

Divers Explore History of Post, City in East River

By Sgt. James W. Campbell

Ft. Hamilton Public Affairs

Local divers are taking a plunge into history, exploring the sunken remnants of battles fought off the coast near Fort Hamilton.

Gene T. Ritter of the Professional Diving Ar-

chaeology Company is taking on an underwater film-making project that promises to reveal more about what lies in the murky depths adjacent to the former Ft. Lafayette, now the

Brooklyn tower of the Verazanno Bridge.

"We know the narrows holds clues to the past," said Ritter. "The East River and Hell's Gate Channel are also promising areas."

Ritter and his fellow divers have also explored old piers and the shore front adjacent to Coney Island. The area yielded enough artifacts to start an exhibit in the Brooklyn Library at Grand Army Plaza called "Coney Island, Over and Under," according to Ritter. He said the site produced old coins, bullets, medallions, beer mugs and even soda bottles dating back to the early 1940s.

Ritter's quest recently lead him to the Harbor Defense Museum.

"Fort Hamilton Historical Society programs at the

museum include a visit from Gene Ritter," said Dr. Russel Gilmore, post historian. Ritter will give a lecture on the underwater history of our area, he said.

Ritter, in cooperation with the office of the Brooklyn borough president, is currently working on obtaining an official non-profit organization status for his company, before he undertakes the Ft. Lafayette project.

"We are beginning an exiting new wave of research into the depths of the East River, and for the first time, we are stimulating interest in New York City's underwater history," said Ritter. "We want to educate the general public and invite colleges and other organizations to work closely with us on future underwater projects."

Post Historical Society Sets Spring Schedule

The Fort Hamilton Historical Society, a local non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the post's history, recently announced it's lecture program for Spring.

Gene Ritter of the Underwater Diving and Archaeology Company will lecture on the underwater history of our area April 28. Ritter is currently working on a diving project off the coast of Fort Hamilton. The program will start at 7:30 p.m. in the Harbor Defense Museum.

Ira Gruber, historian, will speak on the American Army in the Revolution, May 8. Gruber, who is currently teaching at The United States Military Academy at West Point, will start his lecture at 11 a.m. in the museum.

A special ceremony marking the anniversary of Fort Hamilton will take place in the museum June 11 from 5 - 6 p.m. The ceremony will include the dedication of the Harney Research Collection and refreshments.



Gene T. Ritter, local diver.

Shore L

News From L

Run for

FORT HAMILTON

and St. Vincent's Medical Center will host a "Run For Your Life" one mile, run, which has been organized by the Track and Field, will start at West Brighton and conclude in Clifton.

Participants 13 and over are invited to participate in the run or similar type group run's team competition.

In addition, there will be a 5K run at the campus of Bayley Seton and St. Vincent's adult run where refreshments will be served.

Awards will be presented to the best overall time; the best time in each division; and the best three individuals in each division.

There is a \$10 registration fee for children who are interested in a registration form which may be completed in the main lobby on April 26 from 6 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. at Bayley Seton's main lobby.

Registration may also be completed at the registration desk at Seton and St. Vincent's main lobby at 876-2100.

Health & V

NAVAL STATION

will be invited to attend a Health Fair on April 24th from 10:00am to 4:00pm at the Fort Wadsworth Center. Featured at the fair will be a variety of health organizations and health services. An ideal opportunity for the community to learn more about health and safety. Refreshments and drinks will be available. Admittance is free. Tests will be offered.

USDA Fo

FORT HAMILTON, N.J. - The U.S. Department of Agriculture is sponsoring a Food Program at the Fort Hamilton Community Center.

Meals will be made available to the community.