



Friends of Historic Vineland

Volume 3, Issue 4



THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF VINELAND, MAKING A DIFFERENCE, PAST PRESENT & FUTURE



Carol V. Paterson, President 1997-1999 (Shown here as Dr. Mary J. Dunlap, the first president of the Woman's Club)

"Woman's Club helped city prosper" read the headline on the Opinion Page of The Daily Journal, Saturday, January 30, 1999. The article continued: "We join the community, and local, state, and federal leaders in praise of the Woman's Club of Vineland. In it's 100-year history the organization has helped the community grow from a hamlet to a

city." Indeed, much deserved praise and recognition was given the club as it celebrated it's Centennial in 1999, including letters and proclamations from local dignitaries, Governor Whitman, and the president of the United States. The club celebrated by having a formal ball, a Blossom Tea with members dressed in Victorian attire, a fashion show featuring vintage and present day fashions, and a Victorian Christmas Celebration.

To understand how this all came to pass, let's take a look into the past, back to the era of gas lights and horses and buggies. On October 28, 1899, Mrs. Eugenia Cooper

Webster and twenty-four other concerned women with a vision for the future, established The Woman's Club of Vineland. A quote from their adopted constitution reads: "Object: The object and aim of the club shall be mutual improvement, intellectually; and organized influence to promote the welfare of the town." In November of the same year the club joined the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs. The first president, 1899 - 1901, was Dr. Mary J. Dunlap, the first female superintendent of the Vineland Training School, and the third president, 1902 - 1904 was Matilda T. Landis, sister of Charles K.

EVENTS YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS!!

Library Foundation Dinner Dance "You're Booked"
Sat,
October 7

Art night at the Vineland Library,
Sat., Oct. 15
starting at 7:00 PM

Millennium Event at the Cumberland County College Sat., Oct. 21
starting at 10:00 Am

Italians and the 4'th Millennium, a slide show by Frank De Maio at the Vineland Library, Sun. Oct., 29'th starting at

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(Woman's Club, continued)

Landis, the founder of Vineland. Realizing the need for a public library, the club collected and donated 1275 books to establish today's Vineland Public Library. In 1905 they began the first story hours at the library.

As the years passed and membership increased, these concerned women continued their dedication to their town. Outstanding accomplishments for which the club has been responsible include: establishing the Physician's Hospital (one of 5 homes turned hospital, used before the construction of Newcomb), the first visiting nurse program, initiating an annual Hospital Ball and the sale of Christmas Seals, and furnishing a room at the hospital. They originated the Research Fund at the Training School, established The Pathway

of Remembrance at Siloam Cemetery, the first PTA, originated and laid out a golf course in the park, established the first public restroom and started Vineland's first Free Milk Program. This impressive list goes on and on through the years to today and will continue into the future.

The first Woman's Clubhouse was a unique gray shingled house located on the corner of 7th and Wood Streets. In 1965, the City of Vineland decided it wanted the property to build a municipal hall. The City Council gave the 165 members one year to move or rebuild. The city purchased the property in 1968, making it necessary for the members to place the contents of the clubhouse in storage, buy property at a new location, and plan and build a new clubhouse. Members united to complete this enormous task and in 1972 the present clubhouse located at Main Road and Washington Ave.

became the official headquarters of The Woman's Club of Vineland General Federation of Woman's Clubs.

As education continues to be of great importance to The Woman's Club of Vineland several scholarships are given annually to high school graduates entering college. When the Vineland Public Library established its Library Foundation in 1997, The Woman's Club was proud to be among the first of the "Honored 100" with a donation of \$1,000 as it's Community Improvement Program, and continues to support the library through donations and projects.

As promoting and maintaining the needs of the community have always been the primary concern of the club, donations and hands-on help are contributed annually to

(Letters to the editor!!)

Why I enjoy being a "Friend Of Historic Vineland" By: Pearl Giordano

Being a member of the "Friends of Historic Vineland" is a privilege and one that I truly enjoy. I love our great City, and, with each meeting of the "Friends of Historic Vineland" and every event that it holds, I understand how great Vineland truly is and how lucky we are to have citizens such as Dr. Frank De Maio. Inspired with a dream

and a vision, Dr. De Maio created "Friends of Historic Vineland."

This organization came to life and provides a living lesson in the history of Vineland for citizens of all ages and ethnic backgrounds.

Vineland is a city that is rich in history and culture, not to mention the diversity and civic pride of it's residents. The "Friends of Historic Vineland" is open to all citizens-- your ideas and suggestions are always welcome. Many of its members share the same vision and dream that Dr. De Maio has for Vineland.

When we have our Founders Day Celebration the youth of our community take an active role in celebrating "Vineland's Birthday." There are lessons for all of us to

learn and by supporting the events that are held on "Founder Day" we are all enriched and our community is made stronger.

Lessons in History are very exciting when they are brought to life-- we are given the opportunity to experience the past through those who are willing to dress as past members of our community and share the stories of their lives and the contributions that they made to Vineland. Lessons from the past inspire us to become active partners in Vineland and thus become a real part of Vineland's future. We can pick up the torch and help to carry it forward into the new millennium, not only for our own enjoyment but for our youth and our future generations. I would just like to say

(Letter to the Editor, continued!)

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enjoyment but for our youth and our future generations.

I would just like to say "Thank You!" to Dr. De Maio and to all of the members of the "Friends of Historic Vineland" for their dedication and commitment to

preserving the history our city.

This is a wonderful non-profit organization and we would love to invite you to become a member. For more information please call 691 7111.

Want to buy a Portland Cutter, cheap, just \$16.75? Yep, that's what a sleigh cost back in 1908. A buggy, on the other hand cost \$33.45 or more. So, it was cheaper to buy a sleigh than a buggy. Cars were very expensive then. Remember, that is the year that Henry Ford started to mass produce his model T Ford, cheap enough for the common person.

make the cold even more pronounced. For protection, the riders would use a lap blanket, sometimes made of fur, usually buffalo, or of heavy material. The blankets even had pockets in them where you could put your hands to keep them warm.

old sleigh makers used to say that the easy part was making the sleigh, the hard part was painting it. They were right, and their beauty proved it!!

Frank De Maio, M.D.

There were few roads in rural America back at the turn of the century. Those that existed were full of pot holes, were dusty when it was dry, turned to mud when it rained, and were swarming with bugs and flies on hot summer days. It is no wonder that people did not enjoy traveling in the good ol' summer time.

Travel with a sleigh was not always safe. Ice was slippery, and lakes were not always frozen solid. But, considering the fact that most could afford a sleigh, there was more free time, and the terrain was rapidly covered by sleigh, it is easy to see why people actually did go dashing through the snow in a one horse open sleigh during the winter. Also, there were no snow ploughs that worked all night when it snowed, and they didn't throw salt and sand on the snow and ice.

Winter was travel time. Most people lived on a farm at the turn of the century, and farm work was on hold during the cold months. As soon as it snowed, it was travel time. The roads were now all clean and smooth, the bugs were gone, streams were frozen and could be crossed easily. Even lakes were frozen and became part of the travel path.

So, once it got cold and the snow fell, it could last for the rest of the winter until the spring thaw.

Sleighs and buggies were a source of pride to the owners, and they usually were quite pretty when first purchased. They were finished smooth and shiny and often artistically decorated. They looked nothing like the beat up things that most people like to show off as "antiques." Most

It could get quite cold in a sleight as the wind chill factor would

would not have been caught dead in a beat up thing like that!!! The



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Address: _____

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Phone: (Home): _____ (Office): _____

Note: A beautiful "Friends" T Shirt will be sent to anyone joining this year.

Mail checks to *Friends of Historic Vineland, C/O Dr. Frank De Maio, 1047 Almond Street, Vineland, NJ 08360*

Make All Checks out to the *Friends of Historic Vineland*