

**This begins the history of Elim Park by Helen Lager**

As we turn back the pages of history, we find that on May 15, 1906, a group gathered at the First Swedish Baptist Church, Brooklyn, New York (also known as Dean Street Baptist) to discuss plans for obtaining a home in the country, to be used during the summer for guests. A society was organized that day to further these plans. Rev. O. J. Engstrand, was the Chairman and Rev. P. E. Engberg, Secretary.

After investigating several possible sites, a 12-room farm house with one bathroom on an 80-acre farm with several barns, some tillable land and a forest of chestnut trees situated on the Housatonic River was suggested. A trolley ran through this property, making it readily accessible to Bridgeport and Derby.

On December 6th of the same year, this same group met to discuss plans to purchase this property, which was now being offered for sale at \$10,000. It had originally been priced at \$20,000. A \$200 binder was given; \$2,800 when we took the property; the balance of \$7,000 remained as a mortgage with five per cent interest. Of this balance \$100 had to be paid yearly.



*Trolley Station*

*Summer Society*



**June 23, 2006**

A Fashion Show hosted by former Marketing Director Celia MacNeill, Margaretann Foster, current Marketing Director, and the residents of the Brooksvale and Mountain View apartments showcased an “old-time” celebration featuring the “chic” look of yesteryear. There were about 45 models arranging themselves strategically with as many as 3 changes per person covering the years 1906 forward. Piano entertainment was provided by Lydia Magnani. A delightful reception was enjoyed by more than 200 guests.



*Janice Frazier and Fran LeBlanc*

**September 9, 2006**

This day dawned sunny and unseasonably warm. Volunteer Director Allyson Palma and the resident committees of the Andrews Knoll and Spring Meadow neighborhoods set the stage for a “classic car” show, tours of “Whispering Pines” Park and a flag raising coordinated by resident Esther Tompkinson and the Mattatuck Drum Band.

Inside, a museum-quality, Victorian parlor scene decorated Village Green's spacious lobby, inviting guests into a Victorian Tea Room setting in the Park Place dining room. Committee members were garbed in period clothing. Complimentary pictures taken under a colorful arch were available. Resident Russell French's grandsons, Colin Turley and Matthew Carroll performed on their violins accompanied by resident Mary McCleary on the piano. During the tea, pianist Betsy Sullivan and cellist Therzah Bendokas also entertained everyone. As a finale, the Elim Park Place residents' chorus, “The Lost Chords,” performed dramatically “A Salute to Elim Park”, with lyrics by resident Don Bunger, and score by Mary McCleary. To conclude the evening a Pratt and Whitney Chorus rendered period songs.



**1927 Packard**



**Fire Truck**