

licenses and a bit of luck obtained jobs driving delivery trucks for private markets. Others caddied at Maidstone, where they did a lot of walking and for not much pay. A caddie had a good week if he made \$11, which included tips. That meant making nine loops, which amounted to 162 holes.

A few young fellows spent the summer cutting grass, while others tried to eke out a few dollars tonging and raking for clams. That, too, gave a fellow plenty of exercise but not much pay. Only a few had the good fortune to be hired as an apprentice with a building, mason, or electrical contractor. He struck pay dirt when an older craftsman took a liking to him, which meant that he would be taught everything the journeyman knew. There were a few older craftsmen who did not care to teach an apprentice because he was afraid he would lose his job if the student became a journeyman.

Unfortunately, young girls did not fare as well. If she had graduated from high school with a business major, she'd have a fair chance of obtaining a clerical position in a real estate office or with an attorney, but that, too, depended, in many cases, upon who Daddy knew. In those days, because of the scarcity of jobs, a person's luck and being in the right place at the right time were so important. Jobs just were not that plentiful for young high school graduates. Some girls whose families were better off financially than the average household went on to further education if they so desired.

There were other girls who attended state normal schools to prepare for teaching careers. Unfortunately at the time, there were no state schools nearby for a person to attend, as there were in many upstate areas. A few young girls became students at hospitals and nursing schools to prepare for a nursing career. Then there were the girls who looked forward to becoming housewives and mothers, who in many ways were the most successful.

A few male graduates obtained jobs as grocery clerks with the A&P, H.C. Bohack, and Thomas Ralston chain stores. A grocery clerk received about \$15 a week for working about 55 to 60 hours. Cliff Rampe was a grocery clerk at the North Main Street A&P and received \$15 every Saturday evening after the store closed, which was some time after 9 o'clock. When he was drafted into the army, his pay was \$21 a month, but it included room, board, and clothing. He said he thought he got a raise.

As the year moved along the world situation progressively got worse. On March 12 German troops entered Austria and two weeks later Hermann Göring, Nazi Germany's number-two man, warned Jews to leave the country. On April 6, the 21st anniversary of America's entry into World War I, the United States recognized the German conquest of Austria. A little over a month later, on May 17, the U.S. Congress approved the creation of a two-ocean navy.

In Europe Hitler began to look east, toward Czechoslovakia, for his next conquest. In response the Czech government placed 400,000 troops on its border with Germany. Because of the threat of Fascism and Communism, the House of Representatives established a permanent committee to suppress "un-American" activities. The committee was formed in 1934 as a temporary panel, but with the rise of Fascism and Communism it attained a permanent status.

In June Congress established the

The Local Scene, 1938

Boynton Beach, Fla.
November 9, 2000

Dear Editor,

Claudia Flach McKinney, a former East Hampton girl now residing in Florida, recently asked me to write about 1938, the year of her birth. She grew up on Sherrill Road and attended the Newtown Lane school when it was kindergarten through high school. Her father, Hermann Flach, was part owner of the Maidstone Market, which was located next to Marley's stationery store on the west side of Main Street. She told me that the only thing she had heard about 1938 was that a hurricane crossed the eastern part of the island and had left death and destruction in its wake.

For people living in 1938 the future did not look promising because there seemed to be no end to unemployment and Adolf Hitler, Benito Mussolini, and Hideki Tojo were preparing for war. On the local scene we had emerged from another winter of frustration, concern for the future, and conjecture of when there would be employment for all who wanted to work. It was estimated that over 20 percent of America's work force was idle. The Roosevelt administration was doing all that seemed possible to provide employment, though temporary, with the W.P.A., P.W.A., N.Y.A., and C.C.C. programs; the last two were to provide temporary work for youths and young men.

Youths just out of school found very little work other than that of a temporary nature. During the summer seasonal employment provided a few more job opportunities but they didn't last much more than four months. Male students with driver's

minimum hourly wage scale at \$.40 per hour, and F.D.R. signed a \$3.75 billion Emergency Relief Appropriations Act. On the lighter side, the Cincinnati Reds lefthander Johnny Vander Meer pitched two consecutive no-hitters, the first one in Boston against the Braves and the second in Ebbets Field against the Dodgers. It had never happened before nor has it ever happened since.

On Sunday, June 26, the Class of 1938 held commencement services at the Edwards Theater. The graduates numbered 28 girls and 18 boys. Our class officers were: Teresa Collins, president, Violet Aldridge, vice president, Elsie Skinner, secretary, and Robert Rhodes, treasurer. The valedictorian was James Loper of Amagansett and the salutatorian was Daniel Rush, also of Amagansett. The one person in our class who became the best known is Perry B. Duryea Jr. He became speaker of the New York State Assembly and later ran unsuccessfully for governor. Three members of the class, Violet Aldridge, Joyce Appleyard, and Olga Semerad, may have continued their education. I do not know, as I do not know what became of them after graduation.

The football team of our senior year was not successful, losing all seven games, and to make a bad season worse, they did not score a single point. Field goals back then were rather uncommon because kickers were not taught how to kick soccer style. To win by two or three touchdowns was considered to be a rout. Teams played both defense and offense. At the end of the game most

players felt beat and exhausted. A quarterback who could pass, punt, and run well was called a triple threat. On defense he was the deep safety and often was the only player left to prevent a long run from becoming a touchdown. Oh, how we rooted for the boys who wore the Maroon and Gray.

Bridgehampton had a football team in those days and team members gave a good account of themselves, considering the small body from which to select. The last time the Bridgies and the Maroon and Gray met on the gridiron, East Hampton was defeated 6-0. The following year's game was canceled three days after the big wind.

In local politics the Republicans held every elective seat in town government. The last Democratic incumbent, Alex Garrow, was defeated in the November 1937 race for justice of the peace. In 1938, Perry B. Duryea Sr. was town supervisor and the four justices of the peace were Merton H. Edwards of Springs, Everad Jones of Sag Harbor, and Raymond A. Smith Jr. and William H. Strong, both of East Hampton. At the time, justices of the peace served as members of the town board. There was very little crime then, most of which were misdemeanors. The town clerk was Richard T. Gilmartin of Montauk and the superintendent of highways was William H. Greene of East Hampton. The assessors were Herbert Anderson Sr. of Amagansett, Reynold Vail of East Hampton, and George Dippel of Sag Harbor.

Sincerely,
NORTON W. DANIELS