

TUXEDO PARK MAGAZINE

Issue # 121 netuxedo123@gmail.com

www.tuxedoparkmagazine.com

Beneath The Nursery Lamp Christmas In Tuxedo Park...1899

Tuxedo Park Magazine by Nanette Studios



Beneath the nursery lamp,
when all are fast asleep;
The snow is making angels,
and is many inches deep

A wall of winter brings the wind,
that takes your breath away;
But nursery lamps are brightly lit,
with Christmas on its way

Candied cookies, soft and warm,
sit near the poster bed;
The ice skates sit beneath the tree,
and all the prayers are said

Santa's letters, all complete,
with wishes, and a stamp,
The little ones are fast asleep,
beneath the nursery lamp

From Tuxedo Park Magazine
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Tuxedo Racer

From Tuxedo Park Magazine/Nanette Studios
www.tuxedoparkmagazine.com



With the invention of the Flexible Flyer, the first steerable sled by Samuel Allen in the late 1880s, sledding drastically changed. He eventually convinced two great department stores, John Wanamaker and R.H. Macy, to sell his Flexible Flyers. But what put Samuel Allen's sled over the top was the interest of the exclusive Tuxedo Club in Tuxedo Park, New York. Tobogganing was already in vogue at Tuxedo Park when the Tuxedo Club purchased Samuel Allen's Flexible Flyer sleds. Coasting at Tuxedo Park became a major competitive sport, so Samuel Allen produced a sled worthy of its name, "The Tuxedo Racer." The Tuxedo Racer was produced specifically for Tuxedo Park.

When Samuel Allen learned that the adult members of the Tuxedo Club were using his sleds for downhill races he was thrilled enough to build a special adult sled for the club. A longer sled at 60", with 4 standards, steel reinforcements as well as wood reinforcements, and nickel plated grooved runners made it well suited for adult use.



Known as the Tuxedo Racer sled, it became available to the public for the first time in 1914 after its development for the Tuxedo Club in Tuxedo Park. The Tuxedo Club had a track for sledding which was noted in all of the society papers of the day. Tuxedo Park residents became enthralled with this sport, and it became a monumental pass time for not only Tuxedo Park residents, but their many guests who were invited to enjoy this sport. Young and old participated in the sledding events in Tuxedo Park. Competition awards were presented to encourage this display of enjoyment. Dinner parties and social entertainment surrounded these events, making it a calendar achievement of societal delight.

Winter sports in Tuxedo Park during the Gilded Age required invitations, calling cards, and extensions of engagements. This new sport ingratiated the elite with a unique level of entertainment. Several original Tuxedo Racing sleds have been found in old basements in several of the mansions. A reminder of those gilded years, when the world watched, the world at play.

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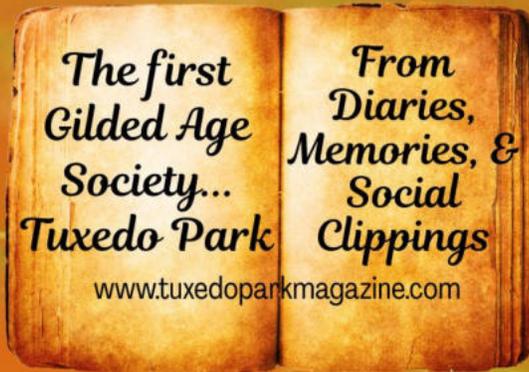
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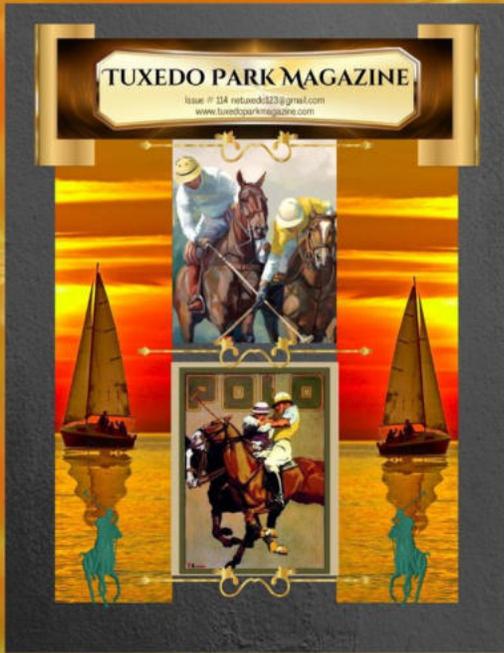
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Many stories shared with us over the years were gleaned from diaries, memories, and social clippings from archival literature. Stories from direct descendants of the original Gilded Age Cottagers in Tuxedo Park. Vocal memories accompanied a twinkle in the eye of several, as they unfolded their tales willingly. In front of grand fireplaces, on white wicker furnished veranda's, and formal gardens over one hundred years old, stories unfolded and carried a clear glimpse of life in the first Gilded Age Society known as Tuxedo Park. Many of these story-tellers were direct descendants of captains of finance and industry in the Gilded Age. Legendary icons enabling this country to become strong and independent. Industrialists and philanthropists revolutionized industry and defined the structure of monetary gain. They walked through the finest clubs in America, where money was "aged", and "new" money balanced on that noble money, became ripe. The blue bloods of iconic industry, their gilded empires appeared like legendary fairytales of capital worth, and sent echoes of success down the corridors of Wall Street. The old clubs which still exist such as the Tuxedo Club, the Union Club, and the old Knickerbocker Club, where once these men shared visions of industry and wealth with one another over fine brandy and cigars. Some of the corridors of these clubs still display an old portrait or two of the club's founding fathers. These portraits are a tangible glimpse into the world of the Gilded Age, and the men who moved it.



Chocolate For Rich Tastes

From Tuxedo Park Magazine



"Maillard's" Chocolate was richly famous at Christmas time in Tuxedo Park during the Gilded Age. Mrs. Astor would actually promote his fine chocolate in the newspapers claiming, "Every fine household should offer Maillard's Chocolate bon bons to all of their guests throughout the year". At every holiday gathering within Tuxedo Park there were fine delights specifically from Maillard's on fifth Avenue.

During the Gilded Age, expensive chocolate was a luxury item primarily enjoyed by the upper classes. Prices varied by brand and quality, with high-end imported or specialized chocolates costing significantly more than basic domestic options. Fine chocolate represented a substantial expense relative to the average worker's wage. Maillard's, the renowned chocolatier, offered chocolate for 75 cents a pound and had a famous confectionery shop in the prestigious Fifth Avenue Hotel in New York City. His award-winning chocolates were served at high-profile events, including President Lincoln's inaugural banquet. Chocolate was largely an aristocratic item at one time. Fine chocolates and bonbons were sold in branded boutiques and upscale department stores, contrasting with cheaper candies found elsewhere. The ability to purchase and consume expensive chocolate was a clear indicator of wealth and social status during the Gilded Age.

The Maillard Chocolate company's flagship store, was located in the Fifth Avenue Hotel in New York City during the Gilded Age. It became a major fixture, known for its high-end chocolates and the chocolate-making lessons it offered. The hotel itself was a symbol of luxury, and Maillard's Chocolate was a rival to the "staff of life".

Maillard's Chocolate was also referenced in an old diary from Tuxedo Park, highlighting fond memories of visiting "Maillard's" with papa, while staying at their fifth avenue home in Manhattan.

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From Tuxedo Park Magazine The Wealth of Horses & Dolls for Christmas

Brazilian Rosewood shelves lined the children's nursery, where dozens of dolls were dressed like princesses and queens. Real jewels draped from their necks, and French Leavers Lace adorned them. Time stood still in this mansion in Tuxedo Park as we were told they had belonged to "sister", deceased for over 60 years at the time. A rocking horse sat in the corner with its tail of real horse hair matted now, with age. This room seemed a salute to a child's once happiest moments.

Gilded Age rocking horses for wealthy children were elaborate, handcrafted toys featuring detailed craftsmanship like real leather saddles, horsehair manes and tails, and glass eyes. They were seen as both a luxury item and an important developmental tool, teaching balance and preparing children for real horseback riding. While these high-end toys were the norm for the rich, the Industrial Revolution later made mass-produced, more affordable versions accessible to the emerging middle class. Rocking horses were however, a common and popular toy for children from wealthy Gilded Age families. These toys for the rich were elaborate and expensive & often made to order.

During the Gilded Age, Europe held a feverish obsession with porcelain and it soon overflowed to America. Porcelain arrived from China in the 14th century, and from the beginning, it was considered "white gold." Porcelain at the time was for the refined, for the ruling class, with all of its power and privilege.

In doll production, porcelain was used on the most visible part, the part put on display to the public: the head. Porcelain heads were made with an unglazed biscuit firing procedure.

The fragility of these kiln-baked faces was part of their appeal. To make something this delicate and place it into the hands of a child was to publicly declare you had the money to fix or replace it. These dolls didn't just present an idealized image of the wealthy, but were themselves symbols of being part of the upper class, their very nature communicating the relationship of rich to poor.

Lavish porcelain dolls, depicted high society, with garments of velvet, lace and in most cases, real jewels..

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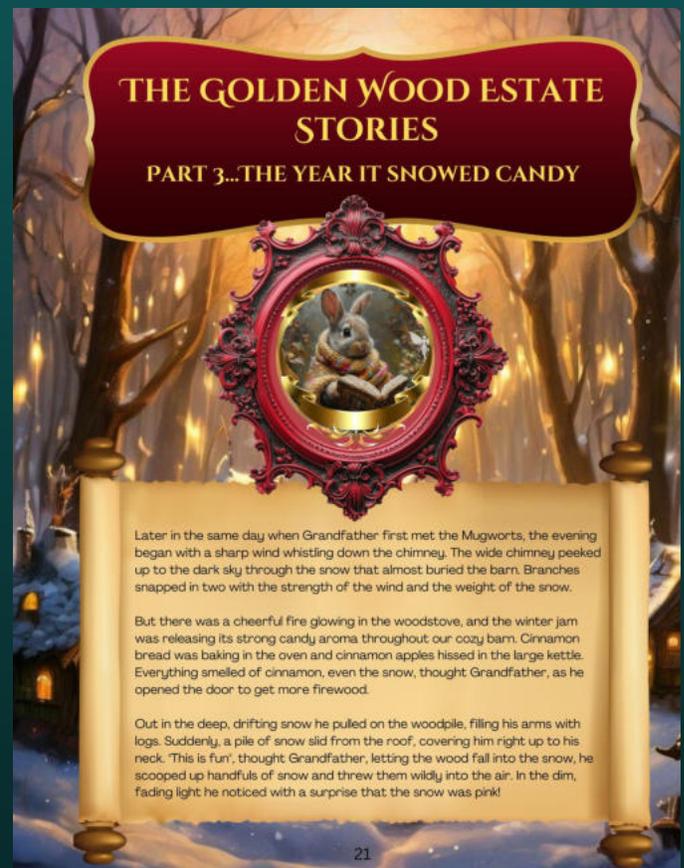
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Later in the same day when Grandfather first met the Mugworts, the evening began with a sharp wind whistling down the chimney. The wide chimney peeked up to the dark sky through the snow that almost buried the barn. Branches snapped in two with the strength of the wind and the weight of the snow.

But there was a cheerful fire glowing in the woodstove, and the winter jam was releasing its strong candy aroma throughout our cozy barn. Cinnamon bread was baking in the oven and cinnamon apples hissed in the large kettle. Everything smelled of cinnamon, even the snow, thought Grandfather, as he opened the door to get more firewood.

Out in the deep, drifting snow he pulled on the woodpile, filling his arms with logs. Suddenly, a pile of snow slid from the roof, covering him right up to his neck. 'This is fun', thought Grandfather, letting the wood fall into the snow, he scooped up handfuls of snow and threw them wildly into the air. In the dim, fading light he noticed with a surprise that the snow was pink!

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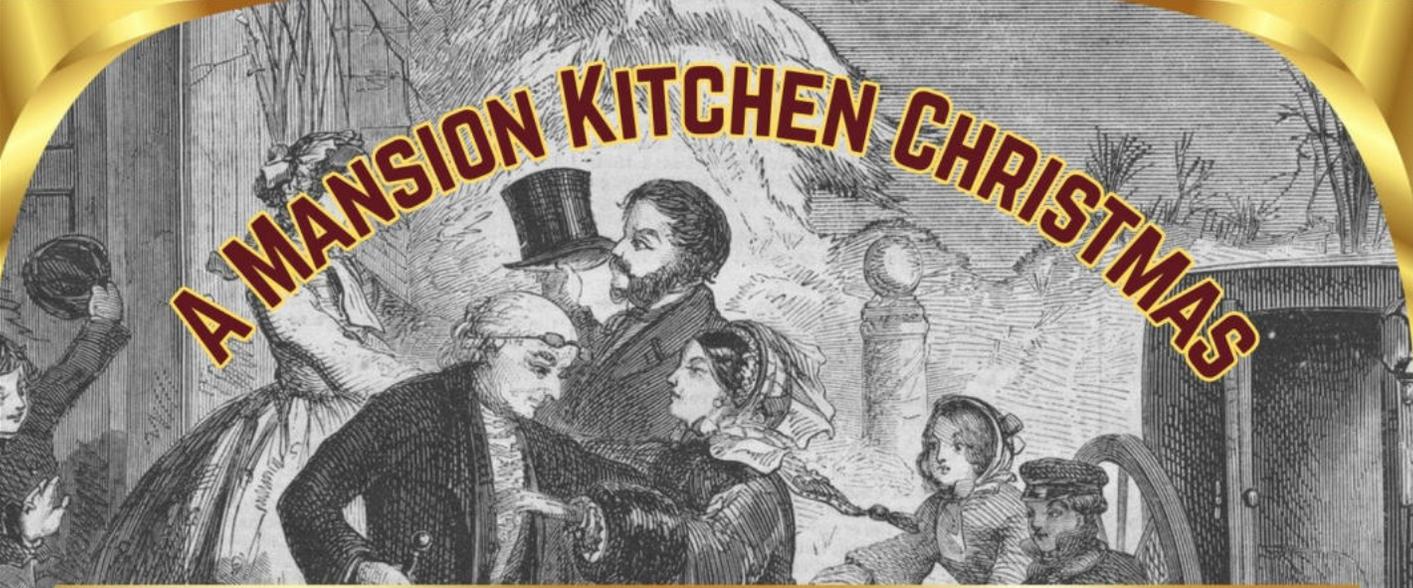
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A MANSION KITCHEN CHRISTMAS

Garland dressed with holly and ivy, was carried through the kitchen from the pine grove as the snow dusted onto the floor like flour, while being carried down the corridor to decorate the hall mantles. Clouds of steam escaped from the lids of huge pots nestled on the stove as delicious scents from stuffing and hearty winter soup drifted through the kitchen. Icicles framed the wide windows, and the dark, threatening sky could not be relied upon for light, despite the early afternoon hour. Holiday preparations were near completion in the mansion kitchen where this jovial prelude seemed as festive as the holiday itself. In the corner of the kitchen near the butler's pantry, a massive wood stove balanced two kettles of steaming apple cider. The vapors rich with the scent of cinnamon and cloves softened the threat of an impending snowstorm. The cooks bustled around one another with trays of candied Christmas cakes, pans of gingerbread, and dishes piled high with home made ribbon confections.

Hands moved swiftly, preparing baked goods as if assembling the pieces of a puzzle to complete this feast for Christmas. The door to the butler's pantry swung like a fan, as huge platters were retrieved from the highest closets where they rested between holidays. Rows of pies were pushed into ovens with wide aprons serving as potholders against the cast iron doors. Tea Kettles whistled, pots clanged and the head cook shouted orders. Suddenly, as if on cue, all was silent. Everyone gazed at the wide windows that tilted upward toward the cloud covered sky. Against the backdrop of thick, green pine trees, the wind shifted toward the kitchen as it carried snow, like a white thin veil. Cascading flakes, resembling the down on a thistle, began to sweep against the glass panes, and you knew...Christmas was truly here.

Written by Nanette Studios

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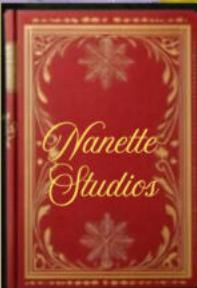
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FROM OUR ART GALLERY



What rustles in the woods below,
our house within the winter snow;
A sound came through the Christmas air,
between the pines, and full moon's glare

I heard a sweet song melody,
come through the woods and forest tree;
Voices ringing strong and proud,
a sound I never heard out loud



Among the ice and candles' glow,
across the fields of driven snow;
Came Santa Clause with two gray mice,
on crusted, colored, winter ice

Within our beds tucked tight and warm,
we heard their voices through the storm;
A lullabye through winter's white,
they came to bless us all, goodnight

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The Power of Possibility: Technology and Innovation Thrive at Saddle River Day School

At Saddle River Day School, innovation begins in the Lower School's IDEAS Lab—a vibrant space where curiosity and creativity come together to inspire young minds. Through hands-on experiences in coding, robotics, and digital design, students are encouraged to Imagine, Design, Explore, Apply, and Succeed (IDEAS). Guided by dedicated educators, they learn not only how technology works, but how to use it as a tool for problem-solving, collaboration, and self-expression. The IDEAS Lab serves as a launchpad for discovery and innovation, setting the stage for signature programs like Code à la Mode and other project-based learning experiences that bring imagination to life.

Innovation Begins Early

Technology exploration starts as early as Kindergarten, where students earn a playful “driver’s license” before navigating simple robots through a custom obstacle course. As they move through the Lower School, students use their personal iPads to engage with increasingly complex tools and concepts—programming robots to become drones, capturing aerial video footage, exploring digital video creation, working in the Makery, and experimenting with 3D printing.

Continued next page



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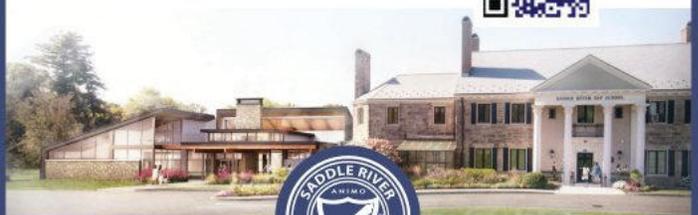
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Project-Based Learning in Action

One of the signature PBL experiences in the Lower School is the First Grade Restaurant. Students conceive, design, plan, and ultimately run their own “restaurant,” integrating learning across every subject area. They study the plant growth cycle in science, practice pricing and money skills in math, and use basic graphic design techniques in art. Throughout this project—and many others—the IDEAS Lab enhances learning through apps and digital tools, including the Daniel Tiger Nature Walk app, which guides students on interactive outdoor explorations of the environment.

Code à la Mode: Leadership, Learning, and Ice Cream

Each February, the Lower School community comes together for Code à la Mode, an interactive day of coding and robotics hosted by the SRDS chapter of Girls Who Code. Open to Lower School students and their families, the event features hands-on activities with Scratch and Osmo, demonstrations by the robotics teams, and—always a highlight—ice cream sundaes served by Lower School teachers and staff.

For Girls Who Code members, the event is more than a showcase. It is an opportunity to develop leadership and teamwork skills, present projects on topics such as artificial intelligence, virtual reality, coding, and robotics, and collaborate on tasks like t-shirt design and exhibit creation. While Girls Who Code provides a rich computer science experience, it represents just one of the many pathways through which Lower School students engage with emerging technology at SRDS.

Preparing Students for the Future

Anchored by SRDS’s commitment to preparing students for success both in school and beyond, the Lower School IDEAS Lab provides access to state-of-the-art technology and instruction from highly qualified educators. These teachers focus not only on foundational skills but also on helping students integrate, apply, and expand their learning in meaningful ways. The curriculum remains intentionally fluid, evolving to meet the needs of students and the rapidly changing world around them.

The result is a learning environment where students don’t just imagine the future—they build it. At Saddle River Day School, the IDEAS Lab is helping students become creators, innovators, and problem-solvers who are ready to shape the world ahead.



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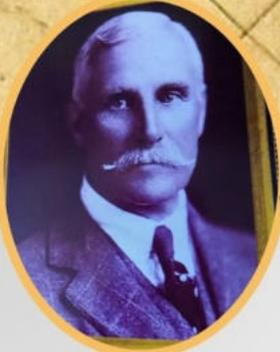
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Tuxedo Park's Grenville Kane

Papers from Christopher Columbus were housed in his library

From Tuxedo Park Magazine ©Nanette Studios



Tuxedo Park's Grenville Kane began collecting in 1912 and collected some of the rarest literature in the world. The great grandson of John Jacob Astor, Mr. Kane served as treasurer, governor, and prominent participant in all of Tuxedo Park's social events. His Americana holdings included three editions of "The Columbus Letters" that existed in his library. These were direct correspondences regarding the maritime discoveries of Christopher Columbus.

When Christopher Columbus married the daughter of an Italian navigator, the daughter and Columbus received all of her father's valuable charts as a wedding gift. Arming himself with these charts, Columbus started on his daring enterprises. Rare pages from Columbus's original correspondence from these journeys were in Grenville Kane's collection in Tuxedo Park.

These papers were a clear indication of Columbus's vast obstacles. From the superstitious sailors to the prejudices of educated men, and general geographical ignorance.

It was said that being in Grenville Kane's library in his home in Tuxedo Park, was like entering a fantasy world of literature. A rich sensation overtook you, with the scent of wooden bookcases polished to a gloss that cradled some of the rarest literature in the world. There was a far-end window in the library that glanced out onto the formal gardens. And as you sat in the chair near that window absorbing yourself within the educational assemblage of literature, everything but that world, simply vanished. Grenville Kane's eye for rare material was astute, however, throughout his years of collecting, he managed to bring forward the light of life from yesterday, to the yearning for knowledge and the appreciation of history, through to today.

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DECEMBER MORNING IN THE MANSION...1919



There was a vividness in color that came only to a December morning sky. Clouds pushed across the rising sun, creating a soft, pink pattern that weaved its way through the tall pines. Such mornings were for long breakfasts beside a roaring fire.

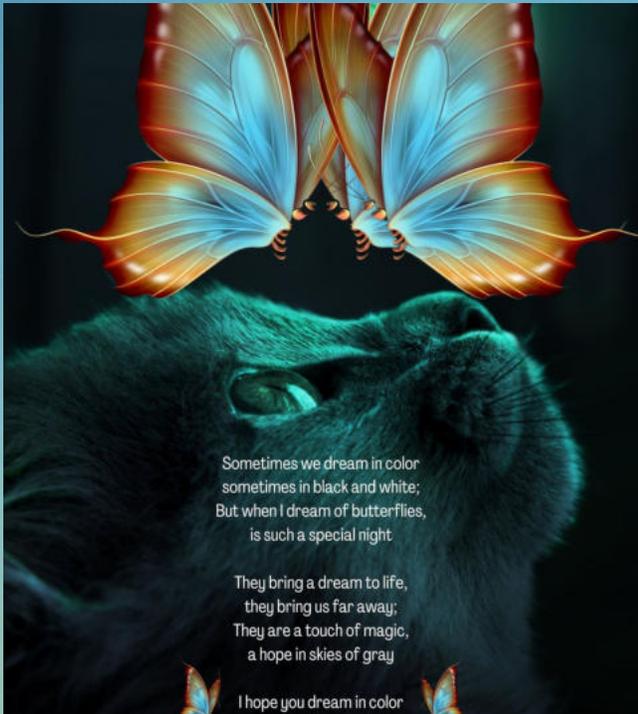
Steaming pots of aromatic coffee were carried into the breakfast room, while the outdoors was still draped in ice from the night before. Scented baskets full of rosemary, cloves and cinnamon rested on the hearth, spicing the air and carrying the mood of Christmas into the room.

Outside the French doors, in the woods beyond, the frozen crusted snow sparkled like pearl dust, seeming to create a crystal cocoon that surrounded the mansion each time the wind blew.

One savored the hearty breakfasts and conversations of these mornings, for unlike the scene outdoors, they were forever frozen in time. As the afternoon approached, the raw wind continued to hold us indoors. Logs crackled and snapped in the hearth of the marble fireplace as the snowflakes slid down the exterior of the French doors.

Blackberry pipe tobacco sweetened the scent of the library's rich, mahogany paneling, and an overall feeling of tranquility reigned over the grand home. A late luncheon of cold roast venison with chive and raspberry dressing over wild rice was ordered from the kitchen. The clink of brandy snifters could be heard over hushed Wall Street conversations, for this was the era of ticker tapes, rich tastes and those with tenacious business dispositions.

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Sometimes we dream in color
 sometimes in black and white;
 But when I dream of butterflies,
 is such a special night

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 They are a touch of magic,
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HUNTING ON THE ESTATE 1909

Through my bedroom French Doors I could hear the excitement of the hunting dogs from the kennels housed on the lower road. Our Springer Spaniels were being readied for the first Autumn hunt that year on the estate. Quail and pheasants populated the fields on the south side of the vineyard orchards that swept the skyline with rich foliage. Morning dew dripped from the birch trees as the October sun stretched across their faces of vibrant color. Our horses were saddled and brought up from the stables by a tall groomer who tied their reins to the ornate iron rings situated by the main foyer door of the mansion. A picnic brunch was prepared for us of hearty sandwiches on warm, freshly baked bread, coupled with spiced cider tucked into wicker brown baskets. We began our descent across the lawn where we picked up the trail below the formal gardens. The beauty of the woods mingled with the silent morning and was interrupted only by the flurry of wings being flushed from the fields as the pheasants stirred from their nesting ground. The bridle paths that seemed to waltz through the estate grounds around the rhododendrons and wild blueberry bushes eventually came upon a crystal clear lake. The silence there, settled so serenely in the late October sunshine as it reflected off of the ripples that were being pushed across the lake's mirrored surface.



The long chorus of crickets sounded from the lake's shoreline, where the bull frog's throaty calls captured the ear sweetly. The manor house stood proudly behind the pine trees that balanced on rock ledges. Hickory trees were beginning to drop their bounty onto the soft green moss below them, and the scent of honey emanated from the acres of wheat, dimpled with goldenrod swaying in the October breeze. An age-old wisteria vine wrapped its arms around the gardeners' shed affording us shade and fragrance to enjoy our picnic. The sun was dipping behind the fields, now bright orange with its reflection. We led our horses back to the barns once we bagged several pheasants for cook to prepare that evening over the kitchen hearth. Following the delightful dinner, we sat on the veranda in front of the outdoor fireplace. It blazed brightly chasing both the chill and the evening shadows away. The sweet smell of apple wood mingled with the scent of forest moss, delighting us, with the sensation of bliss, and contentment.

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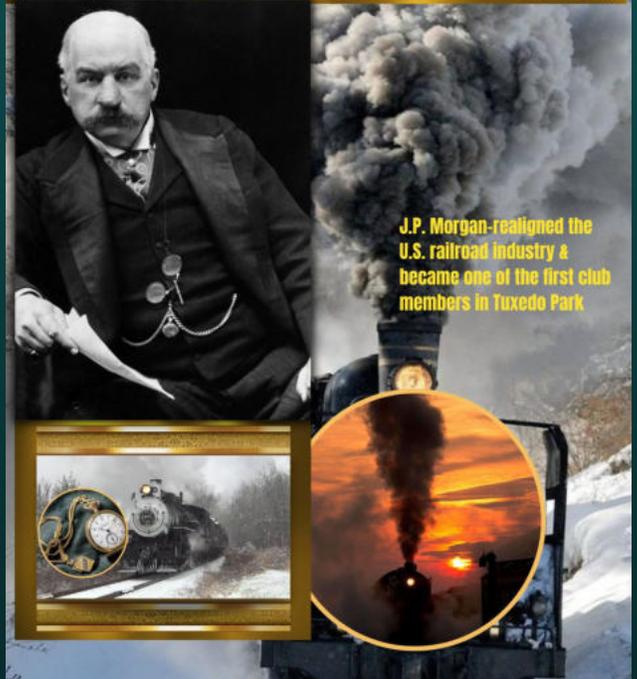
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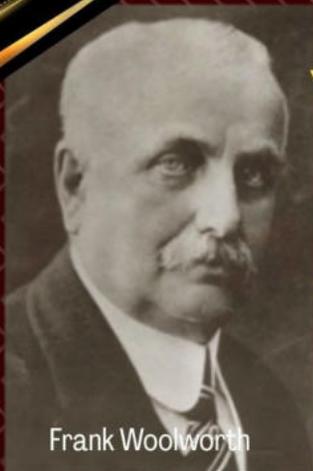
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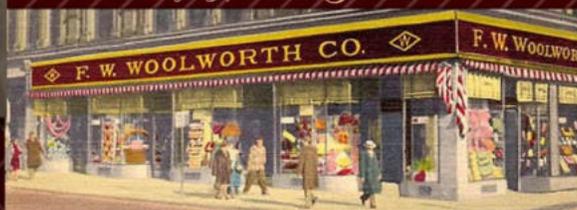
Frank Woolworth

THE WOOLWORTHS OF TUXEDO PARK

*From
Tuxedo Park Magazine
by Nanette Studios*



Tuxedo Park's
Edna Woolworth Hutton



Frank Woolworth's daughter, Edna, resided on a palatial estate in Tuxedo Park. Her father, was a frequent visitor to Tuxedo Park which he loved. Edna received one third of Frank Woolworth's fortune upon his death.

Woolworths was a retail company that was one of the original five and dime stores. The first Woolworth store was founded with a small loan to Frank Winfield Woolworth, and the company grew to be one of the largest retail chains in the world. Frank Woolworth was born to a poor farm family in upstate New York. He began his career as a clerk in a general store. While working at the store, he was impressed with the success of a five-cent clearance sale. He soon conceived the idea of establishing a store to sell a variety of items in volume at that price. When he had established several successful stores, he then added ten-cent items and was able to increase his inventory.

A major break-through for his stores was when he decided to stock candy and was able to bypass wholesalers and deal directly with the manufacturers. He was always aware of the importance of the presentation of goods, and planned window and counter displays for the entire chain. He also devised the red store front that became its institutional trade mark.

Between 1890 and 1910, the success of the chain was enormous and was known as one of the first American retailers to put merchandise out for the shopping public to handle without the assistance of a sales clerk.

In 1910 Frank Woolworth commissioned the construction of the Woolworth building in New York City, the building was entirely paid for in cash. It was completed in 1913 and was said to be the tallest building in the world until 1930. It served as the company's head quarters.

The stores' eventually incorporated lunch counters that also served as general gathering places, a precursor to the modern shopping food court. Many did all their Christmas shopping at Woolworths. The food counters would boast such delights as a grilled hot dog served on a grilled buttered bun with crinkle-cut fries. Many remember the little white bags where you could buy candy by the pound or the ounce. The Woolworth Company was perhaps one of the most successful retail enterprises in the world.

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The ghostly lanterns from the 1903 flood in Tuxedo



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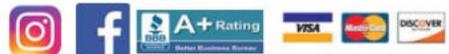


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