

# FRIENDS OF HISTORIC VINELAND



## Founders Day, Fun Day

There may be snow on the ground but there is spring in our minds and the first thought (surprise) goes to Founder's Day!

We would like you to think of Founder's Day as fun day, especially for the kids. There will be many of the events of past years, most with a different twist, but



***Kite Making By The Art Alliance***

amazing display.

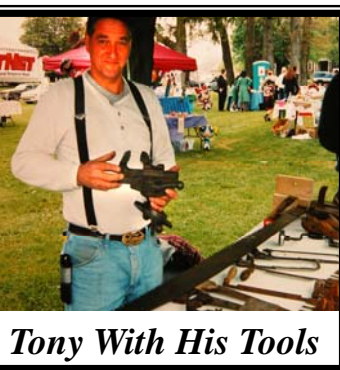
There will be a petting zoo, horse back rides, drills for the kids if they "join the army" and so on.

We are still planning the event, so we will probably be as surprised as you are at what will be going on when we finally get it all together.

So why not plan on coming and seeing what's going on

the camp to talk to the Civil War soldiers who have returned to give you a taste of what life was like during the war that took place at the same time that Vineland was being formed.

On Saturday (May 7) starting at 10:00 there will be the usual tent displays of historic interest, especially of Vineland, but there will also be a lot of activities "on the field." This will include Civil War battles, treating the wounded from the battle, various groups performing, including bag pipers, Japanese dancers and the famous Japanese drummers that put on an



***Tony With His Tools***

and join in the fun. Virtually everything is free so don't worry about the price. Just come, bring the kids and have some fun!

*With this issue begins Volume 9 of our newsletters. That means we have been at it for 8 years. Now we really know what they mean when they say that time flies!*

*The "Friends" continue their efforts to keep alive the great and interesting past of Vineland and surrounding areas, and continue to work on the Historic Calendar, Founder's Day Events, and Web page.*

*It is by your contributions that we are able to continue this work. Please see the last page of the letter and consider a contribution.*



***Pie Eating Contest***

every year we do try to add some new and interesting event.

Friday night (May 6 from 7 to 9 PM) will feature camp by candle light. There will be some activities with punch and cookies followed by a visit through

***The History Of  
Landisville, Continued!***  
***By F. Renzulli***  
***(Of Landisville, Naturally)***

Directly across from the Block Factory was located the original Landisville school. The school was T-shaped and had three rooms. Outside were two toilets with multiple seats. One of the toilets was for girls and the other for boys. Each was made to accommodate several pupils at one time. (Quite appropriate for a friendly conversation on the go.) There were no facilities close by for washing hands. Each classroom had a wood burning stove with a protective wall surrounding the stove to keep children from getting near it. Teachers usually selected two or three boys to bring in the firewood from an outside woodshed and this was fed into the stove as needed during the day. In the woodshed was also a pump and sink where children could wash their hands. However in the winter months the pump was inactive for obvious reasons.

(Sanitation? It was too cold for that!) This school became known as the "old school" when the "new" school was built on Grove Road. A pump and sink was installed in the building but during the winter months it usually was not in operation because of freezing weather. The school did not have a central heating system.

Prior to the New School being

built in Landisville there was a shortage of class -rooms. Classes were held in other buildings . Some were held in the Red Men's Hall in Minotola, (The building was located next to where the Minotola post office now stands) and in the Independent Order of Mechanics' hall, more commonly known as the I.O.M. hall, located at the northwest corner of Flower Street and route 40. This building too was later demolished. The Minotola School, built in 1911 took the bulk of the Buena Vista Township students. For a number of years after it opened it also had a ninth grade class.

The school day began with the usual rituals: pledge of allegiance to the flag, reading of a verse from the bible, Lord's prayer followed by about fifteen minutes of singing several songs. The songfest was probably the most liked part of the day. Interestingly enough several of the songs we sang were songs from the Civil War period such as Marching Through Georgia and Tramp, Tramp, Tramp the Boys are Marching. And after World War I we sang the patriotic songs of that period of time; such as, Over There, Over There, the Boys are Coming and Three Cheers for the Red, White and Blue. The songfest was an energizing period and seemed to prepare the children for studies during the remainder of the day.

The early pioneers, both the new comers and those who preceded them, came with one pur-

pose in mind: to make a better life for themselves and their offsprings. As their lot improved they were able to send their children to college. Caesar Donato was the first to graduate from college in our town; he became an electrical engineer. Angelina, Rose, Grace and Lucy Capizola became teachers as did Rose Villa, Eva Kaineth, Richard Valenti, Wilmina Crowell, Mellisa, Jean, Emma and Dorothy Cook, Frank Yacovelli and many others who followed in later years. My brother went to law school and established a practice in Long Island. John Yacovelli graduated with honors from Rutgers University. As time went by our town saw many of its youth become professionals in a variety of professions . Many became successful in business and farming. For their forbears this was their dream come true.

There were several fraternal organizations in our town The I.O.M. and the Red Men had their own halls for their regular weekly meetings. Members of the Moose met at the Red Men's hall. The D.A.R. also had a chapter in Minotola and held meetings at members' homes. There were also various religious organizations of both Protestant and Catholic faiths. Very shortly after World War I the American Legion was organized and became very active in community affairs, especially those involving veterans' welfare.

***(Continued next page)***

Among those who served in World War I from our towns, and who I can remember, were Joseph Domico, Daniel Martinnelli, Bill Crowell, Charles Enferme, Peter Capizola, Robert Cook, Bill Norton, Joseph Arpino, Jake Cheli, Joseph Janucci and Ernest Battelini.

To help the war effort and show its patriotism a large parade was held during World War I. The Mercoli family supplied a flat bed truck to carry Miss Liberty and her entourage. It was led by a band and followed by floats on horse drawn carriages in a parade on State Road. Antonio Yecco, the town barber, gave a very patriotic speech, spoken in Italian.

Mr. Yecco was quite an orator with a very good command of the Italian language. At most events of a civic or patriotic nature it was he who was called upon to deliver the main speeches. Since our town was small, the inhabitants knew each other and it was a friendly town. Mr. Yecco, who as town barber, knew most every one in town, was the person usually called upon to give the eulogy of a recently deceased member of the community.

Some of the local organizations sponsored a baseball team. The baseball diamond was located on the grounds now occupied by the Parochial School. Almost every town in the south Jersey area had a baseball team and on Sundays they would rotate to play against each other. On Sundays a good crowd of spectators went out to watch the

game and cheer the home team.

The old Landisville School served the district for many years. I started in the kindergarten there in 1915, our teacher was a Miss Van Sciver. On my first day, my mother left me at school and as soon after as possible I ran home and unnoticed I hid in my older sister's bed. Soon the teacher came looking for me and after a short search my sister found me. Miss Van Sciver had such a calming way about her, she took me by the hand and together we returned to school. Miss Van Sciver spoke Italian and got along well with the mostly Italian folks of our town. At the beginning of World War 1 she volunteered as a Red Cross nurse and served overseas. She never returned to My Town.

The years at the old school were happy ones. We spent our kindergarten year there, the next year we went to the new school and attended reception grade (now pre-first) there as well as first, second and third grades. For fourth grade we went back to the old school. On Mondays and Tuesdays Continuation School classes were held in another classroom. One room remained empty. Mr. Joseph Davis was the continuation school instructor. Since we were just across from the Block Factory we spent most of our recess periods watching the horse pull the sand cart from the bottom sand pit to the mixing pit on the days the horse was working. There were two recess periods a day: one at 10:30 AM and the other at about 2:30 p.m.

Classes lasted until 4:00 P.M. Mr. Joseph E Phipps was superintendent of schools. His daughter, Marion Phipps Costa, taught first grade in the Landisville School for many years. Many of her former students are still in our town. If one remembers Miss Barth (later became Mrs. Davis), Mrs. Conklin, Miss Gallia, Mr. Leeds, Mr. Rex Bennet, Mr. Williams, Miss Viana and Mrs. Juanita Chalmers, then your memory goes way back to the very early years in My Town. (You're certainly not a youngster any more.) All of those teachers left by the late 1920's and early 1930's.

Up until about 1924 when a student became 14 years of age and had parental permission, he would be allowed to leave school and would be permitted to work at various types of jobs. There were few curbs on what jobs a 14 year old boy could hold but most of the boys in our area went to work on the family farm while girls helped their mothers and also helped on the farm. As clothing shops developed in our area girls found jobs in these shops.

The pupils who left school at age of fourteen were required to continue their education at what was known as "Continuation School." (As explained above). They were required to attend one day a week for two years. Since most of the students left school when they were about to enter eighth grade, the subjects were of eighth grade equivalency with emphasis on the "3 R's". *(To Be continued in future editions!!)*

So, how can we thank you??? We think you are the greatest. Those of you that have helped us by donations—many of you on multiple occasions and with very generous amounts. ***Hope you don't mind if we brag about you!!!*** Here is a list of those that have made recent donations:

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Your support is what makes it possible for us to send you this news letter. We hope you enjoy it, and hope you support it so we can continue to send it to you.

***DO YOU WANT TO JOIN??***

TO BE A MEMBER

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|-----------------|-------|
| BENEFACTOR..... | \$100 |
| SPONSOR.....    | \$50  |
| FAMILY.....     | \$35  |
| INDIVIDUAL..... | \$30  |
| STUDENT.....    | \$5   |

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The Friends have no connections with the Vineland Historical Society or any other society!

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Mail to: Friends of Historic Vineland  
C/O Frank De Maio, M.D.  
1047 Almond St.