

Friends of Historic Vineland

Volume 2 Issue 2

FOURTH ANNUAL FOUNDER'S DAY— A WEEKEND TO REMEMBER!



Founder's Day this year was a two day event. It started with great disappointment—the third grade portion of the morning was cancelled due to inclement weather. All the reenactors were present, the Passo Fino horses were ready to go, and the Mayor and his wife were present in their antique car.

But, the afternoon went better. The weather began to clear, and the fifth grade students did get to Gittone Stadium. Ten stations were set up, and groups of students went from station to station every ten minutes to learn something about the history of Vineland, the history of Nursing during the Civil War, accomplishments of Abraham Lincoln, and General Lee, and something about political history, as well as many other interesting aspects of history around the Civil War period.

Then at 5:00 PM on Friday the general public attended the evening event. Two hundred and forty people did enjoy the meal that was served while they listened to period music. The women of Vineland that had come to "visit the troops" were judged as to the most elegant dress, the most authentic dress, and the most impressive hat. Prizes were given to the winners. A fine chorus from the Mennies school sang a number of songs of the Civil War period. Believe it or not, they actually had a violinist in the group. Then, there was an artillery barrage with mortar fire and cannon fire. The sparks from the artillery and the smoke and powder were so authentic that someone called the fire department. Thank God that we did have a permit to fire the weapons!!! When darkness fell, there was singing 'round the camp fire. We actually had an opera singer who showed up as the evening progressed and sang a few period songs as a solo.

The next morning, the reenactors that had slept over were treated to a breakfast with enough food to extend to lunch. The students that attended with an adult in both the evening or morning sessions were encouraged to join the infantry, medical corps or the cavalry. They were given a Civil War "bummer's cap" to keep (blue for the north, gray for the nasty southerners) and then were trained in marching and drilling with reproduction rifles if in the infantry, were lectured on Civil War medicine if in the medical corps, and were able to ride the ponies if in the cavalry.

All the while, there was drilling, shooting of rifles, mortars and cannon, and also of a gatling gun. Mr. Lincoln did visit the camp, as well as Mr. Charles K. Landis (after all, it was HIS day!!!). Other characters included Thomas B. Welch, the Vineland founder of the Welch Grape juice company, Mathew Brady, the famous Civil War photographer who took multiple pictures, Matilda Landis, Clara Barton, Mary Treat, and Marie Durand. All in all, it was a great day. But, just wait till next year!!!!

.F. D. M.



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• WHAT ARE WE UP TO?

• The next big task for the "Friends" is to get started on the historical calendar for the year 2000. We intend to dedicate it to medicine and the upcoming regional medical center, giving much credit to the South Jersey Health System (and of course to Mr. Paul Cooper who will soon retire). As part of that, we will participate with the South Jersey Hospital System and have a medical reenactment comparing it to modern medicine. This will be held at the

Vineland High

THE HISTORY OF NEWCOMB HOSPITAL
(By Frank De Maio, M.D.)

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There are many interesting stories to tell about “Old” Vineland, and the one about Newcomb Hospital is as good as any!

One short year after the end of World War II the good people of Vineland decided that it was time for a new and modern hospital. Not that Vineland ever lacked for doctors or hospitals-- Doctor Chase, the first doctor in Vineland, came here in 1863. In 1877 the Vineland Hospital Association was founded with it's office at 6th and Plum Street. A hospital soon followed and became the first hospital in Vineland. This was followed by a number of other “Resident Home-Hospitals” so that by 1920 there were a total of five hospitals in Vineland—the Vineland Hospital at 6th and Plum St., the Physician’s Hospital at 6th and Pear St., the Doctor’s Hospital at 8th and Plum St., Dr. Hatch’s Hospital on the corner of East Ave. and New Pear St., and finally the Italian Hospital at 727 Grape Street.

In 1919, a campaign was begun to raise money for a new Vineland Hospital. An article was published by the Hospital Association indicating how crowded their hospital was and how many people they were treating. In fact, they indicated that on occasion two patients had to be placed in one bed because of the lack of facilities.

A campaign was planned and then completed in a lightening series of meetings at Stanisics’ Hall. Here is what the newspaper had to report: “Saturday, January 10, 1920--There was a rousing meeting in Stanisics’ Hall last evening at the opening of the New Hospital Campaign. For some days about 300 people have been thinking and talking of the affair and last night all were there filled with enthusiasm. The main attraction was the opening dinner which Manager Olaf Gates had promised, and with plenty to eat, pretty waitresses in white and Prof. C. E. Nash to lead in the popular songs of the day, there was really a “hot time in the old town.” Now and then a cheer was heard and these outbursts increased the enthusiasm.”

The campaign was now in full force and money was collected by various teams from just about everybody in Vineland and surrounding areas. Then, the final meeting was held 10 days later. Again the newspaper report: “Tuesday, January 20, 1920—“The greatest day in Vineland’s history.” ...and every man and woman of the hundreds of workers jammed into Stanisics’ Hall last night will vouch for the statement. Every moment was crammed with action and enthusiasm, and it was topped off with as dramatic a scene as every thrilled Vinelanders.”

What the newspaper referred to was the dramatic way that Mr. Newton announced that he would donate 70,000 dollars for the hospital and an additional 30,000 dollars for an endowment fund. He first announced that he had induced a man by the name of Mr. Nicholas Ward Smith to make the donation, then with tongue in cheek announced that the translation of the name “Smith” from the Greek was really Leverett Newcomb. “There was no chance for any more. The house went wild again; it arose en masse and cheered till it was black in the face. Handkerchiefs waved and there was no stopping anything.”

Mr. Newcomb was as good as his word, and in addition went on to donate two city blocks of land upon which to build the hospital, paid for the landscaping, and left a considerable amount of additional money to keep the hospital going. The Vineland Hospital became the Newcomb Hospital.

Newcomb Hospital was opened to the public December 30, 1923. Ten thousand people came to inspect the new hospital. The first patient was accepted January 2, 1924.

In 1926 Leverett Newcomb died at the age of 87 while taking his daily walk in Ocean City. He was cremated, and his ashes were buried under a boulder from his home state of Connecticut beneath the beech tree which he had planted on the hospital grounds in honor of his good friend and first medical director of Newcomb Hospital, Dr. Hatch.

VINELAND AND THE HISTORY OF GLASS

By Jan Olivio

“Life is short, Art is long.”

I'd like to begin this article with the above quote by Hippocrates (469-377 BC), This quote exemplifies the longevity of Art . Double this thought with the durability of glass and you have *Art Glass*.

The glass industry has played a major role in the economic development of Vineland. In the late 1890's Victor Durand became the sole owner of the Vineland Flint Glass Works. As his Quezal designs evolved, they became Durand hallmarks, and assumed their own distinctive style. Some of his employees became famous such as Emil Larson, “Goat” Valle and Giacomelli. A man with foresight and ingenuity, Durand was the first to produce a thermos bottle in this country along with a variety of scientific glassware. He also became world famous for producing some of the first X-ray tubes. Yet it is primarily for his beautiful Art Glass that we remember Victor Durand!

Another well know glass person in Vineland, Evan Ewan Kimble started Kimble Glass Co., in Chicago in 1901. A merger in 1912 with Durand lasted only two years. This merger marked the beginning of the major Kimble operation in Vineland which is still present today. The Kimble Co. marked a milestone in 1918 when glass tubing was first drawn by machine in Vineland. Credit must be given to Edward Danner of the Libbey Glass Co for design of the equipment. A historic event occurred in 1932 when Kimble purchased two bulb-making machines from General Electric and converted them into automatic dropper-making equipment.

Owens Illinois acquired Kimble Glass in 1946. A number of former Kimble and Durand employees left the company to start other well known glass establishments, namely Kontes Glass. The Kontes brothers, Nontes and Jim still create glass today. Their talent in the making of paperweights added these two Vinelanders to Wheaton's Museum of American Glass, in Millville, N.J.

Continuing the tradition of historic glass in Vineland is our own Michaelangelo of Glass, the talented glass artist Joseph Luisi. Like Victor Durand he is a also a man of ingenuity making his own style of glass Art. Starting his career in glass at Ace glass, Luisi has 40 years of scientific glass-making experience. Joe began teaching his trade at Salem Community College some 20 years ago. Known as a leading teacher of scientific glass-making, students come from all over the world to learn from his extraordinary skills. Like Durand his trade is blended into his Art by producing original sculptures of celebrities made from blown glass. An example of Joe's work is on display at The Vineland Historical Museum on Seventh Street.

Let me end this very brief review of some of the interesting historical facts of glass in this area by saying that because “art is long” it has helped keep to keep alive the memory of some very talented men of Vineland through their creation of some very interesting and beautiful works of art.

DANDELION SALAD (RECIPE OF FORMER MAYOR FIORELLI!!)

INGREDIENTS:

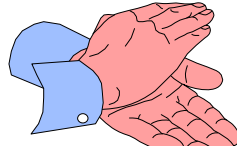
2 quarts of dandelions	1/2 medium sized onion minced very fine
1/2 teaspoon of salt, or to taste	1 clove of garlic, cut very fine
Olive oil	Vinegar

PREPARATION:

The dandelions should be obtained before they flower, as they become bitter after that. Wash well, allow to dry, then cut into bite sized pieces. Mix the above ingredients. Use the amount of oil necessary to make the salad glisten. The vinegar should be added carefully in small amounts, to taste. The above salad can be eaten with hard boiled eggs. They can be cut up and added to the salad.

A big dish of this salad, some good white Italian wine, and a slice of Italian bread can easily make a meal!

THANK YOU!!



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A dandelion ran away
 before Thanksgiving Day
 said, "Vineland will make a salad
 of me, if I should stay"



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Are you interested in being a part of next years' Founder's Day event?? Are you interested in history??? If you are, please contact Dr. Frank De Maio. We can use you for the big Historical Event celebrating Founder's Day and the year 2,000 to take place in May, 2,000!!!

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE (HOME) _____ (WORK) _____

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