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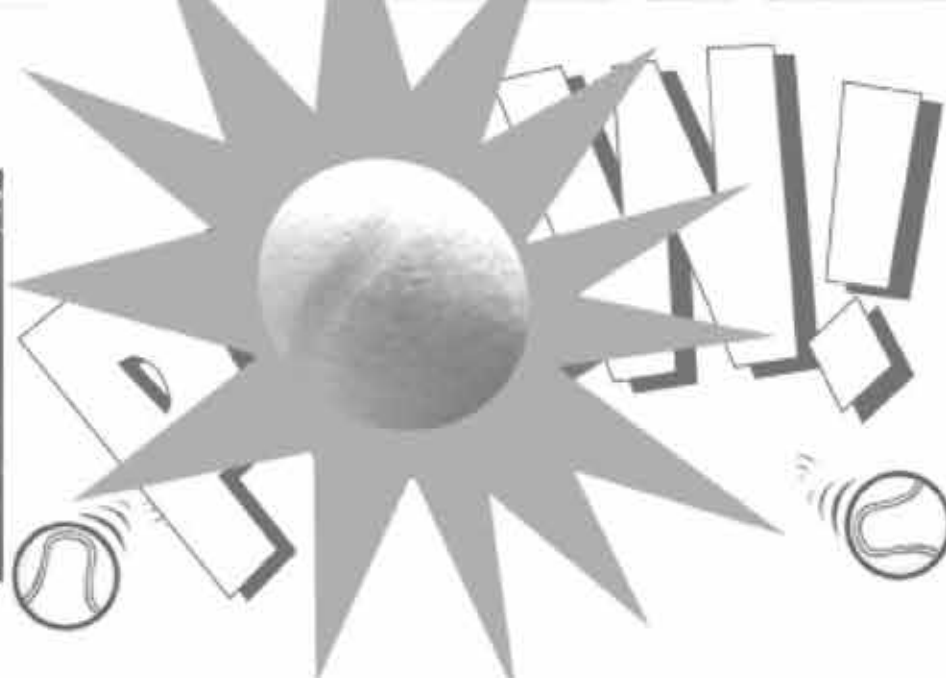
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Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

This is a great issue for *The Waldo Tribune*. It is all about The Big Duck that generations of families have come to visit. It is now a national monument. Come visit the Big Duck when you can, and take some pictures if you like. It is a great place for kids, and they sell lots of great gifts. We hope you like this issue.

Sincerely,
Eric Wald

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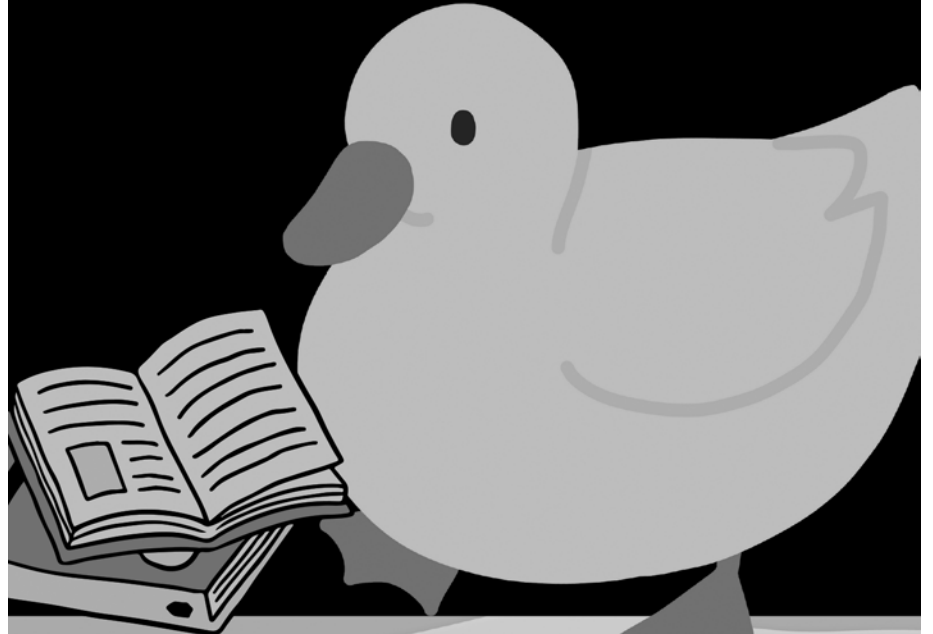
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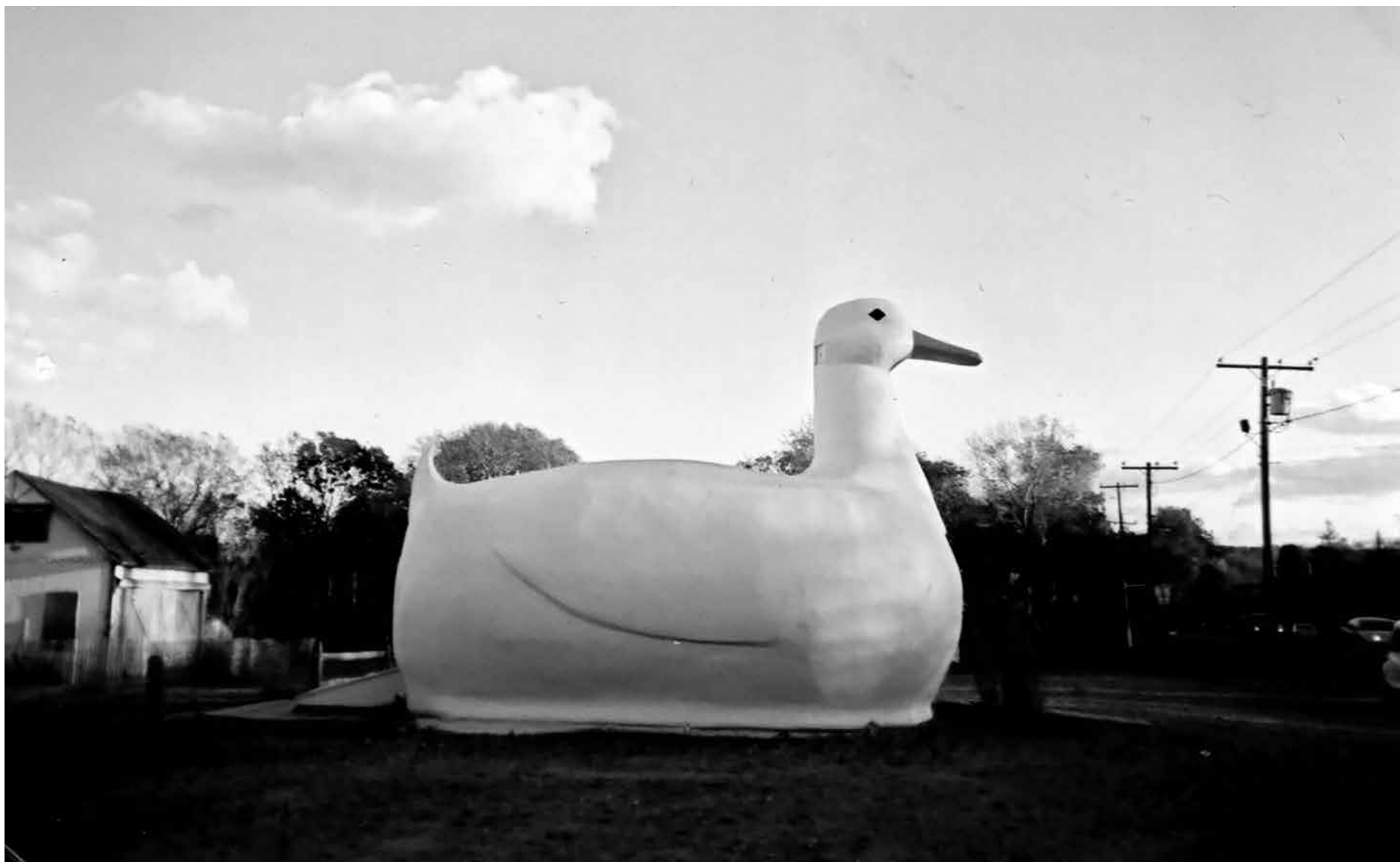
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The People Who Made the Big Duck Famous

written by Jerry Cimisi

photo by Eric Wald

A carpenter, Broadway set designers, architects, a statistician, a singer/songwriter, a model and a radio station. These are the people who helped make the Big Duck famous.

First, of course, there was the man who had the idea. In 1931, when the country was less than two years into the Great Depression, Riverhead duck farmer, Martin Maurer, had an idea. On a trip to California, he'd seen a building shaped like a coffee pot. So Mr. Maurer thought he would build a giant duck by his farm stand to catch attention.

He hired a local carpenter named George Reeves, as well as the Collins Brothers, Broadway set designers. Mr. Maurer was indeed serious to execute his idea just right. And so the Big Duck was created by applying mortar or plaster over a timber frame and wire mesh. A live Peking Duck was used as a model.

The Big Duck was originally located on Main Street, Riverhead and stood 20 feet tall, 30 feet long, and 18 feet wide. Its eyes were created from Ford Model T taillights and glowed red at night.

In 1937, Mr. Maurer moved the Big Duck six miles south to Flanders. In 1988, when Suffolk County acquired the Big Duck, to preserve county heritage, it was moved to Route 24 in Flanders near Sears-Bellow Pond County Park.

The Big Duck did not only impress people on the East End of Long Island, and draw people to Mr. Maurer's business, but actually influenced the profession of architecture itself.

Robert Venturi and Denise Scott Brown, a couple who were architects, published *Learning From Las Vegas*, in which they coined the term "Duck Architecture," which meant a building that looked like whatever was being sold inside. Published in 1972, the book remains an architectural standard half a century later. The couple wrote: "Is the sign the building or is the building the sign?" These relationships, and combinations between signs and buildings, between architecture and symbolism, between form and meaning, between driver and the roadside are deeply relevant to architecture today and have been dis-

cussed at length by several writers. But they have not been studied in detail or as an overall system."

The Big Duck was referenced in another book that became the standard for its profession. In 1983, *The Visual Display of Quantitative Information*, a very technical book on statistics by Edward Tufte, uses the term "duck" to describe irrelevant decorative elements in design. Mr. Tufte argued that if we are to not let machines and computers be the sole judge of data for us, we humans need to visualize what data represents. But perhaps many would argue that the Big Duck's appearance was hardly irrelevant.

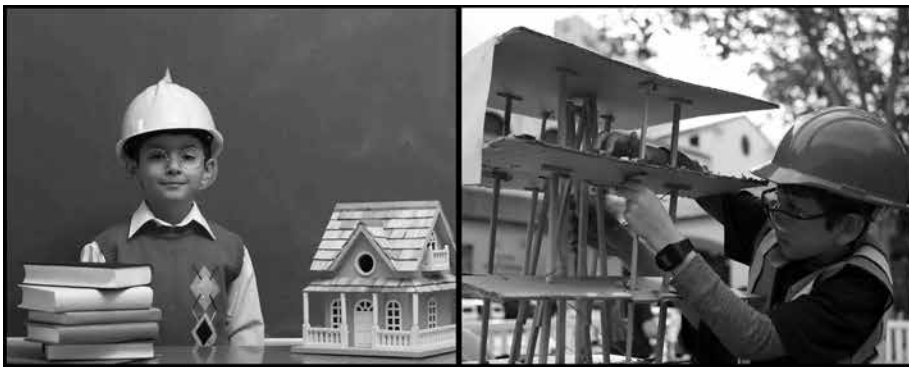
While the middle third of the 20th century saw a big boom in duck farms on Long Island, by the 1970s, the environmental problems such farms created (that is the urine and fecal matter of the ducks) saw more and more duck farms go out of business.

Today, the Big Duck is a mini-museum and souvenir shop of a bygone era. Model Christie Brinkley has lent her voice to a taped greeting for visitors. The Big Duck has appeared in children's shows and as the subject of a song by local Caroline Doctorow, "Big Duck Ramble." It begins with:

"In the town of Flanders on a highway road,
Out on Route 24, there sits a famous sight to behold,
I'm telling you now if you've never been told..."

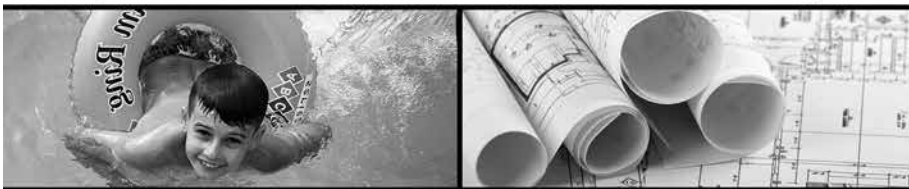
Every December, there is an annual holiday lighting at the Big Duck. In 2006, radio station WBLI placed the Big Duck as first among the Seven Wonders of Long Island — just ahead of the Commack Motor Inn. And the Big Duck is now on the register of Historical Places.

But what happened to the local carpenter, Georges Reeves, who helped build the big duck? In all the encyclopedic information available on the internet, the only mention of Mr. Reeves is that he was tasked with this job. There is a lot of info on the George Reeves, who played Superman on TV in the 1950s, but nothing on the carpenter, Mr. Reeves, though Mr. Reeves the carpenter must have lived some years beyond his creation and taken some satisfaction on the landmark the Big Duck had become.



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The History of The Big Duck and Ducks On L.I.

written by Zaren Berg Jr.
photo by Eric Wald

Many years ago Long island was mostly farmland and rural villages settled by European immigration, along with some Native American tribes.

Late in 1873, a ship captain left some ducks here from China. They were Pekin duck, and very popular at Chinese restaurants. By 1930, duck farming was a major industry with hundreds of farms raising Long Island ducks.

The Maurer Family had a duck farm on Route 24, and built a farm stand store as what became known as the Big Duck. Soon, it became popular as a roadside attraction, as travel along rural highways was used to explore many destinations.

Here Mr. Tee, the official Duck Sitter, is often at The Duck to welcome guests and tell tales of the myths known to only a few.

Most ask why was a big duck built? It was a food store for the local community, and you could buy cooked duck, too. Mr. Tee would divulge "secrets", such as The Red Eyes and the hidden basement.

Duck families that had farms brought their younger generations to see and take pictures, plus share their personal stories.

The Duck has been moved several times, but finally rests as a National Historical Landmark at the original Maurer property.

Today, architects study the Big Duck Architecture they learned in school.

The architect and builder of the Big Duck was George Reeves who had two tenants living nearby that summer who were New York City theater set designers. They took a live duck, modeling the building shell after it, and creating the shell to house the food store.

A root cellar was added to safely store food and supplies.

The family lived in a big house adjacent to the duck store. A wire across the drive entrance would ring to alert them they had a customer. Their phone number was Riverhead - 2831. You could order a cooked duck one day in advance

Read about George Reeves and early Riverhead days at the Big Duck.

New Nest Mystery: The Secret

by Buster Duckling, Fable Master

The Big Duck in Flanders had been moved and relocated while being considered for Landmark Status from 1987-2007. Finally, the Duck was returned to its original nest at the old Maurer farm.

However, a sudden discovery was made. Under the Duck's nest was found a giant egg. The male Duck was sitting on that egg, but where was the female?

They planned to reopen the store as a gift shop and history museum. But what to do with this giant egg?

A clever farmer decided to ship the egg off to Dinosaur Island, where experimenting on cloning was taking place. Dinosaur Island was where many fossil bones were being used to find DNA, or genetic material. The giant duck egg would be perfect! Eventually, a film was made on those experiments. You may have seen it.

Still, the mystery is unresolved. The Big Duck, built in 1931, was a male and sat on the nest beneath (now a Duck storage cellar), where the Duck egg was found.

Today, architects study the Big Duck and travel from all over to visit. Robert Venturi wrote *Learning from Las Vegas* and coined the term "duck architecture". This has become the second most visited place on eastern Long Island. No wonder!

Today, you can visit the Duck on Route 24 in Flanders and take photos with family and friends. Come inside and meet our Duck Sitters to learn more secrets and tales of duck farming history.



Baba the Trickster Clown

written by Waldo

illustration by Rosemary Szczygiel

Well, Baba the whiteface clown was up to no good again. He used his magic coloring book to fool the audience and his whoopy cushion bag to shock the crowd of kids that came to watch him perform. Then he used his magic electric hand buzzer that got him in trouble when he used it in a library on the librarian, who then called the security on him. Then he walked his invisible dog on his leash, which got lots of laughs. Later, Baba put a gag trick of a toilet plunger that looked like a hat on one of the teachers in a classroom, which got him in even more hot water.

Then Baba gave a can of jelly beans that had plastic-covered spring snakes in it to the teller of a bank as a gag. When she opened it she was crying with laughter. When he tried to give her some phony clown bucks, she didn't know what to do. Well, Baba was quite a character, and a very funny clown who always had a trick up his sleeve.

John Feinberg



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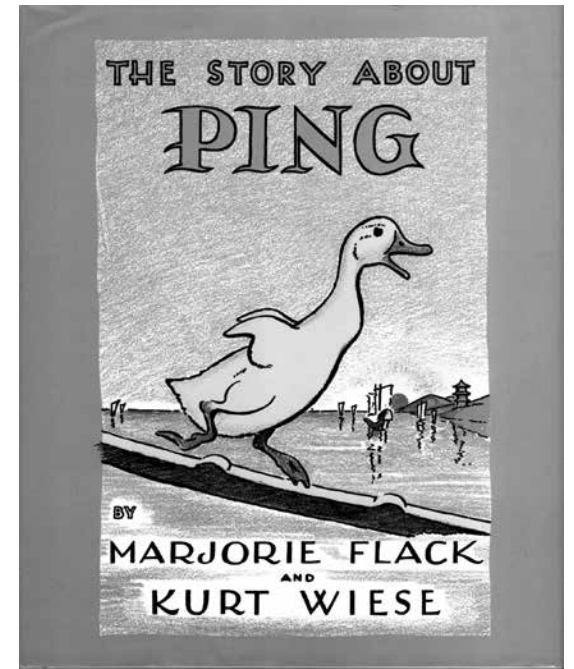
"THE STORY ABOUT PING", A WELL-LOVED DUCK TALE

Review written by Eric Wald

"The Story About Ping"
by Marjory Flack and Kurt Wiese
Published by Viking
ISBN 978-06722-3
copyright 1933

This is a beautiful book about a little Chinese duck and his adventures down the Yangtze River with his mother, father, two sisters, 11 aunts, seven uncles and 42 cousins as it is told. Ping and his family would leave their boat every morning and at night wobble back on their boat over a bridge.

Ping was always careful not to be the last duck home, because the last duck would always get a spank on the back. One day, Ping got lost and the adventure started. He was picked up by another boat. Luckily, the little boy on the boat set him free, and soon, Ping found his boat with his mother, father, two sisters, three brothers, 11 aunts, seven uncles and 42 cousins. This is a beautiful, fun book for young children, and we thought you might like it, for this is an issue about ducks.



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Sip'n Soda; A Well-Loved Hamptons Institution and Eatery

written and photographed by Eric Wald

Mark Parash is the owner of Sip'n Soda for over 30 years, which has been in business since 1958. He has operated it along with his father, Paul, and his Uncle Jim. The soda shop is filled with history; it has an old fashioned telephone booth that dates back decades.

The soda shop has many drawings by a cartoonist named Irwin Hasen, the creator of Dondi, a world famous character from the 1950s. Mr. Hasen was best friends with Paul and Jim. What they are most famous for is their ice cream, which is made by hand for over three generations.

One of the most beautiful things about the Sip & Soda is their incredible neon sign, their art deco stools and counters. Every day, there is a new sign offering a different home-made soup. Everything is incredibly delicious.

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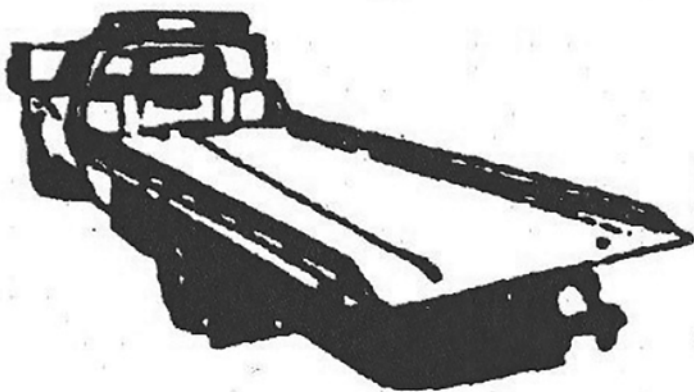
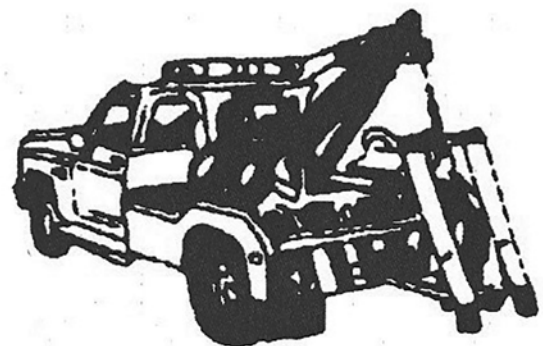
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Big Duck, Little Duck

by Jackson Thelian

Hello, my name is Jackson Thelian, and I am a fourth-grade student at St. Joseph School in Garden City. Recently, my teacher assigned me a project where I had to select a landmark in New York State, research it, and build a model of it. I chose "The Big Duck," an architectural masterpiece that has always fascinated me.

To complete the project, I had to gather information on this landmark and write a detailed report about it. I asked my father if we could go see "The Big Duck," and we drove for an hour out to Flanders. When we got there, we met a gentleman named Mr. Tee, who was running a gift shop filled with souvenirs centered around "The Big Duck." He told us that his name is Mr. Tee and he was the "sitting duck." Mr. Tee taught us about the history of the town and how the building came to be.

He explained that Flanders used to be a duck farming town, and the first owner of "The Big Duck," Martin Maurer, built the structure in 1930 to attract more customers, since there was so much competition. Martin Maurer's idea was to build a giant duck on the side of the road so that nobody could miss it.

Since I wanted to build a model, Mr. Tee showed us an article that had illustrations of how the duck had been built. Using it as a reference, I figured out what resources I needed. I required wood to build a frame, chicken wire for the outside of the wood frame, newspaper to put on the chicken wire mixed with white plaster, and paint to add eyes and a beak onto the bird.

I started working on my project with my Dad, using cardboard as a base and floor to build off of. We used sticks and wire to build our frame and a hot glue gun to keep everything together. After framing, we added the chicken wire, which we bent to create curves and the duck's shape. I was pleased with the way it turned out.

My next step is to cover all the wire with newspaper and plaster. Once I finish and present my project at school, I would like to donate my model to "The Big Duck." If you're interested in seeing the finished model, you can visit Mr. Tee and "The Big Duck." It will be a trip you'll never forget!

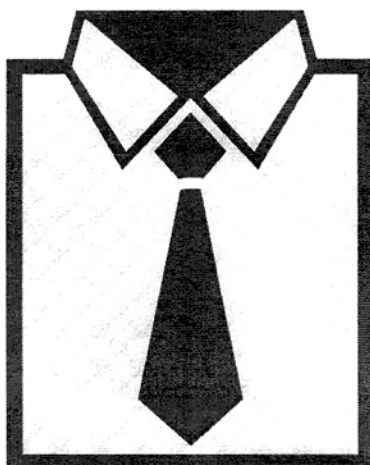


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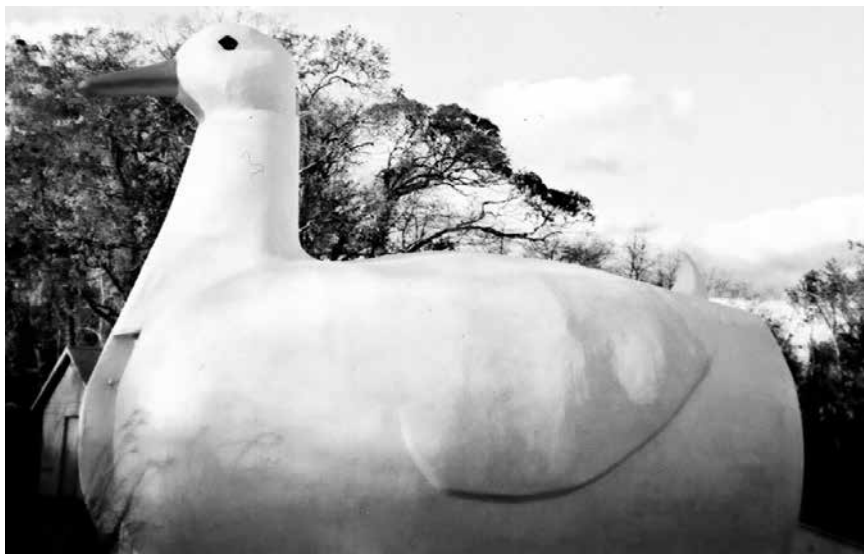
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The Gift Shop at the Big Duck

written by Debbie Tuma

photo by Eric Wald

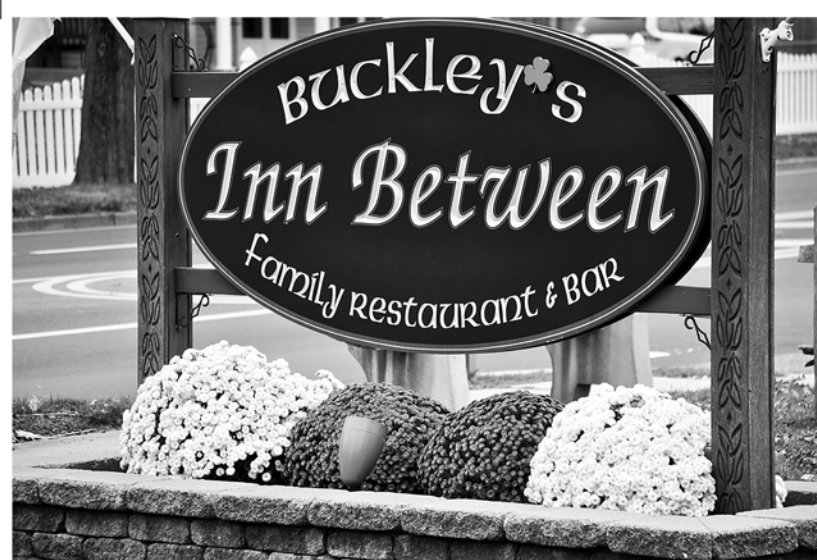
Hey Kids! Did you know that you can buy cool souvenirs at the Big Duck in Flanders? And did you know that parents and kids come from all over the world to visit the Big Duck and take home a souvenir from this world-famous museum?

Every day, cars pull up to the parking lot outside, and families come into this tiny store, which used to sell eggs, but now sells all kinds of Big Duck souvenirs. There are Big Duck postcards, magnets, pencils, T-shirts, and key chains. There are also bright yellow rubber duckies, and books about the Big Duck. At Christmas time, the Big Duck is decorated with colorful lights and a wreath around its neck, and the store carries Big Duck Christmas ornaments to hang on your tree, that also light up.

When I have gone in to buy some souvenirs, I have seen families from England, Norway, Italy, and other places in Europe, as well as people from New York City, all over Long Island, and from all over the country. I had a nice conversation with two college students from Arizona who were studying architecture, and wanted to see the Big Duck because it is considered "theme architecture," since it's in the shape of a duck, built in 1931. It was built to help its owner's duck farming business.

This building attracts so many tourists because it is so unusual, that they want to take home a piece of Long Island history. Many schools on Long Island take class trips here all year long. If your class ever comes here, you can buy one of these cool souvenirs from their gift shop. They make great gifts as well.

Who would think that this unique museum sits just outside of Riverhead, and many people stop here on their way to the Hamptons and Montauk? There is always someone inside to greet you, answer your questions, and tell you about the history of the Big Duck. You can also take a stroll around the big lawn outside, and eat your lunch on the picnic tables. And you will want to get a picture of yourself in front of the Big Duck. It is one of the most photographed places on Long Island, and every day people are standing outside capturing memories.



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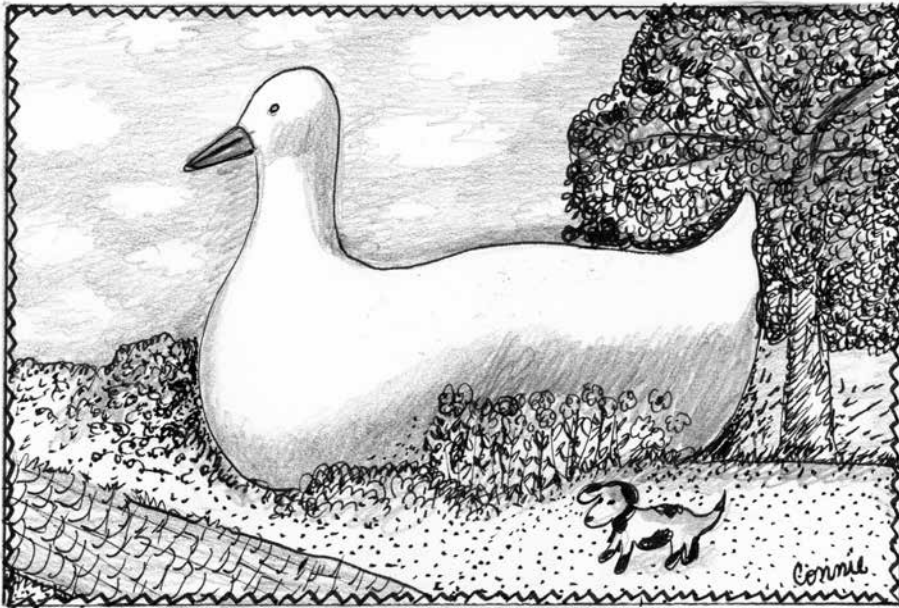


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Dear Ms. Spiral Notebook

Dear Ms. Spiral Notebook,

Recently, my child has become anxious about going to school. He is doing very well in school, has a network of friends and I am unclear about what could be suddenly causing this.

I would start by contacting your child's teacher and school counselor, as I am not a counselor. It should also be noted that there could be many reasons for your child's anxiety, and the professionals will know the steps to approach. Also, you might want to have a conversation with these professionals prior so that when they speak with your child, they know some of what has been happening.

Special Feature:

As this is the "Big Duck" Issue, how fun would it be to take a family field trip!

1. Start by exploring this website for facts.

https://kids.kiddle.co/Big_Duck

2. Next, go to Google and search Big Duck coloring pages to print and color.

3. Have your child write three facts hidden around or on the duck they color.

4. Take a photo standing outside the Big Duck.

5. Read this Top Rated Book:

Explore My World: Ducklings, Part of Explore My World series (five books) by Marfe Ferguson Delano | March 7, 2017



Dear Ms. Spiral Notebook,

My child is very active, and I would love to make it educational and fun too! Any cool ideas now that the weather is warmer out?

For the child that is sports oriented, have your child gather a few friends and separate them into teams of two. Have them set up markers on a track with a start and end point (100 meters, ¼ length of a track). Have them first go as fast as they can, timing each other. Then have them speed walk the same distance, then they must hop the distance. Next, they can take their distances and graph them. There are online graph makers, too, that will make it more technology focused. (Canva has an option.)

PARENTS AND TEACHERS: Have a question about your child's or student's education or learning? You may contact Ms. Spiral Notebook at waldoandtulip@optonline.net, with "Ms. Spiral Notebook" in the subject line. You may also fax your question to us at 631-808-3248, or mail it to her c/o The Waldo Tribune, P.O. Box 2587, Sag Harbor, NY 11963.

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How I Got Into Baseball

by Chris Clark, official *Waldo Tribune* Sports Columnist

When you think of high school sports in the state of Texas, football most certainly pops into your mind. The epic scene of Friday night lights and crowds of thousands gathering for 10 straight weeks in the fall to cheer on their favorite team. That's what I play, that's what I love. But every off-season, the sadness of no football falls over me while

the countdown to August begins, but goes by slowly. So this year, I decided I wanted to switch things up a little bit, and decided to play baseball for my school in the spring.

Baseball has always been something that I've been interested in. Since I was a kid, I've played baseball in the yard and watched my favorite major league baseball teams through the summer, but never really took to playing organized baseball. This past January, the baseball coach came and talked to me about potentially playing baseball. I told him I hadn't ever done it before, but he persisted and said it doesn't matter. So by February, I was suited up and on the field play-

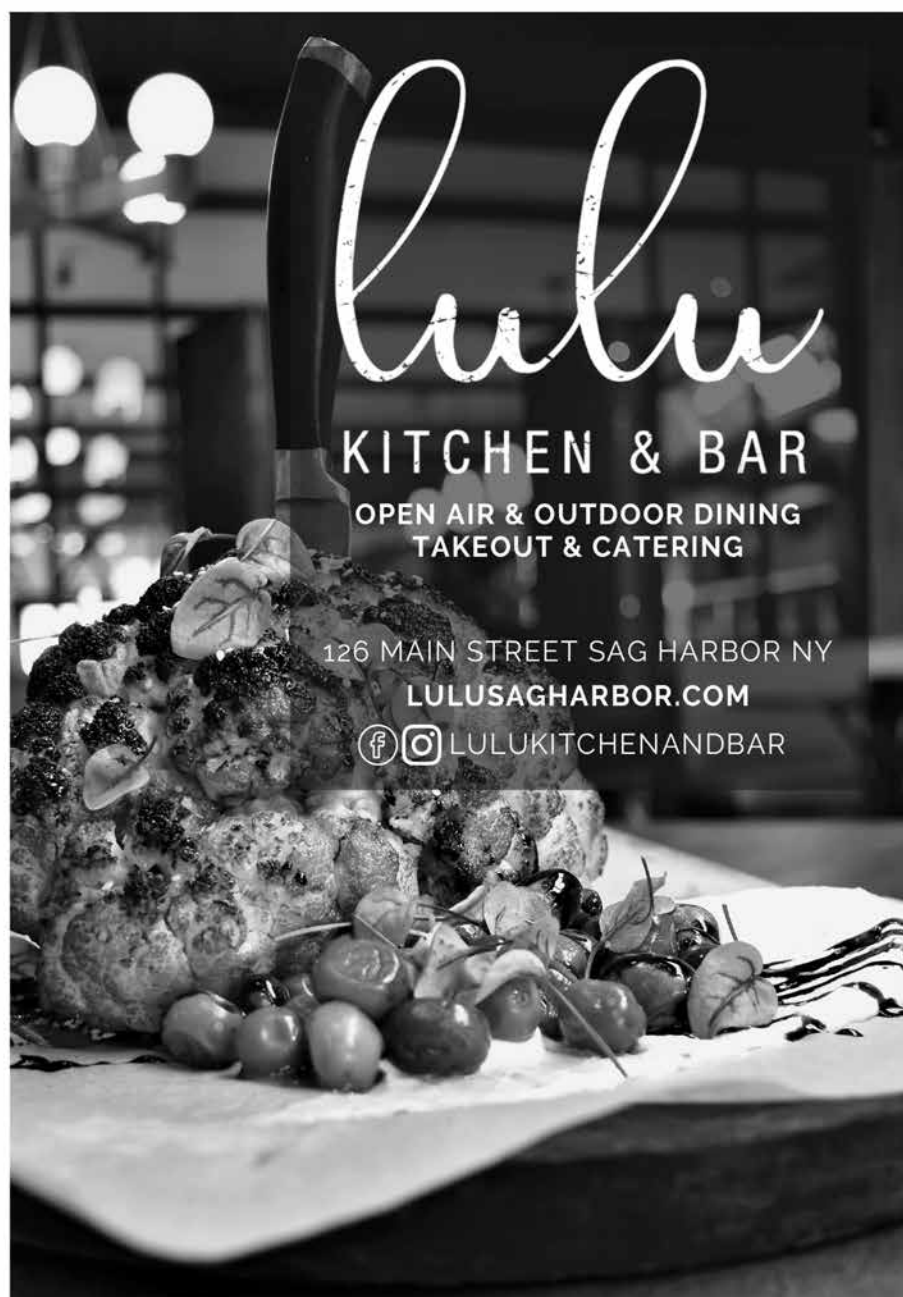
ing a sport I had never seriously played before.

So as I started looking into baseball since I was now playing it, I wondered to myself about the history of the sport altogether and did a little research. Basically baseball started in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1876. Baseball is unique as it is the only sport that is not timed. It has nine innings, which is where each team gets a chance to bat and chance to field. Once you get three outs, you switch.

Baseball became popular in the early 20th century and by the mid-1900s, it was known as America's pastime. It has only grown since, and is the second most grossing sport in the United States.

As the season came and went, there were a lot of things about baseball that I really enjoyed. First of all, it is the only sport where you can fail 75% of the time and still be having a good day.

I think it is a very mental game. If you go up to the plate confident and ready to go, you are way more likely to succeed than if you are hating the way you've been playing. So I really like the mental aspect of it all. Lastly, it is a sport, and to put it simply, sports are the best. Being a part of a team and trying to get better to achieve a common goal of winning is one of the best things in the entire world. So while football wasn't going on, I am very happy I chose to play baseball.



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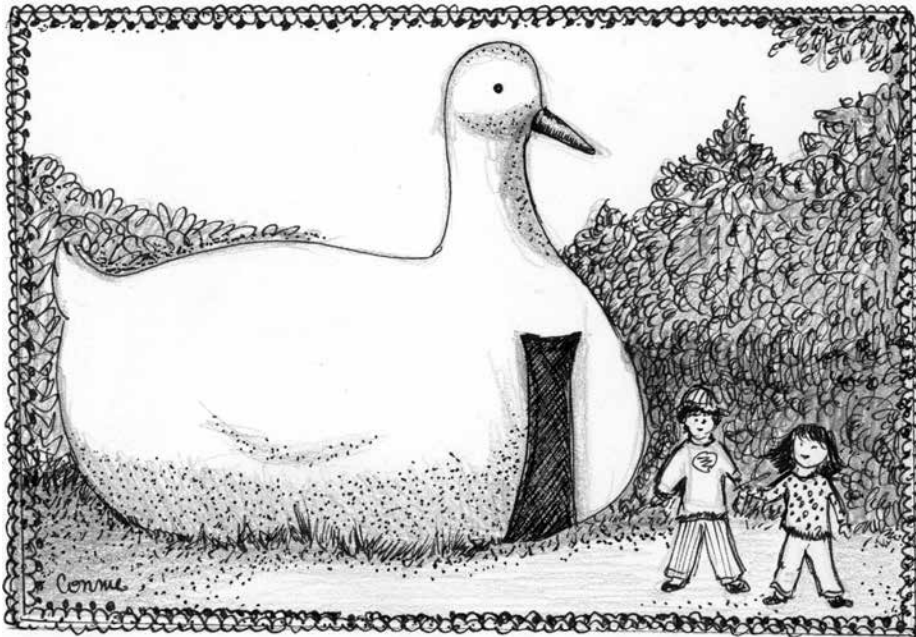
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The Big Duck on Long Island

written by Paula Timpson

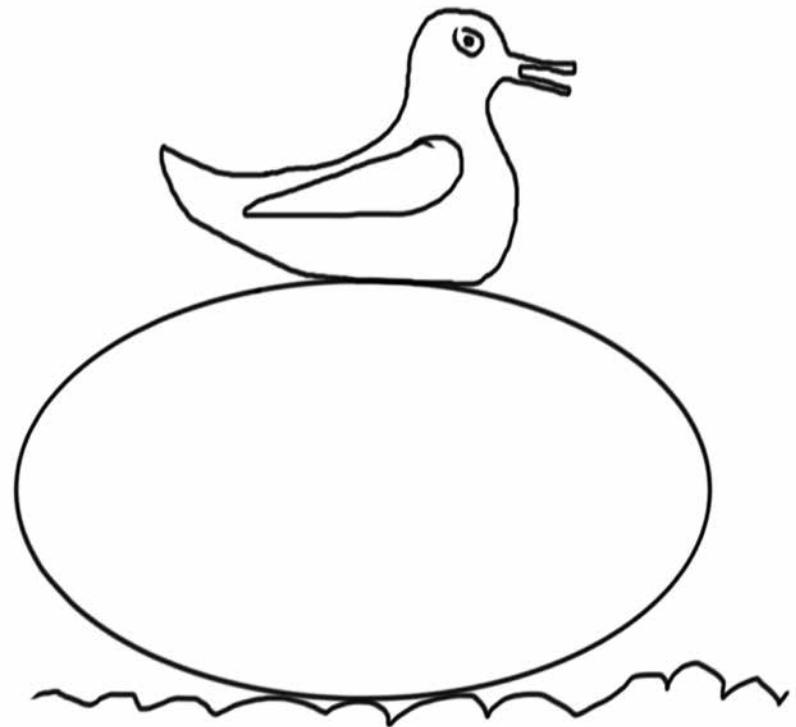
illustration by Connie McGuinness

The Big Duck is well known on Long Island. It is a symbol of Long Island's past. It is so big. When one stands near it, one feels small. It is 20 feet tall and 30 feet long. It weighs 30 tons. Wow. Ninety duck farms existed in 1939 in Suffolk County. Duck farming was huge on Long Island. In the 1860s, seven million ducks were produced a year. There was even a Long Island Duck Queen Pageant held at the Elks Lodge in Riverhead in 1962. Now one duck farm remains, Crescent Duck Farm in Aquebogue, where the duck eggs are big and the ducks are clean, eating healthy food.

Duck farmer Martin Maurer created the Big Duck in 1931 to help his farm sell duck eggs and chickens. It was during the Great Depression. Broadway designers, the Collins Brothers, designed it after the Pekin duck, the duck which Long Island is known for. The Duck's shiny eyes are the tail lights of a Model T Ford car. The Big Duck began in Riverhead, Long Island. Mr. Maurer moved it to Flanders in the late 1930s.

In the 1980s it was moved to Hampton Bays to save it from being destroyed. It was then moved back to Flanders. Every Christmas, the first Wednesday in December, the Big Duck is decorated with a giant wreath hung around its neck and lit up. The Big Duck is the center of community. Flanders has no post office, no zip code, and no grocery store. It needed the Big Duck in its hamlet. Inside the Duck is a mini museum full of fun duck pens, duck lights, duck mugs, magnets. People are happy with the Big Duck. It is on the National Register of Historic places. It was added in 1997. Come visit!

My husband fondly remembers the Big Duck as a young boy on Long Island, visiting his grandparents, riding by seeing many ducks running free. How special! Duck eggs are fun to try too, if you like.



GB

Big Duck Jokes

written and illustrated by Greg Bullock

What is the Big Duck's favorite snack?
Cheese and Quackers!

What is the Big Duck's favorite game?
Duck, duck, goose.

What duck won't win the beauty contest?
The Ugly Duckling.


Why does the Big Duck always read the *Waldo* jokes?
Because they always quack him up! (crack him up)

There once was a Big Duck named Peg,
that wanted to lay a big egg.
When she sat on her nest
then you know the rest:
That giant egg came from Peg! (*See cartoon.*)

What horror film starred a duck?
Count Quackula!

What did the duck say when the waiter came with the dinner check?
"Just put it on my bill!"

What do ducks wrap presents with?
Duck tape!



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Remembering Christine Stanley

by Debbie Tuma

Christine Stanley was a beloved writer for *The Waldo Tribune*, who passed away on April 3, at the age of 87. She was born in Rome, Italy, but her family moved to Queens and eventually to Sag Harbor, as Holocaust survivors from fascist Italy. They bought a big old house on Union Street, where her father was a doctor and her mother was an artist, who had an art gallery there as well. Chris had a sister named Annselm, who is now 89 and an author, who lives in Riverhead.

Christine comes from a royal family. Her father, Attilio Giacomo Morpurgo, was a Baron, born in Egypt, and her mother, Vilna Jorgan Morpurgo, was a Countess, born in Norway. Christine was named Helga Ida Morpurgo at birth, but later changed her name to Christine Stanley, as a writer and playwright.

She was a very creative person, from a very creative family. Christine attended the Manhattan School of Music, where she met her husband, a music teacher named Stanley Greenberg, and then she studied drama at Hunter College in Manhattan.

She went on to write and produce plays in California, living in Hollywood. After a big earthquake there, she came back to Sag Harbor during the 1980s and 1990s, and eventually she moved again to Prescott, Arizona for health reasons. After about eight years there, she moved to Albany, New York, and all the while she kept writing plays and manuscripts.

Another thing she always did was rescue animals. Always a devoted animal lover, she had many dogs and worked at many animal shelters.

She also designed beautiful jewelry, in her spare time. Christine loved and appreciated beautiful things, and she hung her family paintings in her homes. She was also a generous and caring person, and had many friends.

A memorial service was held for her on her 87th birthday, in April, at the Oakland Cemetery in Sag Harbor, where her family is buried. Her friends all remembered her great spirit.

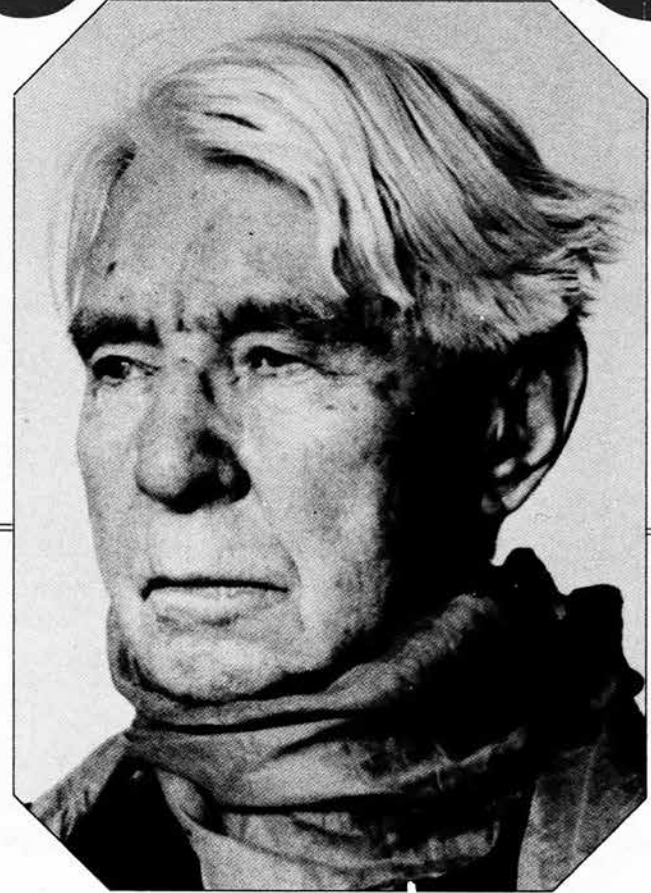
Eric Wald, the publisher of this paper, said, "Chris was a sweet and kind soul...we were so lucky to know her and have her write for this paper."

Author Jerry Cimisi, who also writes for this paper, remembered Chris as a good friend and talented writer.

Her landmark family home still stands on Union Street in Sag Harbor, behind the library, after being renovated and sold.

CARL SANDBURG

HONEY AND SALT



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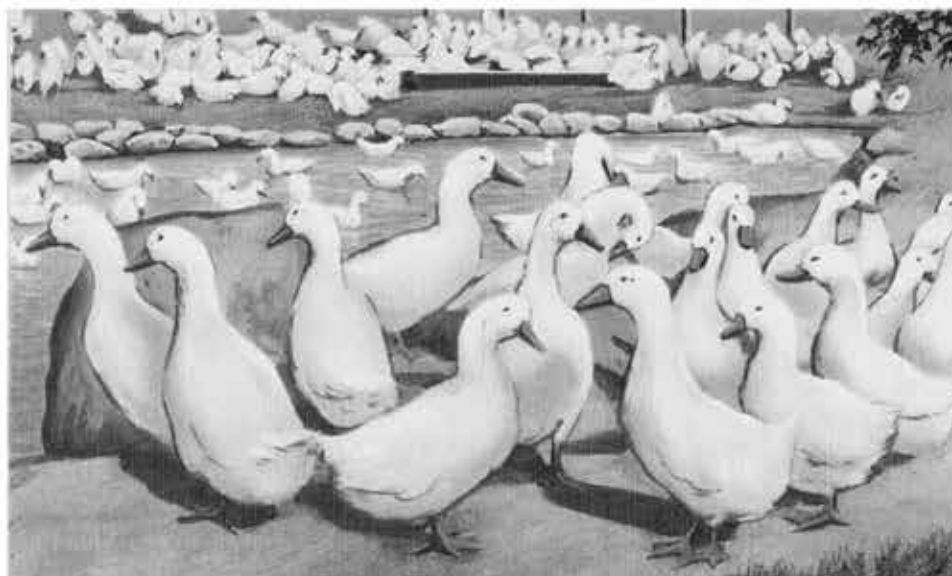
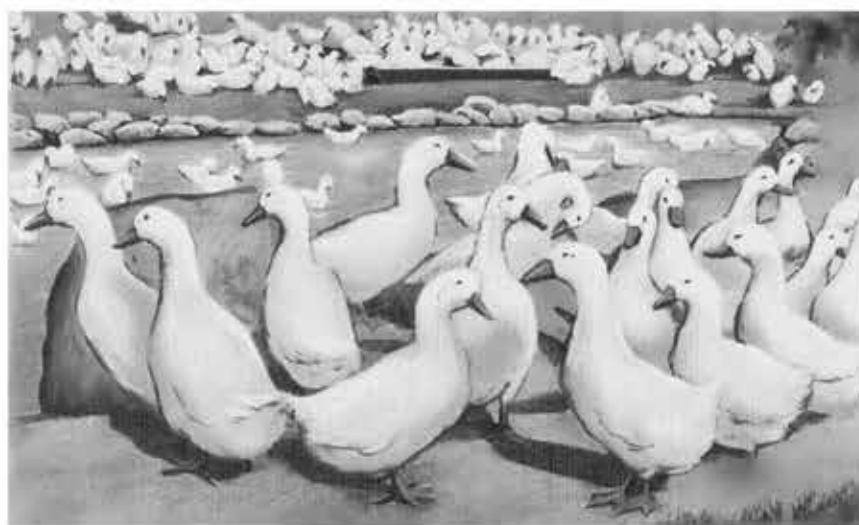
Carl Sandburg

by Eric Wald

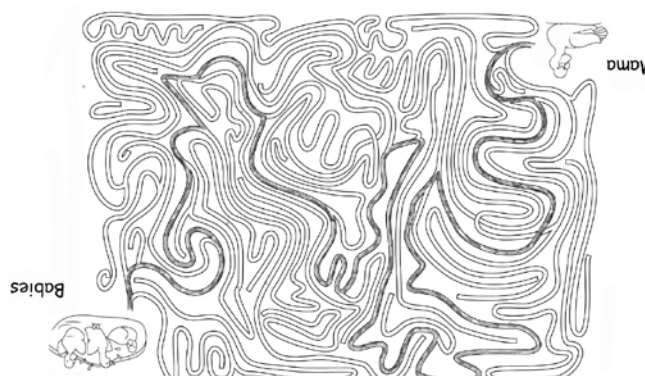
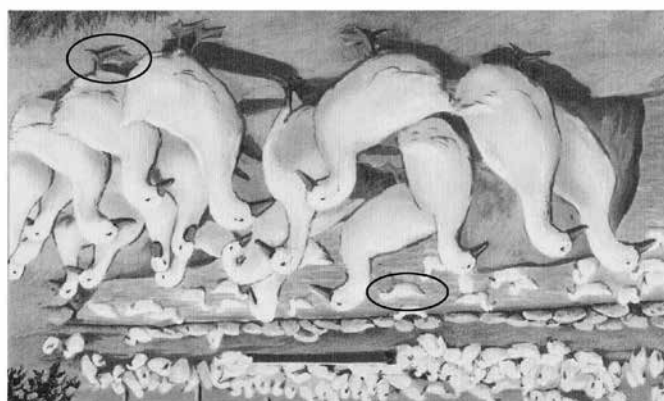
Born in January 6, 1878 in Galesburg, Illinois, Carl Sandburg was a part of America like you and me, a poet, the voice of America that speaks out from the early years and the factories, a man who used words like a mechanic uses a wrench, a man who feels America, a man who lived here and became a part of these United States, one of America's greatest poets, a part of the working class, a winner of the Pulitzer Prize for his complete poems, a professor of English at Western Illinois University, a man who wrote about the hog butcher for the world, the city of big shoulders and the nation's freight handlers. He was a man who wrote of the simple, the poor and the world around him, the love and the pain of what makes me, me, and you, you.

Carl Sandberg, the man behind the words, a man who loved the working man, the plight of his soul and his very being; a part of America never forgotten or lost, but that lies in his words across this great country we love. A survivor during the Great Depression, he wrote about the power of the people, a writer who wrote about Abraham Lincoln, he wrote four books for children. Three of them are: *Rootabaga Stories*, in 1922, followed by "Rootabaga Pigeons" (1923), and "Potato Face" (1930).

We will never forget you, Mr. Sandberg, and every word you spoke that is engraved here in America, forever and ever.

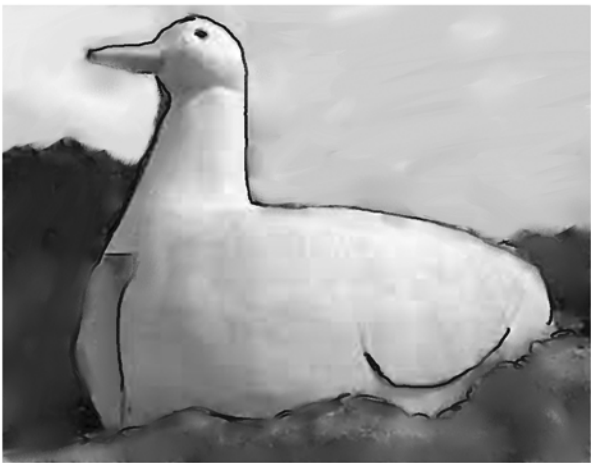
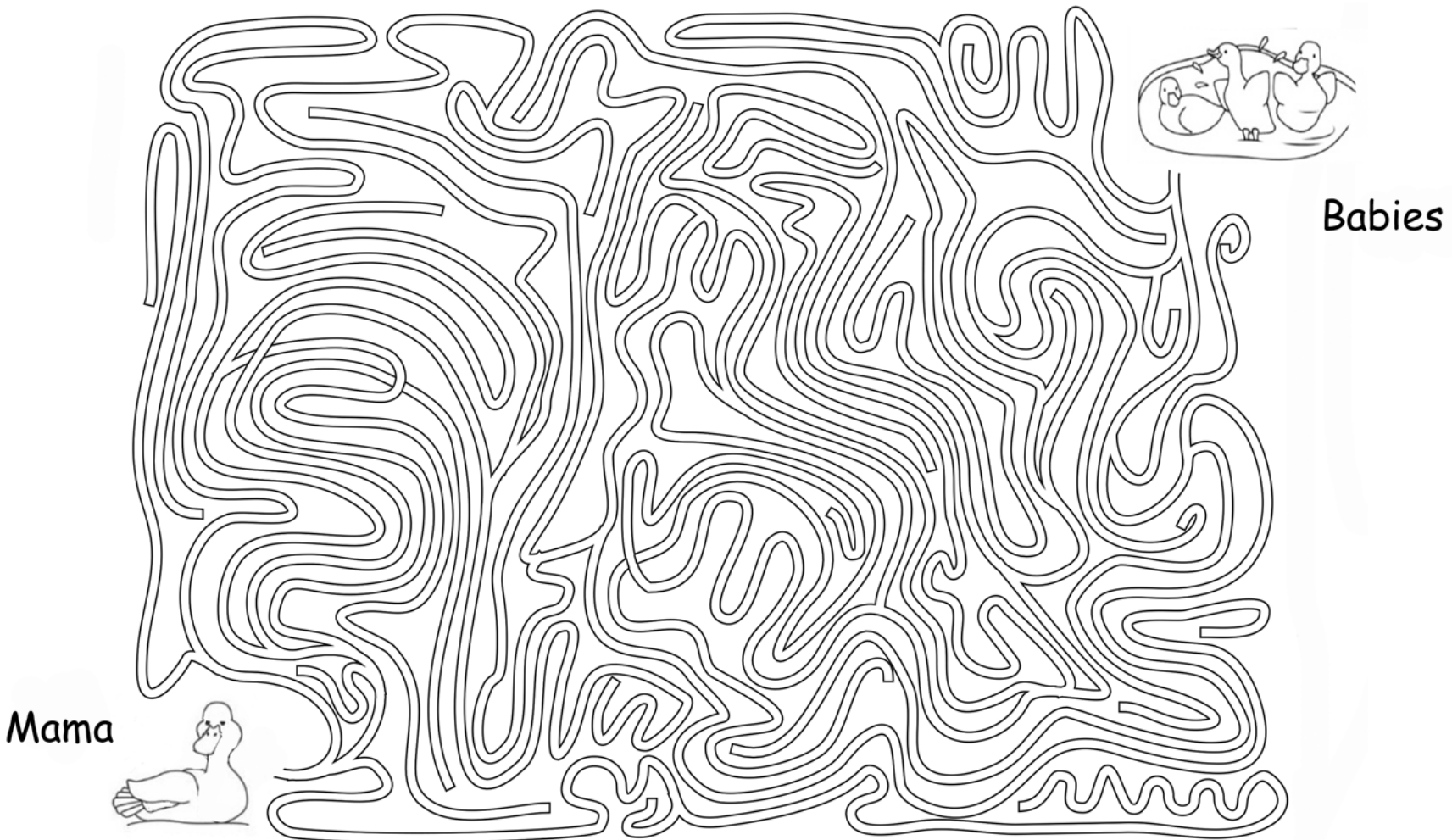


What two things are different?

[illegible]

MORE DUCK PUZZLES

Guide the Mother Duck to Swim to her Babies



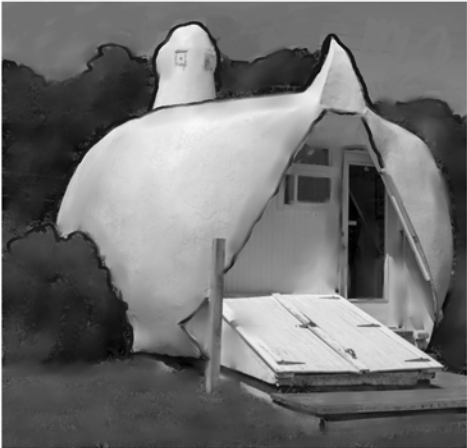
The Big Duck- Find the Hidden Words

In 1931 Martin & Jeule MAURER, duck farmers who had a Duck RANCH, decided to construct The Big DUCK. It is a FERROCEMENT building located in the town of Riverhead and later moved to FLANDERS. It is in the shape of a PEKIN Duck and its eyes are MODEL T headlights. This sort of building is called NOVELTY architecture.

C	E	M	U	C	K	E	U	R	W	A	R	D	O	P
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To design the building the Maurers hired carpenter George REEVE & set designers, William and Samuel COLLINS. The wooden frame was pieced together, a wire mesh was attached, and then cemented over by SMITH & YEAGER Builders.

You can go
across, down, or
diagonally...



L VE YOUR SMILE



Hablamos español

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