

By proclamation of the Sand Lake Town Board

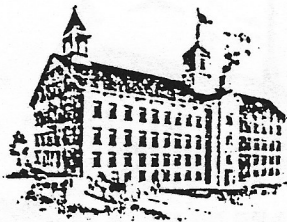
FAITH MILL DAY IN SAND LAKE

MARCH 12, 1991

TER M. CARTHY, President

CHARLES MAHONY, Treasurer

W. D. MAHONY, Secretary



*Sherill Park, N.Y. Nov 11 1892*

Sponsored

by

THE SAND LAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

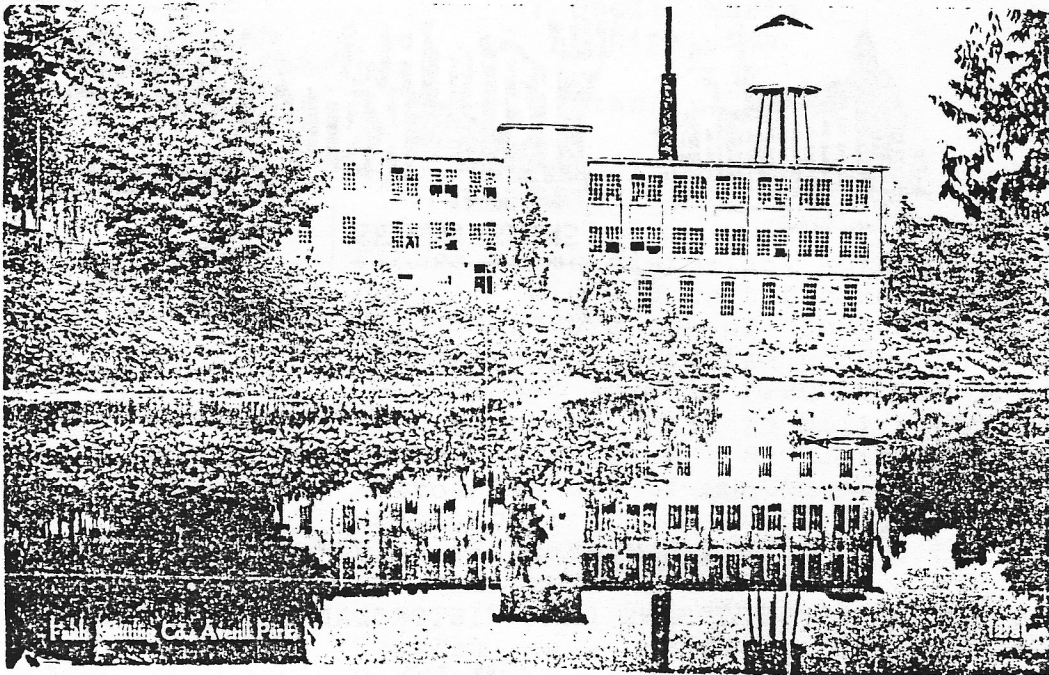


PROGRAM

Tuesday, March 12, 1991 Sand Lake Town Hall  
8 P.M.

# COMMITTEE

ROBERT LILLY, CHAIRMAN  
MADOLYN CARPENTER, TOWN HISTORIAN  
ELINOR ZAKI, ASST. TOWN HISTORIAN  
WES AND ADA MILLER  
ROSS AND MARY FRENCH  
ARTHEA GIBBS, PUBLICITY  
ROSEMARY SUPKIS  
JOHN KACHARIAN  
VALERIE KAVANAUGH, VIDEO TAPING  
MIG CIPPERLEY



FAITH MILL

Right-hand: 1908 Upper Mill; lower stone foundation  
probably original foundation of Knowlson's  
"Beverwick Mill 1876

Left-hand: Addition (date unknown)

**FAITH MILL NIGHT**

**PROGRAM**

**WELCOME TO PAST EMPLOYEES OF FAITH MILL**  
Dianne Freeman, President

**SHORT HISTORY OF FAITH MILLS 1898-1962**  
Bob Lilly, Chairman

**INTRODUCTION OF PAST EMPLOYEES OF FAITH MILL**  
Wes and Ada Miller

**MILL OPERATION - COTTON & WOOL TO FINISHED GARMENT**  
William H. Lance, Superintendent of Faith Mill

**DESCRIPTIONS OF FINISHED PRODUCTS OF MILL**  
Ross French

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**SUMMATION**

**DISPLAYS**

**REFRESHMENTS**

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A SPECIAL THANKS TO MRS. LYNN BALDWIN, MARK FILUTA,  
FRANCIS MICHAELS AND CHRISTINE SPRAGUE OF THE SOCIAL  
STUDIES CLASS IN AVERILL PARK HIGH SCHOOL FOR  
PARTICIPATING IN THIS PROGRAM.

### FORMER EMPLOYEES

Barnum, Dorothy	Lance, William H.
Berry, Margaret	Leavenworth, Clara
Biitig, Millie	Lehman, (Bigus), Marie
Biitig, Oswald	Loker, Elsie
Brown, Robert	Monch, Mary
Buck, Ethel Sowaski	Metcheck, Yetta
Gaddis, Ruth	Pauley, Dorothy (Schreiner)
Goodermote, Lena	Quell, Lavern
Healy, Clair	Quell, Marie
Kelly, Lillian	Schips, Ida
Kruczhowski, Patricia	
Craver, Audna	Stanley, Mabel

### CONTRIBUTORS

Moore, Robert:	Father noted historian, worked in Mill. Lent "E" pin and certificate.
Campbell, E. J.:	Has given us a set of "Long Johns"; Brother Kappy Micalian worked in Mill.
Crandall, Ruth:	Lent us two Averill Park School graduation programs, held in Mill clubhouse.
DeFreitas, Anne:	Husband worked as a mechanic in Mill; Lent snapshots of wooden mill, mill under construction (1907), and others.
Wallace, Ann May:	Wife of Steve Wallace, former head of maintenance.
Davis, Nancy:	Gave a brick from the stack; Mother, Carolyn, gave additional information.
Bolton, David:	Present owner; lent a large framed drawing of 1908 showing fire protection system.
Vannier, Beryl:	Has loaned us the Faith Mill time clock.
Radz, Clare:	Parents worked at Mill; loaned pictures.



# A SHORT HISTORY

OF

WM. C. STALEY, PRESIDENT

WM. D. MAHONY, TREASURER  
W. C. GEER, VICE-PRESIDENT

ROBERT MCCARTHY, SECRETARY

## THE FAITH KNITTING CO.

OF SANDLAKE  
MANUFACTURERS OF

## SHIRTS AND DRAWERS

1887 - 1991

by

ROBERT J. LILLY

It was a bleak period in the history of Averill Park (formerly called Sand Lake). Isaac Mc Conihe's Warp Mill had closed in 1887. Now, in the late 1890's, Andrew R. Knowlson's Beverwyck Mill had come upon hard times and had ceased operation.

Peter McCarthy, a Troy Industrialist who had a summer residence across from the mill, was upset at seeing so many workers out of work. He decided to organize a new company, and in 1897 he convinced William D. Mahony to join him. A corporation was formed with a capital of \$60,000. The inoperative mill sites of Knowlson and McConihe were purchased. It is reported that at first Mr. Mahony was hesitant about this new venture. His wife, Agnes, counseled him saying, "Dear, have faith", resulting in the name of "The Faith Mill Co."

Operations began in the existing Knowlson Mill building. This was a large wooden structure about 100 feet by 75 feet and four floors high. It was operated by water power using the Wynantskill Creek as its source of water. A 40 foot hydraulic head turned the water wheel.

Faith Knitting Co. manufactured knit under garments, shirts and drawers in the old wooden mill until a disastrous fire struck on December 13, 1906. The fire started in the picking room which contained a large quantity of loose and fluffy cotton. It spread rapidly through the entire building, burning it to the ground. Unfortunately, the plant steam driven fire pump was being repaired at this time and could not be used.

A new building was soon under construction. The fire had taught a lesson and fire proof construction was used. Walls and floors were of concrete, a sprinkler system was installed, along with a 40,000 gallon water tower. Incandescent electric lights were also installed. The big change was the installation of a one cylinder steam engine to power the machinery. Water from the Wynantskill Creek was still used for fire protection as well as washing and scouring of the knit goods. The water wheel was a thing of the past. Business must have been good, for a second concrete building was

erected, known as the lower mill and was completed in 1912. An office building was erected in 1918 and the Club House building was built and opened in 1919.

The Club House was a unique feature of Faith Mills. Management was having a difficult time attracting and keeping mill workers in this rural setting. The Club House was to be the social center, providing activities and events for the employees free time. The building contained a dance halo, motion picture parlor, cafeteria, bowling alleys, pocket billiard room and a shower room. The building and equipment cost \$60,000. It was a big success and a center of social activities for many years. These buildings are still standing and can be seen on the Burden Lake Road.

In 1923 Faith Mills bought the Kane Dam, and water privileges. This dam was originally built by James Akin for the Interlaken Knitting Factory which in 1883 was taken over by the Kane family. The dam was rebuilt. A 36" diameter steel penstock from the dam to a point in back of the Club House, approximately 1500 feet, was installed. Just below the Club House building a hydro-electric generating station was built.

The name, Faith Knitting Co., was changed to "Faith Mills Inc." in 1929. This factory was a completely integrated mill. It received the raw cotton and wool and shipped out a finished product. The cotton and wool were received in the lower mill and mixed in proportions to meet the specifications of the material to be knit, ranging in content from 25% wool to 100% wool. Once mixed the wool and cotton mix was blown to the upper mill through 12" pipes. In the upper mill the carding machines combed the fibers into parallel position which was then drawn out and the fibers twisted by the spinning machines into a strong yarn. Spindles of yarn were put on the knitting machines and knit into fabric. The fabric in turn was washed and dried, sent to the cutting room, cut to the required pattern and shapes and finally sewn into the finished garment. The garments were folded, packaged and made ready for shipment.

The war in Europe had already started when, in 1940 Faith Mill Inc. purchased the Thermo Mill in West Sand Lake. Thermo Mill was originally the site of the Cipperly Saw Mill and later the Akin and McLaren Mill. During the war Faith Mill received contracts for heavy underwear and its output was exclusively for military use. As a result of its Defense work Faith Mill was awarded "The Army-Navy Production Award for Excellence in War Production" in 1943. Each employee received an "E" pin and certificate. A large blue flag with a gold "E" was flown on the plant flag staff in recognition of this award.

With the end of the war the demand for heavy woolen underwear declined. In 1955 Faith Mill was one of the three remaining manufacturers of men's woolen underwear in the nation. New lines of products, such as making cloth for men's topcoats and overcoats, had to be developed. Business has its up and downs. The hay days were over.

William D. Mahony, one of the founders of Faith Mill who had served as Secretary, Treasurer and President for the last 53 years, died on Oct. 19, 1951. He had become the sole owner of the company. The Faith Mill Inc. slowly faded and finally in 1962 closed its door for the last time. In 1956 the Mill was sold to the J. T. Flagg Knitting Co. of Utica, N. Y.

## WHERE IS THE FLAG

Faith Mill Day is being celebrated on Tuesday March 12 1991, At the Sand Lake Town Hall.

The celebration will recognize past employees of the Faith Mill and their part in winning the prestigious 'E' award.

Faith Mills, Inc. was awarded the "ARMY\_MAVY PRODUCTION AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN WAR PRODUCTION" in December of 1943. Each employee received a certificate and an "e" pin in recognition of their contribution of loyalty and effort. The Mill received a large blue flag with a gold "E", to fly with our nation's flag on the Mill flag pole.

In contacting former employees, a number of certificates and "E" pins were discovered. But where is the flag? Anybody knowing the whereabouts of this flag is asked to contact the committee. If found the flag will be flown at the Sand Lake Town Hall on March 12 1991.

A program on the Faith Knitting Mill will be presented by the Sand Lake Historical Society at 8:00 P.M. March 12 1991 at the Town Hall. All are invited.

MISSOURI COMMISSION  
GOVERNMENT IN KANSAS STATE OF  
HIGH SCHOOL SERVICE CENTER



Don K. [illegible]  
REX C. [illegible]