

Where Were You on March 1, 2013?

“Thought that I would see you at the grand reopening of the Suffolk Theater on Main Street, on March 1st, where history was made. A section of Main Street was blocked off where people congregated to see the ribbon cutting ceremony. Three men played ragtime music and one gentleman sang songs from the era when the theater first opened in 1933. From the top of the marquee bubbles floated everywhere. In 1933 it took 2 months to finish the theater. Don’t ask how long it took now. One fellow dressed in a black striped suit & wearing black & white shoes performed doing ‘statue moments’. Two youngsters dressed as ‘newsies’ gave out programs. A red carpet was laid in front of the building. Diane Castaldi cut the red ribbon with over-sized gold scissors. Then everyone went into the theater there were movie posters showing ‘Footlight Parade’ which opened the theater in 1933 and ‘Dirty Dancing’ which closed the theater in 1987. The theater will enliven Riverhead and surrounding towns and also draw in people to attend different functions. Congratulations to Diane and Bob Castaldi for all of their efforts to bring the Arts to Riverhead.”

Submitted by Marie Vasco (#27)

Scammers Target Older Americans

This article in the AARP magazine reminded me of an incident that occurred more than 30 years ago.

I was Assistant Manager of a bank at 57th Street just off 5th Ave. The bank was in a beautiful building with a majestic entrance, including an awning out to the street.

One of the tellers brought an older woman to my desk. The woman wanted nine thousand dollars in cash. Asking her why she wanted to carry all of that cash in the middle of NYC, she whispered; “A bank official telephoned me saying what a good customer I am and would I help in catching a dishonest teller? Plus I’d be compensated for my help. He also said that his messenger would be waiting just outside the bank to re-check the cash for any discrepancies.”

I told her that no bank official would have called, and just to stay at my desk. Dialing 911 I told them about the scam and to send an undercover officer to catch the guy outside. Within minutes a police officer showed up. Unfortunately, he wasn’t undercover. He was a mounted cop who calmly hitched his horse to our awning. Well, at least our customer didn’t lose a dime, and the scam artist was smart enough to disappear when the cop galloped up!

Submitted by Sandy Gillam (#105)

Over five thousand years ago, Moses said to the children of Israel, "Pick up your shovels, mount your asses and camels, and I will lead you to the Promised Land." Nearly 75 years ago, (when Welfare was introduced) Roosevelt said, "Lay down your shovels, sit on your asses, and light up a Camel, this is the Promised Land." Today, Congress has stolen your shovel, taxed your asses, raised the price of Camels and mortgaged the Promised Land! I was so depressed last night thinking about Health Care Plans, the economy, the wars, lost jobs, savings, Social Security, retirement funds, etc ... I called a Suicide Hotline. I had to press 1 for English. I was connected to a call center in Pakistan. I told them I was suicidal. They got excited and asked if I could drive a truck... Folks, we're screwed.

Submitted by Dianne Massiello (#209)