

# Youngsters Learn About Brooklyn In Days Of Old



Students from Visitation Academy in Bay Ridge listen as Abike Jotayo of the Society for the Preservation of Weeksville and Bedford-Stuyvesant History demonstrates old time games and toys.

Nearly 4,000 schoolchildren from throughout Brooklyn flowed from buses into the Grand Army Plaza branch of the Brooklyn Public library to learn more about the borough they call home.

The annual Brooklyn History Fair featured exhibits and presentations from groups devoted to the preservation of Brooklyn's vast and diverse history. It was the first time it was held at the central library.

The lobby was filled with tables and demonstrations showing how Brooklyn

gradually progressed from being a pristine home for the Canarsee Indians, to the site of the first battle of the Revolutionary War, onward into the fourth-largest city in the United States.

The fair also featured a tour of several historic monuments in the area around Grand Army Plaza, including the Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Arch.

"You'd never think the kids would react in such a way to history," said Peter Spanakos, president of the Sea Gate Historical Society and Brooklyn Coordinating

Council for the Preservation of Neighborhood History, a group which comprises Brooklyn historians, preservationists, and archaeologists.

"It was all a big history and geography lesson," said Spanakos.

Spanakos said Tony and Renee Giordano, executive of the Brooklyn Coordinating Council, did the Herculean job putting the history fair together.

Among the participants in History Day were the Canarsie Historical Society,

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**PARTY PLANNING**  
& **CATERING SERVICES**

# Pouring Over Brooklyn's Past

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the Society for the Preservation of Weeksville and Bedford-Stuyvesant History, Professional Diving Archaeology, the Gravesend

Historical Society, Black American Roots Society, the Brooklyn Division of Parks and Recreation, the Lefferts-Homestead Children's Home, the Society of Old

Brooklynites and the Brooklyn Historical Society.

Among the sponsors of the history fair were the Coordinating Council, Independence Savings Bank,

Courier-Life Publications, Brooklyn Union, Con Edison, the Prospect Park Alliance and the New York City Parks Department.

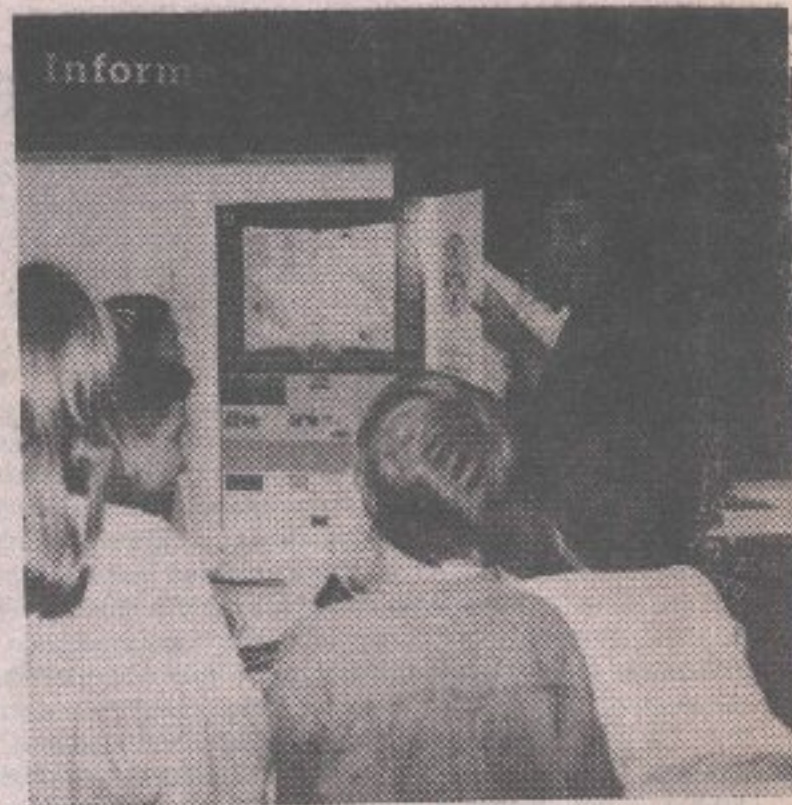
-By Daniel Starling



Gene Ritter, of Professional Diving Archaeology, shows students an old fashioned coke bottle, which he found off an old pier in Coney Island.



Canarsie Historical Society vice-president Ray Oberg, Elsie Oberg, co-president and Ira M. Kluger, co-president were on hand to help educate the kids.



Chuck DeCandia, member of the Gravesend Historical Society shows students at P.S. 215 in Gravesend, a map of their area history and development.



Students from P.S. 190 in East New York learned how to write with a plumb pen.



Ray Oberg, treasurer of the Canarsie Historical Society, impress a seal on materials of fourth grade students from P.S. 215 in Gravesend.