



Turkey Tracks

Newsletter of the New Providence Historical Society

Volume 51, No. 1

Issue #123

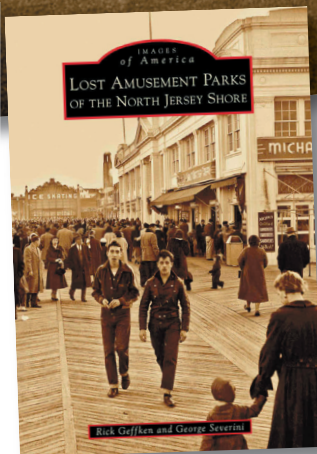
March 2019

Lost Amusement Parks of the Jersey Shore

At our Annual Dinner on April 25, 2019, Rick Geffken will speak on the “Lost Amusement Parks of the North Jersey Shore,” bringing together rarely seen images from the Library of Congress, local historical societies, and private collections to document how the Jersey Shore became the most famous vacation and recreational destination in the coastal United States.



This engaging talk and slide show capture a simpler way of life in our country, when families took their children to boardwalks to savor candy apples, salt water taffy, hot dogs and hamburgers, popcorn, and, of course, the rides.



President's Letter

We expect 2019 will be another strong year for the New Providence Historical Society.

For February, the Society sponsored a display in the New Providence Memorial Library display case, "20th Century Film Cameras," which include both roll and sheet film cameras, some nearly 100 years old. Other, more recent cameras may be more familiar to visitors.

On Thursday, April 25th, we will have our Annual Dinner at the Murray Hill Hotel & Suites with our speaker, author and historian Rick Geffken, who will speak on "Lost Amusement Parks of the North Jersey Shore."

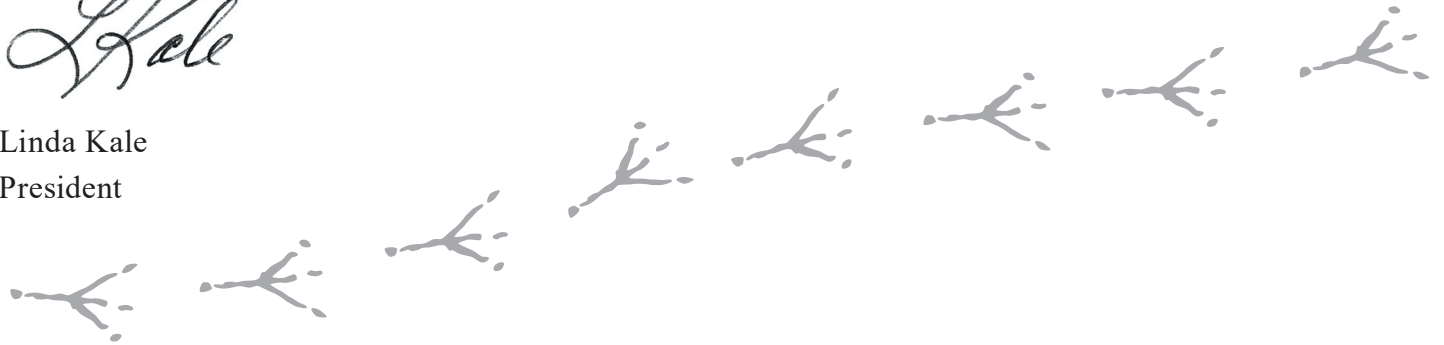
On Saturday, May 4th, we will again hold the Salt Box Craft Fair on the grounds of the Salt Box Museum. In addition to our treasure tables, we will have vendors and a bake sale. New Providence Garden Club will have their plant sale, as usual. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to stop by for some bargains and treasures. We also need items to sell and volunteers to sell them!

This spring we will also continue tours at the Salt Box Museum for students of New Providence. So far, our partnership with the school system has been very successful and quite gratifying.

There's always lots to do. However, with the 300th anniversary celebration of New Providence coming up next year, there's even more assistance needed. So if you're interested in being part of this historic celebration, please give us a call at 908-665-1034 or come to a trustee meeting, where future society activities are planned. There are a wide range of things to help with. Whatever your talents, we can use them. Get in on the fun!



Linda Kale
President



2019 Calendar for Upcoming Historical Society Events

March 3, 2019	Sunday	Open House at the Salt Box Museum
April 7, 2019	Sunday	Open House at the Salt Box Museum
April 25, 2019	Thursday	Annual Meeting & Dinner
May 4, 2019	Saturday	Salt Box Craft Fair, 9 AM - 3 PM (Raindate: May 11)
June 2, 2019	Sunday	Open House at the Salt Box Museum
July 7, 2019	Sunday	Open House at the Salt Box Museum
September 22, 2019	Sunday	New Providence Book Festival on the Museum grounds

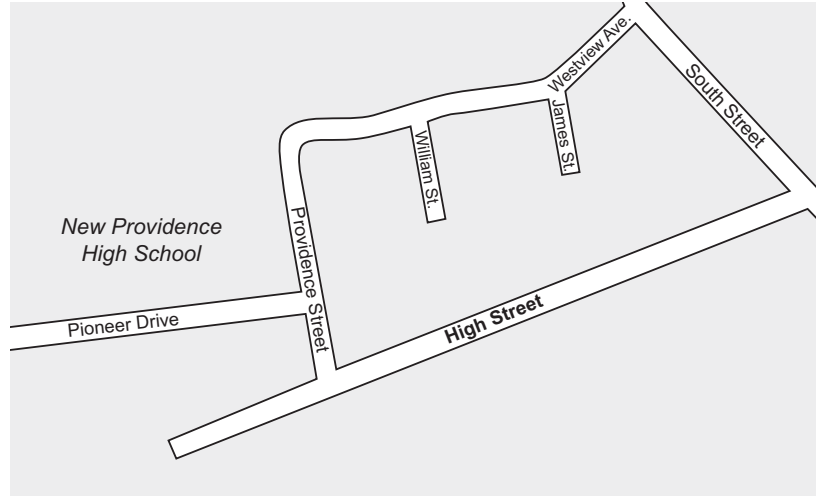
Other events, such as open houses will be added, so check our calendar at www.newprovidencehistorical.com.

The Streets of New Providence

What's in a name? Particularly a street name?
The answer is local history!

High Street, a rather innocuous street name, is actually named for the first police chief of New Providence, Henry "Harry" C. High. At first, he was the only member of the New Providence Police Force, a chief without a department. But over the 23 years in which he served, the department grew. A native of New Providence, High died in 1953. The street was named after him on Memorial Day in 1960.

The next issue will have more street stories.



Help Restore a Beloved Artifact

The Genung Wagon (circa 1820) is the oldest remaining piece of farm equipment from agricultural New Providence. Used to transport animals, crops and other goods, the wagon worked the farm where the Acme parking lot is now. This wagon also appeared in the bicentennial parade in 1976. But age has taken its toll.

The wagon is currently in desperate condition and needs urgent repair, including the wheels and bed boards. Help us rebuild this historic artifact to working order. Please contribute to our GoFundMe campaign to restore the Genung Wagon to working order at:
<https://www.gofundme.com/RestoreTheGenungWagon>



Donations may also be mailed to:

New Providence Historical Society
c/o New Providence Memorial Library
377 Ekwood Avenue
New Providence, NJ 07974

Please mark it "Attention: Wagon Fund"



Glimpse of a Bygone Medium

Film photography has passed into history for the most part. Photo-sensitive silver halides imbedded in gelatin emulsions have been replaced by electronic sensors, digitally generating pixels. However, the era of film cameras must be respected for its ingenuity, both mechanic and chemical. Some examples of these ingenious cameras were on display during February at the New Providence Memorial Library.

The exhibit included a century-old sheet film camera, a Kodak Brownie, a commercial Hasselblad, similar to the camera used by the astronauts on the moon, a Polaroid One-Step, as well as other vintage cameras. Special thanks to J.R. Bale for loaning us items from his collection.



Member & Resident Notes:

Please welcome new Society members, **Conrad (Buddy) & Marsha Shad**.

Earle Robert Pearson (97) passed away on January 20, 2019. His wife, **Diantha Pearson** (91) passed away on February 9, 2019. Earle managed the Society's Annual Dinner for many years. Diantha was a Registered Nurse at Overlook, active in Swedish-American group and a member of the Lutheran congregation in New Providence. In recent years, both were residents of Fellowship Village in Basking Ridge, NJ.

Jane Weltmer (85) passed away on December 12, 2018. She was a long-time resident of New Providence. Jane was predeceased by her devoted husband, William Reber Weltmer Jr. (2004)

Patricia Lachenauer (87) passed away on February 19, 2019. She taught English in New Providence schools for 35 years. She was predeceased in 2006 by her husband Robert Lachenauer, the long-time School Superintendent.

The Changing Face of New Providence

Untied Brewing Company, a craft brewery and tasting room, opened at 140 Spring Street, Unit C, in late January. The brewery is owned by New Providence locals husband and wife Matt and Kim Green and cousin Mark Russo.

Unwind Yoga & Wellness opened late Sept. 2018 at 1280 Springfield Avenue, located , 2nd floor.

Anew Things of Beauty Supply & Salon has leased a portion of 1312 Springfield Avenue (previously leased by N.P. Presbyterian Church for their youth ministry activities), in Fall 2018. This old building originally stood behind the Presbyterian Church and was moved to this site.

Sun Nail Salon at 1308 Springfield Avenue has closed. This was the location of the original fire department in 1906.

Dim Sum Villa (formerly Chen's) at 1260 Springfield Avenue closed, late 2018, and N.P. resident and Society member Don Burkitt is the new owner of the future **Harlee's Tap & Grill**, complete with a liquor license.

Four townhouse units are being built at 125 South Street, after the two-family home on the site was demolished. This lot is between Our Lady of Peace Church and Westerly Avenue.

The house at 62 Livingston Avenue was demolished at the end of December 2018.

The house at 11 Clinton Avenue was demolished in mid-January 2019.

Salt Box Craft Fair - Saturday, May 4th

The Salt Box Craft Fair is scheduled for May 4th from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. with May 11th as the rain date. Proceeds from the fair support the Society's scholarship program and maintenance of the museum. Any vendors interested in renting space at \$25 per eight-foot space should call 908-665-1034. (Vendors are responsible for supplying their own table and chairs.)

Donations: Please call 908-665-1034 to arrange for a drop off time for any items to be donated for our Society's "Treasure Tables." We would appreciate having these items by April 25th, so they can be priced in time for the sale. Once again, we need and request your support.

Members, please mark your calendar for baking, pricing, selling, set-up, clean-up and hosting at the Salt Box Museum.

Proposed Trustees - Class of 2019: Linda Kale, Carol Smith, J.R. Bale

Membership Renewal Application

Our annual dues run from April 1st to March 31st, our fiscal year. Please fill in the requested information and mail your check to Margaret Maurer's attention at the Memorial Library address, New Providence Historical Society, 377 Elkwood Avenue, New Providence, NJ 07974. This will enable us to keep our membership and mailing lists current. Lifetime Members, please submit any change in address, phone, email, etc., using this form. Be sure to include your preference for Mr., Mrs., Ms., or Mr. & Mrs. Membership dues provide the main income to support Society mission and activities, we rely on your renewal.

Name _____ Date _____ Email _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Annual Memberships (Many corporations will match contributions.)

Individual \$15.00 _____ Family \$25.00 _____ Business Sponsorship \$25.00 _____

I will volunteer to help:

Computer _____ Research _____ Museum _____ Salt Box Craft Fair _____ Writing _____

Clerical _____ Grounds _____ Restoration _____ House Tours _____

Reservations for Annual Dinner

Murray Hill Hotel & Suites

April 25, 2019, Hors d'oeuvre at 6 PM, Dinner at 7 PM, Cash Bar.

Number of reservations: _____ @ **\$38.00** for NP Historical Society Annual Dinner

Amount of Check \$ _____. Please make check payable to **NP Historical Society**. Reservations must be received by **April 20th**. Checks for dinner and membership may be combined. Send checks to the Mason Room, New Providence Memorial Library, 377 Elkwood Avenue, New Providence, NJ 07974, c/o Margaret Maurer.

New Providence Historical Society Officers & Committees

President	Linda Kale
Vice President	Rick Anderson
Corresponding Secretary	Carol Smith
Recording Secretaries	Kerry Lee
	Sara Jane Vignali
Treasurer	Gail Souren
Displays	Barbara Pape
Grounds & Property	Rick Anderson
Annual Dinner Coordinator	Kerry Lee
Membership	Margaret Maurer
<i>Turkey Tracks</i> & Website	J.R. Bale
Computer Archivist	Colin duSaire

Trustees

Rick Anderson, Patrick Anelli, J.R. Bale,
Linda Kale, Margaret Maurer, Barbara Pape,
Gail Souren, Carol Smith, Sara Jane Vignali



Museum Hours

March to November
First Sunday of each month
1 - 3 PM
Or by appointment
Telephone: 908-665-1034

Mason Room Hours

Tuesday Mornings
10 AM to Noon
Telephone: 908-665-1034

Website:

newprovidencehistorical.com

Turkey Tracks is also
available on the website
in PDF form.

Facebook Page:

facebook.com/NewProvidenceHistoricalSociety



New Providence Historical Society
Memorial Library
377 Elkwood Avenue
New Providence, New Jersey 07974