



Item of the Week *from the* Long Island Collection

LONG ISLAND COLLECTION

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EAST HAMPTON STAR ARCHIVE



Playground and School Building, East Hampton, L.I.

It's back-to-school time again and many young pupils have already proclaimed that recess is their favorite part of the day. While many believe children these days don't get enough time to play, the importance of physical exercise cannot be ignored. After all, according to Scottish author Robert Louis Stevenson, "Happy hearts and happy faces, happy play in grassy places; that was how in ancient ages, children grew to kings and sages."

The postcard above features a group of children in front of grass tennis courts in Herrick Park, across the street from what used to be the high school and elementary school on Newtown Lane (which is now East Hampton Middle School). Having a place to play is just as important as the act itself, which was expressed by C.R. Smith in a letter to the editor of the East Hampton Star in the 1910s. He said, "In the spring of 1913 Main Street and Newtown Lane were overrun with boys playing ball in the street, many people were hurt with the ball, windows were broken and several boys arrested." As a result of this, Smith rented a five-acre lot on Newton Lane (bordered by Race and Gingerbread Lane) from Abraham Dayton for use as a playground. Eventually, this space became too small and he rented the larger A.M. Payne lot, which was closer to Main Street. Smith later transferred his lease to the newly formed East Hampton Neighborhood Association, which took over maintenance of the playground. Through the Neighborhood Association, John B. Ford (Vice President of the U.S. Rubber Company) purchased the lot and had it dedicated as a public playground in memory of his sister Harriet Ford Herrick, a summer resident and wife of Dr. Everett Herrick, who owned the historic Pudding Hill house at 4 Ocean Avenue for many years.

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 6,500+ item collection by collection name, year, title, or keyword search.

The Local Artist Research Archive is a collection of over 10,000 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. Our public hours are Mon.-Tues. and Thurs.-Sat. 1:00-4:30 p.m.

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