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Newsletter

ADIRONDACK
ARCHITECTURAL
HERITAGE

Ben Muncil, Master Builder

Steven Engelhart

Boathouse at Northbrook Lodge (c. 1919), Osgood Pond

THE LIFE of Benjamin A. Muncil is a real Horatio Alger story, a rags-to-riches tale of a lad born to parents so poor that they put him out to work for his keep as a mother's helper when he was only five years old.

He was born August 28, 1867, in Vermontville, Franklin County, one of nine children who were often in foster homes. At fourteen he took his first man's job, driving the big wagons and sleighs full of logs from a lumber camp at McCollums. After four years in the lumberwoods, he became a guide at the camp on Upper St. Regis Lake of the Livingston family, friends of Dr. E. L. Trudeau. During slow times he began to take over the carpentry work, becoming so accomplished that his services were in demand at neighboring camps as well. He soon gave up guiding for carpentry, and after he married in 1890, he aspired to become a contractor. His hard childhood, however, had left him no time for schooling; he was illiterate, and could not read blueprints.

In Neil Surprenant's interview with Ben's daughter, Leah Meagher, she spoke of "sitting up at night and reading correspondence courses to her father until she was hoarse. First, it was blueprint reading. Later, when

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From the President

I'd like to share a few news items with you, all illustrating AARCH's continued expansion of historic preservation activities throughout the Adirondack region.

NYSCA GRANTS

In recognition for AARCH's effectiveness as a relatively new, regional historic preservation organization, we received two generous grants this year from the Architecture, Planning and Design division of the New York State Council on the Arts. First was a grant of $8,000 for General Operating Support; second was a $10,000 Challenge Grant, which is a matching grant to help expand our staff capacity and activities. The latter grant can be matched with additional membership support and program income. We are most grateful to the Council for their faith and continued support of AARCH and its historic preservation mission in the Adirondack Park.

JAY COVERED BRIDGE

The future of the historic 1857 covered bridge in the Town of Jay, Essex County, remains uncertain. This rare, surviving Howe Through Truss bridge is the last remaining publicly-owned covered bridge in the Adirondack-Lake Champlain region of New York State and is the longest covered bridge in New York still in use. The NYS Department of Transportation held public hearings in February and invited public comment on proposals for siting a new bridge at three alternate locations. AARCH has gone on record as: (1) unequivocally supporting the restoration and continued use of the existing bridge as one of the outstanding, historic architectural resources of the Adirondack Park, (2) opposing the new bridge location that is 600 feet from the covered bridge, because the new road to the new bridge would run through and seriously degrade the historic village center, as well as degrade the viewshed around the covered bridge, and (3) if a new bridge is to be built, supporting the new bridge location that is 2400 feet from the covered bridge, as this location would have little or no negative impact on the historic resources of the town. (To avoid any conflict of interest, those AARCH board members who are associated with Essex County abstained from this decision.) Moving with lightning speed, a draft Environmental Impact Statement is expected from DOT in June 1998, with public hearings in August 1998, a final EIS in January 2000, a decision in June 2000, property acquisition to start in August 2000, and construction to begin in January 2002.

SANTANONI

An ambitious season or two of stabilization work is planned for Camp Santanoni. DEC has received $40,000 from the state's Environmental Protection Fund, which will be matched by DEC, the Town of Newcomb and AARCH in dollars, materials and volunteer labor. With this substantial level of funding to work with, targeted projects include: moving toward completion of the Main Lodge roof, repair of sections of the Main Lodge porch, completion of the roof and structural support of the main barn, and stabilization of the oldest worker's home (the nineteenth century "Herdsman's Cottage") in the Farm Complex. With support from the Town of Newcomb, AARCH will again house two summer interns at Santanoni to interpret the historic Great Camp to the public and continue to generate public support for preserving Santanoni. One will live and be stationed at the Gate Lodge, and the other at the Main Lodge. AARCH's own summer intern (see below) will work part-time at Santanoni, coordinating volunteers on the stabilization work, conducting periodic tours of the Farm Complex, and furthering the work at Santanoni in other ways. AARCH has also received a grant from the Rural NY Program, funded by the J. M. Kaplan Fund and administered by the Preservation League of New York State, to conduct a historic structures report on the Gate Lodge complex at Santanoni. As with previous "HSRs" AARCH has undertaken at Santanoni, these reports will help guide the future restoration and interpretation of the buildings throughout the historic complex.

STAFF EXPANSION

Steve Engelhart, as AARCH's executive director and sole staff member, has done an incredible job of operating the office himself while engaging in meaningful historic preservation activities all around the Adirondacks. But as our programs and projects continue to expand, additional staff members will be needed to more effectively accomplish our mission. Happily, with a growing membership and additional support from the New York State Council on the Arts, we are able to expand our staff capacity. A half-time secretary will be hired this spring to manage most of the office matters that take up a great deal of Steve's time. This will free him to undertake even more outreach projects, give presentations to communities around the Park, attend meetings for planning and advocacy in historic preservation, and offer technical assistance to communities and individuals on historic preservation projects. A second position will be that of Summer Intern. This will be a student in the field of historic preservation who will help enhance the summer program, restoration, and fund-raising at Camp Santanoni and will assist Steve on the administration and conduct of our increasingly full summer tour program around the Park. Adding new positions like this is both an indication of AARCH's progress to date and a foundation for new challenges and successes to come.

HOWIE KIRSCHENBAUM

Master Builder of the Paul Smiths Region . . . continued from page one

building other people's designs was not enough, it was architectural drawing. The family worked together to help Ben master these two important skills. With them, his business boomed." It may be impossible now to sort out the buildings he built from those which he also designed.

Among Muncil's most notable projects were White Pine Camp on Osgood Pond and Camp Topridge on Upper St. Regis Lake, both designed by known architects from out of the area. Perhaps his most lasting contribution to the development of the Adirondack rustic style was his creation for White Pine Camp of a unique, new type of siding which remains in use to this day.

The story is this: The camp was designed by a New York City architect named William G. Massarene, who had specified clapboard. Muncil did not think this material was suitable for

Mary B. Hotaling

Brighton Town Hall, 1914

a camp in the woods, and he and Paul Smith's Hotel millwright Charles Nichols developed a new siding material of wide planks with the bark still clinging to its irregular (or "waney"), exposed edge. This was in 1907, when Harry K. Thaw was being tried in New York for fatally shooting architect Stanford White at Madison Square Garden. Thaw had pleaded innocent by reason of insanity; he claimed he had a "brainstorm" when he saw the philandering White, who had seduced Thaw's wife before their marriage. Muncil and Nichols thought that their process of creation was similar, and they named the result "brainstorm" siding. Afterward, Muncil's business prospered so that he established his own mill near Paul Smiths.

In 1921 Marjorie Merriweather Post and her then-husband E. F. Hutton bought a 207-acre camp between Upper St. Regis Lake and Spectacle Ponds built in 1880 by the Lothrops, owners of Woodward & Lothrop department store in Washington, D.C. The existing camp had four buildings, sited in a lozenge arrangement on the steep hogback on the St. Regis side. At the bottom was the boathouse with the main building directly above it; partway up the hill on each side were a pair of guest cabins. At that time the camp was called "Hutridge." According to *American Empress*, Nancy Rubin's biography of Mrs. Post, the *guest cottages and main lodge (were) reinforced with huge logs and two massive stone fireplaces. Marjorie later insisted that these had to be remodeled and other guest cottages and staff quarters added.*

To do so, she commissioned a Manhattan architect to draft plans, which she subsequently presented to . . . Ben Muncil. After perusing the blueprints, Muncil bluntly told Marjorie that he not only had trouble reading the plans but thought them "inappropriate" for an Adirondacks camp. The comment took the heiress by surprise. Humbled, Marjorie asked Muncil to draw up his own plans. Within a week the contractor had done so, and after several revisions by Marjorie's friend the architect Theodore Blake, Muncil supervised the construction. After an expenditure of half a million dollars, Hutridge emerged as a handsome complex of sixty-eight rustic buildings that included a newly renovated main lodge and eighteen guest cottages that were later "noted for [their] beauty of design and [their] perfect harmony with the Adirondack setting and surroundings."

Mary B. Hotaling

"Brainstorm" siding on the owner's cabin (1907-08), at White Pine Camp.

Not so well-known is Northbrook Lodge on Osgood Pond, built in about 1919 as a camp for Dr. Wilfrid L. McDougald, a member of the Canadian parliament. (The AARCH tour on August 27 will visit both Northbrook Lodge and White Pine Camp.) The bungalow-style buildings are one story, with broad, low roofs and curved bargeboards in the gable ends. One observer commented that only a designer who was also the builder would create such immensely complex roofs, because no architect would have that much confidence in a builder. McDougald also bought today's Asplin Tree Farms property on the Harrietstown Road in June 1922, and Muncil is credited with those distinctive buildings, sometimes described as the "Swiss barns", as well.

Muncil's work on the St. Regis Lakes included the Brewster camp "Longwood;" the Huntington camp, now Trevor's; the Vanderbilt camp, Pine Tree Point; and camps for the McAlpin, Durkee, Chace, Mitchel, Trowbridge and Earle families. The Huntington family was so pleased with their camp that they hired Muncil to build a duplicate on their estate in Garnet, South Carolina, and another on Montauk, Long Island. Wrote Surprenant: "Another satisfied customer, a Mr. Campbell, had Muncil move his entire crew and family to Cape Charles, Virginia, one winter to

Ben Muncil ... *continued*

build him a place on his island off the coast."

Muncil was also involved in many other more work-a-day projects in nearby communities. He designed and built his own home and nearby mill office in Otisville; the Brighton Town Hall (1914); Catholic churches in Gabriels (Church of the Assumption, 1922-23) and Bloomingdale (St. Paul's); the Goldberg and Ginsberg building, the principal business block in Tupper Lake; and various private houses in the bungalow style. He also built the Mount Mercy Convent at Sanatorium Gabriels, and, most unusually, a municipal water system for the hamlets of Keeses Mills and Otisville. As Surprenant describes it, "the system consisted of a pipeline that ran from Deer Pond on the side of Jenkins Mountain to the homes along Keeses Mills Road. The system also included strategically placed fire hydrants. All this in the early 1900s, when running water was a real luxury in most of rural America."

Muncil's productive life came to a sudden end on December 2, 1930, when his car was hit by a train at the railroad crossing in Gabriels. Ben Muncil, the master builder of the Paul Smiths area, is buried there in the cemetery of St. John's in the Wilderness.

Mary B. Hotaling

The above information is based on Neil Surprenant's article, "Ben Muncil: Builder of Great Camps," in *Adirondac*, July 1986, augmented by the research of the Brighton Architectural Heritage Committee, courtesy of Pat & Tom Willis, and Nancy Rubin's book, *American Empress* (NY: Villard Books, 1995.)

Volunteer for the Santanoni Work Weekend,

AUGUST 23-24!

Call Steven Engelhart, 518 834-9328.

RR Signals

This spring, work on reactivation of railroads and restoration of depots is underway all over the Adirondacks. Two historic railroad lines and the Lake Placid, Saranac Lake, Thendara, Riparius and North Creek depots are all receiving attention.

Thendara, Saranac Lake and Lake Placid are located on either end of the remaining trackage of Dr. W. Seward Webb's former Adirondack & St. Lawrence Railroad, which became the New York Central and was acquired by NYS DOT in the Penn Central bankruptcy. This whole line on the western side of the Adirondacks, with all the railroad features located along it, was nominated to the State and National Registers of Historic Places in 1993. In Herkimer County the **Adirondack Scenic Railroad** Corridor Enhancement Project on this line received $1,676,787 in federal ISTEA funding, matched by $375,000 in NYS funds received through the help of Senator William Sears, R-Woodgate, as well as by many hours of volunteer labor. Rehabilitation of the railroad corridor will connect the Adirondack Scenic Railroad to Remsen, which opens rail traffic to the whole line through Utica and the Amtrak system. Also included are acquisition of and improvements to the **Thendara Railroad Station** complex, headquarters of the Adirondack Scenic Railroad. Planned improvements include a new roof and construction of a passenger boarding platform for the station, and rehabilitation of the freight house roof. Seven deluxe passenger cars have been purchased this year for use on the line.

In December, DOT received 20 letters of interest from groups wishing to lease all or a portion of the 118-mile **track from Utica to Lake Placid.** Responses to the subsequent request for proposals are due to be returned to DOT on Tuesday, July 8. DOT is expected to award a single, 10-year lease for the entire corridor to the respondent who represents the best overall value to the state, evaluated against technical, economic, financial and programmatic criteria. Potential economic benefits to communities along a revitalized rail corridor are substantial.

Bids to complete the rehabilitation of the **Saranac Lake Union Depot** were opened May 7, but have not yet been awarded. The ISTEA-funded project has received all state and local approvals. Project architect is John Bero.

Through AARCH's assistance, the North Elba Historical Society, owner of the **Lake Placid Depot**, received a $500 grant from the Lake Champlain Basin Program to do a building conditions assessment, the basis for future work to be done there. The Society operates a summer museum in the depot.

The Riparius and North Creek depots are features along the former Adirondack Railroad from Corinth to North Creek, founded by Dr. Thomas C. Durant in 1863. The 1913 **Riverside Station**, a Prairie-inspired design at Riparius, Warren County, was approved for listing on the State and National Registers of Historic Places in March, 1997. Located seven miles west of Northway Exit 25, this station houses a display of historic materials, while the nearby Caboose at Riverside Station dispenses refreshments in season.

The **North Creek Depot**, famous as the spot where Theodore Roosevelt learned that he had succeeded to the Presidency upon William McKinley's untimely death, will receive $116,600 in ISTEA funds to replace the exterior platforms and renovate the interior of the depot. North Creek will serve as the terminus of the active rail line being acquired by Essex County, though another 33 miles of track laid during World War II to access the Tahawus titanium mines are still in place.

1997 TOUR SCHEDULE

AARCH's tours, led by knowledgeable volunteer guides, are enjoyable learning experiences and raise funds to support our activities. Participants should wear comfortable walking shoes and dress for the variable weather conditions of the Adirondacks. Bring your own lunch and beverages, unless otherwise noted. Except on the Santanoni tours, pets cannot be accommodated.

Attendance is limited on most tours. All tours require preregistration and prepayment. To register, send full fee to AARCH, 1759 Main Street, Keeseville, NY 12944 or call 518-834-9328 for more information. Refunds will be given to those not able to attend a tour if we are notified in advance of the cancellation.

Saturday, June 28
KEESEVILLE: WHAT STYLE IS IT?
This unique workshop/tour will use the village of Keeseville as an open classroom for learning about architectural styles and the language of architecture. Beginning at 10 AM, the morning will be spent in the classroom setting of the Anderson Falls Historical Society, where the group will learn about identifying architectural styles from Steven Engelhart, AARCH's Executive Director. Following lunch, the group will walk around this historic village and look at several dozen historic buildings which exemplify a whole range of architectural styles from Federal style to Bungalows. Keeseville is one of the most intact and beautiful 19th century industrial villages in the region and is also well known for its many stone buildings. The walking tour will end around 4 PM. Fee is $20 ($15 for AARCH members). Advance registration is required. This workshop is made possible by a Technical Assistance Grant from the Lake Champlain Basin Program.

Saturday, July 12
AARCH ANNUAL MEETING AT "FLAT ROCK" ON WILLSBORO POINT
AARCH's 1997 Annual Meeting will be held at "Flat Rock," a wonderful Great Camp on Lake Champlain in the town of Willsboro. The meeting will begin at 1 PM and will feature the presentation of our 1997 Adirondack Architectural Heritage Awards. The meeting will be followed by a tour of "Flat Rock" and other historic sites in Willsboro, including the 1778 Samuel Adsit log cabin, the 1812 Homestead and the Noblewood property. The day's events will end around 4:30 PM. The meeting is a benefit of AARCH membership, guest fee is $10. You may bring your lunch and picnic on the grounds, arriving at noon. Advance registration is required.

Friday, July 18
CLINTON PRISON AT DANNEMORA
The Clinton Correctional Facility in Dannemora, originally built in 1845, is the third oldest prison in New York State and the state's largest. This unique opportunity will take us into this maximum security prison where we will visit a cell block, modeled on the "Auburn System," the Church of the Good Thief, an exquisite chapel built entirely by inmates, the North Yard and the former Dannemora State Hospital. The history of the prison is fascinating and its architecture is most dramatic. The tour will begin at 9:30 AM and end at 3 PM and is limited to 25 persons. Suggested optional donation is $20 ($15 for AARCH members). Advance registration is required.

Saturday, July 19
BOLTON LANDING & ENVIRONS
For the first time, AARCH has put together a most special tour in and around Bolton Landing on Lake George. Led by Ted Caldwell and others, the tour will begin at 10 AM when we board the *de Champlain* to see the magnificent Lake George landscape, hear about Lake George's fascinating history and visit several special Lake George island camps. After (your own) lunch on board, we'll disembark at Mohican Point and visit the W.H. Bixby home and from there, on foot, visit the Sembrich Opera Museum and Historical Society of the Town of Bolton Museum. The tour will end around 4:30 PM. Fee is $35 ($30 for AARCH members). Advance registration is required.

Sunday, July 20
CAMP SANTANONI
Explore one the most magnificent Great Camps in the Adirondacks with Rob Engel, a former AARCH interpreter at Camp Santanoni. Surrounded by thousands of acres in the Santanoni Preserve, this tour will include stops at the camp's Gatelodge, the remains of its 200 acres model gentleman's farm and Main Camp on Newcomb Lake. Participants will see restoration work in progress and be able to view some of the camp's interiors. The round-trip walk is 9.8 miles on a gently sloping dirt road. Meet at 10 AM at the parking lot of the Santanoni Preserve, off Route 28N in the hamlet of Newcomb. We'll return about 4 PM. Suggested optional donation is $10 ($5 for AARCH members). Advance registration is required. A limited number of seats are available on a horse-drawn wagon, for an additional $10 fee, also by advance reservation.

AARCH Events

Friday, July 25
HISTORIC RAQUETTE LAKE
AARCH founder and Board President Howie Kirschenbaum will lead this all-day tour to some of Raquette Lake's most interesting places. Meet in front of the Raquette Lake Supply Company at 10 AM for a walking tour of "down town" Raquette Lake, then take a short drive to The Antlers to see several buildings associated with one of Raquette Lake's major, early hotel complexes. From the Raquette Lake Girls Camp we will board a boat and spend the afternoon viewing "Great Camps" and other historic buildings from the lake and debarking to visit a number of fine old camps and churches. Return around 4 PM. Fee is $35 ($25 for AARCH members). Advance registration is required.

Saturday, July 26
CARING FOR YOUR HISTORIC BUILDING (Warrensburg)
This workshop and tour is designed for owners of historic buildings who want to know how to properly care for their buildings. Led by AARCH executive director, Steven Engelhart, it will explore a whole range of exterior preservation and conservation problems including painting, masonry repairs, wood repair and replacement, roofing, windows and doors, moisture control and energy conservation. The morning will be spent in the classroom setting of the Richards Library in Warrensburg, where we'll learn about basic preservation practices and, after lunch, the group will look at both exemplary and not so exemplary work as we walk around this historic village. The workshop begins at 10 AM and will finish around 4 PM. Cosponsored by the Warrensburg Beautification Committee. Fee is $20 ($15 for AARCH and WBC members). Advance registration is required.

Saturday, August 2
TANNERIES AND TANNERY TOWNS
This tour will focus on the importance of the tanning industry, which spawned the settlement and development of dozens of southern Adirondack communities and will explore the architectural and archeological legacy of that industry. The tour will be led by Barbara McMartin, the well-known author of *Hides, Hemlocks and Adirondack History* and other books on the Adirondacks. It will include a slide show at the Caroga museum, a tour of the village and tannery remains at Wheelerville and the tannery remains at Pinnacle in the Town of Bleecker. Meet at 10 AM at the Caroga Museum in Caroga Lake. The tour will end about 3 PM. Fee is $15 ($10 for AARCH members and $5 for members of the Caroga Historical Society and the Bleecker Historical Society). Advance registration is required.

Steven Engelhart

Attendees at Fall 1996 Heritage Tourism Conference admire Durant's chalet at Sagamore.

Sunday, August 3
BEHIND THE SCENES AT SAGAMORE
John Friauf, Jr., AARCH Board member and licensed NYS guide, will host a unique look at one of the Adirondacks' best known Great Camps, this year celebrating its centennial. Sagamore was built by William West Durant, one of the pioneers of Adirondack rustic architecture and was sold in 1901 to Alfred Vanderbilt as a wilderness retreat. This tour takes a close look at how the camp worked to maintain the illusion of ease for its owners and guests and will include stops at the caretaker's complex, farm, sugarbush and powerhouse. Tour begins at 10 AM and ends around 3 PM. Fee is $15 ($10 AARCH members). Advance registration is required.

Friday, August 8
RUSTIC ARCHITECTURE OF BIG MOOSE
This tour will look at a variety of distinctive rustic architecture in Big Moose, including the work of Henry Covey, Earl Covey and the Martin family. The tour will be led by John Barrows, a Cazenovia contractor who has written about the Coveys in *Fine Homebuilding* magazine. The tour will include visits to the Big Moose Chapel, Covewood Lodge, several camps on Crag Point and to The Waldheim. The tour begins at 10 AM and will end about 4 PM. Fee is $30 ($20 for AARCH members). Advance registration is required.

Friday, August 15
FOUR RUSTIC CAMPS OF WILLIAM COULTER
AARCH's Mary Hotaling will again lead one of our most popular tours of four turn-of-the-century Great Camps on Upper Saranac Lake, all designed by the prominent Saranac Lake architect William Coulter. These include Eagle Island (Vice-Pres. Levi Morton), Moss Ledge (Isabel Ballantine), the Wawbeek (Moritz Walter) and Prospect Point (Adolph Lewisohn). A rare opportunity to see some of the best rustic architecture in the region. Fee is $35 ($25 for AARCH members) and includes a boat ride to Eagle Island. 10 AM to 4 PM. Advance registration is required.

Saturday, August 16
HISTORIC TAHAWUS AND ADIRONDAC
Town of Newcomb Supervisor George Canon will lead this tour which looks at over a century of mining in the Town of Newcomb. We will see the McIntyre Furnace, the remains of the village of Adirondac, other remains of the Adirondack Iron and Steel Company operations and the 20th century mining operation at Tahawus. The McIntyre Furnace, in particular, is a very important early American industrial site, one that has been documented by the Historic American Engineering Record. Meet at the Newcomb Town Hall at 10 AM and we'll go by bus to Tahawus. The tour will end about 1:30 PM. Fee is $15 ($10 for AARCH members). Advance registration is required.

Monday, August 25
HISTORIC LOON LAKE
Take a real step back in time by exploring Loon Lake, a late 19th century resort community which is remarkably unchanged almost 100 years after it was first developed. This day long tour will be led by Ralph Etienne and others and include seeing the Inn at Loon Lake, the 1895 Loon Lake Golf Course, Club House and "Caddy House" and several private camps, cottages and boathouses. This is a wonderful opportunity to take a real step back in time and see one of the Adirondacks' most special places. Fee is $25 ($20 for AARCH members). 10 AM to 4 PM. Advance registration is required.

Wednesday, August 27
THREE GREAT CAMPS ON OSGOOD POND
AARCH founder and Board President Howie Kirschenbaum will lead this tour of three impressive turn-of-the-century camps near Paul Smiths. White Pine Camp, a classic Great Camp with eighteen buildings on 35 acres of land on Osgood Pond was built beginning in 1907, was the summer White House of Calvin Coolidge in 1926 and is now a museum. We'll also visit Northbrook Lodge, formerly a private estate and now an inn, and a third, beautiful camp. 10:30 AM to 3:30 PM. Fee is $25 ($20 for AARCH members). Advance registration is required.

Saturday, August 30
HISTORIC MORIAH
This is a fascinating tour of an Adirondack town with a long and rich iron mining history and a remarkable architectural legacy that embodies that history. The tour will start with a brief slide presentation by Jack Brennan, who worked in the iron mines of Moriah for 35 years. We will then take a close look at the iron company buildings, worker's housing, church, memorial hall, jail and #7 Mill in the mining communities of Witherbee and Mineville. In Port Henry we'll take a walking tour which will include the grand French Second Empire style Town Hall, the new Railroad and Mining Museum in the next door carriage house, the railroad depot, Sherman Free Library, bank, churches, Lee House and other interesting architecture. Tour begins at 10 AM and ends at 4 PM. The tour is cosponsored by the Moriah Historical Society and the Port Henry/Moriah Economic Development Zone. Fee is $20 ($15 for AARCH and MHS members). Advance registration is required.

Monday, September 15
HISTORIC PLACID LAKE
This is a very special tour of Lake Placid, led by David Ackerman, author of *Placid Lake: A Centennial History, 1883-1983*, and Mary Hotaling, who is also quite knowledgeable about Lake Placid architecture, architects and builders. The tour contemplates visiting several lakeshore camps and a boat tour of the lake aboard the *Lady of the Lake*. 11:30 AM to 3:30 PM. Fee is $30 ($25 for AARCH members). Advance registration is required and space will be limited to 30 people.

Saturday, September 20
CAMP SANTANONI
Led by AARCH Executive Director, Steven Engelhart. See July 20th for details. Advance registration is required.

Saturday, September 27
ADIRONDACK LEAGUE CLUB
The Adirondack League Club, a huge private preserve near Old Forge, has some of the most interesting early 20th century rustic buildings in the entire region and is one the area's best kept secrets. Many of the camps were designed by Augustus D. Shepard, whose well-known book *Camps in the Woods* (1931), a compendium of his League Club lodges, camps and boathouses, further defined the Adirondack tradition and influenced the design of National Park structures. This tour, led by Wes Haynes, will be a rare look at some fascinating architecture in a most special place. 10 AM to 4 PM. Fee is $25 ($20 for AARCH members). Advance registration is required.

AARCH Slide Presentations

Executive Director Steven Engelhart has expanded his repertoire of AARCH presentations, adding a second slide talk, "Camp Santanoni: Past, Present and Future," to his popular survey, "There's More to Adirondack Architecture Than Great Camps." Members and friends are welcome to join Steve at the public events listed below. See the Adirondack Discovery program for additional talks that may still be added to their schedule. For more information, or to confirm, call AARCH at 518 834-9328.

Monday, June 9, 7 PM ..... Clinton County Historical Association, Plattsburgh: Santanoni

Wednesday, July 9, 8 PM .... Adirondack Mountain Club Summer Lecture Series at Adirondak Loj near Lake Placid: Santanoni

Thursday, July 24, 7? PM ..... Adirondack Discovery at Old Forge Art Center: Santanoni

Monday, July 28, 7:30 PM ..... Keene Valley Library Lecture Series: Santanoni

Thursday, October 23, 12 noon ..... Brown Bag Lunch, Saranac Lake Free Library: Adirondack Architecture

Tuesday, October 28, 7 PM ..... Historic Saranac Lake Annual Meeting, North Elba Town House: Santanoni

Meet Our Camp Santanoni Summer Staff

Taya Dixon has a B.A. in Architecture from Wellesley College and is currently a graduate student in the Historic Preservation program at the University of Pennsylvania. She has worked as a guide at the Harrison Gray Otis House in Boston and as an assistant with the Friends of Art at the Davis Museum in Wellesley. Taya will be our interpreter at the Gatelodge.

Eric Meulemans is currently in the Historic Preservation Program at Roger Williams University. He has a strong interest in traditional building techniques, is a skilled builder, and has also learned blacksmithing. He will be our interpreter at the Main Camp.

Zeph Parmenter has a B.A. in History from the University of Massachusetts and is currently a graduate student in Columbia University's Historic Preservation program. Before entering graduate school, she worked for more than two years as a park ranger at the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island National Monuments. Zeph will be based at the Gatelodge and will be involved with our summer tour program, help to launch the Friends of Camp Santanoni and help to develop interpretive materials for the camp.

DEMOLITION PLANNED FOR 15 OF 56 LAKE PLACID CLUB COTTAGES

On May 9, the APA approved a Master Plan filed by Placid Gold, the development company that owns the Lake Placid Club property. The plan details the disposition of 64 buildings on the property, some of which are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Of the cottages more than 50 years old, 41 will be renovated or rebuilt. Fourteen cottages will be demolished, while the 5400-square-foot **Shadyside** cottage (1916) is still being considered for possible renovation or demolition. The cottages to be demolished are: **Van Loj**, once a part of the Club's fire protection system (the Master Plan gives it as 1967, while Janet Null's Historic Survey of the Club dates it before 1905); **Westgate** (1923); WestClub or **Westwood** (1900), which was part of the first Lake Placid High School and is the only one of the three Lake Placid Clubhouses still standing; and **Laurel** (1900), another part of the high school. Westgate, Westwood and Laurel are located in a row on the north side of Park Place, near P. J. O'Neill's bar.

All of the following cottages are inside the designated Local Historic District. The first four, **Woodbine** (1901) **Clematis** (1901), **Tawny Owl** (1901) and **Lilac** (1909), are very visibly located on Mirror Lake Drive. **Woodedge** and **Bywood**, (both 1909), sited off Garden Road, are twin shingled cottages. **Quadkot** (1920), **Grove** (1916), **Forest Loj** (1928) and **Lilac Loj** (1909) are off-street on private drives. The sites of all these Club cottages are proposed to be used for either the housing facility complex, the resort hotel complex or residential subdivision.

MBH

GRANTS FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROJECTS
FOR NOT-FOR-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS & MUNICIPALITIES

The following is culled, and condensed, from a publication by the same name from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau, Peebles Island, PO Box 189, Waterford, NY 12188-0189. Telephone 518 237-8643.

Most historic preservation grants require that the property be listed or eligible for listing on the State or National Register of Historic Places, or designated a landmark under a local preservation ordinance at the time of application. For state or national programs, write the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation at the address above. For local designation, contact your municipal clerk or local historic preservation commission.

The following grant programs provide funds for historic preservation:

1. ISTEA, the federal Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act. Applications may include historic preservation research, planning, acquisition and development projects that are along transportation corridors, are related to surface transport facilities, or improve the quality of a highway and its surrounding area. Municipalities, NYS and not-for-profit corporations may apply, but NFPs must be co-sponsored by a municipality or the state. Applicants must provide a 20% non-federal matching share of the total project cost. Contact your regional office of NYS Department of Transportation (listed in the May 1993 AARCH Newsletter).

2. The NYS Environmental Protection Fund provides grants of up to 50% of eligible project costs which can be used by municipalities and NFP corporations to acquire, restore, preserve, rehabilitate protect and improve historic buildings, structures, sites and objects. Applications are received once a year. Contact the NYS Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau (above).

3. Certified Local Government Program. To become a CLG and be eligible to apply for funds specially set aside, the municipality must enact local preservation legislation, establish a qualified citizen body to administer the law, and enter into a formal partnership with the State Historic Preservation Office. Contact the NYS Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau (above).

4. NYS Legislature (Member Items). Requests should be sent to the State Senator and/or the Member of Assembly representing the district in which the project is located. Application is required.

5. NYS Council on the Arts (NYSCA), Architecture, Planning & Design program. Applicants must be NFP corporations or municipalities. No match is required. Application deadline is March 1 each year. Write NYSCA at 915 Broadway, New York, NY 10010, or call 212 387-7013.

6. The Sacred Sites and Properties Fund provides matching grants up to $15,000 for the preservation of historic religious buildings in NYS that are owned by religious organizations. Deadlines are May 1 and November 1 each year. Write the NY Landmarks Conservancy, 141 Fifth Avenue, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10010, or call 212 995-5260.

7. The National Trust for Historic Preservation administers the following funds. Write the Trust's Northeast Regional Office at 7 Faneuil Hall Marketplace, 5th Floor, Boston, MA 02109, or call 617 523-0885.

   a. Awards from the Preservation Services Fund for consultant services, feasibility studies and education average $1,000-$1,500. Deadlines are February 1, June 1 and October 1 each year.

   b. The National Preservation Loan Fund provides low-interest loans and loan guarantees up to $150,000 for site-specific projects. Proposals are considered as they are received. Call the national office for this one at 202 673-4054.

   c. The Critical Issues Fund grants $5,000 to $50,000 for research or model projects that address wide-spread, pressing preservation issues. Call the national office at 202 673-4054.

   d. Johanna Favrot Fund for Historic Preservation. Grants from $5,000 to $25,000 fund such activities as obtaining professional services, producing marketing and communications materials, sponsoring conferences and implementing educational programs. Construction, repair and acquisition of properties are *not* eligible activities. Applications are due on February 1 and October 1 each year.

8. The Preservation League of New York State, with NYSCA, supports a state-wide grant program for the preparation of historic structure and/or landscape reports. The League also administers the historic preservation portion of the Rural New York grant program. Annual deadlines are March 15 and September. Write the League at 44 Central Avenue, Albany, NY 12206, or call 518 462-5658.

News & Notes

Bloomingdale: The Town of St. Armand, Essex County, recently spent $75,000 to replace the galvanized metal roof of its Town Hall, designed by Saranac Lake architect William Scopes in 1903. The intact, vacant auditorium on the second floor will also be converted to office space.

Brighton: The fourth annual Brighton History Day, coordinated by the Brighton Architectural Heritage Committee, will be held Sunday, August 17, 1-5 PM at Asplin Tree Farms. The theme this year will be Adirondack guides.

Cranberry Lake: On April 16 the Clifton Town Board passed a resolution asking the St. Lawrence County Legislature to turn over the Oswegatchie Bridge to the town, so that it can be saved and used for pedestrian and bicycle purposes. "The process is well underway to save the bridge," reports AARCH Board member Jim Glavin.

Crown Point: Plans by OPRHP to spend $15,000 for costumes for guides at the State Historic Site have met with local opposition. Dennis Lewis resigned as president of the Friends of Crown Point, indicating that the money would be better spent to reinstate a program coordinator's position previously cut, or to restore flag bastion walls that are crumbling. Last year the state began charging a $4 parking fee and $50 to reserve the site's picnic pavilion.

Jay: The March/April issue of *Adirondack Life* magazine featured an article on the 1997 centennial of Wareham · De Lair · Architects, the firm founded by Great Camp architect W. L. Coulter in Saranac Lake. AARCH Newsletter Editor Mary B. Hotaling wrote "Framing a Legacy -- How a century-old architectural firm defined the regional style."

Newcomb: The first Town of Newcomb Teddy Roosevelt Weekend will be held September 13 & 14, 1997. Events are expected to include rides for the public on the Paul Smith's stagecoach, special events at the Newcomb VIC, and horse-powered rides into the Santanoni farm, among many other activities. AARCH will likely participate by opening the interpretive exhibit at the gatehouse, and by stationing an interpreter at the farm complex. Surplus funds are earmarked for the Friends of Santanoni association.

Raquette Lake: Celebrating its centennial, Sagamore has scheduled its Great Camps Weekend on June 13-15 this year. Cost is $275. To register, call Corie at (315) 354-5311 on Monday, Wednesday or Friday. Guided tours of Sagamore are given daily from June 28 through Labor Day, at 10 AM and 1:30 PM only. From Labor Day through Columbus Day, tours are on weekends only. Adults are $7; children, $3.

UPDATE ON THE JAY COVERED BRIDGE

In May, state DOT officials closed the JCB due to significant structural and safety concerns, thus creating an emergency situation. When it was announced that the JCB would be removed and replaced by a temporary bridge, a spontaneous, grassroots movement began. Without organizational involvement, interested citizens of all ages began to visit and photograph the bridge. On Monday, May 19, OPRHP, NYS DOT and Essex County worked out the following agreement: 1) the JCB will be disassembled in large sections and stored nearby; 2) a temporary bridge will be erected on the site of the JCB; 3) the process for planning and building a new crossing in the general location of the JCB will be expedited; 4) the JCB will be restored in its original location once the new bridge is built. AARCH will 1) work to affect the siting of the new bridge in the best possible location to protect historic resources; 2) hold Essex County accountable for its commitments; and 3) assist the county in finding sources of funding for the restoration of the JCB.

North Elba: The new resident manager at the John Brown Farm State Historic Site is Victor DiSanto. DiSanto, who holds a Ph.D. in history, plans to pursue expanded interpretation of the site to increase visitors' understanding of the context in which John Brown's actions took place, drawing on his own long-standing interest and wide reading, as well as the monumental scholarship that previous site manager Ed Cotter amassed in his many years of service. More publicity is also in the plans. Approximately 45,000 now visit during the summer months and at least another 4,000 tour the grounds off-season when the farmhouse is closed.

Saranac Lake: Historic Saranac Lake announces the appointment of a new Executive Director, Matthew Locatelli. Matt, who with his wife owns the Fact & Fiction bookshop on Broadway, comes highly recommended from his previous position with the Chief Executives Network in Albany. HSL's new web site address is: http://24.2.129.26/hsl.html

Ticonderoga: The 1926 Community Building, listed on the State and National Registers of Historic Places, is being renovated by the Town to house its own offices, as well as a youth and senior citizens center and public meeting room. Designed by architect Max Westhoff of Springfield, Massachusetts, formerly of Saranac Lake, the

continued on page 11

building was a gift to the community from benefactor Horace Moses and others. It was most recently used as the Ti campus of North Country Community College, which is moving to other quarters downtown.

AARCH member Linda Krumme draws our attention to a service specializing in straightening tilted historic barns and garages, Woodford Brothers of Syracuse, who can be reached at (800) OLD BARN. New in 1997 is a NYS tax credit of up to 25% of the cost of rehabilitation of historic barns, those built before 1935 or designated an historic building as defined by the IRS. The barns must also be used for some income-generating purpose. For information on the tax credit, contact the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation at 518 237-8643.

"Camp Life" is the title of Alex Shoumatoff's long, heavily-illustrated article in the May issue of *Vanity Fair*. Alex's summer outing focuses on the life, rather than the camps themselves, including some in his home territory of Keene Valley, not always included in "Great Camp" lists because they are view properties, rather than waterfront. Not everyone who confided in him will be pleased at the result.

MBH

Progress Reported on Restoration of Four Firetowers

The Spring 1995 AARCH Newsletter published DEC's plans for extant fire towers in the Adirondack Park. Interested citizens can still become involved in the future of fire towers important to their communities by forming a local action committee. Call AARCH at 518 834-9328 for information and assistance.

Blue Mountain: A "Blue Mountain Trail Guide: Rocks, Ice, Trees, Steel and History" has been published by the Blue Mountain Fire Tower Committee. Blue Mountain is listed as an historic fire tower to be retained by DEC. Call Jim Briggs, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Hamilton County, 518 548-6191.

Hadley: In 1996, the Hadley Mountain Fire Tower Restoration Committee had materials to refurbish the tower delivered by DEC helicopter, and a summit guide present from July 4th until Labor Day weekend. DEC made repairs to the tower and enlarged the parking area at the trailhead. In October, the committee received $3,500 from the International Paper Company Foundation to complete restoration, publish a nature trail brochure, and provide a stipend for the 1997 guide. The Hadley tower appeared on the DEC list as non-historic, with future disposition unknown. Call Roy Fordham at 518 696-2798.

Mount Arab: The Franklin County Legislature has joined the Town of Altamont and St. Lawrence County in petitioning NYS DEC to preserve the Mt. Arab Fire Tower, built in 1908 in the nearby Town of Piercefield. Mt. Arab is the last extant fire tower in St. Lawrence County, one of eleven historic fire towers that DEC does plan to retain.

Poke-O-Moonshine: The Friends of Poke-O-Moonshine, a coalition of local people with strong support from the Town of Chesterfield, the local DEC ranger, several local Adirondack Mountain Club chapters and two area camps, has succeeded in getting the local fire tower deleted from DEC's "to be removed" list. The group, for which AARCH acts as not-for-profit sponsor, plans to make extensive trail improvements, publish an interpretive brochure, sponsor educational events, and staff the fire tower with a guide during the summer months. Thursday, June 26 through Sunday, June 29, a four-day volunteer work session sponsored by the Adirondack Mountain Club is scheduled to improve the trail. For information on the work days, call Bill Brosseau at 518 523-3441.

About Adirondack Architectural Heritage

Adirondack Architectural Heritage is the regional, non-profit, historic preservation organization for the Adirondack Park. Our educational mission is to promote better public understanding, appreciation and stewardship of the built environment of the Adirondack Park. We fulfill this mission in a variety of ways, including by sponsoring tours and workshops, by giving public slide presentations, by offering technical assistance and by supporting local governments, organizations and individuals in their historic preservation activities. AARCH is a membership organization with over 800 members. AARCH members receive a biannual *Newsletter*, get discounts on AARCH-sponsored events and publications and may attend our annual meeting.

Join AARCH

I want to help preserve the Adirondack Park's historical and architectural legacy. Enclosed is my tax-deductible membership contribution.

(Check one)

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Contributions are tax-deductible. Please make checks payable to "Adirondack Architectural Heritage" and mail to: AARCH, 1759 Main Street, Keeseville, NY 12944.

Discover . . .
Wiawaka Holiday House

Mary Wiltsie Fuller founded Wiawaka Holiday House in 1903 as a not-for-profit institution to provide affordable Adirondack vacations for women working in the textile mills of Troy, NY. These young women made low wages, were often in poor health, and, according to the Girls' Friendly Society, of which Miss Fuller was a member, in need of spiritually and morally uplifting instruction. She was aided in this by her wealthy friend Katrina Trask, who bought the 112 acres of the former Crosbyside Hotel property on Lake George for unpaid taxes in 1903, and immediately deeded eight acres with the hotel buildings to Miss Fuller. Mrs. Trask named the place Wiawaka (the Spirit of God in Woman), and she and her husband Spencer Trask, better known now as owners of the Yaddo estate in Saratoga Springs, continued as major financial supporters. Intended for use of members and beneficiaries of the Girls' Friendly Society, Wiawaka Holiday House soon made itself available to self-supporting girls and professional women of any denomination. After the main hotel and other buildings burned in 1905, several new buildings were built and additional property was acquired, now amounting to 60 acres.

Wiawaka is still in use today for its original purpose, and remains very much the same 94 years after its founding. Each bedroom has a porch; perhaps in those days of the fresh-air treatment for tuberculosis they were expected to improve the health of guests. Electricity and indoor plumbing were introduced in about 1916. There is only one telephone and one rarely-used television, but no air-conditioning and no private bathrooms. Wiawaka is a rare Adirondack resort which has remained almost unaltered, and which has maintained the mission for which it was created.

Despite its low cost ($200 per week in 1996, including three home-cooked meals daily), in recent years Wiawaka has not attracted the 50 guests per week it needs to remain viable. Renewed efforts are now being made to keep Wiawaka in operation, including listing the property on the State and National Registers of Historic Places.

During the summer, Wiawaka Holiday House can be reached at R.D. 1, Box 1072, Lake George, NY 12845. Phones are: 518 668-9690 and -9892. Before June 20, contact Sharron Simmonds, 32 Tuthill Road, Queensbury, NY 12804. Her phone is 518 792-7859.

MBH

Steven Engelhart

Main building at Wiawaka Holiday House, Lake George.

Adirondack Architectural Heritage

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