

Sometimes old houses yield surprises - old bottles in the cellar, lumps of long forgotten coal in the yard, dusty bits and pieces of family history in the attic. One of the most interesting finds is an old newspaper. It's a time capsule of a particular day in history. One such example was found by the owner of 43 Elm Street and graciously shared it with us.

All About Nassau

People, Buildings and Memories

BY KURT VINCENT

HIDDEN TREASURES

The Nassau Town News

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NASSAU, N. Y., FRIDAY, MAY 3, 1929

Price 5c a Copy, \$

NASSAU

Traffic lights are again operating in Nassau.

Junior Andrews is riding a new bicycle the gift of his parents in honor of his seventh birthday.

Mr. and Mrs. Almon Smith entertained Mr. Smith's parents from Albany recently.

Mrs. Austin Ackroyd spent a few days last week with her daughter Mrs. Lewis Woodward.



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PHONE NASSAU 43-F-2

Mrs. James Sayre has rented her bungalow to parties from Green Island.

Mr. Beckman and family of Albany moved to the Bott apartment on Elm street May 1st.

Mrs. Clarence Whitman of North Chatham was a recent guest of Mrs. Alice Hermance.

Mr. and Mrs. Rapp of North Chatham were in town recently looking at property.

Mrs. Frank Currier has been quite ill with attack of grip.

William Bott has a new garage.

The girl scouts food sale last Saturday was a success.

Mrs. Cora Roshirt is spending a few days at her home here.

Billie Reinwald entertained several of his young friends last week in honor of his seventh birthday.

Mrs. Truman Smith spent Tuesday at the Memorial Hospital visiting her grand daughter, Mrs. Craig Ballagh.

Mr. and Mrs. Boucher have moved from Mrs. Renos house to George Earling's home on Church street.

Phyllis Roshirt entertained a few of her little friends in honor of her birthday.

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Hanson of Hudson are moving into James Cowan house on Chatham street.

Mrs. Ella Smith has purchased the house on Elm street owned by the late Sarah Finlay.

Mrs. Bushnell and family moved to their newly purchased home on Albany avenue.

Miss Joyce Hill is enjoying a new bicycle, a birthday present from her parents.

Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Allendorph moved Wednesday to the Belknap apartment on Malden Avenue.

Orrie Harris visited his uncles, James and David Harris of North Nassau, Tuesday.

Mary J. Thomson spent the week end with her sister Mrs. E. R. Clark of Schodack Center.

Friday, May 3, 1929 was a pleasantly warm day in Nassau, a few degrees down from the mid-70's earlier in the week with just a touch of rain after a dry spell. When Harry Byer picked up his copy of The Nassau Town News newspaper we can only guess if he read through it quickly before leaving for his job at the foundry just scanning the main stories or spent a leisurely afternoon sitting out in his Elm Street backyard over the weekend with the local news. One thing is sure, when Mr. Byer decided to use his newspaper and several others as a little added padding under the new linoleum floor, he probably didn't think we'd be looking at it 85 years later.

What was found a few weeks ago by the present home-owners is a slice of little-known Nassau history. Thought to be the only newspaper said to be published in Nassau, the weekly had a relatively short life ending with the Crash of 1929. The New York State Library has records of the paper's existence from November 1928 through early December 1929, so our May 1929 copy may be one of the few in existence.

DELIVERY

The Nassau Town News

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Ads from the Nassau Town News as they appeared in the 1929 news- paper. By the end of the year the stock market would crash and economic de- pression would change many lives forever.

Like newspapers of today, the popularity (and sales) of small town editions depended largely on the public's taste for gossip, with perhaps a little crime, scandal or scintillation thrown in for good measure. News of Nassau and many of the surrounding hamlets and villages was already reported by the Chatham Courier, Troy Times and occasion- ally an Albany paper if the story was big enough. But May of 1929 must have been a slow news week because we only learn: the traffic lights are operating again; Junior Andrews received a new bike for his 7th birthday; Mrs. Frank Cur- rier was quite ill with the grip and the Girl Scout food sale was a success. There was news of the far-flung travels by Nassau folks including those who journeyed to North Nas- sau and Schodack Center. And property transfers included: the Beckman family of Albany moved into the Bott apart- ment on Elm Street, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Hanson of Hudson moved into the James Cowan house on Chatham Street and Mrs. Bushnell and family moved into their newly purchased house on Albany Avenue.

While the name of the paper was "The Nassau Town News," other than these gems buried deep in the paper, all of the front page headlines were of news from elsewhere in Rensselaer County: "Mystery Truck is Wrecked on Averill Pk. Road", "\$17,000 Ice House Fire at Schodack Ldg. Men- aces Town", and "Well Known Civil War Veteran of Rens. County is Dead at 86."

The explanation of this not-so-Nassau news is probably because while the paper claimed to be published in Nas- sau, it was actually put together by the Rensselaer News- paper Corporation located on Broadway in Rensselaer. At about the same time a local paper also appeared in Castle- ton, produced by the same firm. In May of 1929 the paper's publisher Isadore Warshaw would have been a 28 year old Albany boy with ink in his veins - his father was also a pub- lisher and his brother a printer. Credited with creating the phrase "Capital District" to describe the region, Mr. War- shaw was an active community booster and served on many improvement committees both for Rensselaer City and the county at large. Unfortunately at the time he was advocating the Capital District moniker, business leaders in Troy were vehemently opposed to any geographic reference that gave Albany preference over Troy and the term was not readily adopted until after World War II.

As for Mr. Byer, the following year in 1930 he would end 25 years of employment at the piano factory when it closed. He and his wife Lottie and son Milton continued to live in the Elm Street house for many years. He passed away in 1949 and is buried in Nassau-Schodack Cemetary on Chatham Street.

If you would like to share your Nassau stories and/or pictures contact us at info@nassau12123.com. We would love to include your material in a future edition.