

The President's Message

Dear Neighbor,

Events of the past several months have deeply affected us all. As we enter the holiday season, we at the FSA are trying to do our part in keeping our community's spirit strong and resilient in the face of very tragic events. On December 4th at 7:30 PM in the Fort Salonga School we will hold our annual meeting. It is at this time we nominate and seek your approval for next year's slate of volunteer board members. We also review FSA accomplishments and issues and seek your input.

At this year's meeting we have arranged for Monica Randall to join us for a special slide show based on her popular book, "The Gold Coast Mansions of Long Island." Having played among the ruins of many of these abandoned mansions as a child, Ms. Randall started photographing these grand buildings in her teenage years and became obsessed with their history, mysteries and legends. She has complemented her book with a unique slide show showing many of these long since bulldozed mansions in their heyday, complete with marble ballrooms, manicured gardens and long forgotten memories. Join us for an enjoyable evening as she shares stories of life in these very exclusive domains and some anecdotes of the often bizarre events that occurred in a time and place long since forgotten.

On December 16th we will be holding our annual holiday caroling at 4:30 PM. We are grateful to the Abiding Presence Lutheran Church on 25A and Sunken Meadow Road who has graciously offered us the use of their facilities. This is our final event of the year and is a great opportunity to come together as a community and share popular melodies of the holiday season. Once again, Santa will be on hand with goodies for the children and cookies and hot chocolate will be served.

As the year draws to a close, I want to personally thank those residents who support our efforts. Some of you volunteer your time for our annual activities and many provide support through contributing the annual \$10 membership dues. The mailing label on this newsletter indicates whether you are among this very special group of residents. If not, we invite you to add your name to the list of our supporters for 2001 using the enclosed application in this newsletter.

Frank Konop

VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE AT WWW.FORTSALONGA.ORG



**ANNUAL FORT SALONGA
MEETING
DEC. 4TH @ 7:30 PM
FORT SALONGA SCHOOL**

NEW LOCATION

**HOLIDAY CAROLING
DEC. 16TH @ 4:30 PM
ABIDING PRESENCE CHURCH
CORNER 25A & SUNKEN MEADOW RD.**



GROWING UP IN FORT SALONGA

In 1916 before my dad, Jim Connell, married my mom, he used to ride his horses from Flushing way out to Sunken Meadow Road on holidays. He stayed at 'Gus Kohr's Hotel' which is now the superintendent's home for the park at the intersection of Sunken Meadow Road and Kohr Road. When they married they lived in the house across the street which later became the state troopers barracks. Mom took her first born, Jim and Gerald and walked across the old wooden foot bridge which crossed the creek to reach the beach we all now know as Sunken Meadow State Park. May and Millie Kohr and their dear mother were mom's good friends and just about her only neighbors in those days.

It was in the fall of 1921 that baby Gerald died at 9 months of age. My dad had bought a Guernsey cow in hopes that its milk might be good for the baby but it was to no avail. I was born in January of 1922. Since I was the first girl, mom said this helped ease the pain of her loss. From that time on we lived back in Flushing but we always came back here to visit friends, the beautiful countryside and estates which were very much loved by my parents.

In 1928 the depression caused us to lose our home in Flushing so we moved to a new little summer cottage at the western end of Sunken Meadow Road. and Bread and Cheese Hollow Road and converted the house to year round status. The house nestled on three acres of fertile valley land with a large grove of locust trees on the front lawn. Some years later we lost the trees in one of our worst LI hurricanes. Times were hard then but we never went hungry, thanks to dad.

I remember too, one of our worst blizzards in the early 30's. We kids loved it! We had no school for several weeks. It was a long time before "Connie Dowling" and his crew reached us with the snowplow. They had to use poles to find our car, buried in a huge snowdrift down by Peter Johnson's house. My dad walked to Kings Park, pulling my brother's long sled to buy flour so mom could bake bread. We built a toboggan slide that began at Hanig's hill on down past their abandoned tennis court. It continued behind Francis and Jerry Smith's house and on to the road until we stopped where we met Bread and Cheese. At night we hung kerosene lanterns in the low bushes along the snow packed path so we could see if clouds hid the moon.

The snow later turned icy so we were really moving on our flexible flyers. The Edward' kids, Neal, Clem and Donald who lived up the road past Ketchum's Corner, and our friend Betty Olsen (who lived near where the Fort Salonga Elementary School now stands) would join us along with the two Earl boys from Old Bridge Rd. We usually sleighed on the big hill on their side of the road and called it "Edward's Hill". These were the only kids in our part of the valley back then. We played football in Bryant Ketchum's lower pasture when the snow finally melted. He was a bachelor farmer and we used to hang out at his barn (still there) and talk and water the cows. He used to roll his own cigarettes and we often heard him singing when he plowed the field next to our house. Bryant died tragically in the nineteen fifties. He had finally replaced his horse with a new tractor and while pulling down an apple tree the tractor overturned and crushed him.

We were blessed with truly good neighbors and a fun filled childhood in the Fort Salonga of our youth.

(This article was excerpte from a publication of the Kings Park Heritage Museum and we welcome any comments from our long term residents who may know some of the individuals mentioned.)

COMMUNITY INTERESTS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

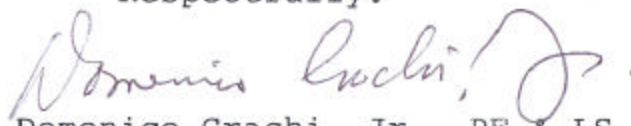
Dear Frank:

In connection with your article on Historic Homes in Fort Salonga, "The Dinella Home", may I share some facts. This beautiful property once belonged to my uncle Dr. Pasquale Briganti. My uncle bought 60 acres probably in 1910 divided by Old Bridge Road 5 acres on the westerly side and 55 acres on the easterly side (including Coach Hill lane in a subdivision prepared by me in the 1960ies).

My uncle and family lived in the existing older home on the easterly side of the road, while a new house was being constructed. This Italian style Villa was designed by his brother (my uncle) Domenico Briganti a registered Professional Engineer and Land Surveyor. Building completed circa 1916. My uncle Dr. Briganti lived there for while, however became very ill and returned to Italy hopefully for a cure. He rented the house to my father and also Mr. Dinella. Finally house and the 5 acres were sold to Mr. Dinella and the 55 acres to a Kennedy.

This history was related by my sister Imperia who is almost 100 years old and her mind is very clear on this subject. Thanks for allowing me to share this additional information on that property. My family wishes you all success in preserving this irreplaceable, beautiful and historical structure.

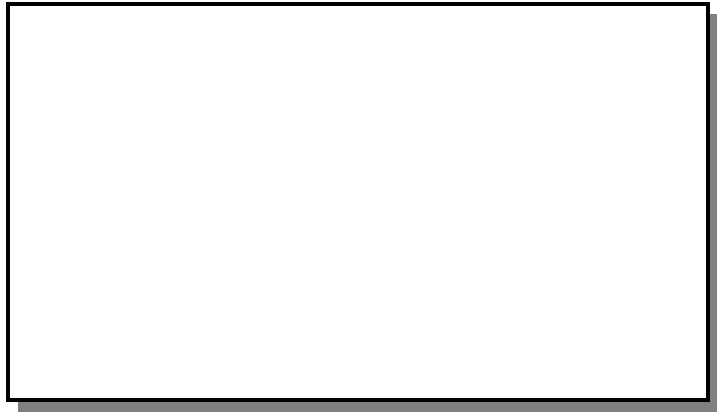
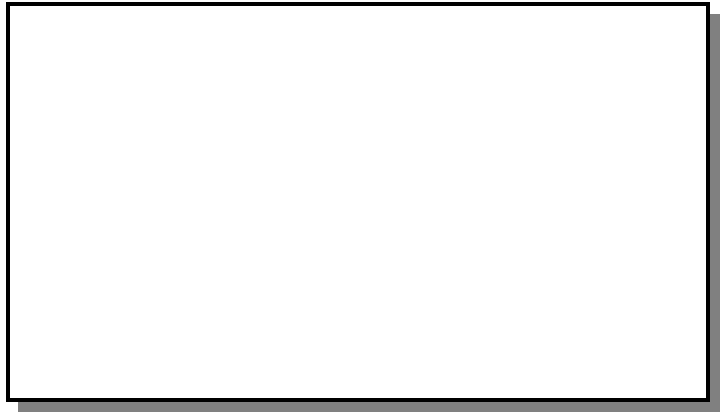
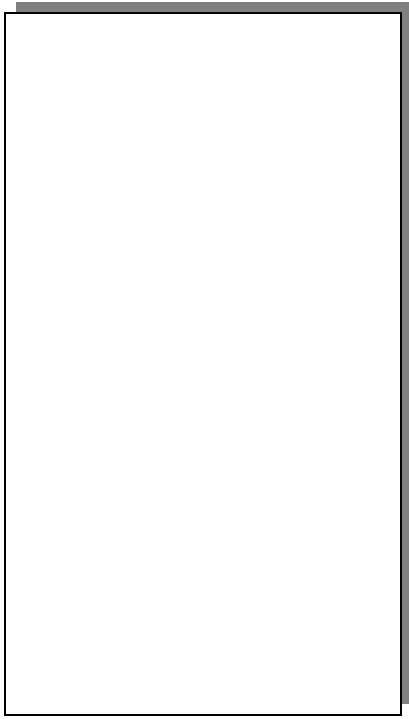
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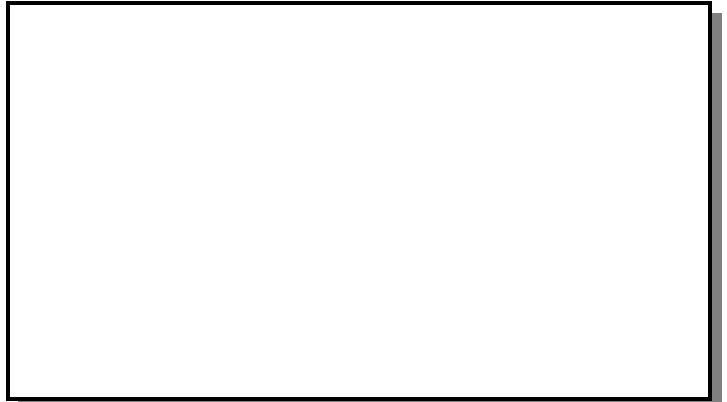
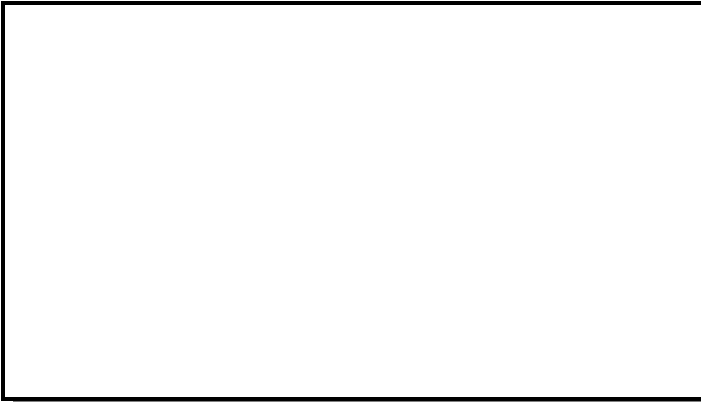


Domenico Crachi, Jr. PE & LS
Consulting Engineer & Land Surveyor

Thank you to all of the residents for taking the time to express your views and concerns about the community. Your pride in Fort Salonga benefits everyone. Thanks again and keep those letters coming.

*Fort Salonga Association
PO Box 247
Fort Salonga, NY 11768-0247
Attention: Board of Directors
Or e-mail us at:
fkonop@juno.com*





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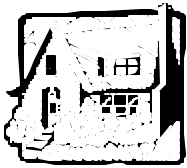
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HISTORIC HOMES OF FORT SALONGA

We are again featuring an historic section and would like to make this a regular feature. To do so we depend on our residents sharing their homes' stories with the community. Please contact Frank Konop on 261-8976 if you have a story to share with us.

MIDDLEVILLE MEMORIES

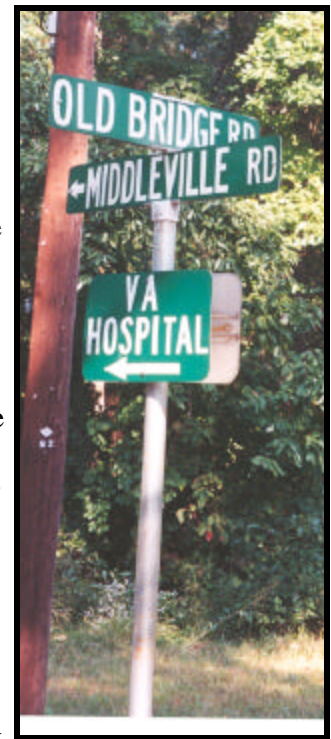
(Louis H. Amsler) In 1919 there were approximately seven homes on what is now Old Bridge Road (OBR), a dirt road representing an extension of the current Middleville Road. Lacking a name, it was called both Upper Middleville and Lower Middleville by area residents., In 1932, I and my sister circulated a petition to give the road official status with the town. We all decided to call it Old Bridge Road after the LIRR, trestle at the south-erly end, and the town approved our choice..

At 429 OBR (across from Gun Club Rd.) lived the Messinger family who opened and managed the first drug store in East Northport. Next door was Bud Trosts' house. Bud was a commercial artist who worked in NYC where he created colored movie posters for display in theater lobbies across the country. Using black and white film strips he filled in the color to create movie posters which were then sent to lithography for reproduction. Tom Mix, William S. Hart, Fatty Arbuckle and Charlie Chaplin were all famous personalities Bud brought to living color for movie fans everywhere. Bud also designed and built the stone entrance at 443 OBR.

Between 521 and 579 OBR was the Dinella property. A long time admirer of gas lamps but with no gas mains in the area, the owner created his own gas. Constructing an enclosed tank in the cellar, he mixed water and calcium carbide and piped the gas produced to lamps throughout his house. At 579 OBR Pietro Dinella had a 5 acre vineyard where he brought truckloads of grapes into Brooklyn and, during Prohibition in the 20's and 30's, became very prosperous. It was at the Dinella property at 549 OBR that Middleville Rd. actually connected into Old Bridge Road.

In 1919, next to Dinella resided "Count" Yon Riegesberg, so called because he owned a Packard j twin 6 twelve cylinder touring car and cantered through the neighborhood with his daughter Sara .1 on his riding horses, while the locals looked on in envy. His status was short-lived however. It 1 seems his brother in law, who was observed each day carrying a mysterious backpack to and from the post office, was a con artist. He advertised in various obscure farm journals throughout the country a fabulous deal, "one yard of silk at 25 cents per yard, your choice of color". The silk turned out to be thread, not material and the postal authorities closed him down.

At the junction of Middleville, Old Bridge and Bread and Cheese stands the old Bryant Ketchum farm. A self-sufficient farmer with one horse, several heifers, a few hogs and chickens, he raised vegetables for the local stores and allowed neighbors to pick corn in the field across from his house. He only got around to marrying when he was in his late 50's, marrying the Fullerton widow from Sunken Meadow Rd. In the mid fifties Bryant replaced his horse with a small tractor and was tragically killed while pulling down an apple tree with the tractor when the tree fell on him. Perhaps, had he kept the horse, he might still be with us today.





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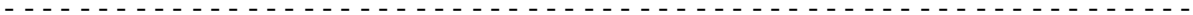
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Correct labels may not appear immediately as batches of labels are usually printed up to cover a few issues. Your patience is appreciated by the volunteers on your Fort Salonga Association.

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS / COMMENTS
OR
CONCERNS REGARDING A COMMUNITY ISSUE
PLEASE LET US KNOW YOUR FEELINGS.
WRITE OR CALL THE ASSOCIATION**



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I wish to join the Fort Salonga Association in preserving the quality of life in our community.
Enclosed is my check for \$10 for 2001 dues.

PLEASE GIVE US YOUR OPINION

Please mail to:
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Fort Salonga, NY 11768-0247

Name/Address correction

New resident

I wish to volunteer

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

2001

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

ANNUAL FORT SALONGA MEETING

**DEC. 4TH @ 7:30 PM
FORT SALONGA SCHOOL**

HOLIDAY CAROLING

**DEC. 16TH @ 4:30 PM
ABIDING PRESENCE CHURCH
CORNER 25A & SUNKEN
MEADOW RD.**

NEW LOCATION

2001 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT.....Frank Konop
VICE PRESIDENT.....Richard Costello
SECRETARY.....Lisa Marino
TREASURER.....Paul Naumann

This Newsletter was printed by Bill Roller,
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Tony Geraci	Fort Salonga Road
Paul Graf	Orchard Dr.
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Paul Naumann	Ridgewood Lane
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Phil Suriano	Fresh Pond Road
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SMITHTOWN AFFAIRS.....	Frank Konop	261-8976
HUNTINGTON AFFAIRS.....	Phil Suriano	261-2557
ENVIRONMENT.....	Paul Mandelik	754-2078

MEMBERSHIP

For membership information, contact Stelanie Poalillo at 261-2409

If you wish to advertise in the Newsletter, please call Frank Konop at 261-8976. The cost is \$40 per issue or \$125 in advance for four issues. Newsletters Printed: 2200



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