

Dan Streeter
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English 9H ⑪¹¹
Miss Collins

- Laurel Hollow -
A Glimpse into the Past

On the western shore of Cold Spring Harbor, just within the Nassau County line, lies the residential community now known as the Incorporated Village of Laurel Hollow. Its proximity to the magnificent harbor is as appealing to its present residents as it was to its early settlers.

Attracted by the cold water springs and the protective shelter of the woods and hills, both the Matinecock and Algonquin Indians resided for many a year, on the shores and beaches of present day Laurel Hollow. In their time, both of these tribes were powerful, the Matinecocks being a seafaring people, skillful in boating, fishing, and building canoes, while the Algonquins were known principally for their overpowering

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strength. During the time in which the Algonquins took up residence on Long Island, or as they called it, Sewanachy (Land of Shells), Laurel Hollow became for them, the center of wampum-making.

Later on, the Dutch settlers of Connecticut were lured across the sound by the promising harbor and organized in Cold Spring Harbor a prominent whaling industry. When the industry had grown to a substantial size, a plant for the processing of whale fat, was built on the present site of the L.I. Biological Laboratories.

As the whaling community grew in size and number it soon became evident that a school would be needed for the children, so in April, 1790 construction began on the Bungtown School; which was located south

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of 25A, near St. Johns church in Laurel Hollow. It is said that, George Washington, on a Long Island victory tour, stopped at the school and contributed in raising one of its rafters.

Originally the Bungtown school served more than 100 pupils from the area between the ages of five and twenty, who looked out over the harbor and its busy whaling industry. Concentrating on the 3R's, Miss Martha Turner, ran her school in the strict style which was common to most New Englander's.

For many years, the mostly protestant community of Laurel Hollow and Cold Spring Harbor had held religious services in the Bungtown school house, but in 1831 a five acre plot was purchased for \$200. from the Jones family and the constr-

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uction of the St. John's episcopal church began. After the purchase of the rectory in 1839, the congregation continued to gather in this building to be led in song + prayer by the Rev. Issac Sherwood, every Sunday.

As the church has continued to grow over the years, important changes have been instituted for its improvement including its remodeling in 1882 and more recently the addition of a Sunday school in 1950. The church stands today at the edge of the St. John's lake overlooking the salt meadows + the harbor, led today in the same spirit as it was then, by the Rev. Carlton T. Lee.

For a long time, the area we now know as Laurel Hollow was owned by two brothers, Charles and Oliver Jones, for whom the state park at Jones beach has been dedicated. In 1875, on the land presently occupied by Laurel Hollow beach,

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Oliver Jones built a successful resort hotel and casino. Right up until the late 1800's, when it was destroyed by fire, the hotel brought to its docks the 'lost' of the side wheel excursion steam boats. The hotel which attracted crowds of city picnickers, at one time became so popular that the Long Island Railroad considered building an extension directly to it.

Louis Comfort Tiffany, the renowned art patron, leader in the newly established Art Nouveau movement, which was spreading so rapidly through North America and Europe, took up residence at the Briars in Laurel Hollow. Here he began work on his greatest masterpiece, "Laurelton Hall".

Named after the resort hotel which had recently burned down and upon whose foundations it was built

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Laurelton Hall was finished in 1905 and served for many years as a summer home for the Tiffany family. The house was huge with eighty rooms and twenty-six bathrooms, located on 740 acres, and exhibited unusually good taste for the times. The famous Westminster chimes echoed over the harbor while a series of pools sent water cascading downward. A minaret tower designed to hide a coal burning stack which still serves today as an important point for navigators.

As a final project Tiffany had organized at Laurelton Hall, the Louis Comfort Tiffany Foundation as a training center for promising young artists, but due to a lack of finances it was forced to shut down after his death. After the death of Mr. Tiffany, Laurelton Hall was shut down, while both the land surrounding it and its possessions were

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auctioned off to private patrons. In 1957, the Tiffany masterpiece was completely destroyed by a blazing fire which raged for more than five days.

Lying on the southern edge of Laurel Hollow, the Long Island Biological lab has carried out distinguished scientific projects since its creation in 1891. Indirectly formed by a marine biologist, Agassiz, and his student F.W. Hooper, the idea of a scientific institution in the area was originally perpetuated on a visit to the C.S.I.T. fish hatchery by Hooper in the summer of 1890. For the next two summers, the lab, sponsored by the Brooklyn Institute, continued to hold its sessions at the C.S.I.T. fish hatchery, while Mr. J.D. Jones financed the construction of two new buildings. In 1898, Dr. Charles B. Davenport, ^{became director}, during his administration, occurred a major period of change, which included

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the addition of the Carnegie Institute, Dept. of Genetics. The expansion of the lab in this period was in a large part due to the donations of community benefactors, such as those by Mr. J. D. Jones, who left at the disposal of the lab two buildings from the whaling industry. The Cold Spring Harbor Symposia and Quantitative discussion of biology, a meeting for the discussion of specific problems by representatives of different scientific fields, is held each summer at the lab and attracts scientists the world over. Two nobel prize winners Dr. A. Hershey and Dr. J. Watson are now full time residents at the Lab.

Designed to make provisions for the maintenance of the lab and hatchery, the Ubwapex society was formed by Mr. J. D. Jones in the early 1900's. Capable of holding land and promoting science research and study, the organization has thrived

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society was started when Mr. Jones deeded to it sixteen acreable acres.

Over the years, the Tiffany beach became an issue of major controversy as both the state, the village and Mr. Tiffany claimed access to the waterfront which Mr. Tiffany had developed by the installation of concrete walls and breakwaters, and the importation of numerous amounts of sand. At one point feelings, between the public and Mr. Tiffany ran so high that a torchlight procession was led down the Laurel Hollow Road, to the beach, where angry citizens blew up with dynamite the structures used to contain the imported sand. The records show this as being the only act of violence in an otherwise peaceful rural community.

Eventually, after the Township of Oyster Bay, attained property rights for the disputed waterfront, Laurel Hollow

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beach became for many an enjoyable recreation spot for many years, its high sanitary ratings attracted uncontrollable crowds until in 1926, local residents formed the incorporated village of Laurelton, so that they could control local property and beach.

At the first official meeting (Aug. 11, 1926) Mr. Bevrey Due was sworn in as president, along with Mr. Henry deForest (owner of Netheumir homestead) and Gordon S. Parker as trustees. The title of president was changed to mayor in 1927, and has since been held by Mr. Due, Chas. E. Ames, Collier Platt, Alan Klotz, Howard Canning, John Nichols, and presently by William Smoot.

In 1926 the assessed property evaluation was \$215,600 for unimproved land (land exclusive of buildings) and \$604,500 for improved, taxed at a rate of \$390 per one hundred dollars and paid

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by nine-teen taxpayers, while today the land is assessed at \$7,529.465 at a rate of \$4.00 per one hundred dollars of assessed evaluation paid by over 500 taxpayers.

The area shown on map no. one on page 16 comprised the village of that day. As a completely residential area, it had no business or commercial factories. In 1935, the designation of our village was changed to Laurel Hollow, following serious confusion on maps and with mail service, resulting from a south shore town which had duplicated our name. The new name proved more appropriate as it was shown that the name "Lawrell Hollow" had been applied to the area according to a 1790 deed belonging to the Bleecker family.

Immediately after incorporation, a police force was assembled consisting originally of Captain White and Patrolmen

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Smith and Sullivan. Originally patrols were made on horseback and bicycle but from 1912/13 on, automobiles have been used. In 1949, fifteen years after Sgt. J. Smith took over he was replaced by Sgt Meehan who has remained on the police force ever since. The first police court was held in the barn of police justice J.B Small but was later transferred to the police booth, at the intersection of Moxes Hill Rd and Laurel Hollow Rd, and from there to its present site at the village hall.

With the expansion of the community, the need for a new school became pressing. After one term was held at a private residence on Harbor Road, the new West Side school opened its doors in 1895. At this time the school was attended by mostly pupils whose parents were the servants of wealthier families in the area. Because of the sense of cooperation between the school and community

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the independent school house survived
the severed decline in enrollment between
1861 - (104 pupils) and 1903 - (43 pupils)

In 1940, after lengthy debate,
the West Side School was moved to
its present site at the intersection of
Laurel Hollow Road and Stewart's Lane.
On land purchased from the Carnegie
Institute, the new five room school house
was completed in 1941. Mrs. Eva Clark,
director since 1927 and referred to by
many as the first lady of West Side
continued on as principal until after
the first addition in 1951 when she
gave up the principalship to Mr. T.B.
Hilton. Later again, in 1954 the school
was expanded and eventually became
centralized in 1958.

Since its incorporation,
Laurel Hollow has seen numerous changes
in respect to its boundaries. With the
first annexation in 1953 the village extend

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ed to include the area between Moores Hill Road and 25A, (shown on map no 1 on pg 16). Later on in 1958, Laurel Hollow was expanded to its present boundaries and to include the area south of 25A (shown on map no 2 on page 17). This was done at the request of the residents of that area, in order to protect their two acre zoning against the rapid expansion of Syosset.

The official village newspaper is the Oyster Bay Guardian which has served the village with the knowledge of local events, since the collapse of the Enterprise Pilot in the 1950's. The village is served by the Syosset Post Office which in 1950, inaugurated rural free delivery securing the efficiency of village management. In case of fire the village is contracted with the Oyster Bay Fire Dept. for coverage.

A true sense of public spirit

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and citizenship in World War II with 18 residents serving in the Armed Forces. The only casualty was Edward V. Tucker who died at the invasion of Normandy. At home, Laurel Hollow cooperated ~~in full~~ with the air raid and civil defense organization of Oyster Bay town and donated its services to a U.S. Navy camouflage operation on the grounds of the old Tiffany estate. We presently area combined civil defense unit with Cove Neck and Oyster Bay Cove.

With the second annexation in 1951, the village board was expanded to seven members. A planning board along with a zoning board, work independently to maintain and protect the quality of development within the village. These units of local government represent the citizens in their effort to keep Laurel Hollow the quiet rural community it has always been.

COLD SPRING
HARBOR



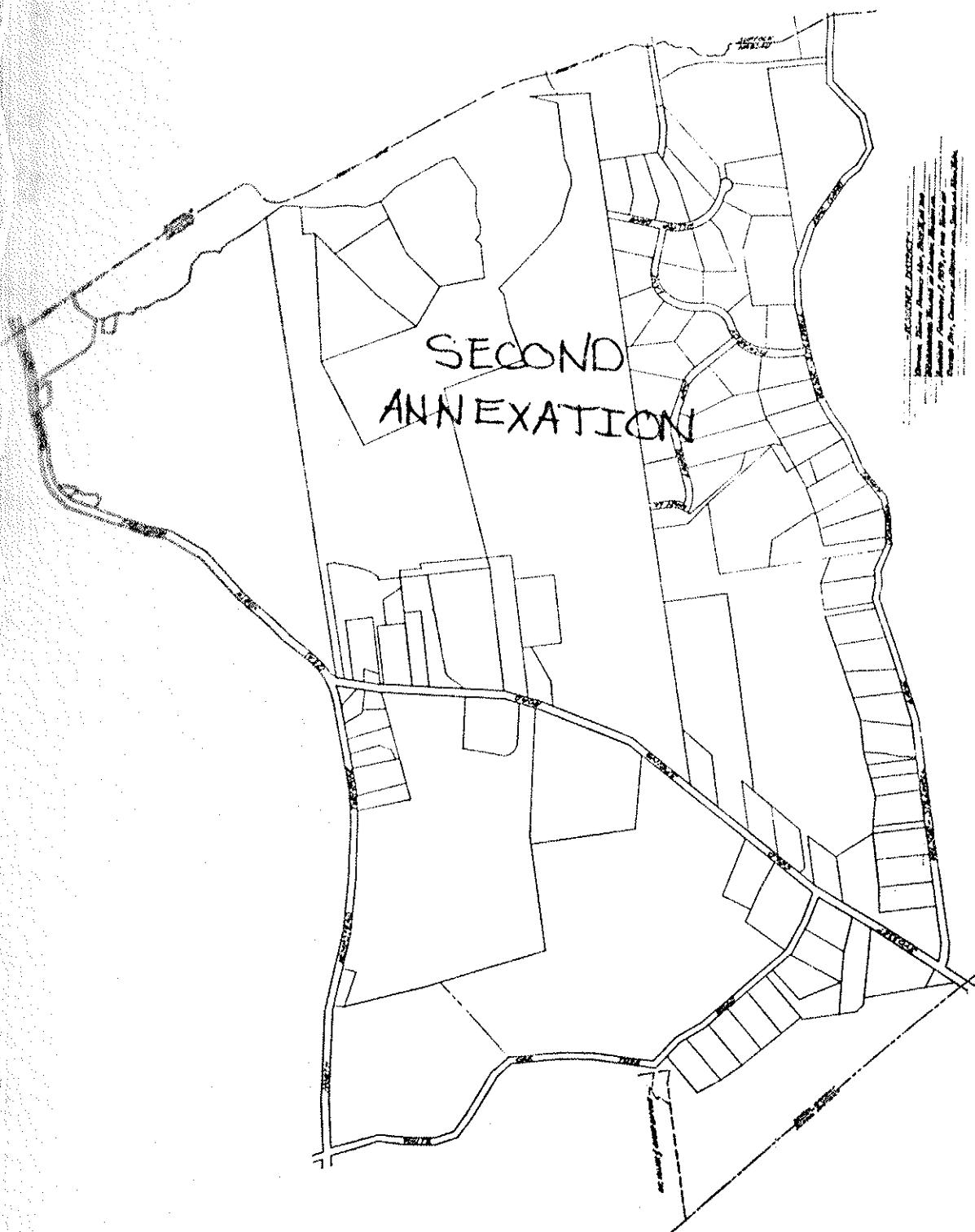
ORIGIN
VILLAGE
OF
"LAURELTON"

COLD
SPRING
HARBOR

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Annexation

- RESIDENCE DISTRICT -
Official Zoning District Map, Part I, of the
Incorporated Village of Laurelton, New York, as Amended
February 2, 1959, at the Town of Oyster Bay,
County of Nassau, New York.



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CENSUS FIGURES
Population

1930 - 161

1940 - 110

1950 169

1960 834

1970 1363