



What's new in history?

A newsletter for students from the
Vineland Historical and Antiquarian Society

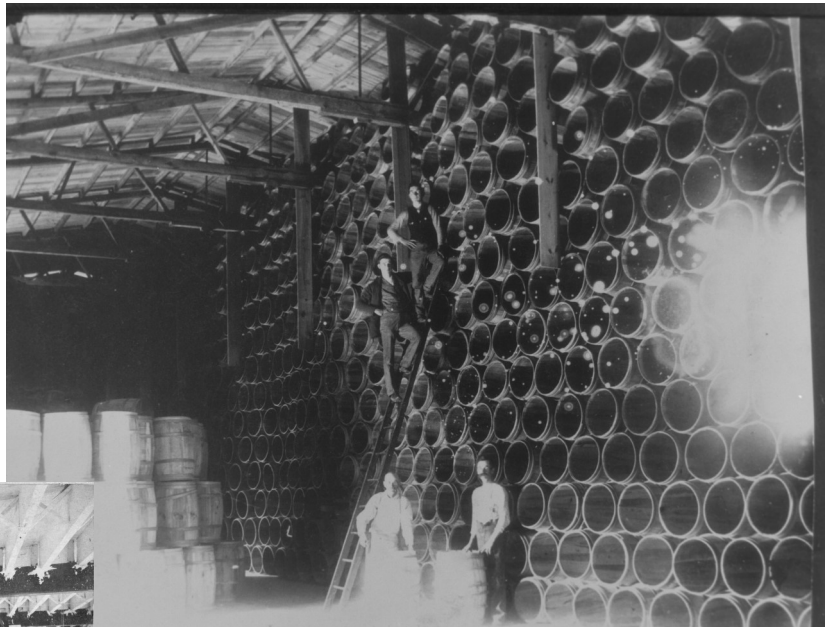
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Issue 1

Shoes, Buttons and More Once Made in Vineland

You probably don't spend a lot of time thinking about where your clothes come from. Like most people, you just go to a department store, pick out what you like and then one of your adults pays for it at the register. But once upon a time, a lot of the stuff that people wore and used every day was actually made right here in Vineland!

There were shoe companies, button makers, clothing factories and more and most of them were located in the heart of town. Other businesses produced glassware, iron and brass products, wooden barrels, gloves and rugs. It's hard to believe that all of that industry once took place here but it's true. Products made in Vineland were in demand throughout the United States. In those days, they were shipped by train to cities like New York, Philadelphia and Wilmington.

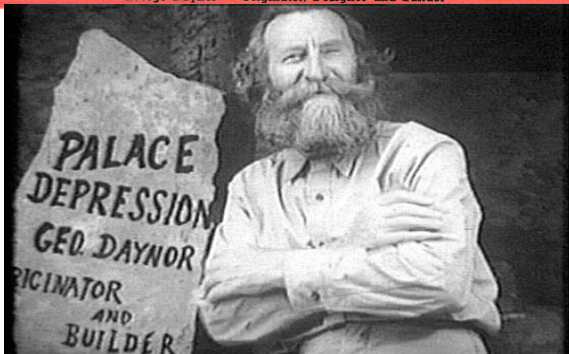


Clockwise from upper left: High-button shoes like the pair shown here were made at companies like Keighley's, while Elmer Potter's cooperage is where wooden barrels—used to store everything from food to nails—were produced. Women worked on sewing machines in local factories to make clothing for men, women and children and later produced military uniforms.

The Palace Depression

If you have a chance to ride down South Mill Road, you'll notice that a very unusual structure is sitting by the side of the road. It is a new version of the Palace Depression, which was once a very popular tourist attraction in Vineland. It was built by a couple named George and Florence Daynor and was opened to the public in 1932. People paid to walk through the Palace, which was built of mud, old stone, car parts and petrified wood, and had spaces like the "Jersey Devil" room and the "Treasure" room. Mr. Daynor was so good at promoting the Palace that he had postcards made and even managed to have a short movie made about it.

Although the original was torn down in 1964, a local man named Kevin Kirchner, assisted by his family and some dedicated volunteers, decided it was time to rebuild a copy of the Palace on the original location. They have done a great job of re-creating the original building and grounds. However, they have also added a Visitors Center, which will allow visitors to learn more about the time period in which the Palace was built. We can't wait for the grand opening!



It's A-Maze-ing!

Can you help the chick escape from the cat so that he can join his family?!?



Did you know...

We picked this puzzle because Vineland was once known as "the Egg Capital of the East Coast." It's true! We had hundreds of poultry farms here between the late 1800s and mid-1900s that produced a record number of eggs shipped all over the east coast. One chicken even laid an egg that was about six inches around! As businesses closed, farming and agriculture became more important in Vineland. In addition to the poultry farms, there were others that produced tomatoes, peppers and corn, as well as strawberries, blueberries and pears. Although there are fewer farms today, they are still an important part of local life.