

Port Washington Public Library Oral History Collection

PORT WASHINGTON HISTORY

**Bergman, George** (1897 - 1999). Owner of tool and machine company; former Mayor of Sands Point.

Owner of Blair Tool and Machine Corp., College Point (N.Y.) for 67 years; clients in early aircraft industry: Grumman, Sikorsky, Fairchild; aircraft industry on Manhasset Isle. Reminiscences of Sands Point from 1941 on: Bath and Tennis Club; fishing, horseback riding, polo; tenure as mayor during lawsuit of Community Synagogue against Village of Sands Point.

*51 pages, with 5 pages of newspaper reprints. Open. Interviewer - David Keegan. 1992.*

**Floherty, Jack** (1882 -1964). Author, first President of Baxter Estates. *With Floherty, Margaret.*

First impressions of Port Washington as a young man: the Anchorage, Baxter Farm, fishermen's cottages; move to Baxter Estates, designing and building his house; the Harmonic Society's production of *Pinafore*; famous Port Washington residents; character of the community; mosquito infestation, malaria epidemic; starting the first Boy Scout troop; the "Home Guard" during World War I; establishment of "Blessing of the Fleet;" founding of Manhasset Bay Sportsmen's Club; fishing legislation; commuting to New York City with local celebrities; local peace-keeping; comments while viewing photographs.

Interview courtesy of Cow Neck Peninsula Historical Society.

*31 pages. Open. Interviewer - James Salerno. 1964.*

**Fraser, Peter** (1925 - ).

*Interviewer – Dick Whittemore. 1990.*

**Heebink, Dr. William** (19 - ). Superintendent, Port Washington School District.

Educational background, employment history; typical day; accomplishments; political aspects of position; Board of Education; parental involvement; demographic changes; educational programs; changes in students, staff, technology; State mandates; financial position of district; grants; controversies regarding buildings; future of district; personal future.

*31 pages. Open. Interviewer - Dr. George Williams. 1994.*

**Hewitt, Bill** ( - ). Chief, Port Washington Fire Department.

History of the Port Washington Fire Department: Atlantic Hook and Ladder Company, 1881; Protection Engine Company, 1892; Flower Hill Hose Company, 1905; Nassau Hose Company, 1907; horse/hand-drawn wagons; evolution of motorized fire trucks; organization into department, 1907; donation of fire alarm, 1922; purchase of first ambulance, 1928; expansion and modernization;

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offices held; large fires; firemen's training; other careers; role of women in the department; volunteer vs. paid department; cooperation with Police Department; fire inspections; fire drills; changes in uniform; waiting list; dues; annual celebrations.

Interview courtesy of Cow Neck Peninsula Historical Society.

*20 pages. Open. Interviewer - James Salerno. 1965*

**Hults, R. Burchard** (1877 - ). Long-time Port resident.

Ancestry, poem about interrelationship of old-time Port families; sandmining industry in Port; Lewis family; farms, beaches; early schools; oyster shell roads; civic responsibilities: postmaster, caretaker of roads; post office, bank; town dock, ferry; cemeteries; glass plate negatives; gristmills; founding of Port Washington Yacht Club, 1905; move of post office; arrival of railroad, 1898; sorting oysters; wine-making; first automobile dealer, horse trade; early Ford cars; political scandal.

Interview courtesy of Cow Neck Peninsula Historical Society.

*35 pages. Open. Interviewer - James Salerno. 1964.*

**Jones, Judge Arthur** (1882 - ). Judge.

Mother's (Eleanor Weeks) family history, emigration from Scotland, 1694; father's family's emigration from Wales, c.1812; introduction to politics, 1915; dual career as judge and musician; amusing anecdotes; childhood in Port Washington, father's oyster business; early career as marine engineer; local involvement in music; Mineola Fair; sandmining industry; early homes, businesses; trolley; development of town; cemeteries; roads; performance of *The Pinafore*.

Interview courtesy of Cow Neck Peninsula Historical Society.

*27 pages. Open. Interviewer - James Salerno. 1965.*

**Levine, Judge Manuel** (1898 -1986). Judge.

Family background; education; early legal practice and business, Port Washington, N.Y.; Nassau County Republican politics, 1950s and '60s.

Reminiscences of: J. Russet Sprague, Frank Gulotta, Paul Widlitz, Norman Penney, Joseph Margiotta.

*87 pages. (Permission Required to Cite or Quote). Interviewer - Elly Shodell. 1980.*

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**Pearsall, Grace A. "Gay"** (1901 -1984). Community volunteer.

Family background in Port Washington from 1800s; father's occupations: police constable, 1910s, politician, oyster business; Port in early 1900s: household responsibilities, Main Street School, Campfire Girls; marriages to John Wesley Rivers, c. 1916, Billy Pearsall, 1935; community activities: Salvation Army, Red Cross, American Cancer Society, Cow Neck Peninsula Historical Society, American Legion; honorary Indian; World War II plane spotter; town crier, Manhasset Fife and Drummers; Sousa Bandshell: beginning, 1963, organization and fund-raising; Congressional Medal of Merit.

Reminiscences of: Billy Pearsall, Samuel Walker, John Philip Sousa family, Kathleen Norris.

*61 pages. Open. Interviewer - Roselynn Boddie. 1981.*

**Schenck, Pansy** (1903 -1987). Long-time Sands Point resident. *With Wiles, Alvina.*

Acquisition and history of Sands Point home; meeting with its architect, William Delano; horseback riding on estates; Sands Point Golf Club; polo matches; celebrity houseguests; husband, Nick's hovercraft commute to City, building of Palisades Amusement Park; Nick's presidency of M.G.M. Studios; daughter Marty's professional career.

Interview courtesy of Cow Neck Peninsula Historical Society.

*19 pages. Open. Interviewers - Joan Kent and Alvina Wiles. 1985.*