

Rochelle stores and the products of the city's industries." Even baseball legend and New Rochelle resident Lou Gherig was on hand to award door prizes.

By design, the public was encouraged and welcomed into the Armory as the activities engendered and bolstered civic pride, patriotism and a swelling of a residents' commitment to their community.

Exhibitions, sporting events, entertainment, social functions engaging the community, right here, in New Rochelle, in *our* Armory. The *Standard Star* of 4/20/1950 writes "What's owned by the State, leased by the Federal Government and used by just about everyone? Why the New Rochelle Armory at 270 Main St., of course..."

The Better Homes Exposition, N.R.H.S and Blessed Sacrament H.S. basketball teams, rifle teams of NRHS, Mamaroneck, American Legion, Scouts, Wykagyl Indoor Tennis Club, PBA Dinners, and many more all filled the hall fostering a sense of place, a feeling of community history.

In times of disaster, this Armory opened its doors after the 1968 NR High School fire to ensure students wouldn't miss the opportunity of an education. And, in the dark days following the September 11 attacks, as a Nation stood in disbelief, this Armory, *our* Armory once again served this Nation as a staging area for supplies that would support the efforts at Ground Zero.

Summary

In consideration of how firmly this building has woven itself into the fabric of who we are as a city, are we not compelled, in the very least, to acknowledge how this icon has served us through war and peace, good and bad, always at the ready to be whatever we needed? Not just acknowledge this Heritage, but to celebrate it as we build support towards restoration not for restoration sake, but continue the rich tradition of engaging the community, improving our civic pride through our ties to our history so we may preserve our place in the future.