

From the President

It was through the our Historical Society Web site, www.nyackhistory.com, that an e-mail reached me from Ms. Naoko Kubota in Tokyo who was writing an article about Edward Hopper and wanted assistance during a visit to Nyack. It truly is a World Wide Web! I was happy to refer her to Jean Pardo, Nyack's Village Historian; Carole Perry, the Hopper House Director; and Gini Stollendorf, the Walking Tour chairperson; all of whom I knew would do a knowledgeable and warm-hearted job of introducing her to Nyack.

Win Perry

My visit to Nyack - A sense of place

by Naoko Kubota, staff writer for *Nihon Keizai Shimbun (Nikkei)*, a Japanese daily with 3 million readers



It all started with one e-mail from Nyack.

On the sunny winter day of December 4, I had a chance to visit a town in America which I had never heard of. I had been preparing to write a feature article about Edward Hopper for our newspaper, *Nihon Keizai Shimbun*. And the purpose of the trip was to see the places where Hopper spent his childhood years.

In the beginning, I had no contacts though. There was very little information about Nyack even on Internet, and I had no idea where to go and what to expect.

I sent out a bunch of e-mails from Japan asking for help, but had no luck. After many failed attempts, I almost gave visiting Nyack. Then just 10 days before my departure for New York, I received an e-mail from Mr. Winston Perry with a list of names.... the names of the people who kindly offered to assist me getting around the town!

Nyack is small, but it is a very welcoming town with well-preserved rich history.

First I visited Hopper House Art Center. It was so thrilling to sit on the staircase and see the view through the door which Hopper himself had seen. I was impressed by the fact that the House is supported by tremendous community effort. Ms.

Carole Perry explained about the event "Artists in the Park" in which the residents of Nyack invite artists in their houses and backyards to paint. Mr. Robert Nelson talked about the joy of volunteering, taking care of the House by painting the walls and waxing the floor.

Ms. Gini Stollendorf drove me around the town all afternoon, touring the Pretty Penny and other extraordinary Victorian houses with Hudson River brackets, cupolas and widow's walks. She also took me to a spot on the bank of the river. By overlooking the Tappan Zee bridge and the river water from there, I could picture steamboats going up and down the stream just like in the good old days.

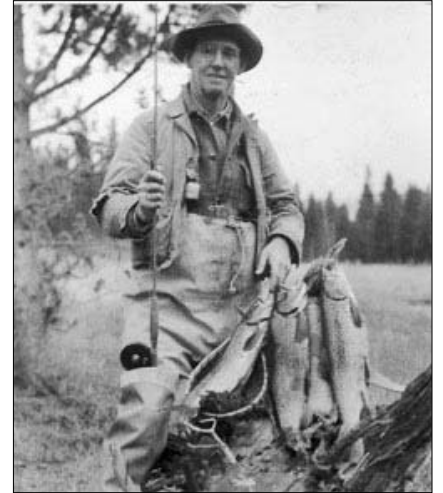
In the late afternoon, I visited the Nyack Library, and Ms. Jean Pardo showed me the old photographs of Nyack. There was one photo taken at the old shipyard. Among the workers, one boy stood by a small boat holding a piece of wood, and that photo reminded me of young Hopper who used to play in the shipyard.

The whole experience in Nyack gave me the feel of Hopper's time. It is the kind information you never get from Internet. Something that you feel only by being there. A sense of place.

Hopper painted repeatedly stark landscapes, empty streets, and people with no expressions on their faces. After the trip to Nyack, I am beginning to understand that feel of loneliness and anxiety of his painting probably reflects Hopper's own experience; separation from Nyack, loss of sense of place.

Ray Bergman Consummate fisherman

by Gini Stollendorf



When Nyack native Ray Bergman wrote his books on fishing, he made the reader want to stop reading and start fishing! (Perhaps former president Jimmy Carter read Bergman's books as he was an avid trout fisherman).

Bergman was the consummate fisherman. Throughout his 26 years on the staff of *Outdoor Life*, his style of writing helped make his readers passionate about fishing.

Ray was born in Nyack in 1891 and remained a resident throughout his life. As a child, he fished in the Hudson and by the time he was 10, he was using his bicycle to get to the lakes and streams near his home. He'd fish for trout, bass pickerel and pan fish.

In his 20's, he opened a sporting goods store on South Broadway, in a row of stores that occupied the space where Tallman Towers is now located across from the YMCA.

His commitment to fishing later encompassed a mail order fishing equipment business. A part of this business was Bergman's own hand-tied flies. Each hand-tied fly he sold was identified with his initials, RB, followed by a serial number.

Ray Bergman wrote 4 books on fishing. One entitled *Trout* is a classic. It has been reprinted four times and is considered the definitive book on trout fishing. The other titles are *Just Fishing*, *Fresh Water*

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