

Roy Den Hollander  
545 E 14<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, New York

April 25, 2012

Dear Sir;

Included is the information that I was able to find concerning the structure fire on the Beaverkill Campsite Road in the summer of 1957. The only newspaper in our collection that carried any mention of this event was the Livingston Manor Times. The article appeared in this weekly newspaper on the edition dated August 29<sup>th</sup>, 1957. Apparently, it was not considered front page material, the only mention of the event being made by a section columnist. I followed this paper for the next couple of editions and found no other information concerning the fire.

The newspaper was published on Thursdays, so according to the article, the fire was probably on Wednesday, August 28<sup>th</sup>. Weekly columns for these local newspapers sometimes were submitted, or published a week late, but I believe that is not the case here. The death of Orrin Sprague, which also appears in the column, occurred on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of August. This would not have been in the column if it was a week late.

I looked into other local newspapers, including the Liberty Register, Republican Watchman, Sullivan County Democrat and the Delaware Valley Evening News with no results.

The location of the fire was behind the residence of Mrs. Ethel Osborn. The current address of this property would be 80 Campsite Road. I've included the tax map for that section [map 7] in the Town of Rockland, Sullivan County which shows the old Osborn property, which is lot number 33. Lot number 32 shows the property with the address of 74 Campsite Road, the address that you made reference to. Included are the property ownership records showing the more recent land-owners for both properties. Also included is an image taken from the County real property website of the area. I've taken the liberty to highlight the Osborn property.

There was no information found concerning the origins of the fire. I spoke with one of the firemen who had participated in fighting the fire and was told the following story;

The fire was first called into the Beaverkill Valley Fire Company, located at Lew Beach. The initial response was by one pumper truck driven by Cecil Stewart, the first and only fireman to arrive on the scene. After laying out the fire hose, he discovered the truck to be nearly empty of water. He had to leave the scene to go down to the river to fill the truck. By the time he returned, the Beaverkill fire-chief had arrived but by then the building was fully engaged. The fire-chief then put out a call for assistance for the fire company from Livingston Manor. By the time that the Manor firemen arrived, the building was pretty much destroyed and efforts were made to make sure that the area surrounding the cabin did not catch on fire.

Sullivan County Historical Society

MANOR ITEMS

August 29, 19 Livingston Manor Times

A/1c Sylvester Bell Jr., of Liberty is home on a 30 days furlough after serving in Africa and has been visiting Mrs. Roy Decker in Willowemoc. On termination of his leave he will go to an air force base in Texas.

Herbert Sprague returned home from Liberty Loomis Hospital after having an appendectomy operation. On Thursday his brother Austin Sprague of Franlean Lakes, N. J. came to visit Herbert and family.

Mrs. Dorsey Sprague, returned home from Liberty-Loomis Hospital where she had been a medical patient for several months, last Wednesday afternoon. Her sons Buster of Concord, Mass., and Walter of Long Island brought her home. Mrs. George DuMond is staying with her.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Cism and children were visitors in the Manor on Sunday. Frank used to teach Science here in the Manor and they were enroute to their home in Harpersville from Delaware, Ohio where he had attended College on a Scholarship.

Several from the Manor attended the Clambake given by the Carpenters Local in Liberty, on Sun.

Consagra drove Coach to, Floyd Emery, William Vick, William Fredenburg, Kenneth Wilbur and Ral Bing Abbott to Scranton to see a foot ball game.

On Thursday, August 22nd Miss Ellen Hill celebrated her 16th birthday with a hot dog roast in the back yard of her folks, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Greenlee on River Street. Those present at this party were: Misses Dora Bailey, Marilyn Jones, Jo Lyn Abbott, Carol Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Reynolds, Mr. Al Barnicott, John Welch, Gene Barnicott, Bill Fredenburg, Donald Greenlee, Donald Hill. Friends of the Greenlees dropped in during the evening.

Firemen were called out Wednesday afternoon when a fire broke out in a log cabin in the rear of Mrs. Kenneth Osbornes place in Beaverkill, it was a total loss.

Miss Barbara Baldwin spent a week home with her Parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Baldwin.

Mr. Orean Sprague died in California this week, Masonic Services are being held at the Russell Funeral Chapel on Friday afternoon at 2:00 P. M. Mr. Sprague was a Charter Member of the Order of Eastern Stars.

Little Karen Gorr had a birth-

her second at her home Mr. and Mrs. Walter, and Mrs. Walt spent Monday.

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