NNHS NEWS LETTER

Northville Northampton Historical Society

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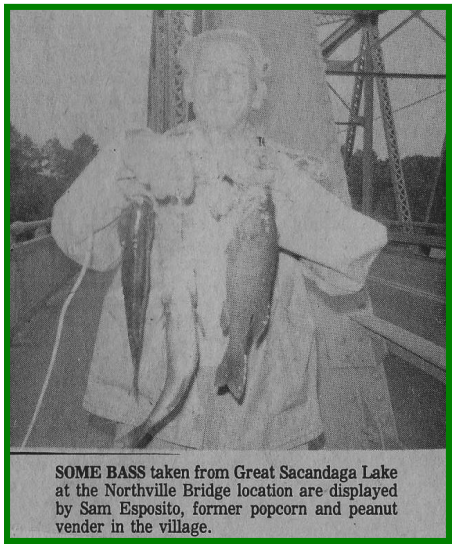
Editor
Gail M Cramer

SAM THE POPCORN MAN

Sam Esposito

Sam and his popcorn wagon is probably one of the best memories for those growing up in the 50's , 60's and 70;s. Sam had his popcorn wagon set up on the corner of Bridge Street and Main Street by the Village Green. Can you still smell the popcorn? It permeated all over downtown Northville. I doubt there was a person in Northville, Town of Northampton Edinburg, Benson that didn't have a bag of his popcorn or peanuts during his 20 + years he popped the fresh corn to the delight of those who shopped especially on Friday and Saturday evenings and holidays.

Sam also was an avid fisherman. After his retired he spent most of his time fishing. He loved the kids in town and taught many of them what he knew about fishing. He liked to fish off the Northville bridge rather than in a boat. "Motors are too noisy and too much trouble." He'd say, "There's plenty of fish. You come and fish". He was glad to show what bait he was using even without inquiry and how to apply the hook. He mentored many youngsters who all have a fond memory of him.



SOME BASS taken from Great Sacandaga Lake at the Northville Bridge location are displayed by Sam Esposito, former popcorn and peanut vender in the village.

Sam was born 1895 in Italy and came to the United States when he was a child. He resided in Northville for many years. Sam died in 1977

Mr. Esposito was an Army veteran of World War 1, serving in France. He was a member of the American Legion Post of Northville and member of the VFW.

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The popcorn truck is currently in Vail Mills. Apparently not for sale. Does any one have a picture of it when it was in operation on Bridge Street? I would appreciate you scanning it an sending it to my email so that I can put it in the newsletter. We all have memories of how it looked but it's be nice to see a picture of it.

MUSEUM NEWS

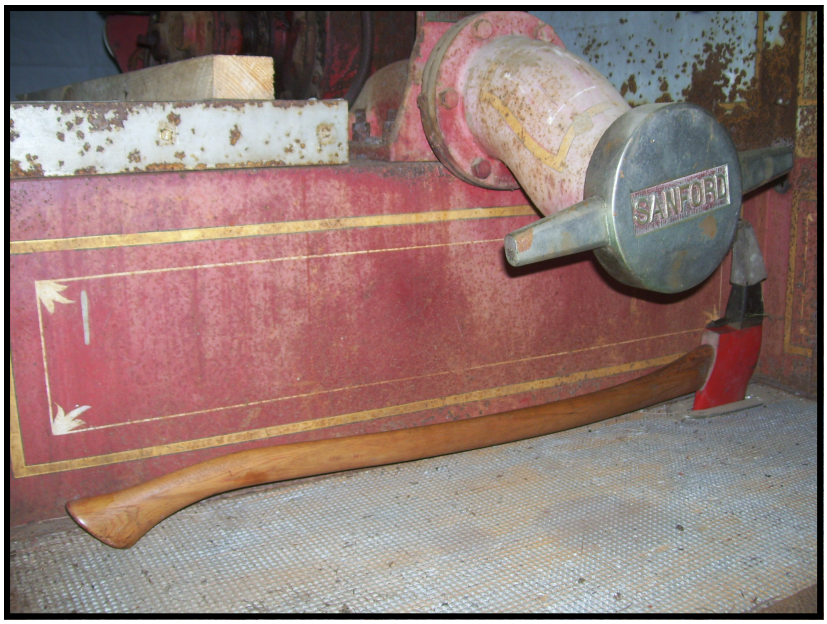
Our museum was well attended this summer. We received a number of new items for display and other displays were rearranged and better organized.

We sold numerous historical books written by Ken Shaw, which the proceeds go toward restoring out 1928 fire truck.

The village barn/office on Division Street will soon be demolished. Some of you will remember it as Van Arnam's Garage. A new building has been built on route 30 that will house town and village equipment.

Dan Reidel our Village Highway Superindent has been sorting and cleaning out the old building . He has donated artifacts to the historical society that will soon be seen in the museum. One of them being the old Van Arnam Ford Garage sign. See a picture on the next page

Here is our newest equipment for the fire truck



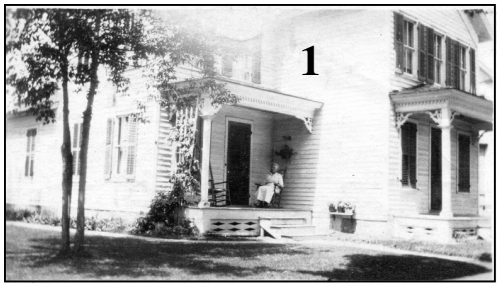
The axes are True Temper, Kelly Standards. One was never used and came with the original protective rubber. The other looks like it may have been used a few times.

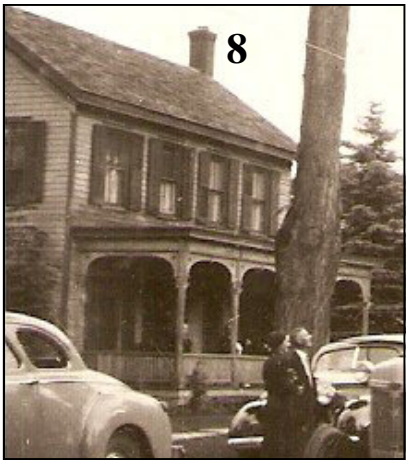
Correction needed in last months newsletter. This picture was on the last page about the telephone company. The ladies in the picture are Grace Van Vranken and Mary Peck (not Alice Peck)

DO YOU REMEMBER THESE HOUSES?

For whatever reason, they were town down or lost in a fire. Some may have been in disrepair but most of them were replaced for a new business, a school gym, a park, or maybe another house.

LET'S WALK DOWN MEMORY LANE AND SEE HOW MANY YOU REMEMBER





Do you remember these houses and where they were located? How soon we forget. Hopefully we don't lose any more. They all tell the story of Northville and those who lived in them. Find the answers on page 4

Location of the Houses that are no longer with us

1. Originally owned by the Beltzer family, later in the 50's the Morris family lived there. North-First Street. Baptist church removed it to expand their parking lot.

2. Curtis/Bacon Home (fire) corner of Second and Bridge Streets

3. Lehman funeral parlor. Replaced to build the Water Front Park

4. Newton Homestead (aka Boudreau's) South Main Street. Torn down and replaced with a double wide mobile home.

5. John A Willard built this house for his daughter Eugenia (Jean) who married James Carpenter. After she died the house was empty and was finally torn down as it was in disrepair. Location was on the corner of 5th and Union Street.

6. Albert and Suzanne Smith house, South Main Street. later an apartment house Torn down in 2015 to build the new Stewart's Store.

7. Bridge Street. Elmer Cole house. Torn down to build the new gym for NCS

8. Delgatos house. South Main Street across from Eshler's garage. Became a rental property, Disrepair made it necessary to tear it down.

9. Werner's home and Taylor shop. South Main Street. It was torn down to build the first Stewart's Store in the village.

10. Originally Van Arnam's, where he had the first store in the village. Many years later it was bought by the American Legion to use as their headquarters. It was torn down to build our current post Office.

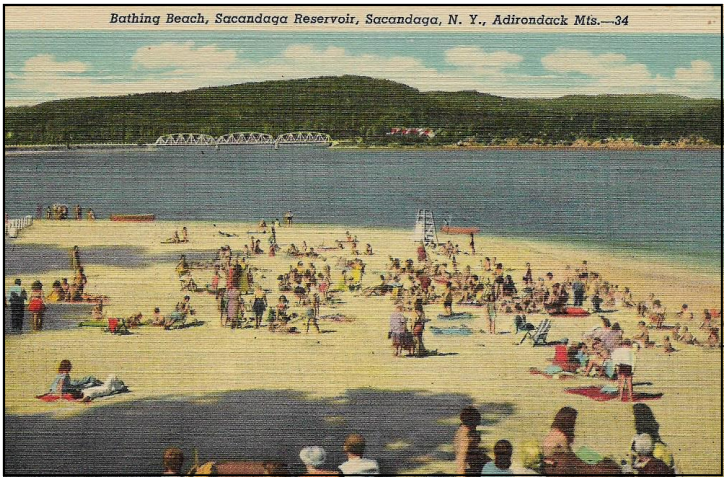
11. The old Methodist Church which was moved from South Main Street to Washington Street. It was used for many purposes including school classes, village meetings and later be came an apartment building. It was torn down and much of the timber and lumber was given to build the Fox Hill Church in Edinbugh.

12. Brownell House on Reed Street, but most of us know it as Bea and Bunny Barker's house. It was recently torn down to build a much needed parking lot for the Presbyterian Church.

13. Known as the home of Leona and Elwyn Tennant on Bridge Street. It was torn down to build a parking lot for the bank.

14. Originally J. W Foote Home and funeral parlor. Many owners after Foote, and later became a rental. Torn down by new owners. Now a vacant lot. 262 South Main Street next to the cemetery.

Remember the Old Orchard Inn in the Park? It was on the corner of Old Route 30 (now 152) and Osborn Road.



Northville kids (along with the park residence), swam here during the 1950's. Beautiful sandy beach, diving dock, & life guards .