

# NNHS NEWS LETTER

Northville Northampton Historical Society

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Editor  
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## THE HEESWIJK

Pronounced 'Hayswick' ([Dutch] Hees household)



The summer home of J. Ledlie Hees Built in 1899 as a summer cottage, later a large addition was added. Located in the Sacandaga Park.

J. Ledlie Hees was the President of the F. J. & G Rail Road 1897-1933. He built his summer home in the Sacandaga Park where he often rode the train from Gloversville and exited the train right in front of his summer home, the Heeswijk.

The first structure was a modest summer Dutch Colonial. In 1909, Mr. Hees added a huge addition at a cost of \$200,000.00. The inside paneling and woodwork were made of walnut, ebony and mahogany which were imported from the Netherlands and special stained-glass windows with Hees' initials on them and imported from Italy.

The foyer was 22' by 12'. There were 9 bedrooms and private baths on the second floor and 3 bedrooms downstairs for the chauffeurs and the butler. There was a large kitchen, library, dining room with a semi-circular piazza.

He decorated the living room with hand painted murals of windmills, and Dutch canals in keeping with his Dutch heritage. Pres. Warren Harding stayed in the mansion one night in the early 1920s as the house guest of the Hees family.

Mr. Hees was born in Palatine Bridge, Montgomery County in 1862, He died in 1940 of a heart



attack at his summer home in Sacandaga Park. He was a banker, railroader, pioneer in electric lighting and power development, a most ambitious and successful business man. He was married first to Adela Moore, they adopted a daughter. After Adela died he married Patricia Miller in 1919. His daughter, became Mrs. Jesse Macon.

## MORE ABOUT J LEDLIE HEES

Mr. Hees was a staunch Republican. During the period from 1894 and 1899 when his brother-in-law A. B. Colvin, of Glens Falls was the incumbent in his position as State Treasurer, Mr. Hees was elected delegate to the National Republican convention from the 30th Congressional District of New York. In 1912 and for several years was state committeeman for Montgomery County.



### HEESWYJK SOLD

1943 an auction was held to sell J. Ledlie's Heeswyjk. Ledlie had died in 1940. The bidding started at \$3,500. The final bid went to Earl W. Hathaway at \$8,001. A newspaper article stated that the sale comprised a 20 room two-story residence which has 9 bedrooms, eight bathrooms, two barns, a four car garage, playhouse, servants quarter, a laundry, ice house and other out-buildings.

B. William DeLia bought Heeswyjk to house actors and actresses that performed in the Sacandaga Summer Theater. Among them were Charlton Heston and Tallulah Bankhead. Frank Izzo ran a restaurant there for about a year.

The Sacandaga Summer Theater was founded in 1955, to bring back a theater to replace the former rustic theater. It was a community owned project. James Reutling; president, Dr. Clem Gritsavage; vice-president, Hugh Smith; Secretary and Dave Corwin Treasurer. The "First Nighters Club", composed of stock owners, met at Heeswyjk Mansion before each opening night's performance, where they had the opportunity to meet members of the company, actresses and actors.

## ***"First Nighter's Club Inc."***

### ***(Club House (Heeswyck))***

***For members only  
Admission by Membership Card***



The Frank Langr Family and guests at one of the First Nighter's Gala Parties. Back row: Pauline Langr, Paula Langr, Toni Langr and Mary Ann "Cookie" Langr. Front row: Harley Close, Harold Cramer, Frank Langr,.

John P. Ryan and his wife, Marguerite purchased Heeswyjk from Delia in 1963. The Ryans did a lot of renovating of the building with plans for a ski lodge.

### FIRE DESTROYS HEESWYJK LODGE

March 1964

Freezing rain, sleet and snow hampered the fireman at the one-time showplace, stated a local newspaper. About 75 firemen battled the fire from 12:20 a.m. until 6 a.m. It was a total loss.



## **POLAR BEAR SEEN IN NORTHVILLE**

It's true, I saw it myself.

Ok to be honest he is here for sure, but you'll have to go to the Bradt Museum on south Main Street to see it in the municipal building.

If you've never been to the Bradt museum you are missing out on a special treat. Mr. Paul Bradt was quite an adventurer and hunter. Displayed in this museum are many "trophies" that he collected in his many hunting expeditions. The museum is open when the town offices are open.



Length 10 1/2 feet Weight 1500 lbs.  
Age about 18

Don't forget that you can find back issues of the NNHS newsletter at the Town of Northampton and the Northville Public Library websites

## **REMEMBERING AND HONORING A GREAT TEACHER**

*Mrs. Sybil Harris Remonda  
Third Grade Teacher  
N.C.S*



Plaque honoring Mrs. Sybil Remonda is revealed by Supervising Principal Robert E. Eschler at a ceremony at Northville Central School, as she and husband, Leonard, look on. September 24, 1974


The inscription on the plaque reads, "Presented to Sybil Harris Remonda Sept 20, 1974 by the Board of Education of the Northville Central School, on behalf of her students and colleagues past and present, in recognition of her dedication and service to the profession and community during the past forty-five years."

Mrs. Remonda was one of our local folks who grew up in Northville and taught school in her hometown for 45 years. She not only knew her students but all her student's parents. (She was my third grade teacher (editor). I remember that she had a fishing game on a table as you walked into her class room. It was a privilege to play it. I think she was the only teacher who provided a game for her students.



# REMINISCING

**NORTHAMPTON NEEDS**  
**"ZEKE"**  
**WEAVER**  
For  
**Supervisor**



*"Zeke"*

**Carl Reece and Ward Smith**  
For Council

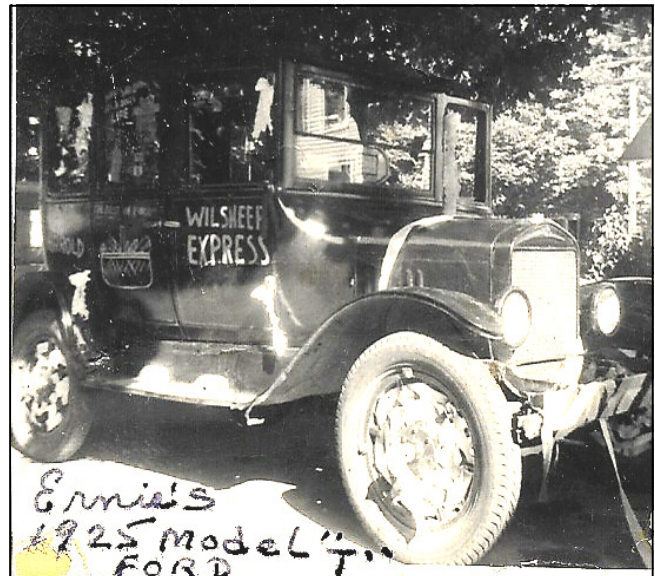
**Elwood Ginter - Larry Wilson**  
For Town Justices

**Lee Davis—Highway Superintendent**

**Robert Brooks—Town Clerk**

**Homer Dodge and Loren Bentley**  
Tax Assessors

**WHEN THEY WIN—WE ALL WIN!**  
**Vote Row B Nov. 6th**



"Wilsheer Express" Is this Wilsheer's groceries?

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**PANCAKE SUPPER**

AUSPICES

Northville Presbyterian Church

**WEDNESDAY, NOV. 6th, 1935**

5 to 8 P.M.

Tickets Fifty Cents

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