were named as a coun-
 cil vacancies and to call the ca-
 1905. The Republican can-
 Thursday of last week named
 dent, Benjamin B. Wood; for
 John H. Arunk. The other men
 were the same as presented
 Democrats, so that the contest
 presidency and trusteeship will
 be spirited. Trustee Henderick
 has filled the office of trustee
 years, has decided to retire.

FOR A PRESENT, a New Home
 Machine is the best; sold in the town
 ton, Islip, Huntington and Hunt-
 more than 10 years by J. P.
 Northport.
 Needles and attachments c
 by mail will be wanted.

A HAPPY union of the family
 Rensselaer Terry, father of W
 and Henry W. Terry of this vil-
 place at Jamesport on Tuesday
 the occasion being the 80th bir-
 Mr. Terry. The gathering of M
 eight children was a complete
 to him and his wife, and as ov-
 years had passed since they
 together the event was the mo-
 ant. Both Mr and Mrs Ter-
 excellent health and it is our
 wish that they may be spar-
 years to each other. The eight
 present were William H and E
 Terry of Babylon, C D Terry
 Moriches, Isaiah Terry, Elsie

Kansas City Royals



P. O. BOX 419969
KANSAS CITY,
MISSOURI 64141
(816) 921-2200

ARGYLE HOTEL

October 19, 1989

Stuart Aldrich
75 Woodsome Road
Babylon, N.Y. 11702

Dear Stuart:

Thank you for your patience regarding my book and the Argyle Hotel. I appreciate your assistance with my research.

My book, which we spoke of during our telephone conversation is due for release in the spring of 1990. In the book there are photographs of four men who were members of the first salaried club which began at the Argyle Hotel.

I would like to have a photograph of this famous hotel in my book. Is it possible for you to acquirer a copy? What would be the cost? How long will it take to have the photograph sent to me? I would also like to see what you found in the local papers concerning your research of the Babylon team.

Enclosed you will find a flyer from my book.

I hope to hear from you soon regarding this project.

Sincerely,

Phil S. Dixon
Assistant Director
Public Relations

Jerry Malloy
1257 B. Ballantrae
Mundelein, IL 60060

Sat, April 13, 1991

Pat La Ware
c/o Babylon Public Library
24 S. Carll Avenue
Babylon, NY 11702

Dear Pat,

Please forgive my delay in thanking you for the material you sent me on the Argyle Hotel and the Cuban Giants. It was very useful to me and I appreciate your taking the time to get it to me. Stewart Aldrich's description of the hotel was especially welcome.

I'm assuming you have no pictures of the team, so I thought I'd send you a couple.

Eventually I hope to have an article (maybe two) published regarding the Cuban Giants, their birth, the significance of their name, etc. Actually, the team was not founded ~~in~~ per se, in Babylon. In 1885 (maybe 1884) Frank P. Thompson founded the Keystone Athletics in Philadelphia. This was the team he took to Babylon during the summer of 1885, still known as the Athletics. After the resort season ended that year, he merged his team with the Orions of Philadelphia and a team called the Manhattans of Washington, DC. It was the combination of these three teams that became the Cuban Giants.

Anyway, whenever something gets published, hopefully this year, I'll send you a copy.

Say, you wouldn't consider sending me a picture in return, would you? I have in mind a copy of the picture you photocopied and sent to me. It's a view of the Argyle with a reflection in water. In any case, the Cuban Giants pictures enclosed are yours to keep.

Thanks so much for your time, Pat.

Sincerely,



LOCAL HISTORY COLLECTION
BABYLON PUBLIC LIBRARY

1257 B. Ballantrae Pl.
Mundelein IL 60060
August 8, 1991

Pat La Ware
c/o Babylon Public Library
24 South Carll Avenue
Babylon, NY 11702

ARGYLE HOTEL

Dear Pat,

Please forgive my tardiness in responding to your very nice letter of June 19th as well as the beautiful photograph of the Hotel Argyle.

Enclosed are a couple of photos for Mr. Aldrich and the Babylon Historical Society. Please tell him to feel free to get in touch with me if he thinks I can be of any further assistance to him. I'll be glad to do whatever I can.

I've done some more research on the Cuban Giants' Florida days, and I'm increasingly struck with the significance that resort hotels played in their story. Down in St. Augustine and, later, Palm Beach, they played in some of the most posh hotels in the country. This was largely, I assume, through the connection with the Argyle's Frank Thompson, founder of the Argyle team and co-founder of the Cuban Giants. Thompson was employed in Florida by a guy named Osborn Seavey, a very prominent hotel manager, who ran Henry Flagler's fabulous hotels in St. Aug. (the Ponce de Leon and the Alcazar) and in Palm Beach (the Breakers and Royal Poinciana).


Say, Seavey wouldn't have any connection with Babylon that you know of, would he?

In any case, I'd like to thank you for your help in this project. You've been most helpful and considerate, and I appreciate that very much. It's been a pleasure doing research with you!

If/when any article on the CGs gets published, be assured that I'll send a copy your way.

Thanks again.

Yrs, in the Duke of Argyll,



Jerry Malloy



HISTORICAL & PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Box 484 / Babylon "NY" New York / 11702

ARGYLE HOTEL

12 January, 1990

Phil S. Dixon, Baseball Historian
Kansas City Royals
P.O. Box 419969
Kansas City, Missouri 64141

Dear Mr. Dixon:

This letter will serve as authorization for your use of the photograph of the Argyle Hotel, at Babylon, New York, in your forthcoming book "The Negro Baseball Leagues". We understand that you will give us photo credits in the book.

Please acknowledge by signing the enclosed copy of this letter and returning it to us for our files.

Very Truly Yours,

William E. Holmes
President

Accepted by -----
Phil S. Dixon Date

Austin Corbin and D.S.S. Sammis

AUSTIN CORBIN was a hard headed businessman, keenly competitive and highly successful in a variety of imaginative ventures. He was especially active in rapid transit and real estate. In the winter of 1881-82 he penned a letter to David S. S. Sammis, owner of the famed Surf Hotel at Fire Island. It has been loaned to us for first time publication and we think it important as it gives insight into a dynamic 19th century American's feelings about his enterprises and the public's reaction to them.



David S. S. Sammis

Corbin had gained control of the Long Island Rail Road in December of 1880, backed by a syndicate of Boston and London capitalists. The Englishmen planned to build a series of large resort hotels on Long Island to which the railroad was to extend its service. At the time this letter was written Corbin and his associates were involved in the erection of the 700-guest Argyle Hotel at Babylon (see cover picture of this issue and *Forum* page 223 of December 1967. The Sammis letter to which he was replying had apparently indicated that the veteran hotel man was not offended by the coming competition.

The Corbin Banking Company
New York and Boston
New York Dec. 31, 1881

Dear Mr. Sammis

I have your very kind note of

the 30th with slip enclosed.

It is very refreshing to get once in a while a kind word like that from a man who is interested in the Island. Many persons situated as you are would think that because I was going to build a large hotel in Babylon it would cut into your business; on the contrary, you have breadth of character enough to know that it will not result that way.

It will make more of a point of Babylon and will help every interest round about there and especially yours at Fire Island—there cannot be any doubt about it. In return for what you have to say in regard to the matter of the paper, I wish to assure you that if I can give you any help towards making what you have invested on Long Island more valuable, or helping you to make something out of what you may invest hereafter, I shall be only too glad to do it.

I expect to relay over 100 miles of the track on the Island next Spring, with new steel rails and we have 20 new cars and 6 new locomotives building.

I believe they give me credit now for having a much better road last summer than was ever before on the Island and unless I am very much mistaken, I will show to travelers a very much better road next summer than they had even last

I am going to try to give them a good service—certainly just as good as I can afford.


I shall send you in a few days a statement of the Earnings and Expenses of the Annex Boat, so that you can see the reason why we do not run it in the Winter. We shall put it on again next Summer.

In the heaviest month of last Summer we lost \$1,000 and from the 1st day of January '81 to the 1st day of this month, the boat made a loss of between \$1800 and \$2000; so I think it is quite unreasonable for the few people who want to travel up and down in the Winter to expect us to run a boat at that cost.

Not a single other road centering in New York City runs a special boat in connection with their trains except the Long Island.

With the best compliments
of the Season
I am

Most Sincerely Yours
/s/ Austin Corbin

<p>CURRENT DIVIDEND</p> <h2 style="font-size: 2em;">5%</h2> <p>COMPOUNDED QUARTERLY</p>	<p>ALL TYPES OF SAVINGS ACCOUNTS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual • Joint • Corporate • Trust <p>Accounts insured up to \$15,000</p>
<h1 style="font-size: 3em;">BAY SHORE FEDERAL SAVINGS</h1> <h2 style="font-size: 1.5em;">and Loan Association</h2> <p>(Main Office) 300 East Main Street, Bay Shore, N. Y.—MO 5-6600 180 East Main Street, East Islip, N. Y.—JU 1-9000 845 Wheeler Road, Hauppauge, N. Y.—724-3200</p> 	

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SUFFOLK COUNTY BRAKE SERVICE
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Grover 5 1772

Subs counts opening not in the fir the Sur South dispat Home are for guests. Hotel, occupie Mr. E bany, f ily will on Tue

Another lets it b compet ple who ylon, L with on Island i South E ferry. T so beaut people Besides, ence be Hotel ar It is ab

Still 1882 sea tion bef that Sa sell out. "A rumo that thi into the pany wh large ex ter the land. Fi an admi and it c common cause it and it c money t we are g ment is that Mr Surf Ho able styl ent sum Corbin Island r

Subsequent newspaper accounts reveal that the Argyle opening, in June of 1882, did not in fact very much disturb the fine business enjoyed by the Surf Hotel across the Great South Bay. An August 2nd dispatch to the *New York Home Journal* says: "There are four hundred and twenty guests registered at the Surf Hotel, and the cottages are all occupied, except that leased by Mr. Erastus Corning of Albany, for years past. His family will arrive at Fire Island on Tuesday."

Another press item, however, lets it be known that there was competition for guests: "People who go to the Argyle, Babylon, L. I., can kill two birds with one stone, because Fire Island is right across the Great South Bay and is accessible by ferry. The Argyle, however, is so beautiful and attractive that people are loath to leave it. Besides, there is some difference between the Fire Island Hotel and the one at Babylon. It is about ten miles."

Still another item of the 1882 season indicates speculation before the Argyle opening that Sammis was planning to sell out. One such item reads: "A rumor was current last year that this property was to pass into the hands of a large company who proposed to make a large excursion resort of it, after the manner of Coney Island. Fire Island would make an admirable excursion ground, and it could never become so common as Coney Island, because it is not so near the city and it costs more of time and money to reach it. At any rate we are glad that such a movement is to be postponed and that Mr. Sammis will keep the Surf Hotel in his usual admirable style at least for the present summer."

Corbin, the "King of Long Island railroads" and Sammis,



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 MO 9-1350 and 9772

the "King of Fire Island" were to cooperate many times as circumstances made such action mutually beneficial. Sammis enterprises benefited Corbin's railroad. But on May 8, 1893, Sammis observed his 75th birthday and also transfer of his Fire Island property to the State. The hotel had been hurriedly purchased for quarantine purposes during the Cholera scare, but that is a story of itself.

Soon thereafter relations between Corbin and Sammis became anything but cordial as shown by the following news dispatch datelined "Babylon, L. I., June 23—D. S. S. Sammis, who sold Fire Island to the State, and Austin Corbin, President of the Long Island Railroad, are at war. Mr. Sammis owns and runs a line of horse cars from the railroad station to the bay. It is an old institution, the line having been in operation ever since the South Side Branch of the Long Island Rail Road was established. Orders have been issued to not only exclude the horse cars from the depot grounds but to tear up the tracks which are on that soil. The veteran Sammis is warlike in consequence, and threatens injunctions and retaliation."

(Please turn to page 80)

**Seaside
bank**

Westhampton Beach, L. I.
Member Federal Deposit
Insurance Corporation
288 - 2220

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Pickle Products, Inc.
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WANTED TO BUY for research and my collection: books, newspaper clippings, other material about General Francis B. Spinola: Write Mrs. Stephen Marinuzzi, Cardinal Manor, Coram, N. Y. 11727. (Ex-Regent, General Francis B. Spinola Chapter, National Society Daughters of the Union, 1861-1865 Inc.)

WANTED—for my North American Indian Junior Museum: historic objects from all tribes. No weapons. 73 Grove Street, Lynbrook, N. Y. 11563. 4/68

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WANTED TO BUY: Long Island prints, broadsides; documents, pamphlets, photographs, postcards, newspapers of Nassau County before 1900. P. O. Box 139, East Meadow, New York. lf

FOR ALL the News of Huntington Township subscribe to the Long Islander, New York State's leading weekly newspaper. 313 Main Street, Huntington, L. I. HAMILTON 7-4000. lf

CLOCKS WANTED—Will purchase your Early American clocks—Grand father-mantel-wall, etc. Please send description, or Photo, and price P. O. Box 195, Rockville Centre, N. Y. 11571.

LANDMARKS OF LONG ISLAND a Guide to 127 places open to visitors including museums, historic houses, churches, historical reference collections, public parks. Send 36c to S.P.L.I.A., Box 206, Setauket, N. Y. 11785. Quantity rate: 50 copies for \$10.70.

FOR SALE—Complete set of LONG ISLAND FORUM, first issue to December 1967. Mrs. Charles Nichols, Bridgehampton, N. Y. 11932. lf

GENEALOGY: "The Family of Richard Smith of Smithtown, Long Island" by Frederick Kinsman Smith \$25.00, plus \$1.00 handling charges. Also available "The History of Smithtown" by J. Lawrence Smith \$5.00 plus 25c handling charges. Smithtown Historical Society, Box 69, Smithtown, N. Y. 11787. 5/67

CENTER MORICHES: History of Center Moriches Street Names, History of Moriches Yacht Club, etc. Write: August Stout, Jr., Box 120, Center Moriches, N. Y. 11934. 4/67

FOR ALL THE NEWS of Eastern Long Island read the NEWS REVIEW. Subscribe Today P. O. Box 720, Riverhead, N. Y.

WANTED TO BUY — All issues of pamphlets "Birds of Long Island" by J. T. Nichols, duplicate. (Initiated by the Bird Club Of L. I. in 1939). Write Mrs. Stephen Marinuzzi, Cardinal Manor, Coram, N. Y. 11727. lf

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terable Livin
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LOCAL HISTORY COLLECTION
BABYLON PUBLIC LIBRARY

ARGYLE HOTEL

PASCH HOME
DUNDEE AVENUE



LOCAL HISTORY
COLLECTION
BABYLON PUBLIC LIBRARY
Argyle Park

LOCAL HISTORY COLLECTION
BABYLON PUBLIC LIBRARY

REMAINING COTTAGES OF
HOTEL COMPLEX

ARGYLE HOTEL



YOUNG HOME
DOUGLAS AVE



NOTE: Different Types of Windows
Again, great care was demonstrated
in wood design of shelves as well as
fireplaces.

LOCAL HISTORY
COLLECTION
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Argyle Park

LOCAL HISTORY COLLECTION
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WHELAN HOUSE
ARGYLE

ARGYLE HOTEL



LOCAL HISTORY
COLLECTION
BABYLON PUBLIC LIBRARY

Argyle Park

HEALY HOME
DUNDEE AVENUE

HOMES CONSTRUCTED FROM WHAT
REMAINED OF THE ARGYLE HOTEL



NOTE: Intricate woodwork.
Columns presents came from:
(1) Healy's - Hotel's inner
framework
(2) Pasch's - supported outer
pouch

VILLAGE OF BABYLON
Incorporated 1893
Babylon, NY 11702

Stewart M. Aldrich
Village Historian

January 31, 1989

THE ARGYLE HOTEL
BABYLON, NEW YORK

1881 - 1904

Built in 1882 on "Blythebourne", the former summer estate of Electus B. Litchfield a Brooklyn railroad magnate, by the Long Island Improvement Company, a syndicate headed by Austin Corbin owner of the Long Island Railroad. Other investors in the venture were some English Gentry including the son of the Duke of Argyll. "Blythebourne" was comprised of fifteen acres, a large mansion, extensive groves, a large mill pond, and two smaller ponds. The site was elevated and from it there was a view of Great South Bay.

In January 1882 Corbin took up residence in the Mansion and work began on the hotel which was to be 300 feet by 150 feet and have 350 rooms. Shortly thereafter it was announced that the hotel would be named "Argyle" in honor of the Duke.

The hotel was not financially successful, only about a third of the rooms being occupied at any time. In early 1891 Corbin sold his interest to William Ziegler the Royal Baking Powder King. Ziegler closed the hotel in 1897 and sold the 14 cottages on the grounds. The hotel was boarded up and empty until March of 1904 when Ziegler ordered that it be razed. Lumber salvaged from the hotel was used to build some twenty houses on the sites around the grounds.

In the park, south of the hotel, was a large Casino. The hotel was surrounded by extensive lawns and there was a path around the lake, bordered by trees. The path was called the "Ramble" but it was generally referred to as "Lovers Walk". Carriages and boats were available and boating and fishing on the lake were popular pastimes.

Baseball was played on the hotel grounds. A team composed of black employees of the hotel led by Frank Thompson, the hotel's headwaiter, was one of the original black ball clubs in the Country. Known as the Cuban Giants they were paid wages equivalent to those to be had by the help in a first class hotel. In their first professional year they beat Bridgeport, the Eastern League Champions which established them as a strong attraction. In 1887 they beat Cincinnati and Indianapolis in the International League and threw a scare into many other white Major League Clubs they played. The name Cuban Giants was misleading, because there wasn't a Cuban on the team. Thompson hoped to ease the social barriers by passing the team off as Cubans. The players furthered the illusion by chattering in a rapid Spanish sounding gibberish on the field.



CASINO AND THEATRE

The Casino was built by a well-known New York architect, Mr. Stamford White. It was the location after the Hotel's demise for community dances. In the early 1920's, it was bought by Mr. Arthur P. Howden Smith. Later it became the property of firstly Mr. James B. Robbins and then Mr. Baxter. The home was owned by Dr. and Mrs. Lyons when it was destroyed by a fire in the 1950's.

(2)
Amusements were usually given in the ballroom of the casino which was detached from the hotel. It contained a theatre with stage and dressing rooms, regulation bowling alleys, a buffet, billard and pool tables. A first-class orchestra was engaged for the season which ran from June 1 through October 1st. For sailing pleasure, the largest and best pleasure vessels on the Atlantic coast commanded by thoroughly experienced captains could be had at reasonable rates by the day, week or season.

Those who preferred still water bathing could enjoy the sport within a short distance of the hotel. Surf bathing could be found by a sail across the bay. Excellent fishing was possible in Great South Bay.

Guests could stay at the hotel which provided comfortable accommodations with hot and cold baths, electric bells and electric lights. Telephone (Long Distance) and a stenographer was in the office in the main lobby. It had a magnificent dining hall (50 x 100 feet) which served meals, a la carte, and was open from 7 a.m. to 12 o'clock midnight. Outside catering and special menus were provided at moderate charges.

The rates announced by the managers of the 1901 season, Mr. James Chabot and August J. Chabot, the well known proprietor and manager respective of the Brevoort House on Fifth Avenue, New York City, was as follows:

First and Second Floors, adults - \$4.00 a day - \$25.00 weekly
Fourth Floor and Tower, adults - \$3.00 a day - \$17.50 weekly
Third Floor-----, adults - \$3.50 a day - \$21.00 weekly

For children under ten years, served in the main dining room,
\$10.00 per week;

If they are served in the Nurses Hall - \$7.00 per week.

Separate room for nuses, including board - \$10.50 per week

For board only----- \$ 6.00 per week

Special arrangements were made for families

However, the Argyle Hotel never proved to be a financial success despite the fact that every effort was made to make it so. In February 1904, after two seasons during which the Hotel was unable to open, plans were being discussed to destroy it. A principal of a large military school had approached the present owner, Mr. William Ziegler, with the view of purchasing the hotel for use for his school, but the deal was never consumated.

Finally it was decided that the hotel would be torn down and work begun to erect twenty modern cottages to each occupy a fifty foot front lot. The original Hotel cottages had earlier been sold at a public auction. It was reported by

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Argyle Park

Many, however, that a fire occurred which partially destroyed the structure. Much of the lumber, beams, pillars, windows, and various wood works remaining were used in the construction of the new cottages.

The Healy home on 39 Dundee Avenue is made of many of the Hotel's massive beams as seen outwardly in the long, wide roofing and inwardly in the structural framework of the house (example; pillars)

The Pasch house on 42 Dundee Avenue possesses a number of inner beams gracefully standing at the entrances of the front rooms which are believed to have at one time been part of the many pillars which supported the front porch which ran along much of the the Hotel's ground floor section facing the lake.

A number of the original Argyle cottages constructed as part of that project in 1881 still remain to this day.

The Whelan home on 19 Argyle Ave was built approximately at the time of that of the Hotel as an annex to it. It has fifteen rooms and five fireplaces. It was the Cox Estate until sold to the Baer family in 1945 and then to the Whelan family in 1950.

The Young home on 88 Douglas Avenue has a wide long porch extending along two full sides of the house. This homestead, as was prevalent with other homes connected with the Hotel project, has many of the characteristic windows and intricate woodworkings. The mentioned window has a large pane in the center surrounded by smaller squares of glass.

Epilogue - The property near the waterfall region was later donated by the owner, Mr. Stanley Carll Foster, in 1922 in commemoration of the services of Babylon WWI servicemen. The Argyle Park today is a picturesque site for wedding photographs and visitors to the Suffolk area as well as an ideal located for family outings and village outdoor events.

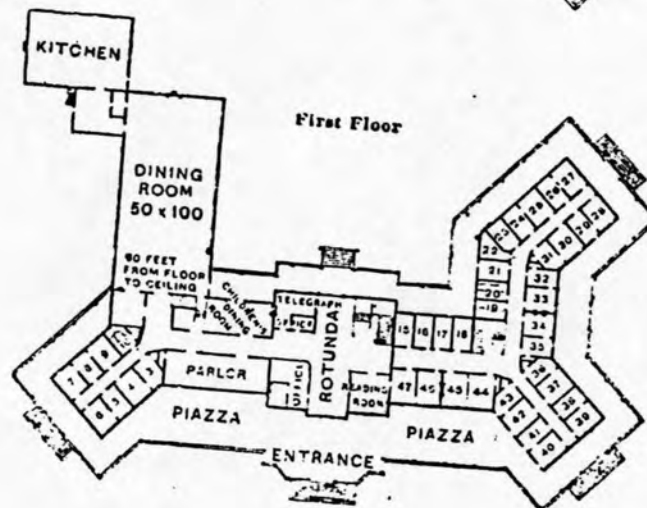
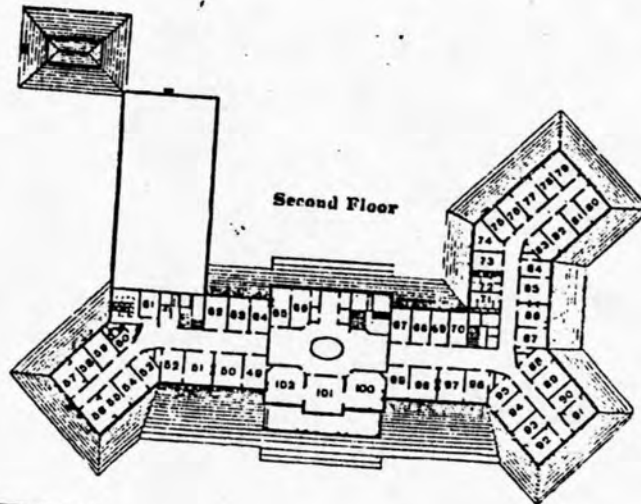
I wish to express sincere thanks from myself

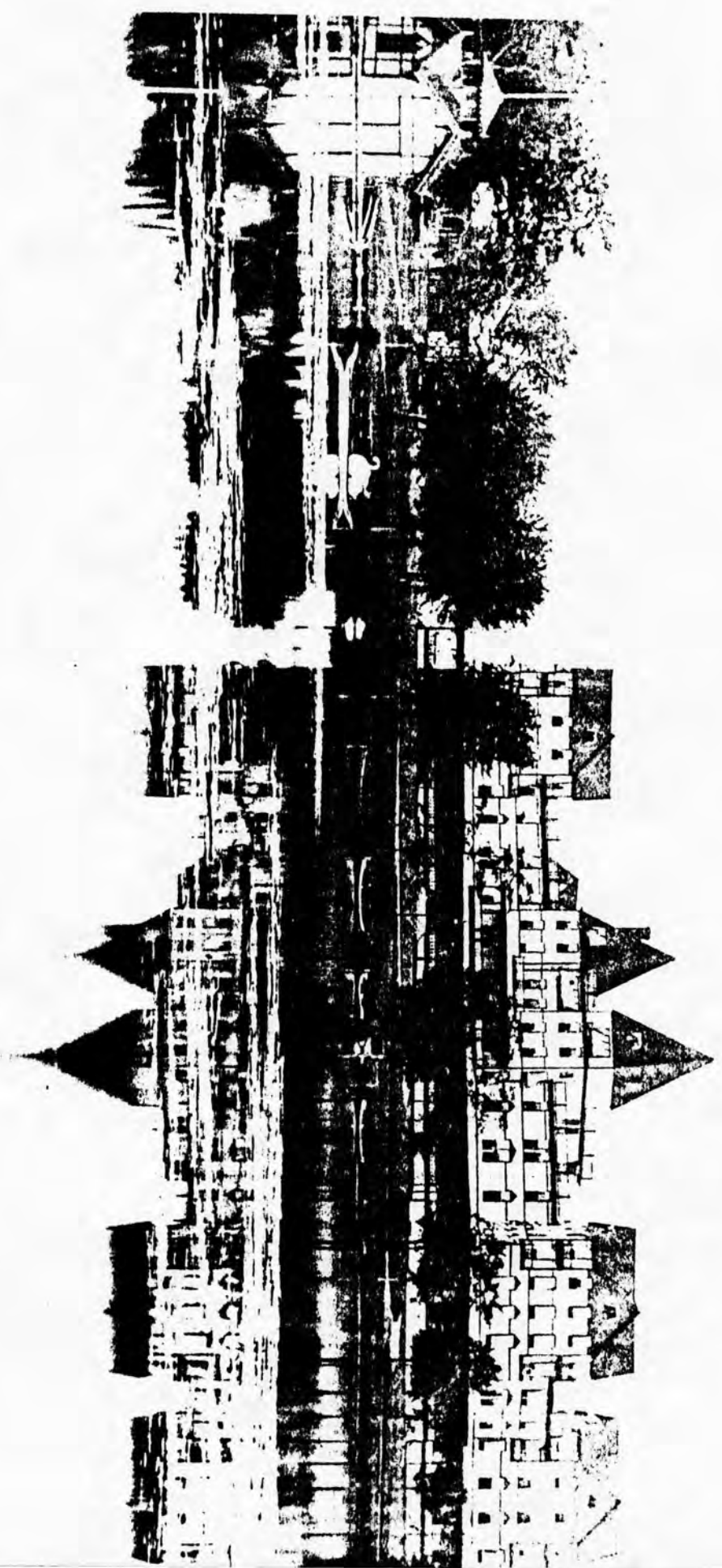
and the Historical Society to.....Mr. Carl Starace
 Mr. and Mr. Francis H. Healy
 Mrs. Emily Whelan
 Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Young
 Mr. Frank Garvey

and the so many others who made me feel so welcome and offered so much consideration and interest towards this project which I hope will give fellow Babylonians aware of still another aspect of their proud history. I have attempted to report all that I learned from interviews accurately and as completely as possible. If any information is found to be lacking by those more familiar with this subject or period of time, revisions will be gladly made to make this report satisfactory to all.



DINING ROOM





ARGYLE HOTEL