

FRIENDS OF HISTORIC VINELAND



Founder's Day 2005

Yes, we did get rained out Friday night. And, it was really cold all day Friday. The kids that came out left a nice warm classroom to move from tent to tent on a cold spring day. But, it was worth it. It was the best one we have had so far. And, to the surprise of all, the sun did come out on Saturday, the wind died down, and the day ended being perfect.

There were many displays from the old days, and a good number that were new.

One of the old reliables was MaryAnn Kirchner portraying Lucille Richardson, the first



school marm of Vineland. She had a wonderful collection of old pictures of the Vineland schools, and a great smile as she explained the history of the early schools of

Vineland.

Then we had the real new in the person of Mary Lou Carney who came all the way to Vineland to be with us to autograph her book on the Welch Grape Juice Story. She too had a great time and was happy to visit the town that she had written about.



The army sent some recruiters to the event, and we put them to good use. We always have the kids "train for the army" with toy guns. Then, if they want, they can join the cavalry and have a free horse back ride. They also get a free cap (northern of course).

Well, this time, we had the real soldiers train the kids. It was really something. They were serious about their job and had the kids going

through the paces including



doing pushups. I'm not sure who was having more fun, the soldiers or the kids. Which reminds me, I never did get to thank them. If you see one, make sure you do thank them.

This year the Japanese dancers were present. The audience had some very nice things to say about them. We hope they come back next year and bring the drummers with them.

So, all in all it was a great event, and filled with all kinds of activities—far too many for me to list here. You just gotta come next year—if you didn't go this year—and see for yourself.

The 2006 calendar is in the planning stage. This calendar will highlight the glass industry and with it some of the notables in the glass blowing industry such as Joe Luisi. We will have an entire article on him at a later date but he will be highlighted on the calendar along with Victor Durand.

If you have not placed an Ad in our previous calendars, why not support the Friends and buy one for glass and Luisi??

We need you!!!!

***Continuation of:
The History of Landisville
By F. Renzulli (of Landisville)***

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".

This type of schooling did not go too well. Many of the students played "hooky" and trying to round them up became too costly and time-consuming and education really did not continue. After a few years of trying this system the state of New Jersey set the "quitting" school age at sixteen. Continuation schools were abolished.

The Landisville "new" school was opened in 1916. It was a very well constructed building with eight rooms; two offices and a spacious basement. Two outside toilets were located about 125 feet from the rear of the building on a large piece of land which served as the playground. The building, still standing and in use, is now known as the "William Donini" school. It was an imposing building with an attractive cupola and cost \$60,000.00 to build. (To build a school equal to that today would cost several million dollars.)

In the 1920's the movement in edu-

cation was the consolidation of schools, the closing of small schools in school districts and sending the children to a larger school. Since our town's population was growing newer schools were needed. The board of education decided to build a new school on Central Ave. in Minotola that became known as Buena Vista Township School #1, now known as the Dr. J. P. Cleary School. The school was built and the first classes entered in the fall of 1928. The "rural" schools were closed.

Where were the "rural" schools? There was a one room school in Newtonville, a one room school in Buena (now occupied by Library II restaurant) a two-story, two room school at the southeast corner of Lincoln and Oak roads, a similar type of school on north side of Wheat Road next to the former Guaracini building, (Sorrento Plaza), four rooms, one floor school in Richland and a two room school in Milmay. A two-story two-room school was located in East Vineland near the intersection of Landis Avenue and Union Road. For some time because of the increase in population most of the schools were used for the lower grades, primarily for pre-first through third grade.

As harder times were coming upon the residents and education became more expensive, the board of education made some changes in the school curriculum. Kindergarten classes were discontinued; reception or pre-first classes remained.

Special classes, with special teachers, such as Music, Home Economics, Woodworking and Physical Education also were discontinued.

Upon leaving the lower grades the pupils were transported to the Landisville and the old Minotola schools for the fourth and fifth grades and to the new Minotola School for sixth, seventh and eighth grades.

It is interesting to pause a moment and recall how the mode of transportation has changed over the years. The law of New Jersey states that children living within two miles from school must walk to school while those living more than two miles must be transported at public expense. Until about 1925 or 1926 pupils were transported by "hacks": which were "boxed" wagons pulled by a team of horses. It had sliding windows, steps to enter and leave and seated about fifteen or twenty pupils and the driver of the team of horses. They were not very comfortable and the only heat in winter was body heat. In the middle twenties the hacks gave way to buses that were just a parcel better than the horse drawn hacks. Quite often they broke down and the children arrived late for classes and sometimes depending upon the nature of the breakdown children did not arrive at all on that particular day. Can't recall a single incident of horses breaking down. Of course on bad stormy days or when deep snow covered the roads neither the "hacks" nor the buses went out. Among those who drove hacks were Mr. Joe Bongiorno and a Mr. Barth. Quite a contrast with today's modern buses which seat as many as fifty students, are well



Lelio Fantini's General Store, Landisville, N.J.

heated and pick up most of the children who live along the route even within walking distances. With the exception of severe snowstorms, which are rare in our area, buses move every day and just about on time. The first buses to be used for transporting pupils to schools were operated by Healy Brothers. A few years later various bus routes were set by the school board and each route was contracted to individuals. Still later the school board decided to consolidate the routes and operate its own bus system.

For several years the Anello Bus Line transported students to Vineland High School. Eventually this route too was operated by the school district.

East South Boulevard was a narrow dirt road from State Road to Weymouth Road. It was very close to the Luchessi home (now the post office). Between the road and the railroad track was

located a merry go round owned by the original Capizola family. It was operated on national holidays and on certain religious holidays. When the boulevard was widened and moved closer to the railroad the merry go round was dismantled and removed.

As we walked down Arbor Ave. we came to State Road. This is now known as Route 40. In the early twenties President Harding and his entourage traveled State Road to visit Atlantic City.. It was subsequently named Harding Highway in his honor. It was a graveled highway until 1920. That year it was paved and thus became a modern highway. After paving, the children, (those who could afford to buy skates) began roller-skating on the hard top, this being a new sport in our area.

For entertainment at home the phonograph became very popu-

lar. Almost every home had a "Victrola" and you could walk by almost any home and hear music at any time of day. In the evening the Italians played songs by Caruso, the greatest tenor of that era and folk songs of their homeland. One song very popular among them was Santa Lucia Lontano. This song sang of the beauty of their homeland. One verse I still remember went like this: "Santa Lucia, Lontano sia, quanta malinconia; si gir' il mondo sano, si va circa fortuna, ma quanda spond' a luna, lontana Napoli non si po sta.' Translation: Santa Lucia you're so far away, there's so much melancholy, we travel the world over, we go to seek our fortune (improve our lot), but when the moon arises, we (our thoughts) are never far from Napoli. (This is a rough translation. The words of the song are in dialect.) Another song very popular and which always reminded them of home was 'Torn' a Sorriento', return to Sorrento. One can only imagine the sadness felt by the immigrants as they left their families and, in most cases, never to see them again. Ellis Island, the port of disembarkation for immigrants who arrived in America between 1892 and 1924, became known as the 'Isle of Tears'.

Many of the immigrants that arrived in Ellis Island were young brides, some barely teenagers, married not for love but by parental agreement. Most came, not knowing what to expect but hopeful for a better future.

(To be continued!!!)



PLANNING AHEAD: *This is the little old lady that is going to call you for an Ad in the calendar for the friends for 2006.*

Don't disappoint her and say no! The price is the same as prior years, a bargain at \$100. You get 25 "free" calendars for the donation, and the satisfaction of knowing that your money is being spent to help educate our town about the great history of Vineland, and what our expectations for our town should be!!

I was reading a newspaper from Bridgeton (Bridgeton Evening News, Sat. May 25, 1912) about a famous visitor to Bridgeton—Teddy Roosevelt. He was again running for the presidency back then and came to this area as part of his campaign. Schools were closed as were the businesses, and all came out to see the famous man. He had come on a special train that had come in from Millville. He was driven in the parade in a new Stoddard-Dayton car. After the speech and parade down Commerce Street, he got on the back platform of the train, and waved good-bye as the train slowly moved off to parts unknown. Teddy ran against Taft, and Taft, not to be outdone also made a trip to this area. (There are postcards with

a picture of Taft when he came to Cumberland County and Vineland.) Taft was the president at the time, and the people of Bridgeton felt that they had a great obligation to do things right. Bridgeton had a Hippodrome at the time, and that building was the center piece of the visit. The second floor of the building was reserved for Civil War Veterans and ladies of the Grand Army of the Republic. After the Bridgeton appearance, he was scheduled to go to Millville. His visit locally was part of his presidential campaign in New Jersey, from Camden to Jersey City. Comment was made that Roosevelt had already spent 1,250,000 dollar in the primary and had plenty more to spend. Taft won the election!!

And talking about money, we sure spent plenty of it during our recent Founder's Day Event. Almost everything is free during the event, so the kids can come and have a great time and not have the parent worry about how much money it will cost. So, if you want to help, send US some money. Your membership fee or a donation will be put to good (we think!) use for all of our historic events and publications. Thanks so much!!

DO YOU WANT TO JOIN??

TO BE A MEMBER

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

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"FRIENDS OF HISTORIC VINELAND"

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

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