GREENBURGH LOCAL HISTORY
Frank S. Jazzo, Town Historian
WHEN GREENBURGH WENT TO WASHINGTON

The picture on this page has been displayed for a couple of reasons. First, it provides us with a snapshot in time of a group of Greenburgh High School students apparently on a class trip to our nation’s capital over 71 years ago. The picture, dated June 29, 1938, was donated recently by a former Town of Greenburgh employee, John Cristello. The picture had belonged to John’s mother, then Louise Yozzo, who is the smiling young lady, seventh person in from the right. Unfortunately, John can only identify one other person in the picture, and that brings us to my other reason for displaying the picture. I’m hoping that some relatives or friends of those pictured can provide me with additional identifications and possibly, if I’m lucky, more information about the Greenburgh High School (GHS) of the time.

Based on the date of the picture, the structure that now exists as a medical office building at 280 Dobbs Ferry Road would have served as the Greenburgh High School for these students. Starting in 1951, Victoria Lawson ran a series of articles in her local publication, “Fair-View News”, about the history of the school system of then Greenburgh District No. 8. In article number VII of the series, “Know Your Schools”, Victoria stated that the building, first known as Greenburgh School No. 1, was erected in 1919 to house grades first through eighth. By 1922, it was decided to establish a high school in the building, which then was expanded in 1924 by the addition of six rooms. Prior to that time, Greenburgh students in the district had the option of attending one of the high schools in neighboring communities, if they wished to continue their education.

In article number VIII, Victoria stated that the Senior Class of 1928 was the first class to plan a “graduation” trip to Washington, D.C. She also revealed that “the following year, the Seniors joined with more than 100 students from Mount Kisco, Ardsley, Eastchester, Ossining, and Hastings for their March 30 trip to the Capitol”.

However, she gave no further details of those two or any future Washington trips in the article. Any tales of the Washington trips or of memories of life in that Greenburgh School No.1 during the 1920’s or 1930’s would be greatly appreciated, as well as identification of any of the GHS students in the D.C. trip picture. I may be reached using the contact information listed below.

Additional information and pictures of some student activities at Greenburgh School No.1 may be found on pages 87 through 91 of the Town’s 1988 Bicentennial publication, “GREENBURGH: A GLIMPSE OF OUR PAST”. 

Compiled by Frank S. Jazzo, Town Historian – Telephone: (914) 993-1641
E-mail: fjazzo@greenburghny.com  Town Web Site: www.greenburghny.com