



*Bellerose
Commonwealth
Civic Association's*

1985

SOUVENIR, JOURNAL

OUR HISTORY

The Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association was founded fifty years ago when this neighborhood was still mostly woods and rabbits were a normal part of the landscape. Although many of our records of the early years have been lost to posterity, we've located many mentions of our early activities in the Bellerose Manor News (established by T. Begley) and our early newsletters. The BCCA was active in helping this area get past its growing pains, dealing with the growing bureaucracy and nurturing into one of the finest neighborhoods of Queens. Other articles you'll note in this Journal deal with the Association's sponsorship of an Honor Roll during World War II, a Red Cross Center, children's activities in Creedmore Hospital, softball and bowling teams and other social events. They also fought against reassessment and for better streets and police protection as we have more recently.

Our more recent accomplishments focus on quality of life issues such as the establishment of a branch library, street improvements and traffic control, removal of the men's shelter in Creedmore, prevention of buses using Commonwealth Boulevard and Citizenship Awards for our local primary schools.

Our newsletter, Action News, was first published in September, 1943 (courtesy, Frank Servas) and has since been providing important information to our residents on community activities and historical items.

The BCCA has proven to be one the most active civic associations in Queens. Our Board of Directors and members are happy to celebrate its founding, proud of its long tradition of accomplishments and looking forward to continuing the fine tradition of community service.



PROGRAM

Parade	2:00
Introduction-H. Slaney, Host	3:05
Invocation	3:10
Welcoming Remarks-R. Hellenbrecht BCCA President	3:15
Recognition & Comments by elected officials, community leaders	3:20
Presentation of Past Presidents- George Wolf	3:35
Concluding Comments- R. Hellenbrecht	3:40
Activities:	
Rides, games, fun	3:45
Food & Beverages	3:45-
50-50 Club	3:45-
Raffles and Door Prizes	3:45-
Country dance	5:15-



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bellerose commonwealth civic association, inc.

BELLEROSE MANOR, BELLEROSE, QUEENS N.Y. 11426



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Remember When...

THOMAS BEGLEY
President
249-09-87th Avenue

MRS. WALTER B. RIORDAN
Corresponding Secretary
85-12-256th Street



BELLEROSE
MANOR

Nov.-1943

The Regular Monthly Meeting will be held Monday, November 8, 1943, at 8:15 P.M. in P.S. 133. We hope you will attend this meeting of your interest in civic matters. Remember it was your local Association that brought down Assessed Valuations; reduced F.H.A. Mortgages; in association with Floral Park and Park H. County; stopped a hook-up to our Trunk Sewer by a local developer; obtained improved Bus Service; and many other things of which the community is proud.

Vol. II

JULY 1945

The MANOR NEWS

As part of the 50th Anniversary celebration of the Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association, we asked the older residents to share some of their memories with us. Although the B.C.C.A. played an important part in the development of the community, the people seemed to recall a local newspaper called "THE MANOR NEWS." This paper was published monthly from September 1943 to September 1969 by Mr. Thomas Begley.

Mr. Begley would go through the neighborhood talking to the residents about local news, he was always accompanied by his dog Red. His column was called "Around The Town With Red." The paper listed all local news and events and, of course, advertising of the neighborhood merchants. It was the forerunner of our now "Civic News."

FOR THE
O FAIR?
anticipates huge
line of march of the
the like of which the
community have never
re.
will be led by Veterans
and Legionnaires (Vets
D).
close behind will be
of Scouts, Cubs—Brown
ettes.
will assemble at 87th
street near the HOLY
CHURCH of

The first meeting of the new fiscal year, 1945-46, will be held in P.S. 133 on Monday, September 10, at 8:15 P.M. Now that the war is over and you are relieved of all the worried thoughts of your kin overseas, you should come to the Civic meeting and prepare for the war on the home front that is sure to come. Schools—Transportation—Storm Sewers—Adequate police protection—Adequate fire protection—Paving of our streets—Cleaning of our streets by the Sanitation Department—Assessed valuation—Assessments on improvements are items to be considered, and immediately action should be taken on the worst condition in the vacant lots.

If you are not a member of the Civic Association, then become one. There are some of you, who for the reason or another do not wish to be members, and "Of course, you know it isn't the dollar." Most of you like the MANOR NEWS, so why not send that dollar to help defray the expense of printing. BE A MEMBER!

VICTORY BLOCK PARTY
The First Aid Unit will terminate its existence with a Victory Party on Saturday, September 8, from 7 P.M. until 11 P.M. at 86th Avenue and 249th Street. DANCING, SINGING, EATS AND REFRESHMENTS. The unit was well equipped for any emergency, but fortunately, no emergency ever arose. We are grateful to Dr. C. J. Boccalini for standing by before and after his Army Service.

THIS A THOUGHT . . .
Pay the lot on which stands the HONOR ROLL. BUY also the adjacent lots where at a future date the Veterans may erect a Legion Post.
In the meantime an effort will be made to obtain the First Aid House from the owner and present it to the Veterans of the First Aid Unit under the leadership of Dr. Boccalini will present the funds training in the treasury towards this cause. Send in your suggestions and make a pledge of financial aid to these



By B.V. BLUM
As President of the Bellerose Commonwealth Civic Association, I will endeavor to bring to your attention the regular meeting of the Association.

Vol. II. No. IV.
SEPTEMBER
1945
Bellerose, N. Y.



The MANOR NEWS

VICTORY EDITION



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Remember When...

Bellerose was originally known as Hinsdale in 1850. 252, 253 and 254 Streets were originally country roads in Hinsdale. Some of the original trees are still standing on 253 St. In the 1940's, 86th Ave. to Hillside Ave. was a corn field. There was a baseball field at Little Neck Parkway and Hillside Ave. I played with the Cardinals. (Mrs. Dorn's mother-in-law helped decorate the model homes on 253 St.) Mr. Dorn was in the Marine Corps. during World War II and remembers a Veterans Memorial was dedicated at 249 St. and 86th Ave. There was a First Aid Station at the site. Mr. H. Dorn

Mrs. Bantel moved to Bellerose 59 years ago as a young bride. There were no paved streets. She worked with Mrs. Begley as a Girl Scout Leader. It originally started at P.S. 133, then to House of Hope and Holy Trinity. Mrs. Bantel is still very active in scouting. She still enjoys teaching the girls painting and sewing. Mrs. Ann Bantel

Saturday mornings the children would watch the coal train pass along 87 Drive to the end. We would walk the tracks along to what is now Prella field, and take picnic lunches with us. I watched St. Gregory School being built. On Jamaica Ave., there was a post office and Gittermens Variety Store. On the corner of Commonwealth Blvd. and Jamaica Ave. was a King Kullen supermarket with a diagonal parking lot.

Mr. & Mrs. Celenza - 38 years

I know an older Bellerose resident who told me some 1930's Bellerose nostalgia. (He died earlier in 1984) Jamaica Ave. had a trolley car going to Mineola. The Bellerose Movie theater was used as a Church on Sunday mornings, before the neighborhood church was built.

Joseph Mazza

I delivered the Bellerose Manor News for Mr. Begley. He sent me copies of the paper while I was in Viet Nam. In 1954, P.S. 133 ended at the 6th grade. Jamaica High and JHS 172 were already opened. I still have all the original copies of the Bellerose Manor News.

Frank Servas



Remember When...

Life was made a little easier for the mothers when Ralston would stop by in the morning to take the grocery orders and deliver them. The Butcher, Frank; the milkman: Larsons; Duggan and Krug the bakers would also come by with their trucks. There were two mail deliveries, one in the morning and one in the afternoon.

The war years brought the Air Raid Wardens, Charlie Eisenhardt was one. The First Aid House which was at 249 St. and 86th Ave. P.S. 133 held First Aid Classes. Kids did their homework with shades drawn during the Blackouts. When the Japanese surrendered on VJ Day there was a huge celebration.

The 4th of July (fireworks were legal then) meant more parties and fireworks and parades. Christmas, was and still is, a time when the houses were all decorated with lights. Residents would go up to North Hills (where North Shore Towers now is) to collect big, beautiful Christmas trees. After the holiday, there were bonfires at 251 St. and 87 Ave. from the trees.

Little Neck was farms. The Railroad took supplies to Creedmore. The Railroad ran through what is now the Bellerose Bowling Alley (it was a lumber yard). One year it went up in flames and you could see the fire from 251 St. There was a coal yard on 87 Drive.

Prices were cheaper then: Oil was 8 cents a gallon. The bus and train fare was 5 cents. There was no City Income Tax. There were rumors of a 3% Sales Tax and houses were assessed another \$200. In 1948 approval was received for the construction of a Fire House wound Union Turnpike and 255 St.

Interviewing the people on my block, was a fantastic learning experience. These people still keep their homes beautiful and are the nicest, friendliest ladies you could ever meet. They make it a pleasure to live on their block. Our other residents range from newlyweds, new babies, middle agers, teenagers, young adults and of course our senior citizens. Brigid Calia - 9 yrs.



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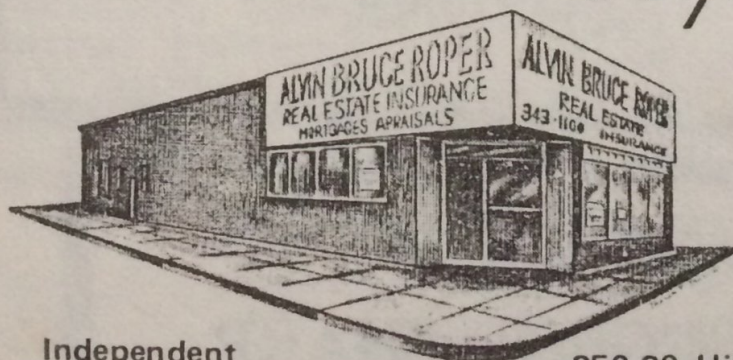
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IN MEMORY OF
VIRGIL REGALBUTO

IN MEMORY OF
CATHERINE & PETE
PADRONE

IN MEMORY OF
GEORGE SHARP



IN APPRECIATION

I'd like to express my sincere gratitude to the fine work of the many residents who have planned and coordinated the various activities we've enjoyed today. I'm excited that our neighborhood still supports an attitude of civic and social pride to make such an event possible.

I'm sure I speak for all of our residents and guests in extending this well earned appreciation to:

Mary Ann Hellenbrecht, Chairperson
Mary Lou Grassullo, Activities
Ronnie Grassullo, Planning
Pat King, Historian
Bernard Wechsler, Illustrations
Alvina Regalbutto, Consultation
Robert Costagliola, Consultation
George Wolf, Security
Ross Fertitta, Finance
Lorraine Anzalone, Correspondence
Melanie Ngai, Block Captains
Bridget Calia, Permits & Planning

I'm sure I've left some people out: my apologies to the many other people who have also been helpful in the planning, coordination and clean-up for this event.

I'd also like to thank the 105th Precinct, Community Board 13, Highway patrol Precinct 3, Bellerose-Queens Village-Holis Ambulance Corps and the Departments of Parks and Sanitation for their logistical support.

Richard C. Hellenbrecht
President



