



What's new in history?

A newsletter for students from the
Vineland Historical and Antiquarian Society

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Issue 1

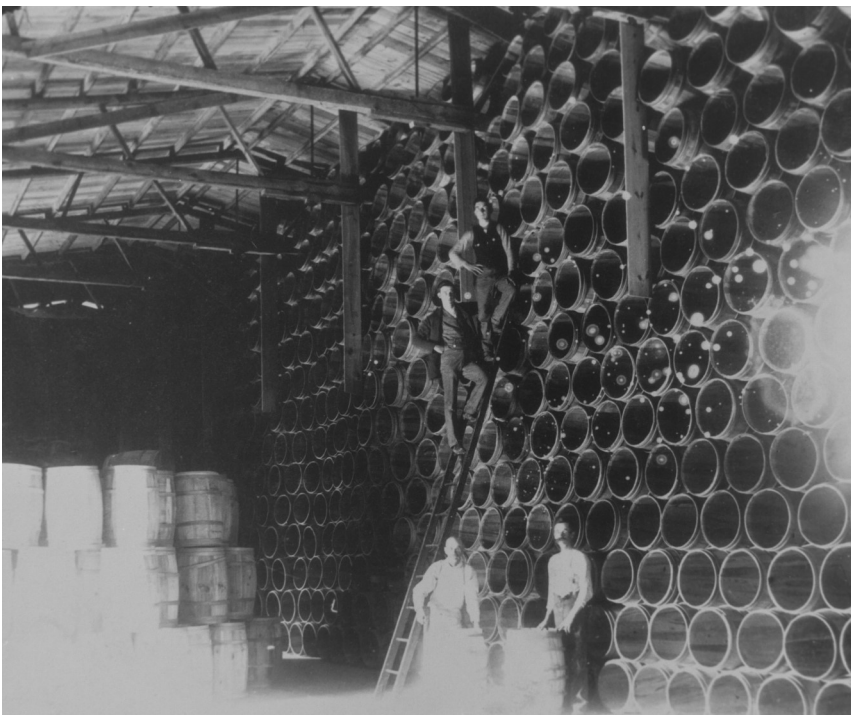
When Vineland Meant Business

Anyone who lives in South Jersey knows that warm weather annually brings all kinds of fruits and vegetables to market. Vineland was no exception but, for many years, it was also well-known as a town with all kinds of industry. Making things was important because you couldn't always go a store to buy what you needed. As a result, Vineland had a variety of businesses, including sewing factories, glass companies and iron makers, just to name a few.

Over the years, a few people tried their hand at some more unusual businesses. One of them was Charles K. Landis, who started "The Shaker Palm Leaf & Hood Company" in the 19th century. Mr. Landis imported woven palm from New York State in order to make hats for men and bonnets for women. The company succeeded for a while but closed when the country's economy went bad. Landis also thought about raising silk worms in Vineland but no one knows for sure if that idea ever was tried. Another man, Charles Snyder, hand-carved mother-of-pearl buttons for a living. Mother-of-pearl is taken from the inside of oyster shells and, in the late 1800s, became very popular for button-making. Mr. Snyder was so skillful, he won awards for the shiny buttons he patiently created.

Long before every home had a refrigerator, people would store all kinds of food in wooden barrels to keep it safe and dry. One Vineland man named Elwood Potter started what was called a "cooperage," which was a company that made such barrels. Potter apparently liked to stay very busy because, in addition to the cooperage, he also worked as an electrician and ran the town's first telephone company. Another small company that once operated on Landis Avenue employed all women workers who made

grape boxes. Can you guess what they were for? That's right! These small round wooden boxes were used to ship bunches of grapes all over America. They had to be small because too many grapes stuffed inside would probably get squashed into grape jelly! So, now you know: While agriculture is still an important part of local life, there was a time when manufacturing companies once thrived in Vineland, as well.



Wooden barrels were used in many businesses and homes to store food. This photo of the inside of Elwood Potter's cooperage shows the finished barrels stacked all the way to the rafters.

Presenting Some Puzzles!

Here are a couple of puzzles just for fun.
We hope you enjoy them and that you have a wonderful holiday season!

Winter Word Search

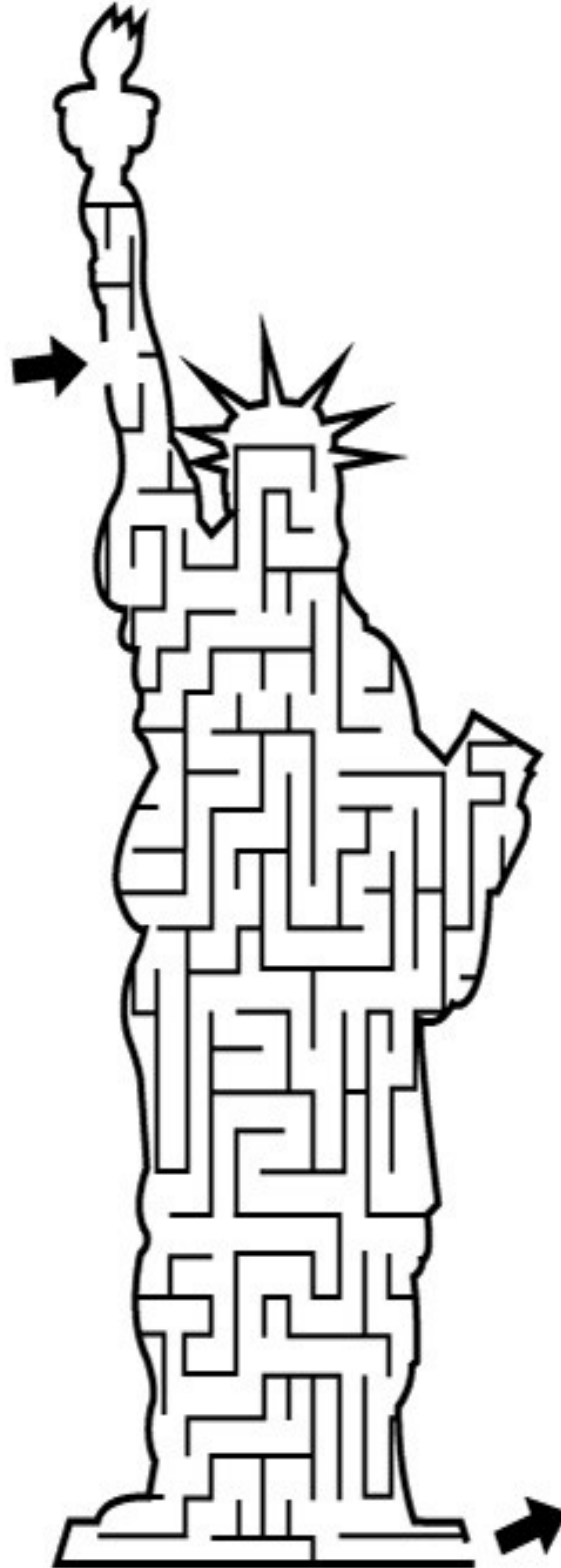
F	S	N	O	W	M	A	N	Y	P	V	W	R	U	E
X	I	U	E	I	L	I	G	O	F	I	A	R	H	T
U	C	R	C	T	U	O	L	D	N	G	K	L	I	A
C	S	E	E	G	I	A	Z	T	S	O	R	F	B	R
C	N	O	N	P	R	H	E	O	M	H	Q	C	E	G
H	M	E	P	B	L	R	W	C	Y	P	K	M	R	I
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L	O	A	G	T	O	Q	C	I	Z	U	C	P	A	U
L	R	Z	A	K	O	C	P	E	I	J	J	D	T	Z
Y	T	H	O	T	C	H	O	C	O	L	A	T	E	J



chilly
fireplace
frost
hibernate
hot chocolate
migrate

penguin
polar bear
snowflake
snowman
white
winter

Statue of Liberty Maze



Historic Holidays

Long before people celebrated Christmas, people all over the world would gather together to feast during the longest night of the year, known today as the winter solstice. Back then, people didn't know a lot about science so it was a little scary to see the days grow short. In those very early days, with wild animals roaming around, it was also a way to stay safe and warm. Although many customs have changed over the years, the solstice is still a time when many people gather with their loved ones. The Roman festival of Saturnalia once was held in December in honor of the god Saturn. While many Christians would later use December 25 for their celebration of Christmas, others prefer to celebrate on January 6, the time when the three Wise Men visited Jesus in the manger. Hannukah, the Jewish Festival of Lights, starts at about the same time of the year. It is an eight-day celebration honoring the rebirth of the Jewish faith in Jerusalem. And for many people from the Middle East, December is a time to enjoy Shab-e Chelleh. The name means "night of forty" since it is held forty nights after the start of winter. Fruits, nuts, pomegranates and watermelons and Yalda cakes, which resemble watermelons, are an important part of the festivities. Although it is not as old as many of the other traditions, Kwanzaa is annually celebrated in late December by many African-Americans. The seven-day festival was created in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga as a way to inspire them to give thanks and remember their culture. All in all, however you celebrate the holidays, please stay safe and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year!



At left, students at Cunningham School once participated in Christmas plays while above, the annual Christmas Parade down Landis Avenue is still a popular holiday tradition in Vineland.