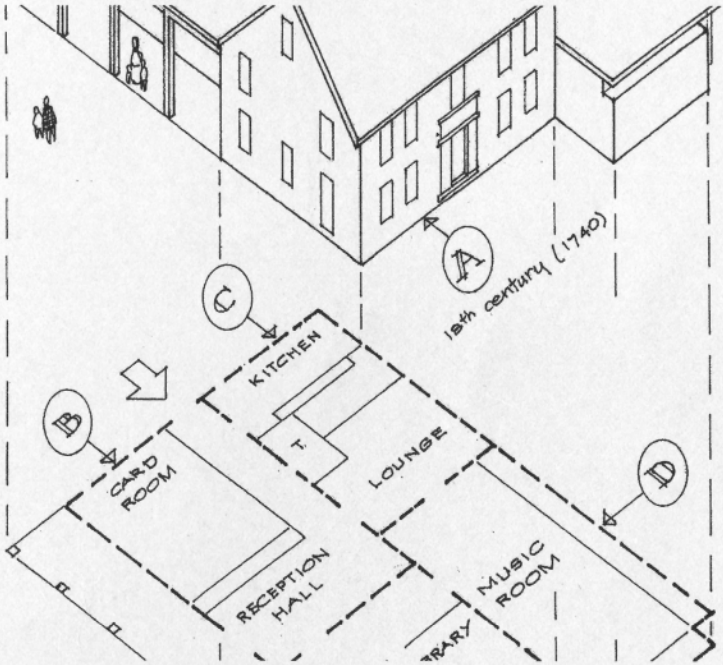
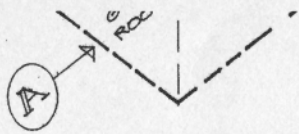


Our Historic Buildings, Then and Now



Heritage Village Archives Committee



Our Historic Buildings, Then and Now

Heritage Village Archives Committee

Published by the Heritage Village 40th Anniversary Committee, 2007

Designed and edited by Nancy Young

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Revised and updated by Mildred Gallik

Cover: Drawing of Meeting House by Robert Klein

Preface

The historic buildings that became part of Heritage Village were never static. We can follow their metamorphosis over two centuries and appreciate their sound heritage and generous contribution to our lives. The River Garden area has also been included since it has always been such an integral part of the Village**.**

The value of peoples' dreams, visions and purposes handed down from one generation to another is demonstrated through the extensive research of this project. Evident to all are the varied undertakings by the respective owners of the land and of the buildings that are now Heritage Village.

The families including some illustrious personalities—the Wheelers, Nuttings, Skeldings, Ballantines and Borges—settled on the land and each tried their hand at a myriad of businesses. They ranged from farming, cattle raising, photographic arts, game preserve to a Rock Cornish hen enterprise. And finally, the Paparazzo Brothers who created Heritage Village, an award-winning adult community of unique design and functionality.

This booklet provides an interesting and inspiring journey from the original architecture and function of each building to their present usage - never static, always changing.

Michele S. Matusic

Acknowledgements

This book is based on a Heritage Village Archives Committee exhibit that was displayed in the gallery of the Activities Building in November 2006. Committee members who produced the exhibit were:

Mildred Gallik	Winship Barn, Stable Studio, Glass Shop
Patricia Joy	Ethan Allen Library, Activities Building
Michele Matusic	Fireside, Lodge, River Garden
Norma Schild	Meeting House
Nancy Young	Krueger House

We are grateful for the support and suggestions received from committee members Dr. Joseph Ernst, Archives Chairman and Lore Jarmul about both the exhibit and this booklet. Our apologies for any errors that may have inadvertently occurred in the text.

The Heritage Village Library personnel deserve our thanks for subscribing to the *Heritage Villager* since its inception , thus preserving a record of Village history. Much of the information and many of the photographs in the booklet came from bound volumes of the *Villager* the Library donated to the Archives.

In anticipation of the 50th Anniversary of Heritage Village, this booklet has been revised and updated to reflect the changes that have occurred in many of the facilities these past ten years. Thanks to the Heritage Village 50th Anniversary Steering Committee chaired by Marcia Brooker for their support. And to those individuals who provided information and photographs. A special thanks to Barbara Cantwell and Terry Sullivan for their assistance in this undertaking. All efforts are most appreciated.

Ronald Borge	*Heritage Villager*
Janet Borge Crowle	Eric Staib
Bert DeForest	John D. Weinland

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Wes Coe

Sarah Cooke Collection

Vince Da Grosa

Thomas Andrew Denenberg
Wallace Nutting and the Invention of Old America

Eugene Ettenberg
"Victor Borge of Vibo Farms"
Voices, June 21, 1978

Joseph Garvish

Heritage Village Activities Staff

Heritage Village Library Collection

Heritage Villager

Anne Winship Kehmna

Jack Levine

Lee Loinger

Susan Mahoney

Dorothy Manville

Mrs. Pete Martin
"I drop in on the Victor Borges"
The American Home, May 1959

Glen Morris

Wallace Nutting
Connecticut Beautiful

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Meeting House

The historic structure now called the Meeting House dates back to 1740. It was built, most historians agree, by Obediah Wheeler who operated a mill in the Southford section of town. It was typical of houses built in the region at that time. The house, set on a knoll overlooking a small pond, faced a country lane, now known as Hill House Road. In 2002, the late Robert Klein, a Villager and architect who served on the Southbury Historic Building Commission, did extensive research detailing the numerous additions and alterations to the Meeting House over time. In the February 1, 2002 issue of the *Heritage Villager*, he explained that our Meeting House is a building complex of four structures erected at different periods in history.



The Meeting House in 1890 when the Truman B. Wheeler family lived there

Two-and-One-Half-Story Early American Farmhouse The first building erected on the site was a traditional five-bay colonial with a massive central chimney. Although altered inside and out, the basic shape remains. The first floor contained two rooms, the current Gun Room, with its huge fireplace, and a library, now the Magazine Exchange. A step staircase led to the second –floor rooms, which were drastically changed by Victor Borge and later by Heritage Village.

Two-and-One-Half-Story Ell The ell was probably built in the late nineteenth century by one of the many Wheeler families who occupied the house. The original ell was quite

different from the one that exists today. The side porch was only one story high, covered by a low roof with the attic roof much steeper than the present low pitch. Later renovations to the ell are attributed to Victor Borge, circa the late 1950s.

Three-Story North Wing It is assumed that this addition, which increased the size of the original ell, was part of the Borge renovation. The first floor contains a kitchen, a restroom and a lounge that is adjacent to the foyer and the Music Room. The second floor was modified by Heritage Village to create executive office and meeting facilities for Master Association activities. On the third floor there is a large bedroom with a Palladian window, full bath, closets and smaller accessory space that was designed for Borge's oldest son. This area connects to the ell's attic , which is adjacent to the original building's attic.

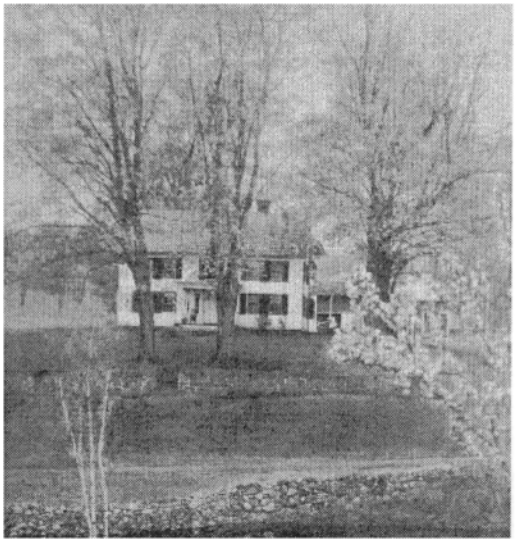
Music Room This fourth and last addition to the complex was built by Borge about 1960. Designed by the world-renowned architect I. M. Pei, this modern structure has proven to be a constant topic of discussion regarding its compatibility with such a colonial edifice.

Late 19th Century Memories

The late Katherine Stone Leavenworth, a Villager, gave a personal account of her memories of the Meeting House in the *Heritage Villager* in 1977. Her grandfather was the third Truman Wheeler to own the property. Her mother, Lucy Wheeler, was born in the Meeting House. Katherine faintly remembered visiting her grandmother in the homestead and sampling water drawn by a bucket from a well south of the home when she was a child. She further recounted that in 1888, the year of the big blizzard, there was considerable excitement in Southbury when some Waterbury men leased land to drill for oil some 200 feet north of the Wheeler homestead. Small deposits of coal had been discovered in the vicinity and they hoped to discover oil. However, after drilling 1,500 feet over a period of several months without success, the project was abandoned.

Wallace Nutting

After more than 150 years in the Wheeler family, the 250 acre property was sold to Wallace Nutting in 1906. Nutting was a man of many talents – minister; photographer; farmer; collector, restorer and manufacturer of colonial furniture; author; lecturer and publisher. Ordained as a Congregational minister in 1888, he left the ministry in 1904 because of ill health. To ease his depression, the doctor encouraged him to pursue his interest in photography, creating fine-grain platinum prints enhanced by hand coloring. He opened an art print shop in New York City but closed it a year later to look for a life in a more peaceful environment.



A Wallace Nutting print of Nuttinghame

Scenes for his photographs were those of the New England countryside which enabled him to traverse surrounding areas for his subjects. On one such trip in 1906, the train on which he and his wife, Mariet were passengers broke down at the Pomperaug Valley Station in Southbury. To pass the time, they set out to explore the area. When they revealed to a livery stable boy that they were looking for a farm to buy, he led them to the old clapboard Wheeler homestead. We're told that at first glance, Nutting whispered to his wife "That's good land, plenty of maple trees, old stone walls, good drainage and just look at those stone chimneys." With that, the Nuttings became the owners of the house they named Nuttinghame.

For a time, he attempted to fulfill his dream of being a farmer building a large barn stocked with pure-bred Holsteins. It was not long before he discovered that the dairy business was not profitable. Subsequently, he concentrated his efforts on photography.

Nuttinghame proved to be an idyllic location for picture-taking, both indoors and out. The hand-coloring of the prints was done by local women who worked in a gallery-like studio on the second floor of the house. With the expansion of the business, the dairy barn became the center of his commercial enterprise. He transformed the first floor into a work area and for the workers who lived a distance away, he built a dormitory on the second floor. The basement became a storage facility.

Many of Nutting's most popular photographs were taken in front of the mammoth fireplace in the home room, now the Gun Room. Workers dressed in colonial-style outfits posed as models. In his entire collection, the second most popular photograph was "Nuttinghame Blossoms," a blossoming apple tree in front of his home.



The Gun Room fireplace, a popular site for a Nutting print

His interest in creating photographic colonial interiors led him to another venture – collecting, restoring and manufacturing antique furniture. Needing larger facilities to accommodate his businesses, he sold Nuttinghame in 1912 and moved to Framingham, Mass.

The Skeldings

Francis Skelding, a retired banker from Pittsburgh was driving through Southbury and stopped off to see the Nutting property that was for sale. According to his daughter Marjorie Skelding Powell, it was love at first sight for he bought the house and surrounding property then and there. It became known as Ellensbrook Farm, naming it after her mother.

The daughter, interviewed by the *Heritage Villager* in 1976, recalled the fond memories she and her brothers shared when they resided at the home from 1912 to 1924. Among her memories are, "the large room with the fireplace that we called the home room (now the Gun Room). Father built the fireplace in the hall with a wine room on one side and a coat closet on the other, and he added the dining room. There was a bedroom and bath above the home room and my parents added another with a fireplace and bath. This was my room. My brothers had two small rooms down the hall. And there was a ballroom on the second floor which we used as our guest room."

Even the barn that Nutting had remodeled for his photographic business was utilized by the family as a venue for parties and dances until it burned down.

The Ballantines

The Skeldings sold their property to John and Helen Ballantine in 1924. The land for Ballantine Park was donated by them to Southbury in memory of their son John Ballantine, Jr., who was killed in WWII. Then in 1953, Victor Borge purchased the property from the Ballantines.

Victor Borge

Victor Borge, the famous Danish pianist and entertainer, was living at the Waldorf Astoria in Manhattan when he learned through a newspaper ad that the Ballantine property was on the market. He was seeking a quiet place in the country where he could relax with his family and escape the tensions of the television and theatre worlds. In 1952, he bought the 338 acres of land, dwellings and barns and it became ViBo Farm. Borge subsequently invested a considerable amount of time and expense overseeing the renovations and additions to his newly acquired home.



The elegant, renovated foyer

The ornamental woodwork in the dining room and hallways once graced the walls of Prospect Hill, a gracious home located in the Piedmont area of North Carolina. The immense kitchen, with its large wooden iceboxes made to store ice cut from the frozen pond, was reduced in size and modernized. The surplus space became a dining room. The side porch was raised to two stories with four slender, decorated columns added. The upper roof line was flattened considerably. Elaborate trim and paneling were applied to the interiors and exteriors of the building and all



The Music Room

windows and doors were replaced. The ceiling was lifted to make the foyer area two stories high. A graceful curved stairway also retrieved from the North Carolina home was installed with giant checkerboard squares of gray and white marble adorning the floor. The dining room, now the Card Room, was paneled as well as the entrance corridor and the foyer. Decorative trim, moldings and arches were also installed.

The Music Room, designed by I. M. Pei, housed two concert grand pianos and was soundproofed with facilities for recording equipment. Mr. Borge revealed that the room was a dream come true.

Heritage Village

The Paparazzo brothers, Henry, Otto, Frank and Louis, launched the adult condominium complex of Heritage Village in 1964. Architectural patterns were changing in other parts of

the country and the brothers believed it was the right time to introduce, cluster housing, a style compatible with the existing natural terrain. When they learned that the Borges were moving to Greenwich, they assumed an option on the acreage in 1965. Then, by title or option, they acquired a total of 700 acres of land. It was now time for the Paparazzos to launch the first condominium community in Connecticut. A purchase on Poverty Road increased the size of the Village to approximately 1,000 acres, including a 100 acre wildlife preserve.



The Magazine Room was the original library

Heritage Village became a reality on July 7, 1966, when the Administration Building and model homes opened to the public. A short time later, the Paparazzos deeded the Borge home to the Village to be used as a residents' meeting place. Early residents regarded the Meeting House as their second home since most activities occurred there until other facilities became available

Over time, card clubs formed and current activities as well as coming events were posted on a bulletin board set up in the lower hallway of the building. Sleeping accommodations on the second floor were available to prospective buyers and guests of residents for an overnight or weekend stay. The slight fee charged subsidized Village activities. Teas for new residents, live performances, even marriages took place in the former Borge home. And before regular mail service was established, it was where Villagers retrieved their mail.

Today, even with other facilities in full use, the Meeting House continues to be an active place. Condo and club meetings, socials and parties are held on the first floor. Offices for the Master Association and the administrative staff are on the second floor. Space on the lower level is occupied by the Archives and the Stained Glass Studio.



First mail service in Meeting House basement

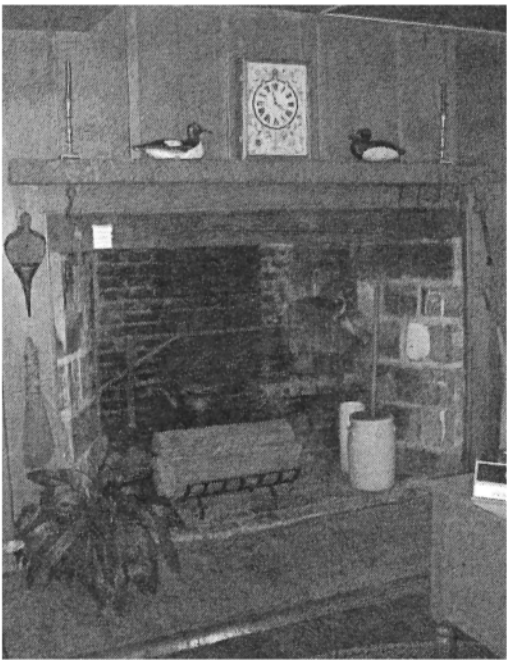
In summing up the history of the Meeting House, we recall the words of former resident Marjorie Skelding Powell, "It was a lovely home, and I'm sure each succeeding owner felt that way about it. Now it serves an even larger family. The house has had a rich, full life."



The Meeting House

Ethan Allen Cottage

The Heritage Village Library is housed in a historic 18th century building formerly known as the Ethan Allen Cottage. The building was transported from Litchfield to Roxbury and then to Southbury some years ago. Although Ethan Allen was born in 1738 in Litchfield, there is no factual evidence that the cottage was his actual birthplace. However dim the history of the house may be, much of its interior gives evidence of its age. It has 18 inch wide floorboards, a huge fireplace with a built-in baking oven and beamed ceilings, all typical features of a modest colonial home.



The Cottage fireplace

Ethan Allen Guest House

Various individuals resided temporarily in the Ethan Allen Cottage. The Victor Borge family along with their French poodles, Toujour and L'Amour, lived there briefly while renovations were underway at their main residence, the Meeting House. The Otto Paparazzo family, with five children and a Saint Bernard, managed to squeeze in until their home in Woodbury was ready.

When the first permanent residents of Heritage Village - Irma Holton and her sister Vera Faith - were ready to take occupancy, their unit was not. Once again, the cottage was used as a temporary home. Even Mildred and Emmet Crozier who later spear-headed the drive to turn the Cottage into a library, had to store their furniture there for a few weeks while carpeting and appliances were being installed in their unit.

Heritage Village Library



Heritage Village Library

Mildred Crozier's dream of a library for the Village came true when the Paparazzos agreed to convert the historic building into such \a facility. On May 7, 1968, the Ethan Allen Cottage became the Heritage Village Library, opening with more than 2,000 books donated by residents.

The Library opening was a festive event, featuring an art exhibit of bronzes by Villager Harriet Frishmuth, a sculptor whose work is in museums here and abroad, including the Metropolitan

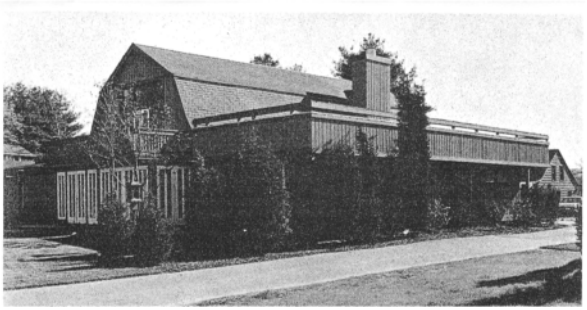
Museum. Exhibits continued at the Library for a few years until the need for book space took precedence over displays.

In 1999, after years of discussion and vigorous fundraising, the Library presented plans for a 500 square-foot addition designed by architect Kevin Bennett. The addition, now looking as if it had always been there, opened in August 2002. The Library is staffed by approximately fifty volunteers and is open four hours each day. It houses a collection of more than 10,000 books, CDs, DVDs and puzzles. The annual book sale is a major fundraiser that was first introduced in the early 1970's and it has been held annually each May ever since.

Fireside

The present-day Fireside structure, formerly known as the Women's Clubhouse, originally was a barn. When the Ballantines owned the property, the building provided storage for the nearby stables. During the 1950s, Victor Borge converted the building into a processing plant and freezer for his Rock Cornish hen enterprise. The Paparazzos used the building as their operating headquarters and also as a storage warehouse and maintenance office starting in 1965.

The facility was given to the women of the Village in 1969 by the Paparazzos providing them with a place to relax and enjoy cultural, social and charitable events amid friends and neighbors. The idea began in 1967 when Villager Dorothy Langlie led afternoon sessions of music, lectures and teas called the Fireside Hour for the ladies. The group met in front of the fireplace in the Gun Room of the Meeting House. They moved into the Women's Clubhouse in 1969 with a gala champagne party.



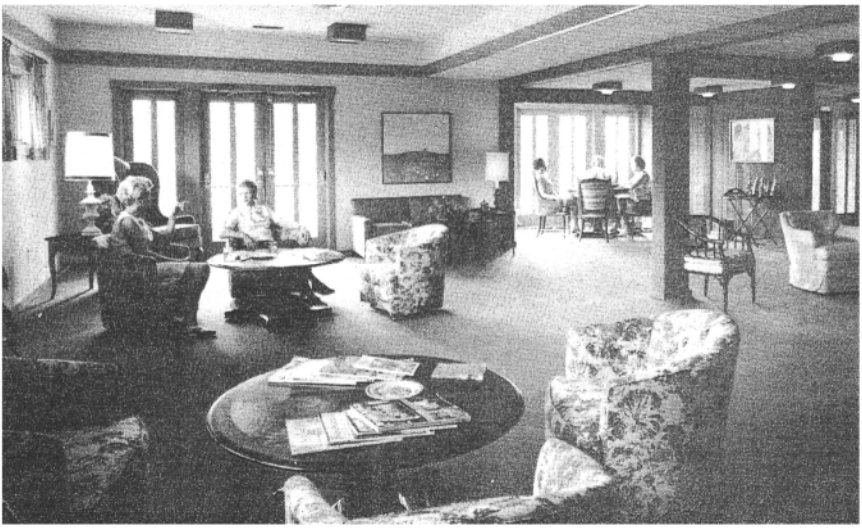
The Women's Clubhouse—now the Fireside

The Clubhouse was remodeled and redecorated at a cost of $75,000. Professional decorators wanted it to have the understated elegance of an English country house. The former hayloft was transformed into the mezzanine with a high-beamed ceiling and a cozy fireplace. The first floor consisted of a large meeting and social room and smaller multi-purpose rooms, a fully equipped kitchen and a restroom.

The building was furnished by the Paparazzos. But the silver coffee urns, tea kettles, bridge tables and chairs, dishes and other

supplies were bought with the money the women earned from tag sales.

In 2004, the Women's Club became the Fireside with facilities open to all Villagers, like the Men's Club. The card



Interior of the Women's Clubhouse

parties, social events and meetings continue with the camaraderie still enhancing all aspects of the Fireside.

There have been major changes recently including the raising of some floors on the first floor to one level and the addition of another restroom.

Lodge

The Ballantines built the Lodge after purchasing the property in 1924. It served as a gathering place and guest house for his hunting, fishing and sports-related friends. When the Paparazzo brothers bought the property from Victor Borge in 1965, the Lodge became an office for the engineers and architects during the first phase of the Village construction. The Paparazzos transformed the building into a gentlemen's clubhouse offering the male Villagers comfortable accommodations for playing pool, billiards, cards or simply socializing or relaxing

On July 13, 1968, approximately 250 residents gathered to celebrate their presentation of the clubhouse to the men. Additional areas have been enhanced in and around the clubhouse throughout the years. Horseshoe pits and a shuffleboard court were built, the three-car garage was eliminated with the interior becoming a room with three pool tables and a terrace outside. A long-awaited bocce court was created in 1992. The little brick walk along the pond at the clubhouse, laid by two early residents to show what could be done around the ponds, is all that remains of the idea; blacktop won out. A copper beech tree adjacent to the building was planted and dedicated to a vital and devoted member, Percy Pimm.



Pool room on lower level

A major question arose in the early years of the 2000s when a group of Villagers questioned the legitimacy of the gender-based Men's and Women's Clubs with unit owners paying for all

Foundation facilities in the Village. The group presented their case before the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities and won. So in 2004, the Men's Club became the Lodge and the Women's Club the Fireside with facilities open to all Villagers. And a room on the lower level of the Lodge became the Archives Committee's home.

In 2014, the renovation of the Lodge was a major undertaking involving a year to design and a year to complete. The alterations embodied gutting the building, replacing the roof, waterproofing the basement, installing new windows and French doors, converting the enormous stone fireplace to gas and ensuring that the building was energy efficient. The finished result was introduced to Village residents and town representatives at a grand opening on May 7, 2014. The long-awaited event which continued for another three days attracted hundreds of Villagers who ooh-ed and ah-ed at the extreme metamorphosis that had taken place.



The Great Room

The remodeled façade, complete with a clock tower, encloses renovated rooms containing comfortable, sturdy furniture selected for its easy cleaning and durability. Some paintings donated by Village artists decorate the walls of the building and eclectic rooms throughout are accessible by elevator. The salvaged antique claw –foot Empire sideboard in the Great Room compliments an antique rug decorating the floor.

Residents can now enjoy games such as pool, ping-pong, poker, rummy, billiards, bridge or Mah Jongg in the various rooms in the building. Those who want to sit and watch television or socialize may do so in the grand Great Room with

its charming stone fireplace and original wooden flooring. The skylights and lamps that grace the once drab and dreary mezzanine over- looking the Great Room, provide a bright, cheerful ambiance for residents who enjoy reading or knitting. Others may opt to retire to a quiet nook in order to utilize a smart phone, laptop or tablet. On the lower level of the building are game rooms and the Pond Lounge which contains a counter/bar, tables and comfortable chairs for social gatherings as well as a pool table. The attractive French doors add brightness to the room and open out to the spacious brick-paved patio. Residents can relax in chairs placed under colorful umbrellas and munch on snacks or sandwiches while enjoying the serene surroundings and the scenic beauty of the pond.

The costly renovation was fully subsidized from monies generated from the Equity Fund (a buyer's fee) that was adopted in Nov. 2003. Some expenses incurred by the project were offset by the Commemorative Brick Paving Stone Plan that offered residents the opportunity to purchase a personal engraved laser brick. The patio area can accommodate 600 bricks so the program is ongoing.

Decades have passed and the name has changed, but the concept of sharing and nurturing friendships will continue to exist in this special structure known as the Lodge.



The new Lodge

Activities Building

ViBo Farm

Victor Borge purchased the 338 acres of land in 1952 from the Ballantines. The acquisition was made under the name Pheasants, Inc. since many pheasant roamed the premises. The property, in addition to the main residence, included a number of barns and small buildings. Considering himself a "gentleman farmer", Borge soon launched a Rock Cornish hen business and called it ViBo Farm. Rock Cornish hens, a cross between the Plymouth Rock hen and a Cornish or Bantam rooster, weigh an average of about one and a half pounds. Borge parceled out his birds to five or six nearby farmers who raised them. The present Activities Building was the processing plant where the hens were packaged for marketing to upscale customers.

The packing of the oven-ready birds was elaborate. Pine, bayberries, bittersweet and wintergreen, as well as artificial yellow flowers graced the packages that were shipped to not only Maxim's in Paris but to New York restaurants such as the Colony, Sardi's and the Stork Club. In the pre-Christmas season, he found it necessary to hire as many as 22 packers

Carpentry Mill

In the summer of 1966, a year after the Paparazzos bought the property, the processing plant for the hens was transformed into a mill where woodworking machinery reduced Idaho Inland Cedar to siding lengths and lumber was fabricated into trusses and frames. The building continued to house a mass assembly line until 1968. Then the mill operation was moved away from the existing residences. That was when an early resident, Marion Douglas, persuaded the Paparazzos to convert the mill into an all-purpose building for the Villagers.

Activities Building

The opening of the Activities Building on November 9, 1968 was a grand affair with the facility bursting with exhibits as well as judo, karate and golf demonstrations. The works of fledgling arts and crafts groups were on display. Entertainers such as barber shop quartets, square dancers, clowns, fortune tellers and folk singers drew an estimated 1,000 Villagers and guests to the site.. On the day of the dedication, Henry, Otto and Frank Paparazzo acknowledged their debt to the residents who planned and worked as a team to organize the Arts and Crafts program by saying, “Truly they represent the spirit of Heritage Village, and it is to that spirit we now dedicate the Activities Building.”

The building is now a multifunctional facility housing a variety of rooms and Sarah Cooke Hall, named for the former long-time Activities Director. The hall is the venue for concerts, theater performances, dances, lectures, films, art shows, informational forums, club meetings, trustees meetings, badminton and bridge games. The building also accommodates a computer room - the Web, a video production studio, offices for Activities personnel and the new Fitness Center. Adjacent to the building is one of the four Village swimming pools.



Entrance to the Activities Building

Fitness Center



The Fitness Center with a variety of exercise and work-out equipment

On May 26, 2010, Village administrators, state representatives and more than 250 residents celebrated the grand opening of a 2,200-square foot Fitness Center. The structure was the first new addition to the Village in 40 years. The $500,000 building subsidized by equity fund money earmarked for capital improvements only, was erected in response to an overwhelming request by residents. The state-of-the-art structure was completed six months after the November 18, 2009 groundbreaking ceremony. Energy efficient fluorescent lighting, heating and air conditioning were installed to reduce operating costs. Exercise equipment costing $90,000 fills a room designed to create an ambiance of spaciousness. A walking/jogging track separates the equipment from a TV-lined wall. Sounds emanating from the adjoining Activities Building are inaudible because of the Center's soundproof walls. This new structure reflects only the first step the Village has taken to upgrade and improve amenities.

Winship Barn

The barn, a prime example of turn-of-the century rural New England architecture, was part of the dairy farm owned by the Winship family for two generations. The barn housed cows, horses and farm equipment. The Winships also raised corn and hay on their farm that covered 160 acres. Condos 12 and 13 now stand in part of that land that also extended up New Wheeler Road.

When the Paparazzos acquired the property in December 1967, the barn was remodeled to serve as offices for some of the developer's staff. A general overhaul of the framing and the installation of a new top floor took place. Insulation, heating and cooling equipment were added. The decrepit silo was straightened and preserved as a prominent reminder of what the building had been.



Winship Barn

Woodworking and Metal Craft Club

As the first residents moved into the Village, interest in woodworking was evident. Paparazzo made space available on the first floor for a woodworking shop. By December 1968, 34 Villagers formed the nucleus of the present-day Woodworking and Metal Craft Club.

Five pieces of equipment were given to the group by Henry Paparazzo—a hand saw, sanding machine, table saw, lathe and a drill press.



A section of the woodworking area

There were also generous donations of other equipment and supplies by members. As membership increased, more workbenches, storage shelves and lockers were needed. Additional partitions were built to accommodate a room for a machine shop separate from woodworking areas and a tool crib. Workbenches were donated, others were built. Today, facilities in the workshop rival many commercial enterprises. Some say that it is probably one of the best non-professional shops in the land.

A tiny alcove on the top floor was turned into space for woodworkers to make stringed musical instruments. Another area became a specialized workshop for building ship models of all kinds. Designs ranged from 3-masted schooners, square riggers, Chinese junks and ferry boats to the remotely controlled boats seen at the popular 4th of July regattas on the pond.

Interests and projects have changed and now the area for building ship models is being used primarily for craftsmen making items such as bowls, birdhouses, dollhouses and model planes in a more dust-free and quiet environment.

Radio/Electronics Club

The opposite side of the top floor houses the Radio/ Electronics Club founded in 1974. There were amateur radio operators moving into the Village who wanted to use their ham radios but because of building-code restrictions on outside antennae, they were unable to do so. A group of twelve found a home in the barn. And in February 1975, a license to operate an amateur radio station with the call WA1UKD was awarded to the group by the FCC.

Today, every inch of space is occupied. The headquarters is brimming with equipment: 5 antennae; digital–computer radios; test and repair equipment; and state-of-the art transceivers. Even the walls, covered with calling cards from radio operators all over the world, are evidence of the interests and capabilities of the members.

In 2005, twelve members of the group were certified as a community response team after completing 21 hours of training. The program, funded by state and federal agencies, was the first in the town of Southbury. Its purpose is to provide assistance to professional emergency responders, and currently operates in conjunction with a similar group in Woodbury.



Radio/Electronics Center

Stable Studio

The stable was built by Victor Borge in the mid-1950s. It contained three horse stalls for the family's horses. The area to the left of the stalls was used for storing bedding straw. For a time, some cattle were kept to the right of the stalls, later it became a storage area for farm equipment.

Borge, an excellent rider, kept three horses, He continued riding in spite of severe hip problems that developed as a result of falling off the piano bench, a routine in his one-man show. His wife and three of his children were also accomplished equestrians.

In 1969, the building became the Stable Studio, home of The Brush and Pencil Club. It was a year after the Club was formed by a group of fourteen art-eager Villagers.

The building houses two wings – one for painting and drawing, the other for ceramics and sculptures.



Stable Studio

The section for the Brush and Pencil Club provides the atmosphere and facilities for the artistically inclined to work in a variety of styles and media—pastels, oil, acrylic, watercolor, charcoal, plain or colored pencils. Classes are held to draw or paint a live model.

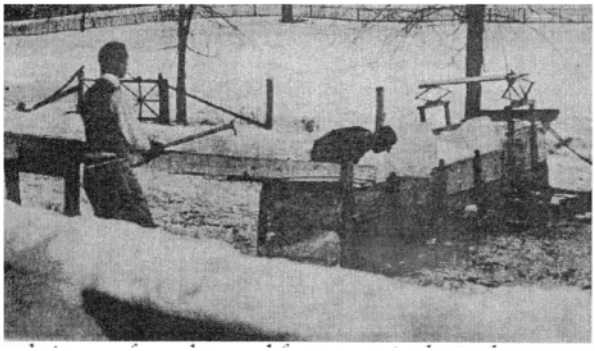
The courtyard of the Stable Studio is used for outdoor exhibits or other events of the Club.

The Clay Club promotes an interest in ceramic designs ranging from sculptures to pottery.

The HV Safety and Security Department occupies space on the upper level of the building.

Glass Shop

The stone-and-concrete-façade nestled in the hillside between the Lodge and Library was a storage house for ice during the years the Skeldings owned the property from 1912 to 1924. Every winter, ice was cut from the pond and carried by horse-drawn sleds to the storage house.



Cutting ice from the pond for storage

Victor Borge used the building as a smoke house for his Rock Cornish hens, pheasants and other game. It was also a commercial enterprise since the smoked game was distributed to restaurants and markets all over the world. Kosher products were also prepared there under a rabbi's supervision.

In the early days of Heritage Village, it became a cold cellar where Garden Club members could store their bounty. Approximately thirty 2 x 3 foot wire cages were made by members of the Metal Craft Club members. Villagers could purchase a unit for $15, which covered the cost of materials and a key.

Today's use—a glass shop—is a far cry from its original purpose. But it serves as an ideal storage area for the glass used in replacing windows and doors throughout the Village.



Glass Shop

River Garden

Originally, the River Garden area was part of the Winship property with the Pomperaug River flowing through it and frequently overflowing its banks. Since no homes could safely be built in the area, a nursery for seedling plants and shrubs used in the landscaping of Heritage Village was situated there instead.

It took the efforts of one resident, Pat Roberts, to inspire residents and then persuade the Paparazzos to set aside land for Village gardens. That was 1967. Her persuasive powers won out and by March 1968, some five acres were set aside along the Pomperaug River. Roads and paths were created, storage sheds built, water pipes for irrigation installed, plots staked out and garden tools supplied. Even a fireplace for cook-outs was made with benches and tables placed under shade trees.

The gardens were redesigned in 1968 and raised by eight to ten inches in an attempt to prevent further water damage. Although inundated by heavy rains and flooding any number of times, the gardeners always persevered.

The popularity of the gardens kept increasing with more space needed to meet the demand. So in 1972, a walking bridge was built spanning the river. This added a 3-acre vegetable area for a substantial increase in the number of 10' x 10' and 10' by 20' plots. Today, the number totals 554.

In 1973, The Paparazzos donated a thousand bricks to edge and line pathways and walks to the formal herb garden that was created that year. The herb garden has been enlarged over the years



The lush River Gardens

and its brick paths restored. All-important wire fencing was installed early on throughout the entire acreage to keep out voracious critters and later replaced by chain-link fencing we see today.



Jan Hafner Memorial

One long-time member who was readily available to help individuals be better gardeners was Jan Hafner. She was honored as the first master gardener in Connecticut, a horticultural designer and consultant. When she passed away in 2010, River Garden members and friends wanted to recognize this well-respected member. On May 9, 2011, a granite bench that sits on a path between two flower gardens she tended was dedicated in her honor. The inscription "See you in the garden" is the closure that appeared in her column *Village Gardener* in the *Heritage Villager* from 2000 to 2010.

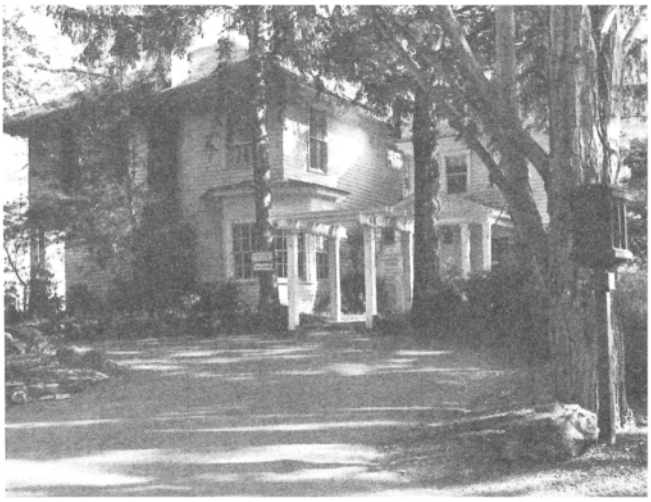
The latest addition to the River Garden was one designed for those who love gardening but prefer or find it necessary to work at a raised level—planting bed on legs—a raised planter. Credit goes to an eagle scout, Zack Tutko, whose grandparents, the Tutkos, are Villagers. Funds for the venture were raised through the HV Initiative Group with six planters 4' x 4' in size built by Zack, other scouts and friends and donated to the Club. The appeal for such gardening soon attracted more interest. As a result, members of the Woodworking Club volunteered their time and effort in constructing more planters. There are now 15 units set up and readily accessible by an asphalt walk.

Krueger House

Although the stately Krueger home has been a restaurant since 1967, it was the home of a number of families from the time it was built during the Revolutionary War (l775-1783). Its first occupants were the Curtis family. Then just after the turn of the century, the St. John family bought and enlarged it to almost its present size, living there for several generations.

In the early 1900s, it was known as the M. E. Olmstead House. In 1940 Charles Hoff, who had used it as a summer home, sold it to Estelle Penning and her mother. They added the silo and garages that are now used by the Heritage Village Country Club. At one time, the Pennings had 5,000 chickens that ranged on what is now the second-hole fairway. Acres of pastureland were leased to a farmer for his 70 head of cattle

The Pennings sold the property to the Kruegers in 1953. They lived there with their children and animals for many happy years. The Paparazzos purchased the Krueger farmland which became a large portion of the Village and the Heritage Village Golf Course. And the lovely mansion was completely remodeled, decorated and transformed into a luxurious Country Clubhouse with the opening of a restaurant on September 28, 1967.



The stately Krueger House

The building, still owned by the Heritage

Development Corporation, has been a restaurant ever since. The Restaurant at the Country Club was followed by the Country Tavern then the Olive Tree and the most recent Antonios. Alterations over the years included the addition of the gazebo lounge and the removal of a bedroom wall upstairs to facilitate space for private parties. But in spite of its years and changes, the stately home still possesses some of the charm of an old Post Road eating house.

After visiting the then Country Tavern, Mrs. Krueger wrote the following to the Paparazzo brothers: "You did all the right things to our house, but the rightest is that it is still full of life."



The patio area overlooking the first tee of the golf course

Views



River Garden bridge over Pomperaug River



Stable Studio courtyard



Entrance to Lodge



Fitness Center exterior


HERITAGE
5
0
VILLAGE