

# Those Were the Days: A Sweet Look At Old Bklyn

The Borough of Churches was the star attraction during a Brooklyn history fair at New Utrecht Reform Church.

Nostalgic photographs of "Dem Bums" bottles unearthed from beneath the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, plus maps from yesteryear were among the relics on display at the house of worship, 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 84<sup>th</sup> Street.

Visitors experienced the borough's legacy – past and present – through exhibits assembled by nearly 20 diverse historical groups and museums.



Bay Ridge Historical Society President Peter Scarpa showcases his book, "Image of America, Bay Ridge."

History buffs viewed vestiges of Historic Weeksville, a 19<sup>th</sup> century community named in memory of James Weeks, an African-American, who bought land in the borough in 1838.

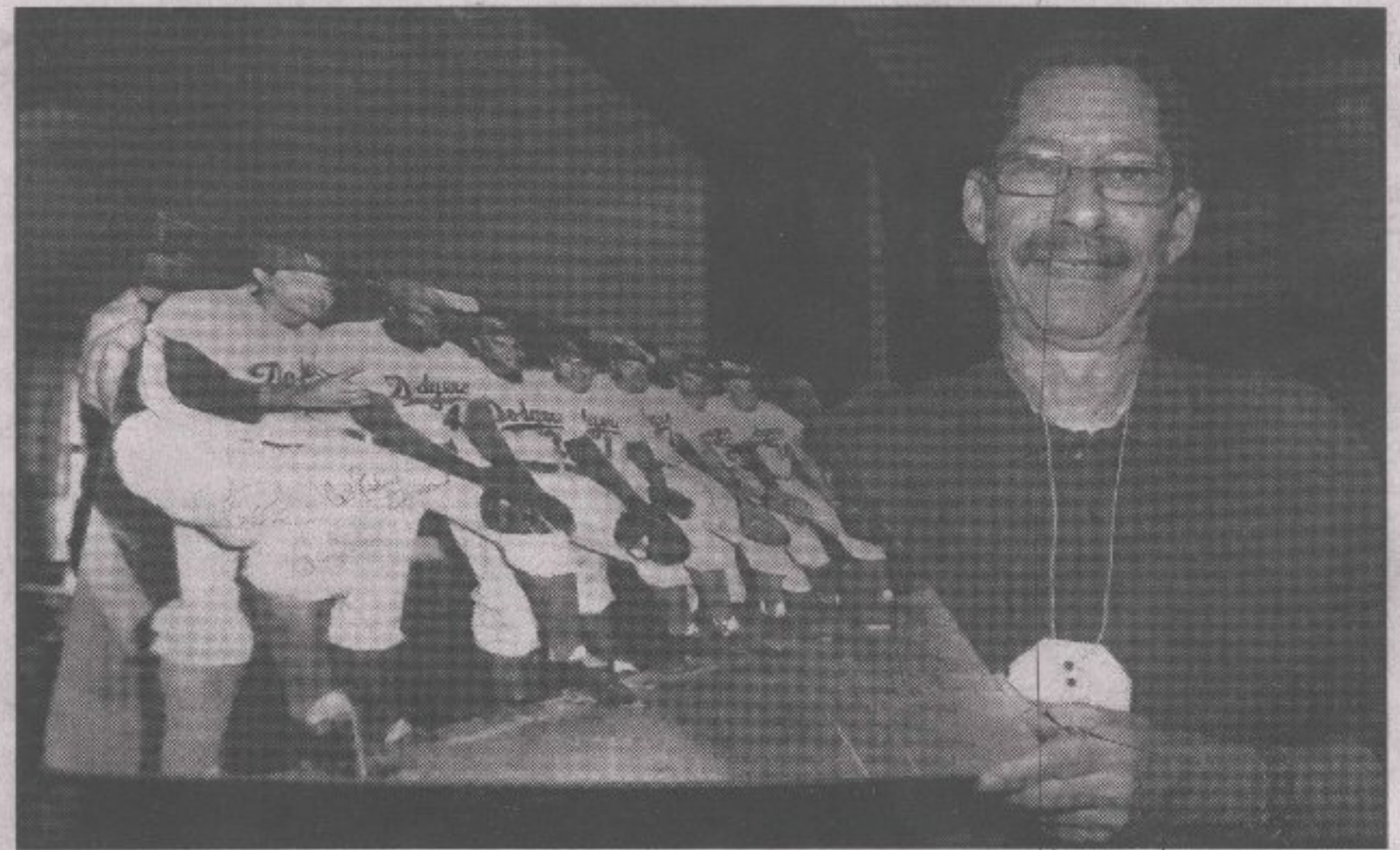
Also among the crowd-pleasers was an exhibit of diving archaeology, featuring 19<sup>th</sup> century artifacts recovered from the waters near Coney Island and beneath the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge.

Among the participating organizations were the Coney Island Museum, Brooklyn Theater History and the Harbor Defense Museum at Fort Hamilton.

The fair was co-presented by Borough President Marty Markowitz and Borough Historian Ron Schweiger.



Christopher S. Wiecha unearthed this bottle from Greenwood Cemetery, bearing the inscription, "Hugh Goodwin Aromatic Ginger Ale from 1894, 624 Bergen Street."



Borough historian Ron Schweiger shows his autographed photograph of the Brooklyn Dodgers from the early 1950s.



Authors Lee Rosenzweig (left) and Brian Merlis exhibit one of their books, "Brooklyn Flatlands."

Photos by Steve Solomonson