

January 2024



"It's your New York!"

# *The Rondout Reader*

# **Gnome@Home**



## **A Kerhonkson Story**

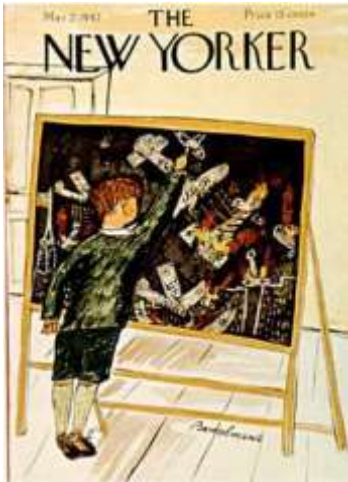
by Kevin Ahearn

**HAPPY 2024!**





# Book 2



*“People kill over money and power and love,  
but no one kills over gnomes.”*





**December 8<sup>th</sup> 1941**



**Kerhonkson, on the Rondout, woke up to World War II.**

# One



*While other girls attend their fav'rite cocktail bar,  
Sipping dry Martinis, munching caviar,  
There's a girl who's really putting them to shame,  
Rosie is her name...*

# 1942



*“What in the world have I done?  
I spirit away the ‘Trunk of Deeds’ in  
the middle of a Revolution and  
get this New York State in the bargain!”*



*“I couldn’t foresee this State lasting more than a few generations, but now...”*



*“America has yet another war to win! The nation’s leaders will come from my New York!”*



*“Imagine me, the West Point commandant!”*



In Albany, Governor Herbert H. Lehman, a Navy veteran and Lieutenant Governor under Franklyn Roosevelt, and a Jew, he made his feelings clear.

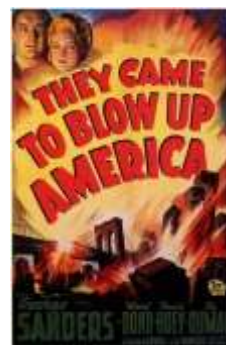


*“Your Majesty, New York will fight these Nazis till their Reich is rubble!”*

*“Agreed, Guv-nerr! But do not underestimate these brutal thugs!”*

## Operation Pastorius

On the night of **12 June 1942**, the first submarine to arrive in the U.S., U-202, landed at Amagansett, New York, about 100 miles east of New York City on Long Island, at what is now Atlantic Avenue beach, depositing English-speaking Nazi saboteurs!



The Nazis were quickly caught and rounded up. Tried and convicted, six were swiftly hanged. The rest of the group got long prison sentences.



The day after the Nazis landed on Long Island...



*“New York loves a parade! Will I ever be a balloon for Thanksgiving?”*

**JUNE 13, 1942**



A civilian home front procession held supporting the World War II mobilization effort, the largest parade ever held in New York City, with up to 500,000 marching up Fifth Avenue (from Washington Square Park to 79th Street) and 2,500,000 spectators in attendance.

A larger-than-*Titanic* disaster.





*“Indefensible! A stupid accident! Nazi saboteurs could not have done worse!”*

*“The giant ship was a record-breaker, now broken!”*

In the beginning, the war did not go well...



But in Kerhonkson, “Happy days are here again”!

Every man had a job if he wanted one. The trains were running again. Kerhonkson (On the Rondout) was back on the map like back in the days of the D&H Canal!



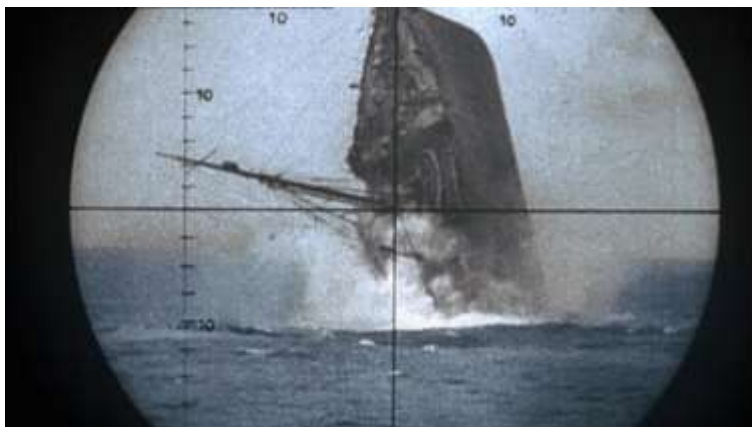


*“But not the USS Kerhonkson!”*



*“Built for the US Government and launched on 4 December 1919 for completion during March 1920.*

*“Kerhonkson served for almost two decades before she was sold to Japan in 1938 and renamed Ryuzan Maru. She became a Japanese army cargo vessel and as such, on 31 July 1943, was torpedoed and sunk in the Java Sea by a US submarine.”*

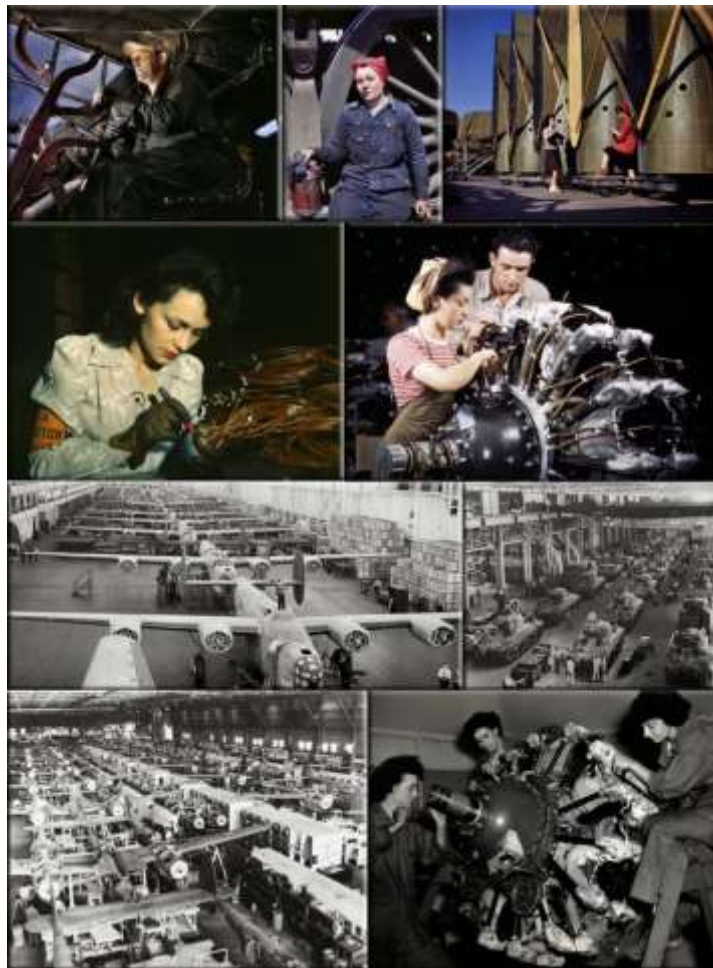




*"New York factories produced thousands upon thousands of airplanes, "Air Supremacy", Long Island style!"*



*"It was the women workforce that gave us wings!"*





*“The war went on and on. My New Yorkers were being killed. First by the dozens, then scores!”*



*“Then hundreds, thousands, tens, hundreds of thousands!”*



*“Unending bloodshed! I could take no more!”*



*“I had to escape, had to go home!”*

*“Down deep under Kerhonkson!”*



*“My beloved subjects! How well you’ve kept my kingdom in my absence! The business at hand?”*



**“All is well, Your Majesty!”**



*“Will you finally choose a wife?”*



*“Sire, do you really need a TV?”*



*“And the dreaded Trolls, kept at bay for more than two centuries?”*





***"Your Army stands ready!" "To fight and defend!" "For Gnomes everywhere!"***



*"To preserve our way of life,  
we must prepare to make sacrifices.  
and if we lose the "Chest of Deeds"  
we'll lose Kerhonkson on the Rondout,  
and New York State itself!"*





For New Yorkers, World War II ended in Times Square.



*"Best way to start the peace!"*

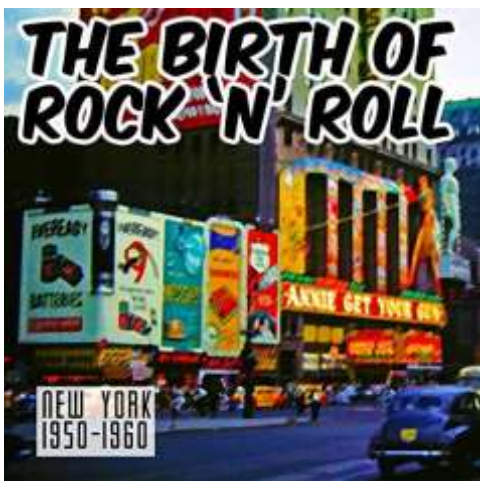
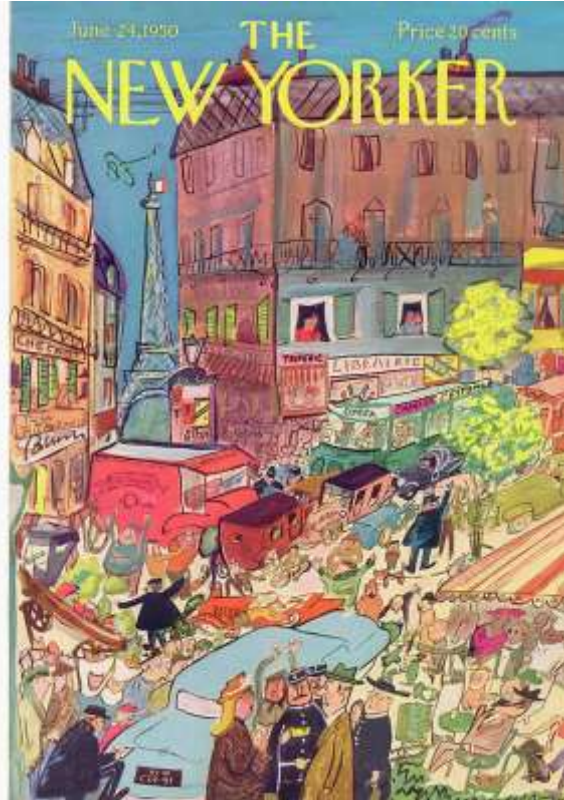
# Fine Dine on !

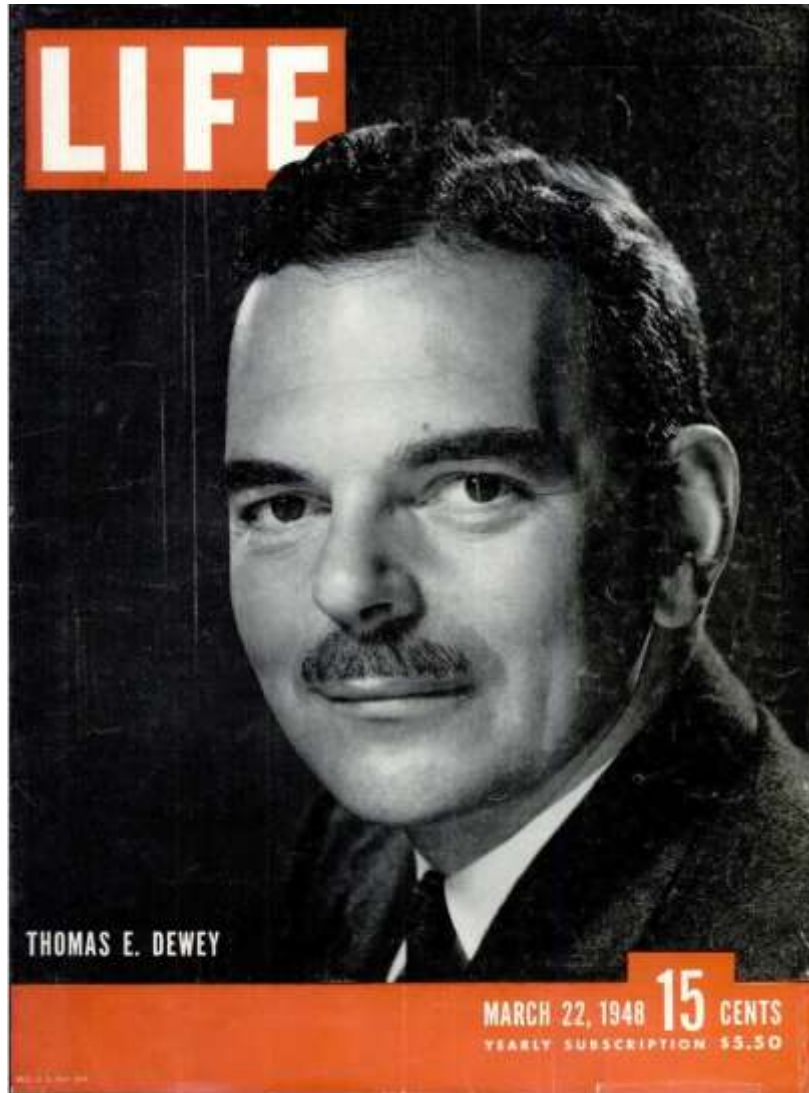


***“Please don’t tell anyone  
the King sent you!”***

# Two

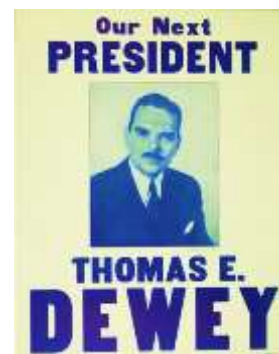
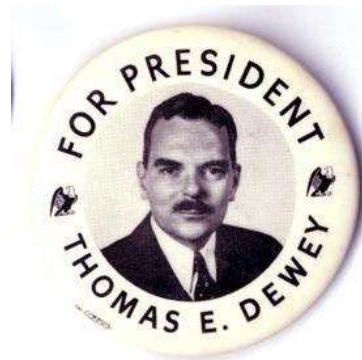






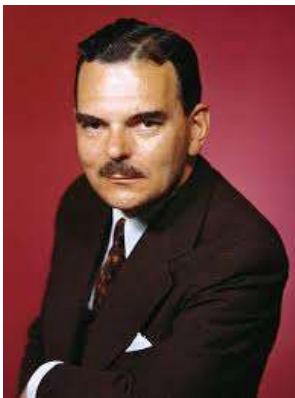
## THOMAS DEWEY GOVERNOR OF NEW YORK 1943 - 1954

Thomas E. Dewey was elected as the 47th Governor of New York. And the only NY Governor to run for presidency *twice*. And lose both times.





Dewey helped to establish the State University system and increased unemployment and disability benefits. Most important, he pushed the New York State Thruway, the highway that would open the Rondout Valley and the rest of the state.



*"First in New York, your Majesty! History shines on our state yet again!"*



*"Don't take this personally, Guv-nerr! Since the Revolution, New York has produced three Great Americans, two were governors, then presidents!"*





*“In 1947, the third first appeared playing second base.”*



**THE BRONX CAMPUS OF HUNTER COLLEGE  
FIRST SITE OF UN HEADQUARTERS**



**BETWEEN 1946 AND 1950, THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MET AT THE NEW YORK CITY BUILDING IN FLUSHING MEADOWS—CORONA PARK, WHICH HAD BEEN BUILT FOR THE 1939 NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR AND IS NOW THE SITE OF THE QUEENS MUSEUM.**



1950  1953



*"2400+ New Yorkers killed in a "police action", but a war we had to fight to stop Communism!"*

*"Why is war always a MUST? New York still hasn't come up with a better way?"*

*"You have a suggestion, Your Majesty? Please let me know, as I am going to be President one day."*

*"Really? And what will you do for my Scared Birthplace?"*

*"Kerhonkson's having a post war slowdown?"*

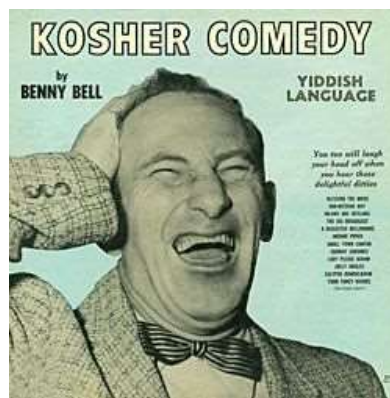
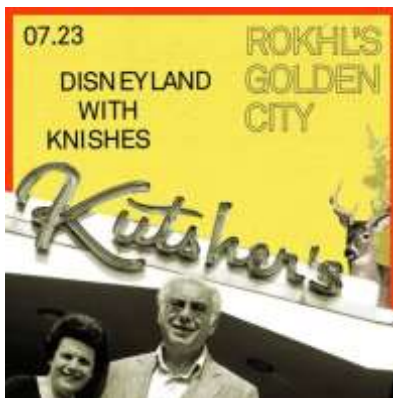
*"For a time the town was slumbering, but we're getting help."*

*"From Albany?"*

*"No, Guv-nerr! From New York City!"*



# THE BORSCHT BELT



Jews “assimilating” New York Style. Post-WWII, hundreds of thousands of Jews, many of them Holocaust survivors went through Ellis Island and landed in NYC.



As the new New Yorkers began to prosper, they longed to be away from the sweltering summers. North of the city, Jewish-owned farms began taking in summertime boarders to make ends meet. That small, simple business model soon created a sprawling constellation of all-inclusive resorts, hotels and more modest bungalow colonies and *kuchalayns* – establishments with shared kitchens.



The Jewish Alps offered it all! Each hotel had modern amenities, including beauty salons and barber shops, as well as countless avenues for summer recreation. Tennis, rowing, bocce ball, scenic hikes, ballroom dancing – there were more than enough activities to fill any July day.



At night came the comedy. These were the days for that unique Jewish humor! Big-time comics cut their teeth and made their bones in the Catskills.



*“New York’s sole constant, Your Majesty: **CHANGE!** And it never fails to further define us!”*

*“Technology will tell the tale, Sire!”*



*“Thank you Guv-nerr! I’ve seen a New York bunch. How long will this “Borscht Belt” last?”*

*“But where will it come from?”*

The Jews did not escape the city alone.

# *The Irish Alps*



In and around East Durham and the northern Catskills has been affectionately referred to as the Irish Alps for years because it was once a go-to vacation spot for Irish immigrants from New York.





*“It was such a bizarre place. The town was completely transformed into an Irish town in summers. It’s where my parents met, and where many Irish couples met, on the dance floor. It’s where I learned to dance. It was charming and odd because it is so imbued with music and dance.”*



*“There’s a little Irish and a little Jewish in every Gnome!”*

**In NYC, from down South, music traveled up North, and evolved as it went.**





*"Rock n' Roll is here to stay. It'll go down in history!"*



*"Let's face it. Rock n' Roll is bigger than all of us."*

*"Rhythm and Blues had a baby and somebody named it rock and roll."*



*"Can you dig it, Your Majesty?"*



*"Your Highness, my two-term limit is up and I'll be running for President."*



*"I wish you all the luck, Guv-nerr! And I will miss our private conferences!"*

*"Oh, no you won't! I'll have a special telephone installed. We'll 'meet often.'"*

*"Of course. FDR wanted to do the same."*

*You'll love every mile*  
**of your New York State Vacation !**

**You make the most of every precious day** when you vacation in New York State! In this fun-filled vacationland, modern highways, air, rail, and bus lines take you where you want to go in comfort and speed! In just a few short hours you can travel from beautiful Lake George to mighty Niagara Falls . . . from Long Island's sunny beaches to the shimmering Finger Lakes . . . from the fabled Hudson Valley to spectacular Genesee Gorge . . . or from Times Square to historic Central New York!

**You don't need lots of money,** either. Whenever you go, you'll find fun and places to stay to suit your travel budget!

**MAIL COUPON TODAY!**

New York State Department of Commerce  
 Bureau 881, 122 State Street, Albany 7, New York

Send "New York State Vacationland" (as indicated by 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100) to the address below.

1 <input type="checkbox"/> Adirondack	42 <input type="checkbox"/> Long Lake	83 <input type="checkbox"/> Dutchess County
2 <input type="checkbox"/> New York City	43 <input type="checkbox"/> Oneida	84 <input type="checkbox"/> Hamilton County
3 <input type="checkbox"/> Buffalo	44 <input type="checkbox"/> Lewis & Clark	85 <input type="checkbox"/> Herkese County
4 <input type="checkbox"/> Albany County	45 <input type="checkbox"/> Madison	86 <input type="checkbox"/> Warren County
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Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

**FREE 1954 VACATION GUIDE!**  
 150 pages! Fully illustrated! New York State Vacationland! Gate routes to vacation spots, illustrations on accommodations, state parks, state symbols, areas for hunting, fishing, etc. 250 maps and drawings of other places.

**All roads lead to fun in New York State**  
*—the Vacation Empire*

**THEY NEVER 'CONFERENCED' AGAIN**

# Three



## WHO'S A BUM!

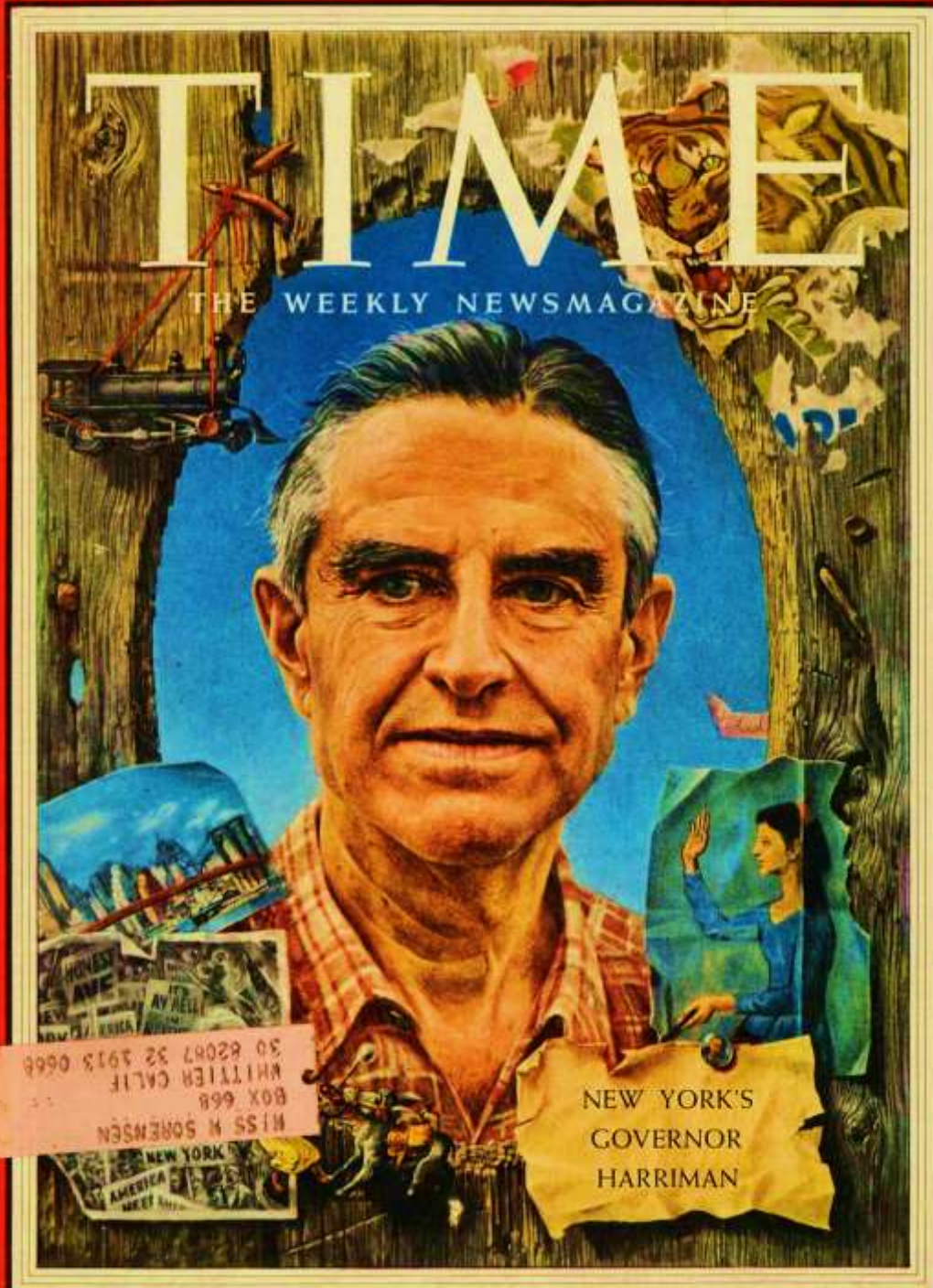


*"Thanks to Sandy Amoros!"*



TWENTY CENTS

NOVEMBER 14, 1955



\$6.00 A YEAR

1955 U.S. PAT. OFF.

VOL. LXVI NO. 20

**1955 – 1959**



William Averell Harriman became NY's "most qualified governor in a hard-won election. A globe-trotting Ambassador during WW II, Averell Harriman's father founded a town named after him. And Averell loved his Labrador Retrievers.

. But he was a Democrat, which meant that his stay in Albany would be a shot one.



*"Your Majesty! FDR told me all about you and I couldn't wait to finally meet you!"*



***'Arf, arf!'***

*"Easy hound, lest I cast magic upon you!"*

The dog rolled over and went to sleep.



*"Amazing, simply amazing! Your Majesty, I must admit and apologise! In the beginning, I didn't believe in 'The New York Gnome'. I thought you were a myth, a New York 'Urban Legend' or a cartoon or comic book elf!*

*"From our very beginnings – You must know more NY History than all its governors put together!"*



*“Guv-nerr, I’ve been a New Yorker since we won the Revolution, and New York’s been revolutionizing ever since!”*

## **THE GREATEST PLAY IN THE HISTORY OF NY SPORTS**

### **EIGHTH INNING OF GAME 1 OF THE 1955 WORLD SERIES AT YANKEE STADIUM**

Not Dodger versus Yankee, not black against white, but the future challenging time itself; to make or beat the tag.



*“He was out!”*



*“God parted the Red Sea; Tappan Zee spanned the Hudson River. Both saved the Jews serious travel time.”*



*“Disaster! Worst flood in Rondout’s history!  
The town must unite and fight!”*

The television and the air conditioner which allowed the Jews, the Irish and everybody else to stay cool at home and watch the stars for free led to the decline of the “Borscht Belt” and the “Irish Alps”.



The impact of the new Boeing 707: Rather than drive 2 hours on the Thruway to get to the Catskills, on could sit back and relax on a jet and fly to Miami!



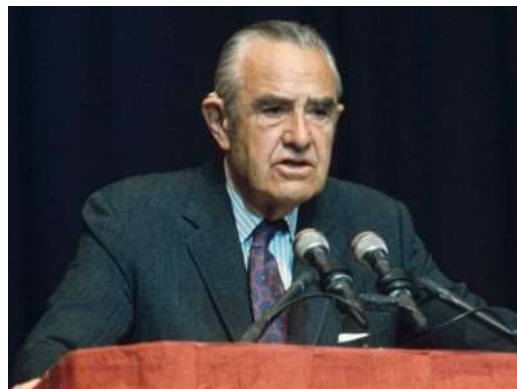
Harriman would advocate consumer protection and services for the mentally ill and elderly; the king had a separate issue.



On July 11, 1955. The **380th Bombardment Wing** was activated at Plattsburgh Air Force Base, 150 miles north of Albany.



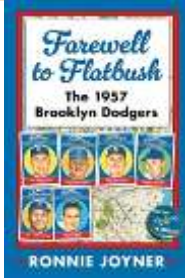
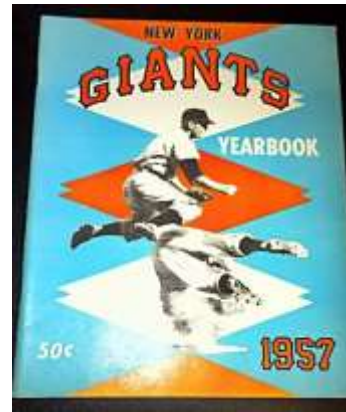
*"You turned New York into a superpower, Guv-nerr!  
From our treasured State, these newfangled jets, loaded  
with mushroom bombs can fly off and destroy the world!"*



*"Your Majesty, I've seen firsthand the insane  
destruction of war! New York must do its part to protect the nation.  
By arming the state with nuclear weapons, the hope is that they will never be used."*

# MAY 28, 1957

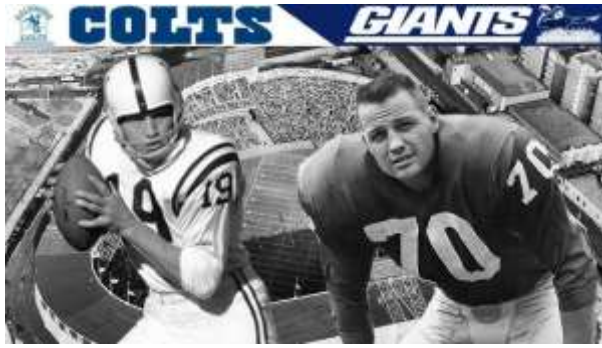
MLB OWNERS ALLOW BOTH TEAMS TO LEAVE NEW YORK FOR CALIFORNIA



*"They're crying in Brooklyn, Your Majesty! The saddest day in the borough's history!"*



*"The 'saddest day' ever? Then Brooklyn must be Paradise!"*



**30 DECEMBER 1958 - "THE GREATEST GAME EVER PLAYED"**



The game did not go well for the hometown Giants who were beaten in overtime. And it was on national television!

Harriman did no better in the 1958 election. He then sought the presidential nomination at the 1952 and 1956 Democratic National Conventions only to lose out to Adlai Stevenson twice who then lost twice to Eisenhower.

Harriman's socially progressive agenda included advancement in consumer protection and services for the mentally ill and elderly. And he made **BINGO** legal!

BINGO				
4	26	43	59	70
9	30	41	55	68
7	23	FREE 32 SPACE	50	63
8	20	31	60	75
13	18	34	52	69



*"Your Majesty, I'll be leaving soon,  
but before I go, there's a question that must be asked."*





*“Ask away!”*



*“You’ve been with New York from the very beginning.  
“What is the state of our state?”*



*“Good one, Guv-nerr! But at this time,  
it’s much too early to tell!”*

**(TO BE CONTINUED)**

**NEXT...**

# Nuclear New York

