

# NNHS NEWS LETTER

Northville Northampton Historical Society

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Editor  
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## LOCAL FAMILY'S CONNECTION TO THE CIRCUS WORLD

James, son Pearl, and grandson Kenneth "Peck" Van Every

Pearl was born in 1873, the son of James and Armina Van Every. James' family moved from Rensselaer, NY to Edinburg where James met his wife to be. In 1880 James and his family were living in Wells, NY. Kenneth, son of Pearl, was born 1908, died 1981. Kenneth had 2 daughters; Janice and Joan.

### MUSEUM

We will continue to accept donations of pictures, artifacts, documents of local historic value, throughout the winter months. Call 518 863 2628 or drop them off at the historian's office at the municipal building on South Main Street.

Forty Years Successful Business

Established in 1896 by Pearl Van

Reference: The Northville Bank

KENNETH VAN

HEADQUARTERS FOR

TENT POLES, STAKES & CIRCUS SEATS

BEST GOODS FOR LESS MONEY

BUY WHERE THEY GROW

NORTHVILLE, N. Y.

### VAN THE TENT STAKE MAN

In a Circus newsletter it was written that; Ken "Peck" Van Every was widely known among circus management people as a supplier of stakes and tent poles. He played trombone with the Lucky Strike Band of Carolina and with other circus bands around the country.

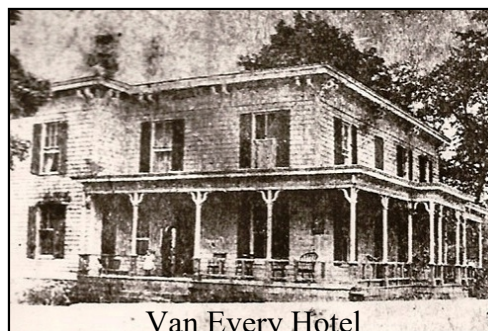
Ken assumed the business upon the death of his father, Pearl, in 1928. His grandfather, James Van Every, began the tent poles, stakes and circus seats business, in the year 1896.

After cutting of the trees, the logs were delivered to the Van Every property on north third street where they were prepared for circus tents.

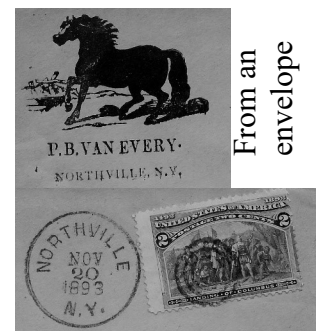
According to the circus newsletter, Ken always attended the opening of various circuses in Florida

### VAN EVERY HOTEL

The Eglin hotel was built in 1852 and was owned by the Eglin family. It bordered the Van Every property on the corner of Reed and Third Street. James Van Every bought it and in the 1900 census it's recorded that James and Pearl were Hotel Keepers. It wasn't long before running a hotel and running the business of tent poles that it became too much to run both businesses. The hotel was sold to Asa D. Roberts. The hotel burned in 1912. The Red Men organization built on the property. It was used for their meeting hall and became a dance hall for the young people in town and meeting place for the Boy Scouts. The building is now a private home.

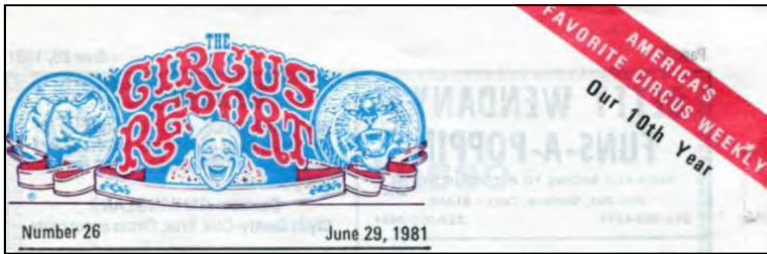


Van Every Hotel



From an envelope





The Circus Weekly newsletter that contained Ken's Obituary



Examples of the tent poles and stakes that the Van Every's made and sold to circuses all over the U. S. The tent pole-trees were cut by local lumbermen. Larry Cramer remembers his father cutting and delivering the hop-hornbeam also called ironwood logs to the Van Every's on Third street.



## October issue

An article in the October issue stated that the parade was in 1947. I have been informed that it took place in 1949. One of the majorettes that used a broom in the parade wrote to the editor about the memories it brought back to her.

Several others wrote that the names in the parade article also brought back memories of those people.

The October issue also had an article about Corbett Villa. A Corbett cottage in Sacandaga Park was also mentioned. Since the article was written, I have located a picture of Corbett Cottage that was in Sacandaga Park



**NORTHVILLE**  
*"The Friendly Village"*  
**On The Air**  
**WENT**  
 1340 ON YOUR DIAL  
**TONIGHT 8 o'Clock**  
**PALS OF THE SADDLE**  
 Your Favorite Western Music  
**SPORTS NIGHT**  
**FRANK CHEQUER**  
 Dean of Sport Fans  
**EVERY THURSDAY 8 -- 8:30 P. M.**

October 1946



A MEMORY OF THE DAY  
“High Rock Burned” by John Ferguson

It was a sunny early afternoon in August of 1951, when the fire siren went off and all available equipment and manpower was rushed to High Rock to fight an already roaring inferno at the half-century old grand hotel. My father and I watched from State Road 30 where it passed through the golf course at Sacandaga park as the blaze engulfed the structure.

Late in the day when the flames were out, I made my way from Northville to Sacandaga Park and on up the dirt road to the site of the still smoldering conflagration. There was much auto traffic on that dirt road carrying curiosity seekers making it necessary for me to push my bike up the sandy soft shoulder. The scene we found was a completely destroyed lodge with furniture and all manner of chattel strung about obviously as a result of an effort to salvage anything portable. After surveying the scene, I walked my bike down the concrete steps past the boulder, “High Rock”, and onto McKinley Avenue and proceeded to ride to the Rustic Theater where the movie “*Showboat*” was playing.

The movie was a musical featuring Howard Keel, Kathryn Grayson, Joe E Brown and Ava Gardner. I remember clearly the part where Captain Hawks at years end proclaimed “Happy New Year” over and over in an inebriated state and Ava Gardner singing a song, the name of which I don’t remember. I just remember that the song was not “old Man River”. All and all, quite an eventful day for a lad of eight years old.



It was a beautiful majestic hotel in the Adirondacks, located at the top of a mountain that overlooked the Sacandaga Valley. Thousands had stayed there, including many well known actors and actresses. . High Rock also provided jobs for local Northvillians. The fire was a terrible loss to the community.



# Yesterdays

## SEVEN HILLS ROAD

By Carleton V. Nellis

The sources for names for most of the streets of Northville are obvious; but there are a few exceptions.

In the late 1920's, when the work of clearing the land which was to be covered by the waters of the Sacandaga Reservoir, was being rushed; many of the plots of land purchased by the Hudson River Regulating District included houses and barns. The H. R. R. D. offered the buildings at a nominal price, with the stipulation that they be removed within a set time period.

Several businessmen took advantage of the opportunities, and several homes and other buildings were moved to higher ground. One of the businessmen was Joseph Farone, who obtained a large house in Parkville, and moved it to South Second Street, where it is now a home. He also obtained several smaller buildings, and moved them to a camp he was building on the east side of the reservoir below Northville. Because the camp is located on a plot of land with seven knolls, and as a memorial to the City of Rome, Italy, he named his camp "Seven Hills."

This camp was one of the first of many camps erected in this area; and it soon became evident that

an access road for these camps would be needed, as the former Northville-Osborn Bridge was covered by the waters of the Sacandaga Reservoir.

And thus a road was built by the H.R.R.D., in co-operation with the Town of Northampton, to serve camps. Because the "Seven Hills" camp was the first to use the road, it was named the "Seven Hills Road."

Incidentally, while constructing the road, a large vein of water was unearthed. The water was piped to a convenient spot along the road, and has become the very popular Seven Hills Spring.

The newspaper article, on the left, was one of a series that Carlton Nellis wrote for the Gloversville newspaper.

Carlton was a local resident that I believe lived in Northville all his life. He was very active in community service and had a wealth of knowledge of local historical. He was the founder of the Civic Association



This article about Seven Hills Road will clarify many questions of how it was named. As you know there are many hills on that road so it was believed by most locals that there were 7 hills on the road. (Not so)

Carlton mentions Joseph Farone. The house he had moved from Parkville is the home of the Dodge Family on south second street.

### "SEVEN HILLS ESTATE"

Situated on a High Elevation Overlooking a 30-mile Lake  
Six Rooms and Bath; Large enclosed Porch; Log burning Fire Place  
Spacious Attic; 2-Car Garage  
Mountain Spring Water; 70 ft. Pergola-Belvedere  
Acreage, Tillable and Wooded  
1500 Ft. Water Front; Fishing, Swiming, Boating

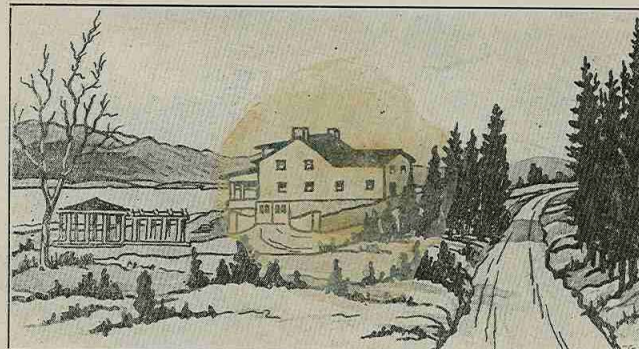
A. K. FARAONE, Owner  
NORTHVILLE, N. Y., (Adirondacks)

New York Address:  
76 GOLD ST., Phone BEekman 3-3562

### ADIRONDACK MOUNTAINS (Northville, N.Y.)

UNSURPASSED VIEW  
1500 ft. Water front - Fishing - Bathing - Boating  
1 Mile from Village; Stores, Churches, etc.

FOR  
SALE



FOR  
RENT

"SEVEN HILLS" NEWLY BUILT