



# Newsletter

of

## The Van Voorhees Association

ORGANIZED 1932

Volume 8, Number 2

JUNE, 1990

### ELIZABETH V. EDGAR RETIRES

One of the true pillars of the Association, Elizabeth V. Edgar, chose the occasion of the April meeting of the Executive Committee to tender her resignation from Committee responsibilities, effective October 1. President Vorhis accepted this resignation with deep regret, citing her service of almost 30 years to the Association, 17 in the elected office of Secretary. He also noted, however, that while the Executive Committee is meeting on the morning of the Annual Meeting in October, Elizabeth plans to be welcoming, assisting and just plain getting to know more of our members and their guests coming to the meeting.

Our first encounter with Elizabeth came at the Association's Fiftieth Anniversary Meeting in 1982. As new members, we were attending our first meeting. Upon arriving at the luncheon site on the Rutgers campus, we found her in the midst of setting up a display of VanVoorhees artifacts, including a number of items from her personal collection. That did not stop her from extending a warm welcome to us, as well as questions about where we were from, what was our line, how did we find out about the Association, etc. Later in the afternoon, she was there making sure everyone had signed the guest register, then in arranging the group for the "official" group photograph. Later still, she was there manning the sale table of VanVoorhees items. All in all a pretty busy lady!

Since then, we have had the opportunity of getting to know Elizabeth better, working with her on the Executive Committee. Her counsel to the committee over the years has been invaluable. On more than



one occasion, a humorous comment from her has helped get a discussion on track.

In addition to her elected role as Secretary, Elizabeth has worn many hats for the Association, most recently including those of Lucas line representative and seller of VanVoorhees items. It is in the latter role that many of our members who have never attended a meeting have had the opportunity of dealing with Elizabeth. Since the de-acquisitioning of the Association's archive files from the Rutgers Library several years ago, Elizabeth's basement has been home to "those darn boxes".

Elizabeth was former President Helen Voorhees' "right hand woman", helping with correspondence, mailings, printing, and almost single handedly keeping the Association going during Helen's long illness. Don Vorhis credits Elizabeth with drafting him for the President's job approaching the Fiftieth Anniversary.

Elizabeth will be sorely missed by the Executive Committee, but we know that her friendly smile and welcoming hand will be there at the next Annual Meeting.

We all wish Elizabeth well in her well earned "retirement".

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#### MILESTONES

It seems like great grandchildren are the order of the day! We have two to report:

Our computer specialist Stephen LeCount Shyers IV reports the birth of a great granddaughter, Tiffany Sandra Shyers on May 9, 1989 at Dover, DE. Tiffany is the daughter of Stephen LeCount Shyers VI and Brenda McGuire Shyers, and granddaughter of Stephen LeCount Shyers V. (ed. note: proud gr. grand parents Steve (IV) and Peggy showed photos of the newest family member at the recent Executive Committee meeting.)

Our California correspondants, Margaret and Milton VanVoorhis advised us of the birth of

their great grandson, Brandon Jack VanVoorhis. He shares his middle name with great grandfather Milton, grandfather Bob, and father Marty, all of whom, like Brandon, were first sons in their respective generations. Margaret reports that the baby brings the number of their family members up to 28!

Junior editor Michael Davis won his Cub Scout pack's Pinewood Derby (fastest car by .02 seconds) with a mean looking yellow machine, sporting one of his favorite Lego men in the driver's seat. This is the second year in a row his car took a trophy (second place in 1989), and both cars were awarded medals for "most awesome" appearance (voted by the cub scout judges).

## ANNUAL MEETING

The 58th Annual Meeting of the Van Voorhees Association has been scheduled for Saturday, October 6, 1990. The meeting is tentatively scheduled to be held at the First Reformed Church in New Brunswick, NJ, beginning at 12:00 Noon. As in prior years, the meeting will start with luncheon, followed by a brief business meeting, and the presentation by our Guest Speaker.

The guest speaker for this year's meeting will be Peter G. Rose. Mrs. Rose is the translator and editor of the recently published "The Sensible Cook - Dutch Foodways in the Old and New World". This was the most favored seventeenth century Dutch cookbook, and was used in the Nieuw Netherlands area. No doubt its recipes include many items which were familiar to our ancestors. Mrs. Rose was born in Utrecht, and educated in the Netherlands and Switzerland. Her interest in Dutch cooking developed after her arrival in the US in 1964. She is a food teacher, historian, lecturer, author, and contributes a syndicated column on food and cooking to the NY based Gannett Newspapers.

Final details for the meeting will be sent as soon as they are completed.

For your long-range planning, the Association has confirmed Dr. Charles Gehring as our speaker for the 59th Annual Meeting, tentatively scheduled for Saturday, October 12, 1991. Dr. Gehring is the translator and editor of the New Netherlands papers, and recently translated the eleven VanVoorhees letters, which will appear in the forthcoming VVA research volume.

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### VOORHEES STATE PARK

On a recent business trip, I noted on the map "Voorhees State Park" in central New Jersey, and later passed a road sign for the park. With a little time to kill, I decided to stop off and see what there is at "our" park.

Voorhees State Park is 629 acres of wooded land about 15 minutes north of Clinton, NJ, or about 45 minutes west of New Brunswick. The route to the park, from Interstate Hwy. 78 via route 31 and then route

513, is well marked with signs.

The park is named for Foster M. Voorhees, who owned the property and bequeathed it to the State in his will. Foster Voorhees was governor of New Jersey, 1899-1902.

The park is relatively undeveloped, but includes camping facilities (pit toilets only), trails, picnic area, ball fields and an astronomical observatory. Hunting is permitted in designated areas. Nearby is

Ken Lockwood Gorge (a local fisherman's paradise), and the state recreation areas at Spruce Run and Round Valley.

The park is open year round, and the observatory is open to the public on the 4th Saturday

of each month at 8 PM.

For further information, contact the park office at (201) 638-6868, or Voorhees State Park, R.D. 2, Box 80, Glen Gardner, NJ 08826.

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#### HELP WANTED - SALES

A recent retirement in our sales department (see Elizabeth V. Edgar, front page) has created a career opportunity for an eager person within the membership. Flexible hours. Work at home. Excellent benefits package includes getting to know Association members (your cousins). You will get lots of mail that is neither bills nor advertising circulars. No prior experience required. Don't send salary history (this position pays no salary or commission).

Job description: Maintain inventory of VVA items, handle ordering of replacement stock, pricing of items, packing and shipping of items ordered by members, correspondence as required in connection with above, handling of checks, money orders, etc. to Treasurer.

As most of the activity is handled by US Mail, any geographic location is acceptable.

Anyone interested in taking on this rewarding position, please contact:

Donald G. Vorhis  
4813 Bradford Dr.  
Annandale, VA 22003

#### DUES REMINDER

Association Dues for 1990 are due. If you haven't yet sent your dues, please send your check or money order payable to "the VanVoorhees Association" to the Treasurer, Mr. G. Harold Buttler, 72 Upland Ave., Metuchen, NJ 08840.

Dues are: Member \$5.00;  
Junior \$2.00; Sustaining \$10.00; Contributing \$25.00;  
Life \$150.00.

Membership cards for members whose dues were paid prior to the Executive Committee meeting in April are enclosed with this Newsletter.

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#### NEW ADDRESS

Please note that Association Vice President and Membership Chairman, Art Voorhees, has a new summer address:

Arthur R. Voorhees  
18 Magnolia Rd.  
Manahawkin, NJ 08050

phone (609) 698-0743

This address is effective April thru October. Art's winter address at Ft. Lauderdale, FL is unchanged.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Historical/Publications

Work continues on the research volume, which will include several scholarly articles of interest to the family, as well as the report of the recently completed research in the Dutch Archives under the direction of Drs. Jan Folkerts, and the new translations of the VanVoorhees letters. Most of the material has been typed into computer files (which can be read directly by the printer's typesetting equipment), and edited. Final editing is underway. The major task remaining is indexing of the complete text. A title ("Through a Dutch Door - Seventeenth Century origins of the Van Voorhees Family") has been chosen, and it is hoped that we will be able to have the printer start typesetting over the summer, with printing to follow after final review of proofs.

### Genealogical

Genealogist Al Stokes is continuing the draft of generation five for volume II of the genealogy. David Voorhees has been working with Al for about a year, typing the draft as Al completes it. About 70 pages have been completed to date. The genealogy committee is working with Al to identify specific areas where members can help progress the work, and we hope to have more to report in this area in the next Newsletter. Responses to requests for help in the last Newsletter have resulted in several members researching in the specific

areas identified.

### Planning

A substantial portion of the April Executive Committee meeting was spent discussing a draft planning document. The purpose of the planning document is to identify long-range goals of the Association, and the means to achieve the goals.

### GENEALOGY QUESTIONNAIRES

We are receiving inquiries from members who want to know if they should still send in their genealogy information. The answer is YES. We want and need any and all genealogical information you have regarding you, your immediate family, descendants, and ancestors in the Van Voorhees line (including spouses and collateral descendants).

Preferably this information should be in the form of family group sheets, hand written, typed or computerized is OK. Photocopies of forms you normally use and have on hand are OK too. If you are descended in a female line, we particularly need your information, because our information is generally lacking in the female lines. Even if you can not connect your line to Steven Coerte, please send us what you have - we may be able to use the information you send to make your line connection.

Send your information to our genealogical research coordinator, Virginia V. Ward, 15 Beverly Rd., Mt. Kisco, NY 10549.

## IN MEMORIAM

Theodore (Ted) Voorhees, 82, of Tulsa, OK passed away in January, 1990. A native of Granite City, IL, he was a precision machinist with Exxon Production-Research Co. He was a Mason and Elk, and member of the National Society Sons of the American Revolution. He is survived by his wife Marie, son Edward John Voorhees, Sr., daughter Mrs. James D. (Donna Marie) Atkinson, and 7 grandchildren.

Dr. Walter R. Van Voorhis, of Lancaster Co., PA, died May 26, 1989, age 84. Dr. Van Voorhis is credited with founding, in 1934, the Schuylkill Campus of the Pennsylvania State University. He retired in 1972 as chairman of the mathematics department at Cleveland State University, where he had taught for 30 years. The son of the late Charles and Sally (O'Connell) Van Voorhis of Monongahela, PA, Dr. Van Voorhis was an Army Air Corps veteran of World War II, and author of several mathematics textbooks. Surviving are his wife, June R. (Fite), daughter Gretchen Leininger, son Jan K. Van Voorhis, and 3 grandchildren.

Manley Houston Van Voorhees, of Colon, MI, died on March 1, 1990. He was the son of Anson and Alma Sprague Van Voorhees of Marshall, MI. He is survived by his daughter, Elizabeth Ann Bower.

## GENEALOGICAL QUERY

GQ-22 Looking for someone else researching Trocy MEYER, second wife of Jacob VanVOORHEES (Johannes-Koert-Steven, p. 112-3, The VanVoorhees Family, vol. I) I am descended from their dau. Gertrude, m. Jonathan Ogden MOSELEY. Lila Jo Peck, 701 E. Michigan Ave., Marshall, MI 49068.

## QUERY

Want to find: Stephen Court Voorhees, Princeton '42, attended Cornell Medical School one year 1942-43. Anatomy partner James S. Murphy is seeking present whereabouts. Contact Newsletter Editors.

## HELP US HELP YOU!

The work of the Association is done by volunteers. We do not have an office where all operations are centralized. If you send your Association correspondence to the wrong place, it will take longer for us to respond. Please use the Executive Committee list on the back of your Newsletter as a guide.

1. Send your dues only to the Treasurer, Mr. G. Harold Buttler. DO NOT include anything else, other than a copy of the dues notice with the requested information. Membership cards are generally sent out with the first Newsletter after receipt of your dues. If you want your card sooner, please include a stamped, self addressed envelope with your dues payment.

2. Send applications or inquiries for new membership to the Membership Chairman, Mr. Arthur R. Voorhees.

3. Send orders for Van Voorhees Genealogy books only to Publications Chairman, Mr. Robert S. Voris.

4. Send orders for all other Van Voorhees items to our saleslady, Mrs. Elizabeth V. Edgar. Please include your membership number (on your Newsletter mailing label "VVL-xxxxx") so that we can honor the member's price.

5. Send genealogical questionnaires and information to our Genealogical Research Coordinator, Mrs. Virginia V. Ward.

6. Send genealogical questions to the Genealogical Chairman, Rev. William J. F. Lydecker.

7. Send address changes to our Computer Services expert, Mr. Stephen LeC. Shyers, IV. This is most important if you move. The postal service is not particularly helpful in this regard. We have 30 to 50 Newsletters per issue returned undeliverable as addressed, of which 10 or more do not have corrected addresses. For our purposes, these members are lost, and will not receive further mailings. Those which have the corrected addresses will receive the next mailing, but we do not remail returned Newsletters due to the cost (initial printing and mailing at bulk rate typically cost about \$.80, address correction another \$.30, remailing at first class adds another \$1.15, so we don't do it). If you have paid your dues and haven't seen a Newsletter in more than 6 or 7 months, contact Steve or the Newsletter editors. If you haven't paid your dues see 1. above.

8. Send all your contributions for the Newsletter to the editors. Remember, this is your Newsletter!

Thanks for helping us help you!

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 1990

President: Donald G. Vorhis 4813 Bradford Dr., Annandale, VA 22003 (703)941-4614  
 Vice President: Arthur R. Voorhees 18 Magnolia Rd., Manahawkin, NJ 08050 (Apr.-Oct.) (609)698-0743  
 1900 SW 83rd Ave., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33324 (Oct.-Apr.) (305)473-2972  
 Secretary: Ms. Candace Voorhies 1364 Highland Ave., Rochester, NY 14620 (716)244-5868  
 Treasurer: G. Harold Buttler 72 Upland Ave., Metuchen, NJ 08840 (201)548-8869

LINE REPRESENTATIVES

Albert Line: Ms. Cornelia V. Mason 32 Elkan Rd., Larchmont, NY 10538 (914)833-1276  
 Coert Line: Frank J. VanVoorhis 909 Evening St., Worthington, OH 43085 (614)885-8473  
 Jan Line: Robert S. Voris 802 Berkeley Rd., Westover Hills, Wilmington, DE 19807 (302)652-5833  
 Lucas Line: Mrs. Joseph (Elizabeth V.) Edgar 423 Harrison Ave., Highland Park, NJ 08904 (201)545-6962

MEMBERS-at-LARGE

Mrs. George L. (Alice V.) Adams 24 Redcliffe Ave., Apt. 1-A, Highland Park, NJ 08904  
 Mrs. T.B. (Elisabeth V.) Ripton 242-31 51 Ave., Douglaston, NY 11362  
 Donald A. Sinclair 108 North 2nd Ave., Highland Park, NJ 08904 (201)545-0568  
 Richard L. Voorhees 2116 Swinnen Dr., Westerlo, Wilmington, DE 19810 (302)475-2801  
 Miss Charlotte C. Voorhis Cathedral Village A-320, 8600 Ridge Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19128

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Financial: G. Harold Buttler (see above)  
 Genealogical: Rev. William J.F. Lydecker 19 Oak St., Allendale, NJ 07401 (201)934-9586  
 Historical: Manning W. Voorhees 41 Oaklawn Rd., Fair Haven, NJ 07701 (201)842-0086  
 Membership: Arthur R. Voorhees (see above)  
 Communications: Frank J. VanVoorhis (see above)  
 Program: Scott Voorhees 30 Orchard Ave., Emerson, NJ 07630 (201)967-8474  
 Publications: Robert S. Voris (see above)  
 Publicity: Mrs. Robert (June V.) Wick 3 Edgebrook LA., Monsey, NY 10952 (914)357-2770  
 Planning: George Davis (see below)

Association Genealogist: Albert L. Stokes RD#1 Old Georgetown Rd., Princeton, NJ 08540 (201)297-2438  
 Computer Services: Stephen LeC. Shyers IV 26 Laurel La., Newark, DE 19713 (302)368-7609  
 Newsletter Editors: George and Patricia Davis 310 Rockland Ave., River Vale, NJ 07675 (201)358-0150

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The VAN VOORHEES ASSOCIATION  
 310 Rockland Ave.  
 River Vale, NJ 07675

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