

TUXEDO PARK MAGAZINE

Croquet On Country Lawns

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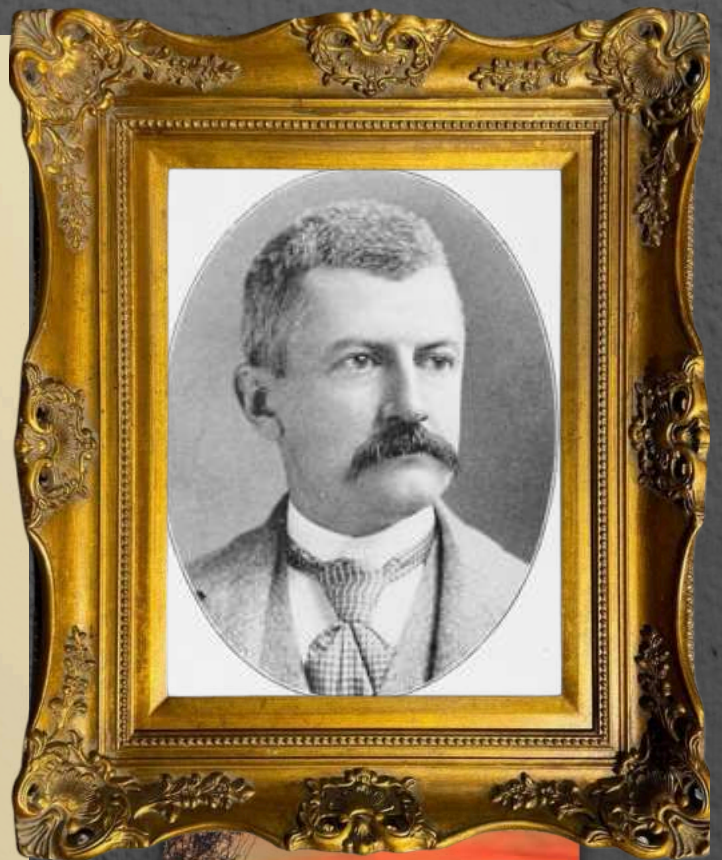
GILDED GLORY: STORIES FROM THE GILDED AGE OF TUXEDO PARK

TUXEDO PARK'S CHARLES HENRY COSTER J. P. MORGAN'S MAIN PARTNER... REORGANIZATION EXPERT OF RAILROADS

From Diaries, Memories, & Social Clippings

The hardest working, and best financier among J.P.Morgan's partners, was railroad reorganization expert Charles Henry Coster. Originally recruited by Pierpont's father, Junius Spencer Morgan, who among many things had been a leading banker that channeled British savings into American railroads. Coster was once described by Morgan's biographer as, "a gentleman with a faultless memory for small and extremely important financial details." He was tireless as he carried his portfolios home in the evening and back to the office in the morning, then from meeting to meeting for the many railroads of which he was the director. Having a mystic genius for figures it was once quoted by John Winkler in 1930 of Charles Coster that "He possessed a mental solvent by which all the intricate and interwoven relations of railroads, obligations, bonds, underlying bonds and collateral trust mortgages, resolved themselves into original and perfectly distinct elements." He was a financial chemist and was said to take strange and unaccustomed quantities, and by means of his mental process, reduce them to perfect simplicity. J. P. Morgan and Charles Coster reinforced and supplemented each other.

The tremendous series of reorganizations perfected by Morgan in the traditional railroad reconstruction era between 1884 and 1885 would have been impossible without the aid of Mr. Coster. It was said that his magic powers of mind found their opportunity in preparing material for his partner's creations.



Coster and other partners of Morgan examined hand written documents behind desks in large open rooms and attended countless meetings of boards of directors and prospective investors, owners and executives. It was said that all of Morgan's partners were rewarded with generous shares in profits and worked exceedingly hard, some dying quite young due to the hard work and stress. The Morgan partnership consisted at any given time of about twelve partners and three clerks per partner. The clerks were all male except for George Perkin's secretary whom worked for him previously at New York Life, and whose office was outside of the Morgan building at the corner of Wall Street and Bond. The Morgan partnership was thought by some to be dangerous because its interests were so large. There was a concern over the concentration of the business of finance being in the hands of only a few investment banks led by the Morgan partnership. This concern dominated public policy debates over the securities industry for some time. One danger that was noted by progressives was that the Morgan partnership was a source of several conflicts of interests. One of J. P. Morgan's best friends and Tuxedo Park resident,



George F. Baker was asked by Morgan to serve as the deciding voice in arguments among his partners after his death. Mr. Baker was the head of The First National Bank and sat on the boards of six railroads as well as the board of AT & T. It took time for Coster, who also lived in Tuxedo Park, to work his way up in the Morgan hierarchy. When he was made a partner, it was at the time when Morgan was just beginning to assert himself financially. It has been noted that the most enduring of the house of Morgan's accomplishments came during Coster's time with the firm. They were the railroad reorganizations that survived into the 1920's. Charles Henry Coster's ancestors arrived in New York around the time of the Revolution and quickly gained prominence in the shipping field. His grandfather was trained as a Doctor and later joined his brother (Charles Coster's great uncle) in the shipping firm. Both had large families and both had sons whose names held the name "Washington" within them. It was said that the first president stood godfather to one or perhaps both of them. Charles Henry Coster was a familiar figure on Wall Street whose methods were not those of fantasy; his reorganizations held their own buoyancy. He rode the railroads he was studying, watching roadbeds from the back platforms of trains. He worked hard and died young, making great strides in the world of wealth and the echoes of Wall Street.

*Our dear friend, the late Count Alexander Salm, was Henry Coster's grandson .



CROQUET ON COUNTRY LAWNS-TUXEDO PARK AUTUMN BALL: OCTOBER DEBUTANTS WERE GIFTED CROQUET SETS...

*From the New York Times:
October, 1900*

...."The large, circular ballroom at the club was decorated with autumn leaves and handsome favors. There were cedars decked with carefully selected tinted oak and maple leaves. In an arbor and on a stage opposite, two orchestras played alternately. The ladies were given gifts: Croquet mallets, fans and garlands of flowers. The men were given croquet balls, automobile glasses, silk scarves and boutonnieres.

All of the early evening trains arriving from NYC brought guests and a steady stream of automobiles with guests entered through the park gates all afternoon. The festivities carried on all evening, well into the morning. At 1:00 AM a large dinner was served at the clubhouse.

Some of the guests among the many in attendance were, Mrs. M. Collier, Mrs. Amory Carhart, H. Tiffany, Mr. And Mrs. Richard Mortimer, Mr. And Mrs. Pierre Lorillard, H. W. Poor Mr. And Mrs. Grenville Kane, Mr. And Mrs. Julliard, Miss D. Roosevelt, Mr. And Mrs. Edward Harriman, Mr. And Mrs. Griswold, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hyde" ...The New York Times...1900"



Stories From The First Gilded Age Society...Tuxedo Park Footnotes

Many stories shared with us over the years were gleaned from diaries, memories, and social clippings from archival literature. Stories from direct descendants of the original Gilded Age Cottagers in Tuxedo Park.

Vocal memories accompanied a twinkle in the eye of several, as they unfolded their tales willingly. In front of grand fireplaces, on white wicker furnished veranda's, and formal gardens over one hundred years old, stories unfolded and carried a clear glimpse of life in the first Gilded Age Society known as Tuxedo Park.

Many of these story-tellers were direct descendants of captains of finance and industry in the Gilded Age. Legendary icons enabling this country to become strong and independent. Industrialists and philanthropists revolutionized industry and defined the structure of monetary gain. They walked through the finest clubs in America, where money was "aged", and "new" money balanced on that noble money, became ripe. The blue bloods of iconic industry, their gilded empires appeared like legendary fairytales of capital worth, and sent echoes of success down the corridors of Wall Street. The old clubs which still exist such as the Tuxedo Club, the Union Club, and the old Knickerbocker Club, where once these men shared visions of industry and wealth with one another over fine brandy and cigars. Some of the corridors of these clubs still display an old portrait or two of the club's founding fathers. These portraits are a tangible glimpse into the world of the Gilded Age, and the men who moved it.

Many wonderful stories of the grand women are also in our collection.

*By Tuxedo Park Magazine
& Design Studios*

J.P. MORGAN'S METROPOLITAN CLUB



In the late 1800's, New York City contained many private social clubs which were largely based on British social clubs. At the end of the 19th century, many upscale residences were being developed along Fifth Avenue, particularly north of 59th Street. Many of the city's wealthiest residents began moving uptown along Fifth Avenue.

One of the city's most prominent clubs in the late 19th century was the Union Club of the City of New York, founded in 1836. The Union Club was restricted to 1,000 members, resulting in a long waiting list and several off-shoot clubs. Each prospective member's application had to be sponsored by an existing member and reviewed by the Union Club's board of governors. By the 1870s, the board of governors frequently blackballed, or rejected, several prominent figures' membership applications on questionable grounds. Local newspapers published the names of blackballed applicants, resulting in humiliation for both the applicant and their sponsor. The Union Club blackballed two high-profile applicants in 1890: Erie Railroad president John King, who was sponsored by J. P. Morgan, and physician William Seward Webb, who was sponsored by William K. Vanderbilt.

Morgan decided to form the Metropolitan Club after the Union Club failed to accept King and Webb. He was soon joined by other displeased members of the Union Club, including members of the Goelet, Iselin, Roosevelt, and Vanderbilt families. Morgan's friend William Watts Sherman drafted a constitution for a new club and invited 25 Gilded Age Moguls to serve as co-founders. Sherman and many of the invitees attended a dinner at the Knickerbocker Club on February 20, 1891, to discuss the formation of Morgan's club.



The founders next had to decide on a name, and they considered names such as "Millionaires' Club", "Park Club", and "the Spectators". The Metropolitan Club was formed on March 7, 1891. J. P. Morgan was elected as the club's first president, and the founders planned to invite 1,200 resident members and 500 non-resident members. Annual dues were set at \$100 for resident members and \$50 for non-resident members, in addition to a flat initiation fee of \$300.

When the new Metropolitan was founded, there was another Metropolitan Club two blocks south at Fifth Avenue and 58th Street, which exclusively served the city's Jewish community. Sherman claimed that the new Metropolitan's organizers did not know about the older club on 58th Street. Ultimately, the older club gave up its name, though the reason for this is unclear. The new Metropolitan Club was originally nicknamed the Millionaires' Club, as most of its earliest members were millionaires. The new club's members opened a temporary office at the Madison Square Bank Building, at the intersection of Fifth Avenue, 23rd Street, and Broadway. They sent out invitations to 1,000 wealthy New Yorkers, nearly half of whom had responded by April. Membership lagged after the club had signed on 650 members. There were fears that the club would not be profitable because of its location. Although when the club decided to allow Union Club members into its bar, the club succeeded and thrived.

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As we were led into tea by the butler, our hosts greeted us. In the sunroom, starched white curtains billowed; catching the afternoon breeze in their skirts as lemonade was served with shaved ice and sprigs of mint in crystal, on silver. Gardeners could be seen pushing lawn cutters to ready the grounds for that evening's party.

Maids pushed carts heaped high with cakes, puddings, meats and champagne through the open French doors and out onto the veranda. The bottles were placed on blocks of ice fresh from the icehouse, and molded forms became apparent as the fading sun caught the sparkle of crystal, pushing a last pink blush into the pure white curtains. The evening was fresh and new.

A feeling of excitement stirred as the tingling coolness caressed summer dresses, and the candles' soft glow, embraced by stars and music, reached long into the night and faded only as dawn pushed it aside to make way for a new day.



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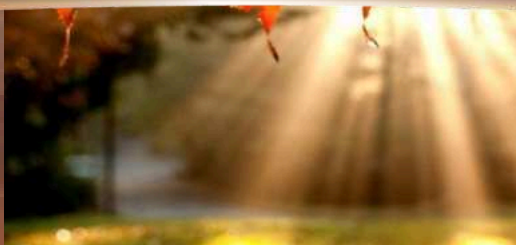


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PHEASANT HUNTING ON THE ESTATE AUTUMN 1909



Through my bedroom French Doors I could hear the excitement of the hunting dogs from the kennels housed on the lower road. Our Springer Spaniels were being readied for the first autumn hunt that year on the estate. Quail and pheasants populated the fields on the south side of the vineyard orchards that swept the skyline with rich foliage. Morning dew dripped from the birch trees as the October sun stretched across their faces of vibrant color. Our horses were saddled and brought up from the stables by a tall groomsmen who tied their reins to the ornate iron rings situated by the main foyer door of the mansion. A picnic brunch was prepared for us of hearty sandwiches on warm, freshly baked bread, coupled with spiced cider tucked into whicker brown baskets.

We began our decent across the lawn where we picked up the trail below the formal gardens. The beauty of the woods mingled with the silent morning and was interrupted only by the flurry of wings being flushed from the fields as the pheasants stirred from their nesting ground. The bridle paths that seemed to waltz through the estate grounds around the rhododendrons and wild blueberry bushes eventually came upon a crystal clear lake. The silence there, settled so serenely in the late October sunshine as it reflected off of the ripples that were being pushed across the lake's mirrored surface.

The long chorus of crickets sounded from the lake's shoreline, where the bull frog's throaty calls captured the ear sweetly. The manor house stood proudly behind the pine trees that balanced on rock ledges. Hickory trees were beginning to drop their bounty onto the soft green moss below them, and the scent of honey emanated from the acres of wheat, dimpled with goldenrod swaying in the October breeze. An age-old wisteria vine wrapped its arms around the gardeners' shed affording us shade and fragrance to enjoy our picnic brunch. The sun was dipping behind the fields, now bright orange with its reflection. We led our horses back to the barns once we bagged several pheasants for cook to prepare that evening over the kitchen hearth. Following the delightful dinner, we sat on the veranda in front of the outdoor fireplace. It blazed brightly chasing both the chill and the evening shadows away. The sweet smell of apple wood mingled with the scent of forest moss, delighting us, with the sensation of bliss and contentment.



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New York Times: 1903

“Miles of horseback riding trails wound through the rich forestland in Tuxedo Park. The sport was very popular and all eagerly anticipated the horse shows. The amazing equestrian skills displayed, were unequally matched in the state. The grand turnout for the 1903 horse show was proof of the sportsmanship in the park. The early part of the week in Tuxedo was full of excitement, and many cottagers entertained guests for the event. Heavy rains came Friday and Saturday and caused much damage throughout the park. The guests who arrived for the horseshow were not able to leave due to the flooding damage.

The railroad washouts were so bad that trains could not run until Tuesday and then, only one each way from Tuxedo to the city. The horse show that was to have taken place on Friday and Saturday of that week was postponed until Monday. Despite the condition of the track, there was a large crowd present and everything went smoothly.

The warm weather brought out all of the fine points in the horses. The showground and grandstand were artistically decorated, and the boxes were filled with a large gathering. Many distinguished visitors were in attendance.

A famous New York tailor brought in 3 manikins dressed in the latest equestrian riding habits for Tuxedo Park residents and guests to view the latest styles for their wardrobes. There were numerous luncheon parties at the Tuxedo Club, which was also in fine décor for the occasion. Although deprived of electricity, the cottagers entertained as usual. The judges of the horse show dined at Mr. and Mrs. Frelinghuysen’s on Monday evening; many residents were invited to this special dinner and a general excitement prevailed as everyone toasted one another’s achievements in the show.”

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Student Spotlight: How Saddle River Day Fostered the Entrepreneurial Spirit for David Han '24

At Saddle River Day School, we talk a great deal about the concept and practice of both entrepreneurship and design thinking, as an educational philosophy and a factor that differentiates us from other independent schools. But discerning consumers might wonder if we really do “talk the talk and walk the walk” when it comes to these two essential life skills. 2024 graduate, David Han, a Gateway Diploma recipient, is the perfect example of the way in which SRDS welcomes and supports student-conceived and led entrepreneurial ideas, especially when those ideas are in direct response to a perceived need at the school.

During his sophomore year, David Han decided he wanted to start a business. He wasn't sure what kind of business he wanted to start, specifically, so he did what any aspiring entrepreneur would do; he assessed his environment, identified an unaddressed need in the marketplace, and did the research to find a way to fill that need.

After abandoning (temporarily) his first plan, a retail and apparel design business, he determined that owning a vending machine would provide the kind of investment and passive income he was looking for.

Decision made, David spent the remainder of his sophomore year researching the ins and outs of owning a vending machine, including meeting with adults who were current owners of vending machines or vending machine businesses, and working through anticipated issues or problems in order to find viable solutions to those problems.

After laying the groundwork, in June, 2022, David flew to Colorado where he was trained on the maintenance and upkeep of his machine, and purchased it the same day. In September, 2022, Han Vending, LLC opened for business.

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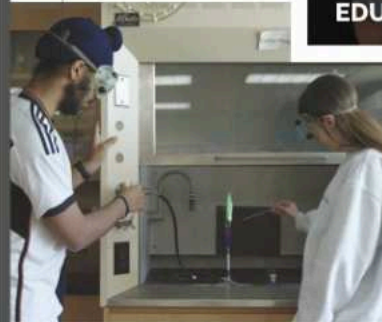


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David credits Saddle River Day School CFO, Chris Mathisen, with helping him write up the contract that enabled him to place his vending machine in the Upper School. Mr. Mathisen was also instrumental in advising him with regard to insurance, and in helping him clear other hurdles along the way. David says he learned the “art of the pivot” when his original plan to sell energy drinks and sodas in his vending machine was met with resistance from SRDS administrators, but he also learned negotiation skills as he and the administration worked to find mutually agreed upon substitutes.

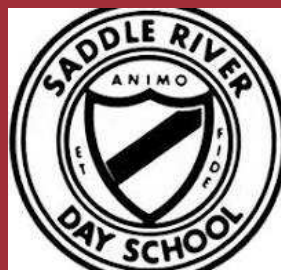
Once his machine was installed in the Upper School, David spent about two hours a day on inventory, purchasing, and accounting. His contract with the school gave SRDS 15% of the gross revenue and his annual average sales were 5x greater than the other machines in the building. He attributes this fact to the location of his machine but also to the SRDS community who, he believes, went out of their way to support one of their own. In return, David asked for input from his fellow students regarding the items he stocked in his machine, a win-win that resulted in both greater client satisfaction, and higher revenues.

Now that he has graduated from SRDS, and in anticipation of his move to Massachusetts this fall to attend Babson College to study entrepreneurship, David has sold his vending machine. But it’s staying in the SRDS family as Emily Regular, a rising 6th grader at Saddle River Day School, has taken over operation of the machine.

David's future plans include, of course, owning more businesses. Though he now has indisputable entrepreneurial cred, he’s a creative at heart, so expect to see him returning to his first loves of graphic design and video production. David Han is just one shining example of a Saddle River Day School graduate as we continue to be passionately committed to preparing our students not only for college, but for life beyond formal education.



David Han



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Liborio Derario, and stunning homes designed by his firm, Archifuture.



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With offices in Tuxedo Park and Upper Saddle River NJ, Archifuture is a force in the architectural world. The company is in demand throughout the region (and beyond), but it's important to Derario that they only take on a limited number of projects at a time. That's because the success of Archifuture was built on personal service to every client.

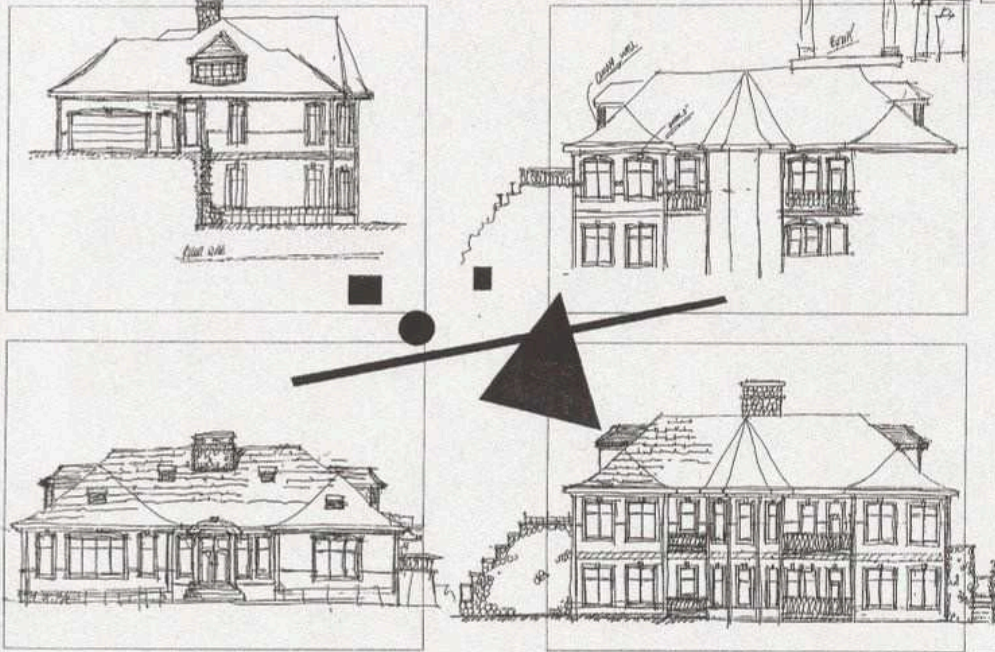
"When you work with my firm, you work with me," says Derario. "I am involved in the entire process from drawing board to completion. I have a passion for the creativity and energy that goes into each step of a project."

Derario and his crew at Archifuture have restored many notable historic properties to their original aesthetics. Several in the area include: Harmony Hall, a Greek Revival building constructed by Jacob Sloat in 1848 (currently on the National Register of Historic Places); Crow House, built by Henry Varnum Poor in the 1940s; the Mary Mowbray Clarke House (designer of New City's Dutch Gardens); and most recently, Torne Brook Estate in Hillburn, built in the early 1870s by Charles T. Pierson, and home to the new Torne Valley Winery (see page 8). "I'm particularly proud to have played a part in saving and maintaining the integrity of these historic homes,"

says Derario. "It's just as gratifying for us to restore the past as it is for us to design the future." ☞

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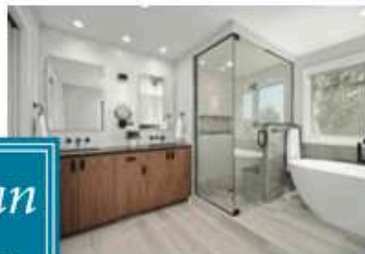
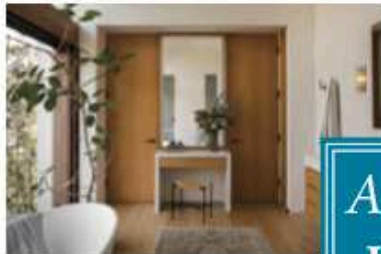
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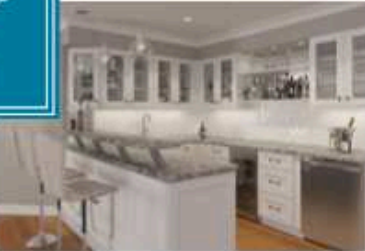
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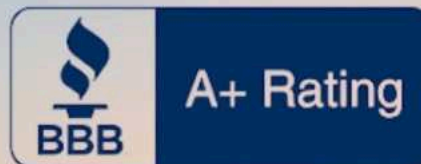


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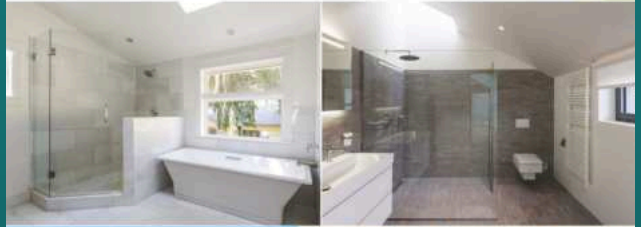
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A photograph of the Blairhame building, a large, multi-story brick structure with a slate roof and several windows. The building is the background for the text overlay.

BLAIRHAME... FROM TUXEDO PARK TO THE METROPOLITAN MUSEUM OF ART

Tuxedo Park School was founded in 1900, fourteen years after Pierre Lorillard opened his famous park in the Ramapo Hills, 38 miles northwest of New York City. In its early years, the school provided education for the students from Tuxedo Park and coordinated the curriculum with the New York City Independent Schools that some students attended during the winter months.

After many years as a proprietary school, headmaster, Anthony Barber (1941-1943) led the school into the modern era by obtaining a charter from New York State and establishing the school as a not-for-profit educational institution. The school has occupied three different houses within the Park. Under Philip Potter (1949-1959), Tuxedo Park School opened its doors on September 14, 1957, at its current location, Blairhame, with 70 day students, 19 boarders, 12 teachers and a staff of 7.

The land for Blairhame was purchased in 1913 and the home was built around 1915 by Carrere and Hastings, the same architects for the New York Public Library on Fifth Avenue and the Harriman Estate in nearby Arden. The estate employed approximately 30 servants within its limestone and brick walls.

The home is built of concrete reinforced by steel, not wood, making it the first fireproof mansion built in the Park. The house is composed of two and a half stories with a diagonal brick design, limestone quoins and window treatments, a tower, galleries, scrolled dormers and a slate roof. It originally had sixty-five rooms and twenty bathrooms. Mrs. Blair closed the house after her husband passed in 1939 when she moved to the head gardener's cottage on the property. She left her priceless collection of 17th and 18th century American furniture to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City.



When Mr. Hazard began his tenure at the school he made certain that all students were provided with a French curriculum. In December 1959, Mr. Hazard, along with the Parents' Association, raised the funds necessary to convert the ballroom back to its original purpose – as a library. On January 13, 1962, the Board of Trustees unanimously endorsed John A. (Jack) Shepard (1962-1980) to the Head of School position.

When Mr. Shepard opened the 1962 school year there were 102 students enrolled, 11 of whom were boarders. The same year, Shepard hired Mary Emily Kerney to compile alumni information and created the Alumni Association which is still intact today. In the winter of 1963, Shepard introduced the ski program for grades 3 through 8, where students traveled every Thursday afternoon to a local mountain to learn, practice and race. In 1965, Tuxedo Park School was gifted the first road sign to be placed at the bottom of the newly paved Mountain Farm Road.

The sign, still in place today, was gifted by Mrs. George Stillman in memory of her late husband. Tuxedo Park School embarked on a major campaign in 1967 to expand into the Mattes Wing. In 1968, John Blair Overton granted TPS the deed to 2 ½ acres for a much needed expansion. The additional space allowed for the growth of the school that helped bring the 1969 school year to a start with 170 students, 36 of whom were new to TPS. In September 1972, Tuxedo Park School, with unanimous approval became a Pre-K through ninth grade education facility, creating a permanent freshman class. That spring, TPS had the first ever co-ed graduating freshman class.

With the resignation of Jack Shepard in 1980, Andrew J. McClaren was appointed Head of School (1980-1988). In April, 1982, TPS was evaluated by the New York State Association of Independent Schools Committee. The Chairman, Sam Parkman, Head of Rippowam-Cisqua School, stated, “there is an atmosphere about the school which the committee found absolutely delightful.” One member described the school as “a combination of discipline, joy, and contentment.”

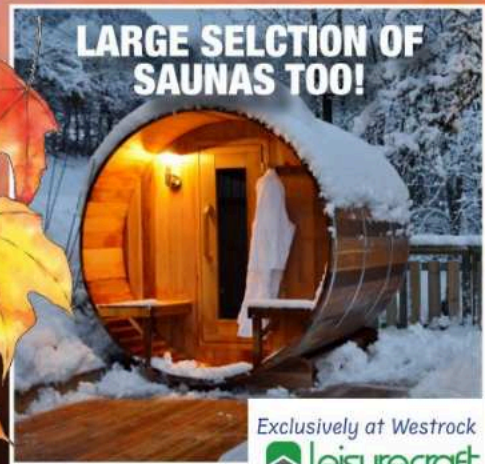
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