

BABYLON HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1947



BIOGRAPHIES

50TH YEAR REUNION * SEPTEMBER 13, 1997

~FOREWORD~

The Reunion Committee was pleased to have so many responses to the request for biographies. Some people wrote a text in paragraph form and others sent a chronology on the "Brief Bio" form. We thought that it would make for more pleasant reading if, when assembled, the format was consistent. Therefore, we would like to explain...

~OUR APPROACH~

For those who used the "Brief Bio" form, preferring the "skeletal" approach, we put the data into paragraph form, without changing the facts. The classmates that sent information in text form, will see that we have printed it, for the most part, "as is"--and we thank you all for taking the time to respond!

**~WHY WE ASSEMBLED
THE BIOS~**

The "committee" felt everyone would enjoy catching up on the past 50 years, however briefly,--and two members, who will remain anonymous, foolishly volunteered to take on this task, because no one else would!

~ANY ERRORS?~

Sorry, we couldn't read the handwriting!

FOLLOW UP?

Don't call us!

~F I N A L L Y~

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Jane Beach Delassalle

Jane writes in the "Brief Bio" format that she is widowed. She has worked as an organist in several churches and is presently at St. Joseph R.C. Church in Ronkonkoma. Her current interests are "cats, flowers, going to the opera."

Claude Bedell

"I won't be able to attend. I am one of those people who figured I would never retire so, I had nothing saved. Therefore, I'm living on a small pension and Social Security. I was laid off in '93 and decided that I would rather take early retirement, and change my lifestyle (considerably), than to try to find another job. I'm tired of job hunting.

"I'm living in a luxury apartment which is costing me nearly half of my income but, I have a swimming pool and a jacuzzi which can be used year round. My apartment has a view of a park. I could get an apartment for half this price at Borrego Springs but, it gets to 120 degrees out there in July. I'm living in what I think is the most perfect climate on earth. In mid-winter, the daily temperature range here is about 40 to 65; in summer, it is about 60 to 80, rarely to 90. The humidity usually is around 40 to 60 percent. It isn't too bad that they shake us up once in a while. The last quake I felt in this area was the big Northridge quake of 1/17/94. I got up, looked out the window and went back to bed for another hour.

"I'm still single as I always have been. At this point, I have no living relatives. My work during the past 50 years: '47 to '66--self employed servicing TVs and radios; '66 to '70--Grumman Aerospace, electronic engineering lab; '70 to '72--Square Deal TV in Patchogue; then, General Instrument in Hicksville; then, back to Grumman until '75; '75 to '77--North Atlantic Industries in Plainview; '77--moved to California. '77 to '78--EECO (Electronic Engineering Co.); '78-'84--EOCOM (division of American Hoechst); '84-'93--Baxter Healthcare from which I was laid off and took retirement. Most California companies consider you vested after 5 years.

"If I had gone to college after graduation, I have no doubt that I would have been a full engineer with much higher pay. However, I wanted to try my own business first. I never wanted to be an engineer; I wanted to be a technician. To me, that's the fun work."

Dieter Bender

"Dear Jane, Sorry I am late with my check, but we were not certain if we could make the reunion. Hope all is well with you and your family. Our sons are now twenty-five years older than they were on that glorious Fall day when they met as combatants on the football field in Babylon.

"In regard to the last twenty-five years, I retired from the N.Y State Police in 1978 and returned to the classroom and became a pastor with the United Methodist Church serving churches in Maryland, Delaware and North Carolina. At the present time my ministry is at the Delaware State Prison about five miles from where we live. God has been so good to us and life has been a great adventure and to think that the best is yet to come!

"Thanks for all the work you folks have done to put this reunion together."

Bernice Bennison Germinario

Bernice writes that she is married to Phil and that they have three married children and seven grandchildren.

Bernice worked at Good Samaritan Hospital, but she and Phil retired and moved to Georgia in 1994.

Her present interests are reading, gardening and traveling.

Ethel Beaute Autorino

Ethel tells us that her nursing career "came by way of some very good fortune. The kids were all in school and the local community college had their two year program. I would be in school the same time as them.

"Then Long Island University had a weekend program to get your BSN--so I took advantage of that. Then someone said I probably couldn't do the work for a Masters--well, never, ever say that to me! In '85 I had a Masters (really, truly didn't want to pursue a Doctorate) so then went back in 1992 for my Practitioner's Certificate. --All kind of fell into place; I truly do consider myself one lucky bird."

In addition to Ethel's work career, she is also a World-Class Triathlete. Ethel holds ten U. S. National Championships, four World Championships and three Ironman World titles in three age groups, having broken records in two of the three titles!

Leah Blake Wildt

"Bob and I will be unable to attend, but we will be thinking about you all. We are both fine and in good health. We have two girls ages forty-one and thirty-four, three grandchildren, two boys ages nine and sixteen and a granddaughter two years old.

"We have a lovely house on the water. Bob walks down the back yard, pushes a button and climbs into his Bass Boat, rides down the canal and enters our big lake called Lake Jane."

Eileen Bongiorno Valenti

Eileen tells us that she was employed as a secretary in the Deer Park Schools for twenty-five years.

Eileen is widowed. She is interested in travel and is active in volunteer work.

Vera Bowyer Cove

"After returning to England in 1945, I went to an all girls' school, uniform and all, for three years. Then followed three years at London University for a B.S. in Economics, and a short career in Personnel before settling down with John to raise a family. We are now retired and living 60 miles north of London.

"I have fond memories of BHS and friendships with Ann Miller Kip, Minnie Kawalick Singer and Lucy Hoevels Candeia; I remember the quick humor of Doug Dwyer and Helen Heil, and among the staff, particularly Miss Louise Bishop and Room 304. Best wishes to all!"

Julia Brown Hall

"I had every intention of joining the festivities at our 50th. But it looks as though my husband, Jim, and I will be in Milan of all places helping launch an MBA program offered by Pace University. Jim teaches Management in the Lubin School of Business at Pace and I go along for the ride. If plans change I'd love to join you all.

"Who can account for the past fifty years? I can't. I had four kids in less than five years because I thought it would be efficient. I've been co-owner of houses in Massachusetts, Chicago, Ohio, Colorado, Montana and now New York. And we have a tiny cabin in Minnesota on a remote pristine lake.

"We have two grandchildren who live in Ohio and two who live in Chicago. They're very dear, as are their parents and aunts and uncles.

"I've had an appalling number of jobs over the years. All in the not-for-profit sector involving some aspect of education. My favorites have been teaching continuing education courses in the humanities. Least favorites: fund raising and development. I've written two unpublished novels and had a total knee replacement. The latter makes gardening, which I adore, very difficult.

"I've managed to extricate myself from two ill-advised marriages and one burning house. Each a disaster. But so far we've all survived. I married Jim Hall on New Year's Eve, 1969, so we know I can get it right once in a while. -- Have a marvelous time on the 13th of September. I'll be there if I can swing it."

Michael C. Brown

Michael writes that after serving in the U.S. Navy, he worked as a Statistician for The London Assurance Group in NYC. In 1960 he moved to Washington, D.C. to accept a position as Chief Statistician with the American Mercury Insurance Company (Aviation Insurance). During his stay in Washington, he attended a reception for Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson on January 18, 1961 and President John F. Kennedy's Inauguration and Inaugural

Ball on January 20, 1961. In 1963 Mike moved to Kingston/Woodstock area of New York to work at a Management Level position with Montgomery Ward & Company.

Mike also says that he was a "breeder of Champion Welsh Terriers for fifteen years; skied all of the northeast from Belleayre Mountain, NY to Stowe, Vt. At Mt. Snow and Stowe there was always someone from Babylon in the chair lift line.

"Traveled all of Europe for over thirty years. Active member of the Victory Service Club of London, England, which I visit several times a year. Retired October, 1984, leased a condo in Torremolinos, Spain, for the first winter, returning to Woodstock in April, 1985. After several years of retirement, sold my home in Woodstock, moved to the Admiralty Yacht Club, Fort Myers, FL for three years, then Ormond by the Sea for the next five years. In May 1995 settled in Boynton Beach, FL."

Rose Caldron Green

Rose tells us that she was married to Lloyd Green in 1949, and after several early moves, ended up living in Bay Shore. She was widowed in 1993. She has seven children--three boys and four girls, the last being twin girls! She now has twenty-five grandchildren and eighteen great grandchildren.

Rose worked in different hospitals, including the V.A. Hospital in Northport from 1962 to 1970. She retired due to illness. Now she enjoys Bingo, scrabble, and going to Senior Citizens meetings. Rose has been a member of Bethel A.M.E. Church in Babylon for the past 30 years, is currently a member (and past president) of the Missionary Society, and is now secretary for Public Relations.

Donya Carpluk VanBuren

"After graduation from high school, I didn't go far for my first job--up the stairs from the auditorium to Mr. Oyer's office, where I worked as his secretary for 4 years. To get married, (in 1951 to EVB), I didn't have to go far either, West Islip-Babylon! Since then I was part of the work force in various capacities for a good number of years, retiring from the Smithtown School District as an Administrative Assistant with over 25 years in Civil Service.

However, my joy is in my family, friends and community. We have a daughter, Diana, who lives in NYC, has a house near us on the North Fork. She's manager of a NYC restaurant. Mary, our younger daughter, lives and works as a Professor of Archeology at Trinity University, SanAntonio. And with my dear Ed, I'm happily ensconced in Cutchogue, where I volunteer and have responsibilities in the Friends of the Library, Cutchogue New Suffolk Historical Council, local civic association, Audubon, and a Homemakers group. I like to garden, cook, read, travel, walk,

watch & feed birds, be outdoors, observe nature, etc., and hook (thanks to Fran!).

Richard C. Chapin

"Greetings from Northeastern Pennsylvania. Jean and I plan to attend the reunion on September 13th.

"We recently retired to the Endless Mountains of Pennsylvania, where we built our own home thirty-five years ago. We have plenty to do. Jean cares for our many cats and birds. She enjoys gardening, oil painting, counted cross stitch with daughter, Cindy, quilting, etc. She is also an active member of the local chapter of the DAR. I keep honey bees, edit the local beekeeping newsletter, preach and teach occasionally, and do some writing. Our daughter, her husband and their children live nearby. Aaron is in high school, Alexandria is in Junior High and Drew is in third grade. Our son Jeremy lives near Boston.

"During our work years we lived in the Philadelphia area, in Patchogue and in Blue Point. We served churches in Patchogue, Bay Shore, Sayville and Yaphank. I also worked for B.O.C.E.S. Eastern Suffolk as a Coordinator/Teacher of Special Education, and as Chaplain of the Patchogue Fire Department and Ambulance Company, as well as Acting Chaplain of the Blue Point Fire Department for 35 years. I was active in scouting for many years, starting the first special education troop in Suffolk. Jean worked for nine years as administrator of our regional Episcopal elementary school in Patchogue."

Marie Chitwood Chapman

Marie writes that she is a retired Chemical Engineer (University of Dayton) with an MS in chemistry (A & T University of North Carolina). She has worked as a Medical Technologist in various hospitals, for Chemical Abstracts Service as Associate Editor, and as a chemical engineer for Proctor and Gamble.

Married, her husband is a retired Civil Engineer. They live in the..."high desert south of Albuquerque, NM, in a golf course community. We play bridge and golf, work in our church and do some volunteer work." Marie and her husband have three children.

Marie's special interests are teaching reading and English to Hispanic children and GED to Hispanic adults.

Edith M. DeCosterd Loveman

Edith is the mother of two children and has been a widow since 1994.

She is a New York State psychologist and has worked for Cornell University in a research oriented position.

Currently her interests are her work, Country Western dancing (as well as other kinds of dancing), theater, music, traveling and--"living and savoring every moment."

Doris DeGroff Petke

Doris writes that she has been a widow for the past 21 years. She has a daughter who is married with two children and a son--still single "hurt once by a gal--swears he'll marry, but no children."

Doris is retired from the Town of Babylon and presently works for Dormer King Construction - "Do-it-all Office Manager, handle all leads, estimates, banking, getting home improvement loans and mortgages for customers, order lumber, windows, etc. Get crew out in a.m....leaving to find a nice little old lady job!" She loves oil painting and traveling.

Joan DeGroff Nilsen

Joan tells us that she has been busy raising a family of four children and is now enjoying her grandchildren who live in states from Arizona to Connecticut.

She has taught school as a permanent substitute and was editor of the Babylon Beacon for ten years. Now Joan writes free lance. She has a variety of interests--antiquing, sailing, collecting and hunting.

Joseph DeLucca

Joe is a resident of Babylon Village and Marco Island, Florida. He is married to Carol.

Joe is a retired Physical Education teacher from the West Babylon Schools and has a second career as a Major League Scout. He tells us that he still attends many B.H.S. games and other school and village functions.

He is Dad of six children and two grandchildren.

Helen Ehrsam Swank

Helen has had several international positions including three years as Administrator of Cornell University's Southeast Asia Program, an interdisciplinary graduate study of the languages and cultures of that region.

She is retired and has volunteer appointments as Board of Directors member on local Cayuga Chamber Orchestra, as founder, fund-raiser of Grace LeGendre Endowment Fund, and as alternate UN delegate for the International Federation of Business and Professional Women headquartered in London.

Helen's hobbies include "gardening with permission from the local deer, woodchucks and birds, who also prune my plants regularly."

Walter Ferguson

Walter (Bud) Ferguson tells us that he is married and has been for forty-three years. He has two daughters and one grandson.

Bud spent five years in the USAF and worked for the California Department of Transportation for thirty-five years.

Currently he enjoys being retired, traveling and sailing. He says that he regrets that he can't be at the reunion, the conflict occasion being a cruise around the Hawaiian Islands.

Mary Ferrara Greci

"After high school, I was employed by Equitable Life Assurance Society in Manhattan. I left when I married Al Greci in 1955.

"We live in North Babylon. We have two sons, Salvatore and Leonard who are both practicing attorneys on Long Island. Both are married. Sal lives in St. James and Lenny lives in the Village of Babylon.

"We have a summer home in Kismet, Fire Island, and a condo in Stuart, Florida, which we try to get away to as often as we can."

Gustav Fishel

Gus writes that he graduated from Hamilton College in 1951 and then from New York University Law School in 1956. He spent the years 1952 to 1954 in the U. S. Army.

Gus married Patricia Dwyer of Brightwaters and they have four children; Mary Pat, John, Phoebe and Thomas, and nine grandchildren.

He is a member of Babylon Rotary Club, Past President; and of the Suffolk County Bar Association, Past President.

Albert Greci

"After B.H.S. I graduated from S.U.N.Y. at Farmingdale, enlisted in the N.Y. National Guard and was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant Armor which started my dual career concurrently with the U.S. Army while employed by Grumman Aerospace Corp. as a manufacturing engineer.

"I married Mary Ferrara in 1955. We have two sons.

"I retired with the rank of Colonel after 36 years of reserve duty, and from Grumman after 41 years of service.

"Our favorite summer spare time is spent on our power boat and sun fish on the Great South Bay. My current interests are bird carving, sailing, golf, woodwork."

James L. Guernsey

James married Barbara in 1959, He was in the U. S. Army from 1951 to 1954 and went to work in the Hicksville Public Schools from 1955 to 1957. From there he went to the East Islip School District and retired from there in 1988.

He lives in Ocean Springs, Mississippi and writes, "...the Coast of Mississippi is a fine place to live in retirement. We have easy access to New Orleans and Mobile. We also have a 26

mile sand beach on the Mississippi Sound with free public access to the beach.

His hobbies are serving as Secretary of the Coast Rifle and Pistol Club, Biloxi, MS. He also serves as National Skeet Shooting Assn. contact for the club, participating in regular skeet competition. In 1996 he was Senior Level State Champion in the 410 Bare.

Helen M. Berg

Response from Helen tells us that she is married and has two children.

Helen does volunteer work for the Humane Society and Marine Corps Toys for Tots Program.

Patrick Henry

"After high school, I attended and graduated from the Massachusetts Maritime Academy in the class of 1951. I then sailed as a Third Officer for Farrell Lines, a shipping company, sailing to South Africa and East Africa. I went on active duty in the United States Navy and served as Gunnery Officer on the U.S. Pictor for several years and then returned to Farrell Lines where I served as Second Officer. I attended Washington and Lee University School of Law and graduated in 1960 and went back with Farrell Lines; and then practiced law with the admiralty firm of Bigham, Englar, Jones and Houston, New York City.

"In 1966, I joined the office of the Suffolk County District Attorney as an Assistant District Attorney until 1977, when I ran for and was elected to the office of District Attorney. I served in that capacity until 1990 and then ran for and was elected to the position of Justice of the Supreme Court, New York State, in which capacity I currently serve.

"I am married to the former Theresa Lennon of Worcester, Massachusetts and have five children. Lindsay, 34 is an attorney, Jennifer is also an attorney, currently employed as an Assistant District Attorney in the Suffolk County District Attorney's office; James is a commercial fisherman; and twin girls Margaret and Elizabeth.

"Since graduating from high school, I have maintained my residence in the Village of Babylon."

Mildred Hochheiser Rothenberg

Millie writes that it's "hard to believe we're celebrating our 50th Reunion! Where did the years go? Here's a short synopsis of how I spent 50 years.

"After graduation, went to business school in Manhattan. Do you remember how much student monthly commutation on L.I.R.R. cost then? Aproximately \$12!!! Worked in Manhattan, then for my Dad's business in Central Islip as a bookkeeper.

"Met Hy (from Amityville) and we married in 1950. Bought a home in North Babylon where our first two children were born--our daughter Gail and son Bruce. Seven years later, we moved to West Islip and added two more sons, Roy and Charles, to our family. How proud we were and are. Children attended West Islip Schools. I went back to work when the youngest went to First Grade. When our nest was empty, we moved to Babylon and here I am where I started! Retired in 1987.

"Biggest and most important hobbies are are six granddaughters and one grandson!"

Lucy Hoevels Candela

Retired, after working as a secretary for various companies over the years. Lucy now enjoys art, bowling, traveling and being with her grandchildren.

Lucy has two children and five grandchildren.

Minerva Kawalick Singer

"Fifty years! Unbelievable! For 45 of the 50 years, my best friend, lover, companion and mentor has been Myron Singer. I believe I am a woman typical of the 1950's--got my degree (B.A. journ-poli sci) and MS from Syracuse U., have 2 sweet offspring. Moved from L.I. to Massachusetts to Michigan, where we have lived 40 years so Myron could pursue a successful career with Ford Motor Company, Lincoln-Mercury Division.

"I returned to college in 1967, received my Master's degree from University of Michigan-American government major. Taught college level part-time for five years; joined personnel staff (EEO offices) UM-Dearborn. At UM worked in various personnel positions, then became Director of the Women's Center for 10 years. Spent two years recruiting physical therapists for a P.T. management company, then returned to non-profits as an employment specialist at Operation ABLE (ABLE helps older workers return to the workplace). I also wrote for local papers, helped organize and served as president of the League of Women Voters of Livonia, Michigan, served on the city planning commission, etc.

"Now, Myron and I are retired, but busy. It'll be fun to renew friendships.

"P. S. Along the line I turned blond--others grow older, I grow golder!"

William Koster

"Since leaving Babylon, I spent almost four years in the Army as a paratrooper, followed by four years at Pratt Institute to become an industrial designer. As an industrial designer, I worked for Donald Deskey Associates in N.Y.C., Magnavox in Ft. Wayne, John Hauser, Dynacept, and finally Monogram Models designing plastic model kits and doing some art work.

"I married in 1966. My first wife died in 1976. I remarried to a wonderful little Israeli lady in 1982 in Libertyville, IL. We moved to Bedford, MA in 1987 when my wife, Devorah, accepted a position in clinical research in Cambridge, MA (she's a medical doctor). Now we are both retired. I still do consultant design for Monogram and have a small mail-order business with plastic airplane model kits designed and produced by me.

"Generally, living the good life."

Charles Lavers, Jr.

"After graduation, I and my family moved to Ft. McCoy, Florida, near Silver Springs, where Dad and I worked for Ross Allens Reptile Institute. I hunted snakes and alligators part-time, gave lectures and served as part-time lifeguard at the beach. I joined the Navy in 1950, served as an enlisted man radar operator on aircraft carriers until 1954 (a year in Korean Waters).

"I married first in 1952; attended University of Florida College of Architecture 1955-1959 but ran out of the G. I. Bill support. I worked as a builder, designer-draughtsman, etc. until 1960 when I divorced and became a planner for Sarasota County, Florida, until 1965.

"I remarried in 1962, divorced again in 1966. Returned then to University of Florida and completed my degree in Architecture in 1970. I had married again in 1968. I joined the Civil Service as an architect in 1972 and served as base architect at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama; Hill Air Force Base, Utah; and Headquarters Systems Command, Air Force Space Division, Los Angeles, CA. Then retired in 1990 as Chief of Services, Eng. Div., Redstone Arsenal, AL.

"I lost my wife that year to lung cancer, but I have 5 children and 10 grandchildren to remind me of her. I have a 25 acre farm in Pulaski, TN (75 miles south of Nashville near the Alabama border) where I keep busy restoring my 1838 era farmhouse. I do occasional construction supervision on contract to supplement my retirement and just to stay active."

Dorothy Leitch Rowlinson

Dorothy writes that she is married and has 4 grown children, 7 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild! As well as being a housewife and mother to her large family, she has worked as an executive secretary, Religious Education Teacher, Kindergarten, (BOCES III). She is a Eucharistic Minister in her church; and likes to crochet, knit, carve and paint, having had exhibitions in libraries and various banks. She and her husband live in South Venice for the winter and in East Islip during the summer.

Carl H. Ludwig

In his "Brief Bio," Carl states that he is married with 2 sons, 2 daughters and 7 grandchildren. He was in the Navy for over 10 years, 33+ years with the New York Telephone Company, from which he retired and was in Security for 3 years. His interests are travel, gardening and community involvement.

Bernice Lurie Levin

"Since my father's death, I have not been back to Babylon--that was in 1975. I'm sure there are a lot of changes. Babylon was such a small town when I left in 1955 to move into New York City. At the time, I was working for Esquire Magazine and could not stand the L.I. Railroad any more. I had commuted since 1947 and the train was never on time. I don't think it's any better now, from what I read in the papers.

"In 1957 I married and moved to Lawrenceville, NJ, where we still live. We have three children--Lori, Scott and Andy. All have terrific jobs in computers. Lori sells computer networking systems to large corporations; Scott (who lives in Denver and is the only one still single, but with a live-in girlfriend) has his own computer consulting company; and Andy, who works for Lucent Technology (used to be AT&T). No grandchildren yet, but we have two grand-dogs and three grand-cats.

"I still work part-time as a "temp" secretary at Bristol-Myers Squibb here in Lawrenceville, so I still get to use my skills learned at Katharine Gibbs in NYC. I also sold residential real estate for four years and have my license; however, this year I decided to get away from it for a while so that I can spend my weekends with my husband and kids."

Robert Lynch

Bob writes that he lives in West Islip and is married to the former Alice Reilly. She is presently a Nursing Supervisor at Good Samaritan Hospital Medical Centre. They are the parents of one daughter, an RN who has 3 children and lives across the street.

Bob retired from Grumman Aerospace Corp. in 1992. Hobbies enjoyed are golf, gardening, reading and spending a great deal of time with his grandchildren. He and his wife vacation in Florida in the winter.

Alan Mann

Alan writes that he is married to Mary Lou and they have seven children, seven grandchildren and one great granddaughter.

During the past 50 years, he's worked in Quality Control at Fairchild Republic Company, General Microwave Corp., etc., etc. etc. His current interest is World Gym.

Yvonne Marcley Fluellen

"Sorry I took so long to respond to you regarding our 50th class reunion, but did ya'll (I'm from the south now, you know) ever doubt that I would let you carry on without me? I DON'T THINK SO!

"You ask to tell what has been going on in my life for the past 50 years, but at this stage, sorry, I can't remember!!

"To get serious, except for the devastating loss of our youngest son in 1981, who was the victim of a senseless murder at the age of 22, life has been good to us. We have two other sons, Fred and Tom, who both live in the Orlando area of Florida and together have blessed us with 5 grandchildren--3 boys and two girls. Tom's two youngest (9 yrs.) Bobby and Amanda are twins--like their grandmother if you remember who also had a twin brother, Tom!

"My husband Fred and I live on 5 acres so that keeps us busy, but we manage to do my favorite which is deep sea fishing. I enjoy the gym, we love camping in our neat 25' travel trailer, and naturally let us not forget the golf!

"We look forward to this reunion--and seeing all of you once again--50 years WOW!"

Susanna Menah Thomas

Sue writes that she has been married for 38 years, has two children (a son and his wife in Salem, MA, and a daughter and her husband in Tucson, AZ) and that she "worked until 1983 with senior citizens as director of a senior center in Hartford, CT, case work for legal services and, finally for 12 years, directing the Homemakers Home Health Aide Services in Windham Area (CT).

"Just completing a year's sabbatical with my husband (UConn Professor) in Turkey, a rigorous fascinating year. At home my interests center on Quaker activities including (non-violence workshops in local prisons), and art and volunteering as a guide at the UConn art museum.

"Looking back over 50 years, I am very grateful for all the gifts I've received--family, health, good marriage, meaningful work, lots of chances to grow. May the "last third" of life be as good for all of us!"

Ann Miller Kip

"Moved to Vermont in March 1959 and from April 1959 to December 1972, I was secretary at The Vermont Veteran's Home in Bennington; from January 1973 until March 1996 I was employed at Stanley Tools, retiring as Personnel Assistant--23 years of service!"

Under current interests and other information, Ann writes: "Volunteering--gardening--crafts--retired but still working. Still have those long fingernails!"

"Best regards to all. The time in September is not good for me, but if things change, I'll attend and bring a box lunch!"

Tom (Tinker) Morris

"Married to the lovely Elaine, a school teacher currently working in the BOCES system. No kids. I retired almost two years ago from Newsday after 42 years as an editor, reporter and--for the last 25 years--a special writer on Long Island regional planning topics. I got into that specialty following a sabbatical in 1968-69 at Stanford University in California, where I had a professional journalism fellowship. Among highlights: National Journalism award of the American Society of Planning Officials for major Newsday supplement on Great South Bay; head of a 13-reporter team that produced massive 1978 "LI at the Crossroads" report for Newsday.

"Have a house at Oak Island for 38 years that is the centerpiece of my lifelong romance with Great South Bay--and I've had a boat for over 40 years. Love to read, esp. politics and bios. Enjoying every minute of working with the 50-year reunion committee--every meeting is a mini-reunion; still consider our years at B.H.S. to be golden--they'll never fade for me.

"Right after high school, I spent four years in the Navy and loved it; then graduated from Hofstra College in 1955--by which time I had already launched two years into my career at Newsday. Lived in Dix Hills for last 19 years, but visit Babylon frequently.

James R. Morrissey

Jim writes that he is a widower since his wife of almost 43 years, Joan Grover Morrissey, passed away April 16, 1996. "I sure miss her. Joan and I had 8 children; most of them followed us to Florida, five live here. Kev, our oldest followed in my footsteps and is a career Navy man. There are to date, five grandkids."

"Spent 27 years in the U.S. Navy. Retired in 1975 at Norfolk, Va. Decided to stay with the water thing so I went into the Merchant Marine for several years. Ended up working as a ferry captain in Florida."

John R. Oberholzer

In John's briefest of "Brief Bios," he states that he has three children (2 girls, 1 boy), 2 grandchildren and that his current interest/hobbies are "work - work - work!"

Fred W. Otten

"Widowed in Nov. 1993. I have two daughters, one son and seven grandchildren." My current interests/hobbies are: "Golf,

some fishing, a lot of writing and an ample amount of snuggling. (Not necessarily in that order.)"

During the past 50 years, I've worked at (also other info): "Equitable Life, U.S.A.F., Fairchild Aircraft, ALCOA, American Tree Corp., Nyack Journal News. Moved to Puerto Rico (lived there 19 years.) Built 4 houses developed a farm where we bred hibiscus plants (800 new varieties), island-hopped in flying boats selling souvenirs; owned a company that serviced resort hotels; forced into retirement in April 1992, due to wife's illness.

"After my wife died, I discovered that I could draw quite well (I sold a few drawings). Entered the Univ. of South Florida in Tampa for some classes for seniors. I had 15 cartoons published in the University Newspaper; started to write poetry and prose, joined a senior creative writing class; wrote two one-act plays that were performed 4 months later by the Carrollwood Players in Tampa, I've put together a book named: "The Humorous World of Animals and Insects" published in May, 1997 and I've started to put together another book called: "A Little Luv and a Little Laff Couldn't Hurt."

✍
John Paserb

"Married 41 years to former Jackie Kaczanowski. Have three married daughters and two grandsons.

"I worked one year (1st year) for the Lindenhurst School System and the remaining 32 years as Band and Instrumental Instructor in the West Islip Public Schools until my retirement in 1985.

My current interests are: "Golf, gardening and traveling especially to visit our daughters--Spain, Virginia and Florida."

✍
Carolyn Pederson Saxon

Carolyn says that she studied occupational therapy at Richmond Professional Institute (now VCU). Upon graduation in 1951, she proceeded to work at Oteen Hospital until 1953.

She was married in 1952 and has three sons and two grandchildren, ages 13 and 10. Carolyn and her husband have lived in Salem, NC since 1956. Her parents still live in West Babylon and are "alive and kicking," at ages 92 and 94!

✍
Agatha Proto Annino

"Married 44 years to Bob Annino. Widowed since September 1996. Three daughters, five grandchildren (including twin boys).

During the past 50 years I've worked at: "Southside Hospital, Pediatrics, as a Registered Nurse."

My current interests/hobbies are: "Reading, traveling, playing bridge, swimming, boating, skiing, crossword puzzles and cryptoquotes."

Ruth Reno Olsen

Ruth writes that she was married to Bill Baldwin and they had a son and a daughter. After fifteen years, she became widowed.

She later married Edward Olsen and had a son. They have a granddaughter, too, Victoria!

Ruth worked in the office of Hills Supermarket for 11 years, taking time off to have children, then returned to work for a car leasing company and Chemical Bank. She likes to go camping and to do crafts for relaxation.

Jane Reynolds Ostrander

"Very happily married with one daughter. Retired two years ago. Graduated from St. Luke's Hospital (NYC). Worked for surgeons number of years. Changed careers and joined audio manufacturing. Became National Sales Manager for speaker company. Traveled extensively here and abroad.

"My interest is to stay home in our 200 year old cottage of 35 years--garden, cook and read. Walter also paints and writes poetry. Julia (our daughter) lives nearby and is a joy.

"Will think of you all as you were 50 years ago--forever young. All the best to all. Jane"

Jane Roberts Lewis

"Married to Malcolm Lewis for 47 years, four children, eight grandchildren. Still live in Babylon, being a homemaker, wife, mother, elementary school teacher and grandmother. Quite active in environmental education (probably where I contracted Lyme's disease.)" *Current interests/hobbies:* "Quilting, crafts, volunteer work."

George Roever

"Left good ole Babylon High in 1944 to go into the Navy. Came back to Babylon High at the age of 21; then to Farmingdale Aggie. Again recalled back to the Navy during the Korean Conflict.

"We have two daughters. Our oldest is a teacher in West Islip; the youngest has a deli in Colorado.

"Still enjoy dancing, golf and sailing."

George Ruggles

"After graduation I served for four years in the U. S. Navy. I am married to the former Lois Bliss (Class of '48). We have been married for 47 years and have six children and four grandchildren. I am retired after serving 38 years with the Grumman Aerospace Corp.

"My hobby and favorite pastime is riding my Harley-Davidson and competing in bike shows and various competitions around the state. Winner of 16 motorcycle trophies."

Sheldon Salzman

"After leaving Babylon High, I went to Pratt Institute for a degree in Chemical Engineering. Upon graduation in June of 1951, I joined the Air Force and was transferred to the Navy after basic training. A little unusual, but it happened.

"Helen and I married in January of 1952 and moved to Norfolk, VA where I served on a destroyer for three years. We left the Navy in 1955 and I went to work for U.S. Rubber in Connecticut almost immediately.

"My work assignments gave us the opportunity to travel and to live in several U.S. locations as well as England twice. Eventually I ran the tire company for Uniroyal (U.S. Rubber) until it was sold to Michelin in 1990.

"We then retired to Florida and live there most of the year spending summers on Long Island. We have one son and two grandchildren and spend our time happily with them, traveling, golf and reading."

Rudolph Schindwolf

Rudy writes that he is married to Yolanda Jimenez, a Lindenhurst H.S. graduate. He has 3 sons, 1 daughter, 4 grandchildren and one on the way!

He was in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1951 to 1953; Fairchild, Republic, Arma from 1953 to 1963; Grumman (Lunar Lander Program) from 1963 to 1975 and with Sandia National Labs (nuclear weapons research) from 1975 to 1996.

He went to Pratt Institute after high school and received a Bachelor of Electrical Engineering Degree in 1951. At the graduate school of Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn he received his Master's and Doctorate Degrees in 1955 and 1962.

His current interests and hobbies are traveling, skiing, camping, fishing and woodworking.

David V. Smith

David writes that he has been married for 42 years, has four children, eight grandchildren. During the past 50 years he has worked for Republic Aviation and the Postal System. His current interests are "plenty of golf, bowling, spend time at the beach."

Frances Steinhauer Weinstein

Right after graduation from BHS I worked for two years in a local bank. I left to marry Ed Weinstein, Class of '44.

"Most of our married life we have lived in Babylon where each of our four children attended school. They were active involved kids, so I always commented that, 'I don't know what kind of a mother I was, but I know I was an excellent chauffeur!'

"In 1971 I finally went to college at Farmingdale. I graduated in 1973 at the same time that our oldest son graduated from college, so I missed my own graduation, but I was very

pleased to be selected to be in Who's Who in American Junior Colleges. I was encouraged by my advisors to continue at Cornell, but since I still had a husband and child at home, I negated that! I worked at the Babylon Library and various part time jobs as the children left home.

"In 1982 my husband sold his fuel oil business and we ventured briefly to Savannah (lovely city!) to explore solar energy. We now live in Bay Shore, a community that I enjoy. I am active with the Long Island Guild of Rughooking Artists (my husband loves to tell people that he's married to a hooker), and I'm a member of the Bay Shore Garden Club. We spend time visiting our children who live along the east coast from Maine to South Carolina. We have three grandchildren in Charleston, S.C.

"I hope everybody has as fun a time at the reunion as I have had with our classmates at the planning meetings."

Edythe Stevenson

"After graduation from BHS I worked for two years as a secretary, then married and had four children--Karen now in San Francisco, Steven in Richmond, David in New York and Donald in Seattle.

"After seventeen years I got divorced and, in order to support my children, was lucky enough to get hired as a trainee writing copy for Doyle Dane Bernbach, the top creative agency in New York--and the world--where I worked myself up to creative vice president.

The last seventeen years of my twenty-three-year career I lived in Manhattan, writing TV and radio commercials and print ads for newspapers and national magazines. My best known commercial was Life cereal's "Mikey," written about my own three little boys. It won an Andy (advertising's Oscar), was voted into the advertising Hall of Fame, and became the longest-running commercial lifetime, pardon the pun.

"In 1991, after finding a tiny house on the ocean out in Montauk, I decided to quit advertising completely so I could concentrate on the book I'd known since I was thirteen that I would one day write. It was the greatest adventure of my life, and when it was finished I started another one. Then, in 1996, I moved to a little house in the woods in Westport, Massachusetts and became totally immersed in writing poetry and in going to the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, down the road from my house, where I'm catching up on what I missed. And it's wonderful.

"Oh! And I have 5 grandchildren, which I still can't believe. (How did this happen?)"

Ed VanBuren

"I don't know where it went, but it's been a wonderful 50 years!

"I retired in the Fall of 1990 after working for Grumman for 43 years. I married Donya in 1951 and soon after was called to active duty in the Air Force for the Korean Conflict for two years of service. We had our first child in 1954, Diana. We moved to Smithtown in 1957 and in 1960 had our second daughter, Mary. In 1988 we had a house built in Cutchogue, and love living here. We've been going to North Hutchinson Island, Florida, in the winter for the past couple of years.

"I've kept in touch with quite a few of my classmates and working on the Reunion Committee has brought me closer to even more of them. I'm looking forward to the party.

"My hobbies are gardening, traveling, photography, fishing, and RC model airplanes. I do volunteer work at the library, for the historical council and local civic association. I feel I've been blessed,--I'm in relatively good health, have two terrific daughters, a great wife, I enjoy life and can still drive at night!"

Marjory Weeks Owens

"Graduated Connecticut College for Women, 1951. Married George F. B. Owens, Jr. 9/51. Navy for 2 years then lived in Rockville Centre. Moved to Los Angeles 1972-78; from there to Pittsburgh. George retired from Johnson & Higgins, 1990.

"Three children: Janet Weeks Owens, b. 1953; m. Greg Floor--1993; 2 children (William 3 and Steven 2). William French Owens, b. 1958, not married, living and working in Vermont. Julie Bowie Owens, b. 1968; m. Craig Ream--1992; twin sons b. 3/9/97, Christopher and Andrew--identical!"

Robert H. Weeks

"Bob Weeks graduated from RPI in 1951 with a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering degree. He obtained his Masters' in Business Administration from the University of Utah in 1973.

"Commissioned in 1951, he spent 23 years in the Navy, serving in destroyers and submarines. He was Director of the Engineering Department of the Naval Submarine School and commanded a nuclear fleet ballistic missile submarine for five years. After leaving command, he was on the staff of the Commander-in-Chief of U.S. Forces in Europe as the Strategic Warfare Officer. In that position, he managed the submarine strategic missile systems in the Mediterranean. The Navy awarded him the Meritorious Service Medal for his contributions in this capacity.

"Bob came to Vermont in 1975 to be the Executive Assistant to the President of Vermont Yankee. Before retiring from

Warfare Officer. In that position, he managed the submarine strategic missile systems in the Mediterranean. The Navy awarded him the Meritorious Service Medal for his contributions in this capacity.

"Bob came to Vermont in 1975 to be the Executive Assistant to the President of Vermont Yankee. Before retiring from business, he was the President of The Delta Group, a firm furnishing management consulting and executive recruiting services to the nation's electric utilities.

"Bob and his wife Gerry live in Wallingford. They have five children, spread from Belgium to California. He is a Director of the Wallingford Civic Association, Chairman of the Rutland Regional Chamber of Commerce's Transportation Committee, a member of the Rutland Regional Transportation Council, and a member of the Route 4 Bypass Advisory Committee. Bob is a founding director of New England Dollars for Scholars. He is a former member of Governor Snelling's Cost Control Council.

"Bob served in the Vermont legislature from 1995 to 1997 where he was a member of the House Transportation Committee."

Jean Weiss Sage

"It doesn't seem possible that 50 years have passed! I married Thomas G. Sage 8/1/59. We have 3 children--2 sons and a daughter; 9 grandchildren--8 boys and one girl. We have lived in Ohio, Kentucky, Montana and Ohio again. My husband worked for the Boy Scouts of America as an Executive Director for 35 years, retired in 1991. I stayed home for 17 years and then returned to the telephone company, retiring in 1990. We winter in Okeechobee, Florida, and summer on Lake Erie in Ohio."

Edith Wenger Blume

"I'm delighted to have the opportunity to touch base with my fellow classmates. A brief synopsis of the family, as follows:

"I'm employed by McGraw-Hill Book Co. and work with the Executive Editor of a book division that publishes medical textbooks. My husband, Al, is retired and spends his time planning our vacations. The highlight vacation of 1996 was Al's 50th reunion in Salt Lake City of the 5th Marine Corps Division, men who served on Iwo Jima and had not seen each other since their discharge.

"Our eldest daughter, Dr. Melinda Blume-Eisner, is an endodontist with practices in NY and NJ and the mother of our grandchildren, Alex (6) and David (4). Our younger daughter is Marketing Director for Pavorini Construction Co., located in Greenwich, CT.

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....**MORE BIO'S - LATE SUBMISSIONS...**

**Bernice Bennison Germinario**

This is an addendum to an addendum! Jane recently received a letter from Bernice containing more detailed bio information, than was originally submitted, (pg.3)-- and here it is:

"Classmates of '47: I had a happy and busy life in Babylon that included seeing my two sons and a daughter graduate from BHS also ('76, '79, '80). My working years were spent in the Accounting and Finance Department at Good Samaritan Hospital. I received a degree in Business Administration before I retired.

"My husband and I decided after retirement that life holds many new adventures for us outside Babylon and New York State! So, we moved from the Village in 1994 to swell the population of the Southeast! We reside in Cumming, Georgia, which is in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. We are both very active in our new community. However, we do miss the smell of salt air, the bay and the ocean. Traveling and visiting our seven grandchildren give us great pleasure."

**Douglas Dwyer**

Doug writes: "After high school, I went to Hofstra for a year, then I attended Long Island A & T and graduated in 1950. With the Korean War escalating, I enlisted in the Air Force. While stationed in SanAntonio prior to discharge, I met my wife, Margie. After discharge we moved to California and I started my own business in 1955. After 34 yers in business in the Bay Area near SanFrancisco, we retired and moved to remote Northeastern California at Eagle Lake. Even though we are 40 miles from town, we are happy living in the mountains with the wildlife and pine trees--and enjoying retirement. Sorry we can't be with all of you due to medical reasons, but we'll be there in thought."

**Lawrence M. Eagan**

Larry writes that after graduation, he worked for George Verity at Montauk Yacht Club, fishing; drove truck to Greenport afternoons and took post graduate courses in a.m. to get credits to enter Massachusetts Maritime Academy. He also tended bar at Cliff Spellman's during this time.

In 1952 he graduated from the Academy; sailed to South and East Africa in 1954. "First child born; worked for Insurance Company of North America, Philadelphia; became Southwest Sales Manager, Trojan Boat Company; National Sales Manager, Triumph Boat Company, Houston, Texas; Shell Oil Company, New York, Maritime Department; family fish trucking company, Babylon; Suffolk County District Attorney's Office, from 1987 to present."

**Joan Kimmerle Wagner**

Joan says she was a "Sunday School Teacher for 17 years. Girl Scout Leader, 13 years. Took my Senior Troop to Europe in 1972 for a month, Bermuda in 1976. Bred miniature poodles for 10 years.

"Was divorced in 1982. Now live in North Carolina (6 1/2 years). Have a daughter, Dale, and granddaughter, Shevaun, 9 years old. They live near me.

"I now carve decoys and shore birds. Am still working as a companion to an older lady."

**Wilma Lange Wollenweber**

"To catch you up a bit on my life since 1947: Went to Houghton College, NY State. Married Bob Wollenweber in 1949. We had three children, two girls and a boy and now have six grandchildren.

Bob was a minister in two different churches in Massachusetts. In '64 we went to Ecuador as missionaries with an international radio station. I worked in a correspondence course ministry in Spanish and we both did radio and TV programming in English and Spanish. We spent 8 months in Costa Rica to study Spanish prior to going to Ecuador. (I had managed to study just about everything but Spanish on my way through school.)

"We returned to the US in 1972 and served several other churches in Illinois and Rhode Island after a couple of years in Florida still with our mission.

"During those years I worked in the public school system and served as a volunteer coordinator for the RI Association for Retarded Citizens and a Respite Care coordinator for families with "fragile" children. The last 10 years before retirement we worked with Prison Fellowship in RI and CT.

"Retired to NC in '93. Help with ESL classes at the local college, am a Hospice volunteer, volunteer in various capacities in our development, teach in our church and, of course, enjoy the mountains and lakes, reading, grandchildren, friends, etc. Isn't retirement great? How did we ever have time to work!"

**Arpad Ostheimer**

"I joined the US Airforce in October 1947; attended Airplane Engine Mechanic and Aircraft Electrical Specialist schools. In January 1949 I transferred to Itazuke Air Force Base in Fukuoka, Japan. The Korean War started in late June 1950 and we were involved immediately. I returned to the US in October 1951 and was in charge of F-86D Flight Simulator section at Westover AFB, Mass. and served a total of 6 years and 3 months.

"I met my wife, Grace, while stationed at Westover AFB and was married in August of 1954. I started college in 1955 at the



U. of Mass., Amherst, to obtain a degree in Electrical Engineering. We had three girls while attending college, and then added one more girl and two boys to complete the family. The first two girls have obtained college degrees, one in Medical Technology and the other in Fine Arts.

I obtained my degree in Electrical Engineering in 1959 and majored in servo controls technology. I managed to be elected to Tau Beta Pi which is a national engineering honor society. This education was obtained as a direct result of my time in the service under the GI bill.

After graduation, I entered a career in the Aerospace industry by joining Hamilton Standard of United Aircraft in Windsor Locks, CT. I spent many years as an electrical designer of environmental controls, and flight control systems

**Allen Witkowski**

Allen wrote a long letter to Jane that would qualify for an A+ in composition from Miss Clynch! Unfortunately, due to the restraints of this particular document, we can only give you an edited version of the facts.

He says, "As a well known spiritual goes, 'Sometimes I'm up, sometimes I'm down. Oh, yes Lord, sometimes I'm almost to the ground.' I find it nearly impossible to plan anything in a advance. Therefore, I must decline your invitation to attend our class reunion.

"I had spent summers working at Bulk's Nursery in my school years, so they took me on, on a full time basis. In 1950, "I received greetings from President Truman. A few weeks of basic training in Alabama, transferred to an infantry outfit in Georgia, from there it was overseas to become part of the 'Army of Occupation' in Germany. After my adventures in Germany, I came home in Nov. 1952 to again join the civilian population.

"I found work with the Department of Public Works, later called Department of Transportation. I worked on a road gang for a few years, then drove trucks. Later I transferred to the Carpenter Shop, after that to the Mechanic Shop where I remained for the balance of my service, repairing their cars, trucks and equipment. In June of 1975 due to some very heavy lifting, I herniated a disc in my lower spine which caused continuous pain and crippling my legs. At age 47 I was disabled and went out on pension.

"I married a widow with two children in 1954 and we had a daughter in 1957. Two of the children live out of state, the other lives on the Island. We have lived in the Village since 1954.

"My best wishes to all my former classmates for a long and happy life.

**Note:** Page 9: Helen M. Berg is Helen M. **Heil** Berg!

# BABYLON HIGH SCHOOL

Class of 1947



September 13, 1997



**BABYLON H. S. Class of 1947 .9/13/97**

**JIM MOONEY PHOTO  
(516) 588 8142**



BABYLON'S VILLAGE SCHOOL

A History of the Institution from its Beginning to the Present Time

The following is the text of the paper by Simon W. Cooper, Clerk of the Board of Education of Union Free School District #1, read on the occasion of the dedication of the new school building, Saturday, April 14, 1894.

To trace the growth of the educational movement in Babylon from its inception to the present time is an undertaking of no small magnitude. "The rude forefathers of the hamlet" seem to have been far more zealous in arranging for the instruction of their off-spring than in keeping a complete record of the steps thus taken.

We learn from a paper prepared by Justice James B. Cooper, the local historian, and originally printed in the now defunct Suffolk Democrat in 1863, that the first school house of Babylon was erected in 1805. It was the property of a stock company consisting of twenty-two persons. The shares, as nearly as can be learned, were but \$10 each, and very few of the stockholders held more than one share. Some of these certificates of stock are still in existence. They read as follows:

This certifies, that Timothy Carll possesses in fee simple one share (it being one-fortieth part) of a School House and Land in Huntington (otherwise called New Babylon), and is entitled to all privileges and emoluments arising therefrom, and also subject to the Rules and Regulations of the Constitution of same; and that his share is transferable to any person by assignment, and that the said assignment shall be considered a legal transfer as soon as the Trustees has notice of the same, and not until then, As witness our hands in Huntington South, this 6th day of March, 1805.

|                  |   |              |
|------------------|---|--------------|
| Isaiah Jarvis    | ) | Trustees for |
| Garrett Montfort | ) | the time     |
| Nath'l Conklin   | ) | being.       |

The building was erected for the purpose of maintaining a private school. In those days there were no rich men--or very few--and the enterprise of the early settlers of Babylon in thus contributing of their scanty resources to the cause of education is no less worthy of commendation than that of the present day citizens in rearing the stately structure which is this day dedicated.

All the original stockholders in this primitive school have long since passed away but their descendents still live among us--some being present on this occasion. The members of the company who gave to Babylon its first temple of learning were, as far as can be learned from the incomplete records now extant, the following: Timothy Carll, Abijah Tooker, Nathaniel Conklin, Isaiah Jarvis, Israel Oakley, Penn Weeks, Samuel Muncy, Nathan Jackson, David Sammis, Gilbert Platt, Garrett Montfort, Jesse Conklin, Amos Higbie, Treadwell Scudder, Smith Muncy, Thomas Ketcham, Foster Nostrand, Abraham G. Thompson, Silas Muncy, Stephen B. Nichols, Gilbert Heartt, and David Sprague.

The building was a small, frame structure, one story in height, not unlike in general appearance, the school house on Higbie Lane, West Islip, with which many of those present are familiar. It occupied from the time of its erection in 1805, until 1861, a site on Main Street near that now occupied by the Presbyterian Church. It was then (1861) removed to a location on Deer Park Avenue adjoining J. B. Scudder's harness making establishment--having given place to the school building just vacated. The first schoolhouse was subsequently sold to George W. Heckert, who had it removed to East Main Street, and it now forms a part of the building occupied by him as a carriage manufactory.

The school was maintained as a private institution from 1805 until 1819 (April 4), when the building was sold to the people of School District #21 town of Huntington. (Babylon town was not erected until 1872).

The teachers employed by the persons who maintained the private school were, in the order of their employment: Abel Ketcham, Johnson Hoyt, Zebulon Doe, Peter Padlock, Peter Douglass, Mr. Rice, Joseph H. Barker, Mrs. Taylor, Platt Ketcham, Henry L. Mulford, Mr. Moshier, Aaron Higbie, Thomas H. Deverell, William A. Corwin, Daniel Monroe, Aquilla Knapp, Mr. Clark, Alexander Cummings.

After the school passed into the control of "The constituted authorities" in 1818--until 1894 the following teachers presided over the affairs of the same: Amos Hogans, Andrew Hogans, Mr. Brown, James E. Dodd, George K. Hubb, John W. Ketcham, Henry Doxsee, Ralph Smith, Jonah Jarvis, Charles G. Weeks, Jesse Brush, Miss Hannah B. Sackett, Alfred E. Earl, William T. Cox, Gideon M. Smith, Miss Sarah Platt, Samuel B. Meakesley, Edwin Brown, Erastus A. Conklin, Theodore Young, Curtis L. Knight, Daniel Mansfield, Lewis R. Overton, Henry F. Bishop, Charles Bishop, Brewster H. Saxton, Henry H. Satterly, Miss Sarah Havens, Miss Jerusha Havens, Augustus K. Walworth, Israel C. Jones, Dillon Wallace, Ebenezer P. Jarvis, Marshall Dibble, John L. Armstrong, Cyrus Strong, George R. Bishop, Hiram T. Wilcox, George A. Doane, A. C. Carley, Miss G. S. Rice, (now Mrs. James B. Cooper), James Barclay, Oliver K. Sammis, L. Homer Hart, Cyrus E. Smith, Alonzo A. Ashman, A. S. Morse, Ransom E. Wilcox, William A. Platt, William E. Doggett, Charles C. Roberts and Frederick H. Lane.

The first written account of any education business transacted so far as we have been able to find, bears date May 1, 1828. At that time Timothy P. Carll, Isaac Brush and Silas Tooker were the Trustees, and Simon W. Cooper (grandfather of the writer) was collector--Trustee Carll acting as Clerk. A minute is made of the engagement of Henry Doxsee to teach the school at the magnificent salary of \$30 per quarter! We also find that the other expenses of the school--fuel, water pail and books--were \$2.21.

In 1829 the Trustees reported the receipt of \$46.72 of public money. There were 135 children of school age then resident in the district, which included a part of Islip township.

The teacher at that time "boarded around" for half of the school year and boarded himself during the remainder.

On April 4, 1829, a memorandum is made of the Trustees having reengaged Mr. Doxsee for one year from April 21 at \$12 per month, with an allowance of \$40 extra for his board.

In May, 1830, Mr. Doxsee was re-engaged, at a salary of \$184, to board as before, but no extra appropriation of board money was made.

In 1837 the joint district comprising part of Islip and Huntington towns, as above stated, was done away with and the people resident in the western portion of Islip town formed a separate school district and maintained a school after that date. The Islip people received \$85 as their share of the school property divided.

In 1848 the school had grown to considerable proportions--154 pupils having attended during the year. Of those then enrolled the following are now living in Babylon and elsewhere: Silas A. Brush, Samuel Richardson, Jackson Hawthurst, J. Sanford Udall, Edward Udall, William J. Smith, Mary A. Leek, Leonard Cutting, George Oakes, Charlotte Cutting, Edward Cooper, Jonathan Conklin, Henry Oakley, Alanson Weeks, Sylvester Udall, Silas M. Udall, Adaline Wicks, Sarah E. Udall, Solomon Smith, John W. Smith, Mary T. Staples, Theodore P. Weeks, Finette Seaman, Henrietta Seaman, Samuel Miller, Martha Miller, Benjamin S. Higbie, Alexander Jones, John S. Frost, Mary A. Leek, John E. Jarvis and a few others.



In 1851 it was voted to raise by tax \$200 for teacher's wages during the ensuing year; \$15 for fuel; \$5 for insurance; \$5 for repairs; \$15 for stove and pipe; \$1.50 for stationery and record book the first book purchased for that purpose since 1828.

(The book purchased in 1851, as per mention above, was in use until 1891, and was not entirely used up then, after forty years of service).

The following textbooks were in use: Webster's and Angell's Spellers, Angell's series of readers, Colburn's Mental Arithmetic, Thompson's (Day's) Algebra, Common School Arithmetic, Flint's Surveying, Davis' Elementary Geometry, Walls' grammar, Smith's Geography, Comstock's Natural Philosophy and Chemistry for Beginners:

In 1842, when Henry F. Bishop was the schoolmaster, he had an assistant in the person of his sister, Miss Lydia Bishop. He was succeeded by his brother, Charles Bishop, who was assisted by the late Timothy S. Carll. No other mention is made of the employment of assistants until 1858 to 1863, during a part of the principalship, of Miss G. S. Rice, who was assisted by Miss Phoebe Conklin, now Mrs. ----- Clark. Miss Conklin also assisted James Barclas, who was Miss Rice's successor. Since that time the assistants have increased in number with the growth of the school, until now the faculty numbers ten earnest educators with 450 pupils enrolled. In January, 1855, the matter of procuring a new school site was brought up at the annual school meeting and on motion Messrs. Stephen Leck, Elbert Carll and Charles Jayne were made a committee for that purpose. The committee were also instructed to appraise the old site and building and report in full to the Trustees in three weeks. No action seems to have been taken, however, until some time afterward; at least no mention is made of any such action in the minutes of the annual meeting in January 1856. In the record book, on the page next to that on which appear the proceedings of the last mentioned meeting, but bearing no date, appear the minutes of some special meeting called to take action in regard to a new school house. The committee previously appointed reported that a new site could be procured for \$280, and on motion the meeting voted in favor of a new site, and also voted to erect a new building. An amendment, to move the old building to the new site and remodel and renovate it was voted down. Something appears to have occurred to nullify the action then taken, for at the annual meeting on January 4, 1858, it was again voted to appoint a Committee on Site, with the same duties as the previous one--they to report at a special meeting to be convened for that purpose. Messrs. Walter W. Robbins, Jonathan Sallis and Timothy S. Carll were made the committee.

The special meeting was duly held on March 1st, 1858. Three sites were reported on. An informal ballot was taken, and those present voted in favor of the purchase of a site on Deer Park Avenue offered by the Messrs. James B. and George D. Cooper---the location of the present M. E. Church. After taking this informal action, the meeting adjourned subject to the call of the chair.

Another special meeting was not held until May 25, 1859, when the Trustees reported on three sites---one on Prospect Street, one at the corner of Deer Park Avenue and George Street, and a third on the latter street. A vote to change the location of the school from the old to a new site was carried by a vote of 23 to 15, and when the question of selecting a site was voted upon those present unanimously selected the one which has just been vacated in favor of that now occupied by this structure in which we are assembled. The George Street site measured 150 x 189 feet, and the price paid was \$400.



On February 17, 1860, another special meeting was held, pursuant to call, "for the purpose of voting a tax to build a new schoolhouse." It was the beginning of a series of memorable gatherings. John R. Reid was chosen chairman, and District Clerk Benjamin P. Field recorded. There was a very sharp contest over the election of a presiding officer. Dr. Franklin Skidmore was the opponent of Mr. Reid, and the latter received only three majority. There were 77 votes cast.

A motion to raise \$3,500 for the erection of the new building was amended to read \$4,000, and again to read \$5,000. The notion to raise the latter sum was promptly voted down--only ten ballots being cast in favor of the motion to seventy-two against. Preceding the taking of the vote there was some lively, if not eloquent, debating, and not a little confusion. When the first amendment to the original motion (making the sum to be raised \$4,000) was voted upon it was lost by a vote of 50 to 27. When the original motion--to appropriate \$3,500--was put to vote it was carried, but narrowly escaped being lost the vote standing; For, 45; Against, 43. The meeting then adjourned for one week.

The second gathering was presided over by James Bostwick. With great unanimity voted to expend \$3,500 in the erection of a new school house, and James B. Cooper and Sidney Bunce were elected a Building Committee, with full power to cooperate with the Trustees in the erection of the building. It was also voted to sell the old building and site at auction at a proper time. The minutes attest that this gathering as genuine "love feast" - all present being of one mind.

Meanwhile the clouds were gathering angry mutterings were heard on all sides, and the storm soon broke. It took the form of an appeal to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, signed by twenty-five taxpayers who charged unfairness in connection with the meeting at which the new site was selected; denied the availability of the site chosen, and made numerous other charges. Some very strong statements were made in this appeal.

The document was answered by the persons charged with all these "high crimes." This was signed by thirty-seven taxpayers. In due time the appeal was dismissed, and the action of the two meetings formally confirmed by the State Superintendent.

The work of erecting the new building was begun and carried forward as rapidly as possible. The architect was Joseph Lamson.

At first only the lower part of the building was finished, but in 1866 additional room had become necessary, and a special meeting was called to decide as to the advisability of finishing off the second story. A motion to do this was voted down, however.

In 1868 the sum of \$1,400 was appropriated for the support of the school for the ensuing year.

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On April 21st the contract for the erection of the new building, from plans prepared by Palliser, Palliser & Co., of New York, was formally awarded Frank Napes, of Brooklyn.

The work was at once begun and progressed as rapidly as possible. The building is now completed and occupied and is this day dedicated to the purpose for which it was erected.

Of the 67 principals of the school since its beginning but thirteen are now alive, viz: Henry F. Bishop, Charles Bishop, Israel O. Jones, Mrs. James B. Cooper, L. Homer Hart, Cyrus E. Smith, Alonze A. Ashmun, A. S. Morse, Ransom E. Wilcox, William A. Platt, William E. Doggett, Charles C. Roberts and Frederick H. Lane.

Mr. H. F. Bishop is a resident of Worcester, Mass.; his brother, Mr. Charles Bishop, dwells among us still, Mr. Jones after leaving the school room was for a long time at the head of the House of Refuge, on Randall's Island, where he gained an enviable reputation as an official, and has since retired to private life; Mrs. James B. Cooper also resides here; Mr. Hart is Secretary of the Harlem Savings Bank, New York; Mr. Smith is Supt. of Schools, at Woodhaven, Queens Co.; Mr. Ashmun is principal of School No. 65, in Brooklyn; Mr. Morse is no longer engaged in teaching; Mr. Wilcox, too, has laid aside the teacher's symbol of authority; Mr. Platt is engaged in journalistic work in New York; Mr. Doggett is one of the faculty of the Boys' High School, in Brooklyn; Mr. Roberts is at the head of one of the New York City schools.

Such is the history of education in Babylon from 1805 to 1894—a period of almost 90 years. In that time wonderful progress has been made. In closing I can only express the hope that the person who prepares the next historical sketch of this kind may have the pleasure of recording a corresponding amount of improvement.



The PRACTICAL ARTS STAFF would like to  
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A History of the Institution from its Beginning to the Present Time

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The following is the text of the paper by Simon W. Cooper, Clerk of the Board of Education of Union Free School District #1, read on the occasion of the dedication of the new school building, Saturday, April 14, 1894.

To trace the growth of the educational movement in Babylon from its inception to the present time is an undertaking of no small magnitude. "The rude forefathers of the hamlet" seem to have been far more zealous in arranging for the instruction of their off-spring than in keeping a complete record of the steps thus taken.

We learn from a paper prepared by Justice James B. Cooper, the local historian, and originally printed in the now defunct Suffolk Democrat in 1803, that the first school house of Babylon was erected in 1805. It was the property of a stock company consisting of twenty-two persons. The shares, as nearly as can be learned, were but \$10 each, and very few of the stockholders held more than one share. Some of these certificates of stock are still in existence. They read as follows:

This certifies, that Timothy Carll possesses in fee simple one share (it being one-fortieth part) of a School House and Land in Huntington (otherwise called New Babylon), and is entitled to all privileges and emoluments arising therefrom, and also subject to the rules and Regulations of the Constitution of same: and that his share is transferable to any person by assignment, and that the said assignment shall be considered a legal transfer as soon as the Trustees has notice of the same, and not until then, As witness our hands in Huntington South, this 6th day of March, 1805.

Isaiah Jarvis ) Trustees for  
 Garrett Montfort) the time  
 Nath'l Conklin ) being.

The building was erected for the purpose of maintaining a private school. In those days there were no rich men--or very few--and the enterprise of the early settlers of Babylon in thus contributing of their scanty resources to the cause of education is no less worthy of commendation than that of the present day citizens in rearing the stately structure which is this day dedicated.

All the original stockholders in this primitive school have long since passed away but their descendents still live among us--some being present on this occasion. The members of the company who gave to Babylon its first temple of learning were, as far as can be learned from the incomplete records now extant, the following: Timothy Carll, Abijah Tooker, Nathaniel Conklin, Isaiah Jarvis, Israel Oakley, Penn Weeks, Samuel Muncy, Nathan Jackson, David Sammis, Gilbert Platt, Garret: Montfort, Jesse Conklin, Amos Higbie, Treadwell Scudder, Smith Muncy, Thomas Ketcham, Foster Nostrand, Abraham G. Thompson, Silas Muncy, Stephen B. Nichols, Gilbert Heartt, and David Sprague.

The building was a small, frame structure, one story in height, not unlike in general appearance, the school house on Higbie Lane, West Islip, with which many of those present are familiar. It occupied from the time of its erection in 1805, until 1861, a site on Main Street near that now occupied by the Presbyterian Church. It was then (1861) removed to a location on Deer Park Avenue adjoining J. B. Scudder's harness making establishment--having given place to the school building just vacated. The first schoolhouse was subsequently sold to George W. Hackert, who had it removed to East Main Street, and it now forms a part of the building occupied by him as a carriage manufactory.



The school was maintained as a private institution from 1805 until 1819 (April 4), when the building was sold to the people of School District #21 town of Huntington. (Babylon town was not erected until 1872).

The teachers employed by the persons who maintained the private school were, in the order of their employment: Abel Ketcham, Johnson Hoyt, Zebulon Doe, Peter Padlock, Peter Douglass, Mr. Rice, Joseph H. Barker, Mrs. Taylor, Platt Ketcham, Henry L. Mulford, Mr. Moshier, Aaron Higbie, Thomas H. Deverell, William A. Corwin, Daniel Monroe, Aquilla Knapp, Mr. Clark, Alexander Cummings.

After the school passed into the control of "The constituted authorities" in 1818--until 1894 the following teachers presided over the affairs of the same: Abel Hogans, Andrew Hogans, Mr. Brown, James E. Dodd, George K. Hubb, John W. Ketcham, Henry Doxsee, Ralph Smith, Jonah Jarvis, Charles G. Weeks, Jesse Brush, Miss Hannah B. Jockett, Alfred E. Earl, William T. Cox, Gideon M. Smith, Miss Sarah Platt, Samuel B. Stokesley, Edwin Brown, Erastus A. Conklin, Theodore Young, Curtis L. Knight, Daniel Mansfield, Lewis R. Overton, Henry F. Bishop, Charles Bishop, Brewster H. Saxton, Henry H. Satterly, Miss Sarah Havens, Miss Jerusha Havens, Augustus K. Walworth, Israel C. Jones, Dillon Wallace, Ebenezer P. Jarvis, Marshall Dibble, John L. Armstrong, Cyrus Strong, George R. Bishop, Hiram T. Wilcox, George A. Doane, A. C. Carley, Miss G. S. Rice, (now Mrs. James B. Cooper), James Barclay, Oliver K. Sammis, L. Homer Hart, Cyrus E. Smith, Alonzo A. Ashmun, A. S. Morse, Ransom E. Wilcox, William A. Platt, William E. Doggett, Charles C. Roberts and Frederick H. Lane.

The first written account of any education business transacted so far as as we have been able to find, bears date May 1, 1828. At that time Timothy P. Carll, Isaac Brush and Silas Tooker were the Trustees, and Simon W. Cooper (grandfather of the writer) was collector--Trustee Carll acting as Clerk. A minute is made of the engagement of Henry Doxsee to teach the school at the magnificent salary of \$30 per quarter! We also find that the other expenses of the school--fuel, water pail and books--were \$2.21.

In 1829 the Trustees reported the receipt of \$46.72 of public money. There were 135 children of school age then resident in the district, which included a part of Islip township.

The teacher at that time "boarded around" for half of the school year and boarded himself during the remainder.

On April 4, 1829, a memorandum is made of the Trustees having reengaged Mr. Doxsee for one year from April 21 at \$12 per month, with an allowance of \$40 extra for his board.

In May, 1830, Mr. Doxsee was re-engaged, at a salary of \$184, to board as before, but no extra appropriation of board money was made.

In 1837 the joint district comprising part of Islip and Huntington towns, as above stated, was done away with and the people resident in the western portion of Islip town formed a separate school district and maintained a school after that date. The Islip people received \$85 as their share of the school property divided.

In 1848 the school had grown to considerable proportions--154 pupils having attended during the year. Of those then enrolled the following are now living in Babylon and elsewhere: Silas A. Brush, Samuel Richardson, Jackson Hawkhurst, J. Sanford Udall, Edward Udall, William J. Smith, Mary A. Leek, Leonard Cutting, George Oakes, Charlotte Cutting, Edward Cooper, Jonathan Conklin, Henry Oakley, Alanson Weeks, Sylvester Udall, Silas M. Udall, Adaline Wicks, Sarah E. Udall, Solomon Smith, John W. Smith, Mary T. Staples, Theodore P. Weeks, Finette Seaman, Henrietta Seaman, Samuel Miller, Martha Miller, Benjamin S. Higbie, Alexander Jones, John S. Frost, Mary A. Leek, John E. Jarvis and a few others.

In 1851 it was voted to raise by tax \$200 for teacher's wages during the ensuing year; \$15 for fuel; \$5 for insurance; \$5 for repairs; \$15 for stove and pipe; \$1.50 for stationery and record book the first book purchased for that purpose since 1828.

(The book purchased in 1851, as per mention above, was in use until 1891, and was not entirely used up then, after forty years of service).

The following textbooks were in use: Webster's and Angell's Spellers, Angell's series of readers, Colburn's Mental Arithmetic, Thompson's (Day's) Algebra, Common School Arithmetic, Flint's Surveying, Davis' Elementary Geometry, Wells' grammar, Smith's Geography, Comstock's Natural Philosophy and Chemistry for Beginners:

In 1842, when Henry F. Bishop was the schoolmaster, he had an assistant in the person of his sister, Miss Lydia Bishop. He was succeeded by his brother, Charles Bishop, who was assisted by the late Timothy S. Carll. No other mention is made of the employment of assistants until 1858 to 1863, during a part of the principalship, of Miss G. S. Rice, who was assisted by Miss Phoebe Conklin, now Mrs. ----- Clark. Miss Conklin also assisted James Barclas, who was Miss Rice's successor. Since that time the assistants have increased in number with the growth of the school, until now the faculty numbers ten earnest educators with 450 pupils enrolled. In January, 1855, the matter of procuring a new school site was brought up at the annual school meeting and on motion Messrs. Stephen Leck, Elbert Carll and Charles Jayna were made a committee for that purpose. The committee were also instructed to appraise the old site and building and report in full to the Trustees in three weeks. No action seems to have been taken, however, until some time afterward; at least no mention is made of any such action in the minutes of the annual meeting in January 1856. In the record book, on the page next to that on which appear the proceedings of the last mentioned meeting, but bearing no date, appear the minutes of some special meeting called to take action in regard to a new school house. The committee previously appointed reported that a new site could be procured for \$280, and on motion the meeting voted in favor of a new site, and also voted to erect a new building. An amendment, to move the old building to the new site and remodel and renovate it was voted down. Something appears to have occurred to nullify the action then taken, for at the annual meeting on January 4, 1858, it was again voted to appoint a Committee on Site, with the same duties as the previous one--they to report at a special meeting to be convened for that purpose. Messrs. Walter W. Robbins, Jonathan Sallis and Timothy S. Carll were made the committee.

The special meeting was duly held on March 1st, 1858. Three sites were reported on. An informal ballot was taken, and those present voted in favor of the purchase of a site on Deer Park Avenue offered by the Messrs. James B. and George D. Cooper---the location of the present M. E. Church. After taking this informal action, the meeting adjourned subject to the call of the chair.

Another special meeting was not held until May 25, 1859, when the Trustees reported on three sites---one on Prospect Street, one at the corner of Deer Park Avenue and George Street, and a third on the latter street. A vote to change the location of the school from the old to a new site was carried by a vote of 23 to 15, and when the question of selecting a site was voted upon those present unanimously selected the one which has just been vacated in favor of that now occupied by this structure in which we are assembled. The George Street site measured 150 x 189 feet, and the price paid was \$400.



On February 17, 1860, another special meeting was held, pursuant to call, "for the purpose of voting a tax to build a new schoolhouse." It was the beginning of a series of memorable gatherings. John R. Reid was chosen chairman, and District Clerk Benjamin P. Field recorded. There was a very sharp contest over the election of a presiding officer. Dr. Franklin Skidmore was the opponent of Mr. Reid, and the latter received only three majority. There were 77 votes cast.

A motion to raise \$3,500 for the erection of the new building was amended to read \$4,000, and again to read \$5,000. The notion to raise the latter sum was promptly voted down--only ten ballots being cast in favor of the motion to seventy-two against. Preceding the taking of the vote there was some lively, if not eloquent, debating, and not a little confusion. When the first amendment to the original motion (making the sum to be raised \$4,000) was voted upon it was lost by a vote of 50 to 27. When the original motion--to appropriate \$3,500--was put to vote it was carried, but narrowly escaped being lost the vote standing; For, 45; Against, 43. The meeting then adjourned for one week.

The second gathering was presided over by James Bostwick. With great unanimity voted to expend \$3,500 in the erection of a new school house, and James B. Cooper and Sidney Bunce were elected a Building Committee, with full power to cooperate with the Trustees in the erection of the building. It was also voted to sell the old building and site at auction at a proper time. The minutes attest that this gathering as genuine "love feast" - all present being of one mind.

Meanwhile the clouds were gathering angry mutterings were heard on all sides, and the storm soon broke. It took the form of an appeal to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, signed by twenty-five taxpayers who charged unfairness in connection with the meeting at which the new site was selected; denied the availability of the site chosen, and made numerous other charges. Some very strong statements were made in this appeal.

The document was answered by the persons charged with all these "high crimes." This was signed by thirty-seven taxpayers. In due time the appeal was dismissed, and the action of the two meetings formally confirmed by the State Superintendent.

The work of erecting the new building was begun and carried forward as rapidly as possible. The architect was Joseph Lamson.

At first only the lower part of the building was finished, but in 1866 additional room had become necessary, and a special meeting was called to decide as to the advisability of finishing off the second story. A motion to do this was voted down, however.

In 1868 the sum of \$1,400 was appropriated for the support of the school for the ensuing year.

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The work was at once begun and progressed as rapidly as possible. The building is now completed and occupied and is this day dedicated to the purpose for which it was erected.

Of the 67 principals of the school since its beginning but thirteen are now alive, viz: Henry F. Bishop, Charles Bishop, Israel O. Jones, Mrs. James B. Cooper, L. Homer Hart, Cyrus E. Smith, Alonzo A. Ashmun, A. S. Morse, Ransom E. Wilcox, William A. Platt, William E. Doggett, Charles C. Roberts and Frederick H. Lane.

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In 1829, the receipt to Public money in the sum of \$ 46.72 was recorded. At that time there were 135 children of school age in the district. The trustees re-engaged Mr. Doxsee for one year at \$ 12.00 per month, with an allowance of \$ 40.00 extra for his board. The teacher "boarded around" for half the school year and boarded himself for the remainder.

The 1805 building continued in use as the school at the same location until the erection of a new school building was completed in 1861. The selection of a site and the size and cost of the new building was a matter of considerable controversy beginning in January of 1855 and continuing until 1860, when finally a site on the south side of George Street was approved and it was voted to erect a new school house at a cost of \$ 3,500.00. At that time only the lower part of the building was finished.

In 1866 additional space became necessary and a motion to finish the second floor was presented, however the motion was voted down and it was not until 1873 that the taxpayers approved, by the narrow margin of two votes, the expenditure of \$ 1,000.00 to finish it.

In 1884 additional space again became necessary and the sum of \$ 2,500 was appropriated for enlargement of the building by the erection of an extension of the same height and width on the easterly side.

On June 29, 1886 the first Commencement exercises of the Babylon High School were held at Excelsior Hall.

In 1889 the taxpayers approved the expenditure of \$ 1,800.00 for the installation of a modern system of heating and ventilation.



## INTRODUCTION

On June 28th, Babylon High School will graduate its 100th Senior Class, a milestone that few schools have attained. In keeping with this Centennial Year, the Practical Arts Department, representing Business, Home Economics, and Technology, have chosen the theme "The Centennial Year: Past - Present - Future" for Expo 86. As you walk through the exhibits, we would like you to follow the progression and development of Practical Arts from the early 1900's to the present and try to imagine what Practical Arts will be like in the year 2000 and beyond.

## A CAPSULE VIEW

of

## PRACTICAL ARTS

Although the title Practical Arts, which includes the areas of Business, Home Economics and Technology, is only about ten years old, the areas represented by Practical Arts have a long and colorful history in education. In essence of space, I have capsulized, briefly, each of the three disciplines.

Business Education was first taught in private business schools, then introduced into public education in 1897 by the Board of Regents. Some of early courses included in the curriculum were Bookkeeping, Business Arithmetic, Law and Typewriting. In 1946, Distributive Education was added to the curriculum, where it remains today.

Home Economics was first developed by Catherine Beecher in 1841 to provide vocational education for girls. In 1917, as a result of the Smith-Hughes Act, it was introduced into public education on the High School level by the Board of Regents. Some of the early courses included Cooking, Food Preparation, Baking and Sewing.

Manual Training, as it was called in 1880, was the term first used for Vocational Training and early work was first displayed at the Philadelphia Exposition in 1886. At the turn of the Century, the name was changed to Manual Arts and was introduced to Non-Vocational schools on the Elementary level. In 1917 with still another name change to Industrial Arts, it was formally approved by the Board of Regents to be included into the High School curriculum. In 1985 the title Industrial Arts was changed to Technology.

A BRIEF HISTORY  
of  
BABYLON VILLAGE SCHOOLS

The earliest recorded mention of organized education, in this area, was in 1786 when Commissioners of Schools were appointed in Huntington and Islip Towns.

In 1805 the first school building was erected to serve the areas of South Huntington, now Babylon, and the adjoining western part of Islip Town. The building was located on the north side of East Main Street just west of the present Presbyterian Church office. It was a small one story, shingled, frame building. Originally it had a thatched roof, which a few years later was replaced with shingles. This was not a public school. It was owned by a stock company consisting of twenty-two residents of the area. Many of the stockholders' names, such as Carll, Conklin, Heartt, Higbie, Jackson, Jarvis, Ketcham, Muncy, Nicolls, Oakley, Sammis, Scudder, Sprague, Thompson, Tooker & Weeks are still familiar in Babylon and West Islip. The school was maintained as a private school until 1819 when the building was sold to School District #21 Town of Huntington.

The minutes of a meeting dated May 1, 1828, appear to be the first written account of any local school business. They mention the hiring of Henry Doxsee to teach at the magnificent salary of \$ 30.00 per quarter. They also state that expenses for fuel, water pail and books totaled \$ 2.21.



In 1891, by a vote of the taxpayers, the district became the Union Free School District No. 1, under the Regents of the State University, and a Board of Education was chosen. The following composed the first board: Hon. John R. Reid, Wilbur C. Abbott, Benjamin P. Field, Smith S. Baldwin, William G. Nicoll, Theodore C. Fletcher, and Guy S. Taylor.

In 1892 the building was again found to be inadequate and after several meetings the taxpayers, on March 20, 1893, authorized the purchase of the plot on Railroad Avenue, North Carl Avenue and Grove Place as the site for a new building. The building was not to cost more than \$ 30,000 and the cost of the land \$ 3,500. Construction of the building was expedited and it was dedicated on April 14, 1894.

It wasn't until 1925 that due to increased enrollment and needed facilities that the present three stories of the High School facing Railroad Avenue was added to the original 1894 structure. In 1957 a large addition including a gym, cafeteria, classrooms, and industrial arts labs were added to the 1925 addition and the original 1894 building was razed. The cornerstone of the 1894 building was preserved and mounted in a hallway in the new addition. In March 1967 a tragic fire consumed a portion of the school making it necessary to once again architecturally renovate the building. From 1968 to the present the building as we know it today has remained structurally the same.

Stewart M. Aldrich

MONDAY, MARCH 15, 1976

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# LI's past still lives

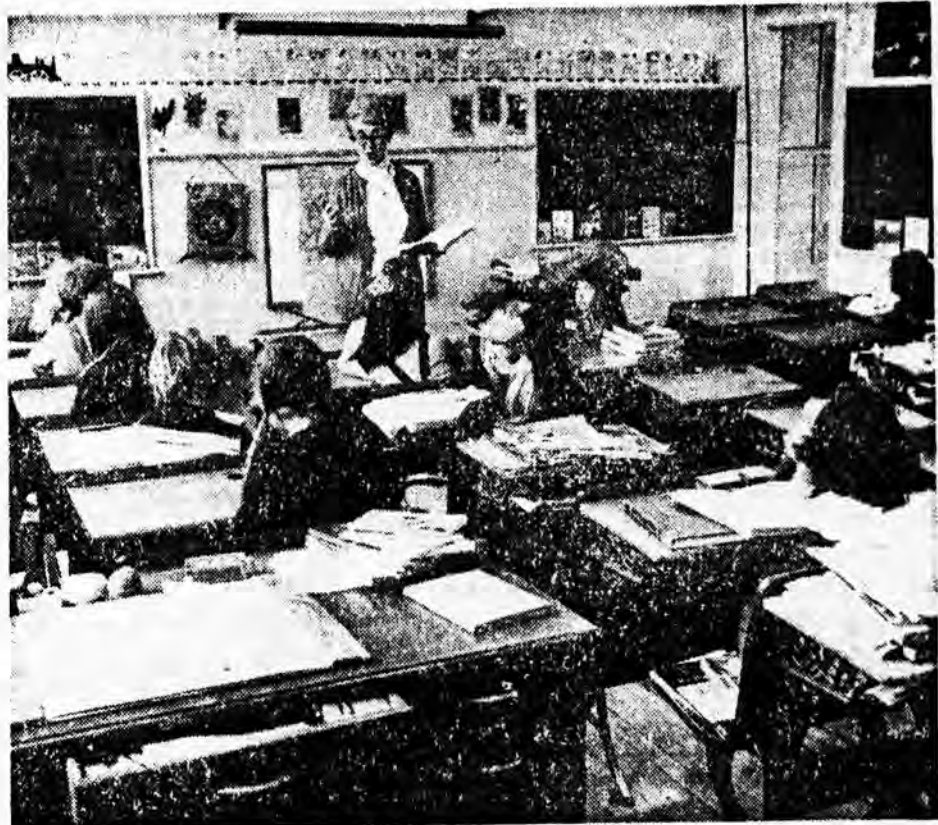
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*Long Island History*



## Modern education in old-fashioned schoolhouse

In this Bicentennial year on Long Island the lifestyles of bygone days still flourish. This series of articles will introduce you to a school, a saw mill, a general store and post office, a smokehouse and a hotel still functioning today as they did in the early days of our history. Today's story takes you inside a one room schoolhouse.



Teacher Mae Grubb instructs a class at the red schoolhouse on Sagg-Main Street in Sagaponack. (Photos by Rozycki)

By FRANCES WEGNER

There's a little red, one-room schoolhouse in East Hampton Town, and it survives not for sentimental reasons, but because it pays.

The Wainscott Elementary School provides up-to-date education for a dozen children by combining a strange mixture of the past and the present.

Presided over by a modern, young teacher—Judith Paris—children from the first through fourth grades get as solid a grounding in the Three Rs as provided by the most traditional systems. Yet it's all happening in one crowded room, associated in many minds with pioneer days in the old West.

It's a happy maze of confusion bursting with learning materials and displays of children's work. It also happens to have, without self-conscious effort, a happy ethnic mix. Out of 12 students, two are black and three are Indians.

"This is an open classroom," Mrs. Paris explained, referring to what educators consider the most up-to-date technique in teaching little ones. It eliminates fixed rows of student desks and allows youngsters to move freely from one area to another.



**BUT THEN** in Wainscott it's hardly open, jam packed with work tables, desks, book shelves and an old upright piano. The desks are scattered, by individual student choice—jammed in corners, in the tiny cloakroom, in a small hallway. Books are everywhere within arm's reach, art works hangs from string stretched across the room, blackboards have become giant bulletin boards.

In this apparent lack of organization, Mrs. Paris and her assistant, Mrs. Terry Miller, carry on with a high degree of success, the *artifacts of education*.

There has been a school on the Wainscott Hollow Road site since 1730. The present structure was built 40 years ago.



There has been a school on the Wainscott Hollow Road site since 1730. The present structure was built 40 years ago.

Mrs. Paris said when she took over her assignment as teacher three years ago and instituted the informal atmosphere, a number of parents criticized the change.

"They said the children can't be learning—they love school. That's good enough for me. I ignored it."

\* \* \*

**WHEN THEY HAVE** completed the fourth grade these youngsters go on to the East Hampston Middle School. Mrs. Paris said her "graduates have no trouble fitting into the new school situation.

Just behind the well-kept school building painted the traditional red is an old cemetery. Across the way is a weatherbeaten general store, boarded up, long abandoned, where in a dusty second floor window covered with spider webs there's a kerosene lamp, listing on an unseen table. Set in the midst of working potato fields, an offshore breeze from the Atlantic Ocean a short distance away whips a flag on a spanking white flagpole, beside the schoolhouse.

Why does this anomaly survive? Have we come full circle, knowing big is not necessarily better, new perhaps not best?

The school survives because it's good education and it's cheaper than giving up local control and sending the children to another school district.

"It would cost us \$3,500 per child each year," Mrs. Paris said. "Our own school costs us \$1,800.

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**A MORE TRADITIONAL** old schoolhouse is not far away—the Sagaponack School on Sagg-Main Street. Its history goes back more than 200 years, and it is a study in contrasts.

The original deed for the land, dated 1776 and recorded in the Suffolk County Clerk's



In the happily-crowded Wainscott Hollow school with teacher Judy Paris.

office, provides that if the land should cease to be used for a school it must revert to the original owner, or his estate.

The first school house on the site consisted of a one-story 20 by 25 foot room, with one door and two windows. Desks were built along the sides of the room, with a continuous board running in front to serve as writing tables. The children had to climb on it to reach their seats. The room was heated by a fireplace in the middle.

The present building was erected in 1885. It too had only one room, but was enlarged in 1915 by adding another now used as a playroom. The original building was sold at public auction to Charles Bennett, who moved it to Parsonage Lane and used it as a home. He was the father of Mrs. Mae Bennett Grubb, head teacher in the Sagaponack School today.

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**OLD-TIMERS SAY** the school was to be built across the road, but when the men assembled at the site to build it, Lemuel Haines, owner of the adjacent property, protested that in case of fire his own home was in danger. The solution was simple and to the point. The men picked up the frame and carried it across the way to common land, where a school still stands today.

Mrs. Grubb has 20 children in her care,

from the first through fourth grades. Two are Korean sisters, aged 7 and 10, who didn't speak a word of English at the start of the school year. They were grouped with three first graders, who are allowed to proceed with learning at their own pace and get individual attention. The girls have done extremely well, Mrs. Grubb said. They now speak, and are moving ahead quickly with reading.

Desks are arranged in neat rows in Sagaponack, and each child has his assigned place. Mrs. Grubb instructs one group while others read their assignments on the blackboard and work alone. Meanwhile, in the playroom the teachers aide, Mrs. Pamela Ely, works with still another group.

"The 'one-room classroom' situation can be good," Mrs. Grubb said. "Rather than limiting education, I find it actually expands it."

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