

# Friends of Historic Vineland

*Spring Edition*



***Dr. Welch Sometimes Known As Ben Ocasio, during Founder's Day, 2005***

Vineland is a year older, so are the Friends, and so is Founder's Day. Yes, we will again have a Founders' Day this year. But, this year it will be bigger and better.

We do plan to have the reenactors on the field of the Training School Grounds on Friday. Plans are again being made for the third graders in the morning and the fifth graders in the afternoon to be present to learn more about the history of Vineland and the United States. Also, there is always room for surrounding school districts to come to the event if they are interested. We can always include the history of the surrounding area.

On Friday night, weather permitting as always, we are going to have Camp By Candlelight. There will be

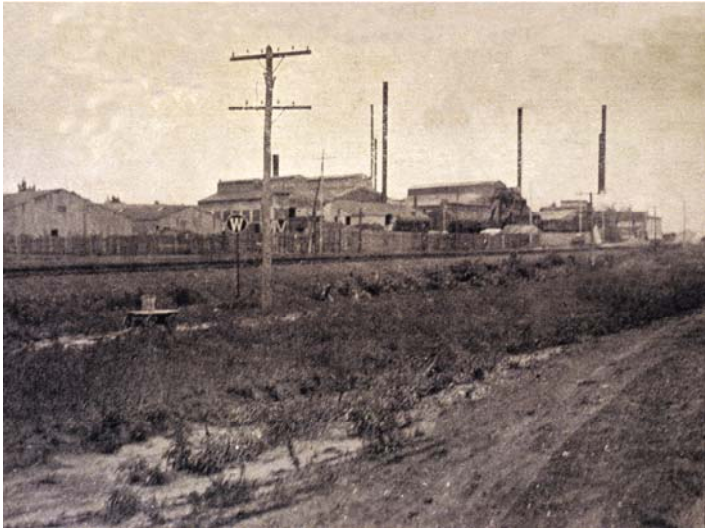
Civil War reenactors present to explain how the soldiers spent their night time, but in addition, Mr. Jim Albertson will be present to tell stories and play songs of the period for a regular sing along. This will go from 7 to 9 PM.

On Saturday, there will be an entire host of activities starting from 10:00 AM till 4:00 PM. Look in the paper for the schedule of events, as the activities are still in the planning stage.

This year, as contrasted to other years, there will be Civil War activities on Sunday. They plan to put on some major events, so you might want to come back and see some of the battles. The theme will be the Battle Of The Wilderness which refers to one of the major battles that took place in 1864 between Grant and Lee in Virginia. You will have to check the paper to find out more about the times and events.

We plan to have another major event on April 22 from 5 to 8 at the Time Out Sports Club and Grill located at Sixth & Landis called ***A Journey Back In Time***. This will be sponsored by the Friends along with the Main Street Committee. We plan to have 10 restaurants donate food. The fee for the guests will be 10 dollars to cover the costs of the event. The historic characters of the Friends will be there, and their will be such things as a slide show of old Vineland, movies of old Vineland, and a few comments about the rejuvenating of Center Vineland. ***Plan on coming. It might be fun having Abraham Lincoln serve you supper!***

## The History Of Landisville, By Mr. Renzulli, Continued:



### Jonas Glass Factory, Landisville, Started 1887

Some one passing through My Town during the early 1900's could imagine he was in Italy. Italian was the language spoken; it was the only one the settlers knew. When the Landisville Fruit Growers Association was formed the minutes were kept in Italian; at social gatherings and even at Catholic services Italian was spoken. And when groups needed a little morale infusion to boost their spirits Antonio Yecco (mentioned before) was called upon to deliver the message at a gathering of friends. A dramatic group was formed and produced plays all spoken in Italian.

There was one man in particular who settled in Landisville after living in New York for several years and after having attended night school to learn the English language. He helped many of the early settlers fill out important papers, translate letters and in many other ways including writing letters to relatives for those who were illiterate; he was Luigi Vichiuzzi. He had no children and therefore no family to carry on. He was an important link for the Italian community to keep alive the ties with their detached families in Italy.

These immigrants, who in Italy lived many miles apart, came from almost every region and province

of Italy, from Sicily to the French, Swiss and Austrian border, suddenly found themselves as neighbors in a strange land. In many cases different dialects were spoken, often neighbors found it difficult to communicate with each other. Within a generation or two, the barriers that separated them in their homeland, their dialects, customs and the pecking order, would disappear. All, except the older folks, would speak 'American'. Anyone who was not Italian was "Mericon". Many of the taboos of the motherland were cast aside in their new homeland. The sons and daughters of northern Italians married sons and daughters of southern Italians; Catholics married non-Catholics and the most daring even married a 'Mericon' All to the mortification of their parents. The new generation became part of the melting pot as America has often been called.

Neighbors helped each other when needed especially in sickness, emergency or some tragic event. Neighborliness was a very important condition for getting along in this strange land. When a neighboring woman gave birth her friends brought baskets of food and baby clothing as a gesture of friendship. They also went to help with the house chores until she fully recovered. Midwives helped with the delivery at childbirth. Philomena Tomei of Forest Grove was one of them and possibly helped in the delivery of most of the babies born in our area during the early years of the 1900's.

Why did they come to this area? Many of the early immigrants settled in the East Vineland section in the 1880's to farm on land as advertised by Charles K. Landis while others came to the Landisville, Minotola area to work in the Jonas Glass Factory and the Francis H. Legget Cannery. The cannery also offered an opportunity for farmers to sell vegetables, especially tomatoes. There was also Hem-burgers' Clothing shop where women could work. This was located in Minotola where Atlantic Ave. and West Ave. meet. Kimble and Durand Glass Companies and a shoe manufacturing plant in Vineland also offered opportunities for work. And of course many came to buy farms and to work on farms. Relatives sent for relatives. (And by word of mouth, one paesano told another paesano.) The Central Railroad of New Jersey provided quick access with New York. Farmers could send their pro-

duce daily to that market.

With the coming of farmers and shop workers came a need for some one to provide them with the necessities of life. It wasn't too long before providers arrived and soon there were general stores, a lumberyard, shoe stores and shoe repair shops and the inevitable and much needed blacksmith shop to shoe the horses. As previously mentioned there were three blacksmith shops in Landisville. There were two shoe repair shops in Landisville, one run by Orazio Vassalotti and his son Mike and the other by Pasquale Donato whose shop was located in the corner lot between route 40 and Buena Vista Avenue across from the Landisville Social Club, That building is no longer there. Next to this shop was located the post office . This building too was later demolished. Louis Tarquinio owned a clothing and shoe store. Mr. Ciriola operated a shoe and watch repair shop in Minotola.

About 1920 a cannery was built at West North Boulevard on ground now occupied by the Catholic School. When the depression came along this company went into bankruptcy. The building burned to the ground.

About 1916 a member of the Barth family became postmaster and located the post office on the West Side of Harding Highway between Arbor Ave. and North Boulevard. It continued at that location until about the late 1970's. Dorothy Barth was the last of the Barth family to serve as post -mistress. The post office was moved to its present location at that time. For about 60 years the Barth family served as post-masters for Landisville. Mrs. Richard Crowell served as post-mistress for Minotola during the 30's. Lydia Reed Masterson followed her and served for many years.

The general stores were the life-blood of the community. They were the ones who sold the groceries and other necessities of life. From them we bought our pasta, a most important item for the Italian immigrant's main dish, flour for bread and soap (usually it was Octagon so or Fels Naptha soap) used for laundering and bathing. Also from the general store farmers bought feed, hay and grain for their livestock. Almost every home had a chicken yard and they too needed feed for their

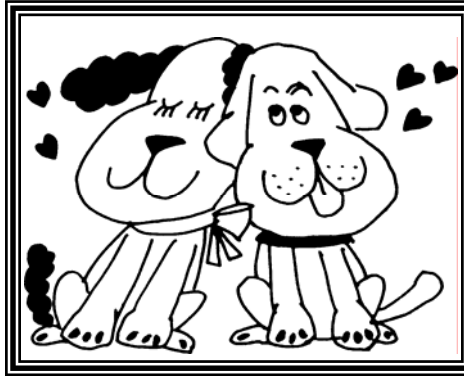


## General Store Of Santagata Mentioned Below

flocks. The main general stores were: Tomasello's at the corner of route 40 and Flower St., Giuliani's on S, Boulevard between Nixon and Franklin Streets and S. Santagata & Sons located at intersection of Franklin & S. Boulevard. The Maranelli family owned a general store on Central Ave. in Minotola. Also very early in the 1900's Archibald Cook started a lumberyard and hardware store on South Boulevard in Landisville. This was a much-needed outlet since a lot of construction was going on at this time. With these businesses and the railroad station located on South Boulevard, that street became a very important commercial center. Bertachi ran a meat market on South Boulevard. Mattioli Brothers started a bakery in Landisville and Pietro. Polmonari also started a bakery on Wheat Road. Mattioli Brothers Bakery during the period from 1930 to about 1950 operated the largest bakery in South Jersey. Henry Amici operated a general store in Richland. As one can see we soon, in the early 1900.s, had a well-rounded community.

Peddlers also frequently came to our town selling a variety of products, usually cloth for making children's clothing, dresses, curtains etc. Peddlers usually carried their wares on their backs. Besides peddlers Barbaccia's meat truck came to town with a variety of fresh meats. Frank DeMaio Sr. had a mobile grocery store on his covered truck and served many of the farmers in scattered areas. And the Hokey Pokey wagon came from Vineland almost every evening in the summer time selling ice cream in cones or in a small block.

*We want to do our dog-gone best to thank all the people that recently contributed money towards our activities in the past year. The list is as follows:*



*Without your donations, we could not continue!*

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The Friends have no connections with the Vineland  
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