



## Item of the Week *from the* Long Island Collection

LONG ISLAND COLLECTION | DIGITAL LONG ISLAND | EAST HAMPTON STAR ARCHIVE



### **Aronio (Roney) Marasca, lifeguard**

Maybe it's the cold weather this time of year, but pictures that capture summer are particularly appealing right now, especially this undated image of Aronio "Roney" Marasca perched upon a lifeguard chair at the beach in East Hampton. In other photographs in this series, Roney can be seen posing with a lifeboat and fishing at the beach. The additional photos can be seen [here](#).

Marasca's 1981 East Hampton Star obituary indicates he was born in East Hampton on July 28, 1915, to Italian-American parents Paul and Carolina Petrella Marasca. His father managed Lamb's Tonsorial Parlor, a barbershop, at 117 Main St., East Hampton, NY, where, it's said, actors John Barrymore and John Drew went for a shave (they nicknamed the shop the "Lamb's Club"). It appears Roney had a vibrant social life. Growing up, he sang and gave piano performances during school assemblies and played pick-up baseball games with his brothers (usually in a vacant lot across the street from Marley's Store at 51 Main St., East Hampton, NY). Speaking of the Marleys, it's clear Roney and his brothers were close to James Marley as the Star's local news records the boys simultaneously having their tonsils removed in 1921.

Roney worked as a Village lifeguard with Douglas Dayton, Mel Hulse, and Gene Windbergh and as a

haul seiner with E.J. Edwards, Billy Edwards, Billy Havens, Lindy Havens, and Dominic Grace. Roney also served in the Navy during World War II and operated a concession counter at the Main Beach Bathing Pavilion known as "The Chowder Bowl," which continued to operate long after Roney's death. Roney Marasca seems to be one of those fondly remembered local characters, but we have very little information about him in the Collection. If you remember Roney Marasca or his family, we would love to add your written memories or material about Roney to our archives!

## EXPLORE MORE

**The Digital Long Island Collection** is part of New York Heritage Digital Collections. Included are searchable scans of deeds, drawings, etchings, inventories, letters, maps, paintings, pardons, patents, photographs, plans, postcards, prints, sculptures, sketches, textiles, tiles, yearbooks and more to come.

**The East Hampton Star Archive** is a fully searchable, online digital archive of our local weekly newspaper, that features each complete issue of the paper from 1918-1968, exactly as it appeared in print. Visit the archive online, for a tour of our Town's history that will fascinate both the amateur and professional historian!

**The Karl Grossman Research Archive** is an extensive collection of materials digitized from the personal archive of Karl Grossman, an investigative reporter, columnist, author, and current professor of journalism at SUNY Old Westbury. The archive brings together a decades long career in reporting and journalism with topics ranging from the economy and pollution to fishing and East Hampton Town. Patrons are capable of searching this 9,500+ item collection by collection name, year, title, or keyword search.

**The Local Artist Research Archive** is a collection of over 19,000 items digitized from Guild Hall, containing materials including personal letters, photographs, news clippings, and art catalogs concerning artists of the East End. Patrons are capable of searching this archive by collection, title, or keyword search.



### **Welcome to the Long Island Collection's "Item of the Week."**

We are an archive dedicated to the history and people of Long Island, with a special interest in all things East Hampton and East End. Unlike some small local history rooms in other public libraries, we have over 100,000 items including, but not limited to, rare books, maps, photographs, deeds, postcards, letters, newspapers, and whaling logs. We also have a dedicated and hardworking staff ready to help you with any questions you may have. Unable to make it to the library? No problem! We upload images from the collection to Digital Long Island on a weekly basis, so there's always something new and interesting to behold.

Please visit us at the Library, make use of our extensive online digital resources, or contact us for assistance. Public hours are: Mon. - Tues. and Thurs. - Sat., 1:00-4:30 p.m.

### **Researched and written by Andrea Meyer, Librarian/Archivist, Long Island Collection.**

*Andrea Meyer began working in the Long Island Collection in January 2015. Her responsibilities include updating Digital Long Island, scanning, processing new collections, and assisting patrons with research. She earned her M.L.I.S. through Long Island University, and completed her M.A. in Archives and Public History at New York University through the dual-degree program. Andrea started working in archives in 2005. Prior to working for the East Hampton Library, Andrea worked at the New Jersey State Archives, at NYU Libraries, and as a private research consultant. Her clients included the New-York Historical Society. She is also involved with the Sag Harbor Historical Society.*

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