

# Bronx neighbors

## PROFILE

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

Buying some postcards as a youth of turn-of-the-20th-Century City Island helped spark Tom Casey's love of the borough's history.

He eventually collected 6,000 post cards of the borough.

It also eventually turned the now 61-year-old retired U.S. Treasury agent into one of the borough's top historical experts.

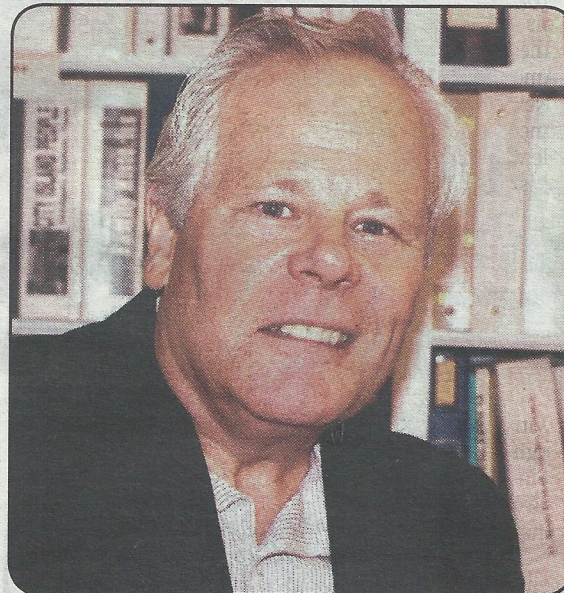
"Of course, not only was I interested in having the card, but I wanted to find out more about what went on at the scene," he said. "I often like to go to that place (on the postcard) and take a picture of what it looks like today."

Casey's historical prowess led him to start giving lectures on Freedomland U.S.A., the Baychester amusement park where his mother worked from 1960 to when it closed in 1964, with the site later becoming the sprawling Co-op City.

"At a lot of my talks, people I've met have told me that they met their future bride or husband at Freedomland," he said.

His most recent favorite talk has been on a failed monorail project from the 1910s in Pelham Bay Park and on City Island.

He's lectured at the Bronx County Historical Society, Bartow-Pell Mansion & Museum, The Kingsbridge Historical Society, The Westchester Genealogical Society, New York Public Library, City Island Historical So-



Tom Casey

ciety and at local public schools.

The Riverdale resident has been a trustee of the landmarked Huntington Free Library in Pelham Bay since 2008, and its president since 2012. He is also the secretary of the Kingsbridge Historical Society.

In a true Bronx romance, Tom married Sharon Mahoney in 1979 after numerous dates at the Loew's Paradise theater and Jahn's ice cream parlor on Fordham Road.

While with the Treasury Department, Casey was assigned to protect Presidents Bill Clinton, George H. W. Bush, Gerald Ford; Vice President Al Gore; and First Lady Hillary Clinton and numerous foreign dignitaries.

He attended St. Anslem's Grammar School in Melrose, and John Philip Sousa in Baychester, Cardinal Hayes High School, and Pace University.

Casey is also an author of books on the borough's history, including: "Northwest Bronx" by Tom Casey and Bill Twomey and "Bronx Views" by Tom Casey and Gary Hermalyne.

### BIO BITS

#### FAVORITE MOVIE:

King Kong (the original), also Stanley Kubrick films, since the director is from the Bronx

#### FAVORITE BOOK:

Bill Twomey's "The Bronx in Bits and Pieces"

#### FAVORITE TV SHOW:

Law & Order

#### FAVORITE PLACE:

Wave Hill

#### FAVORITE RESTAURANT:

Artie's on City Island

#### SECRET TALENT:

Playing flute and pipes