

THE STOCKADE SPY



APRIL 1982

Published by The Stockade Association

VOLUME XXI, Number 7

long and in the process make real contributions to the culture which supplanted them.

Dr. Susan Staffa



Pentaquod's Choice

History reveals the presence of human suffering and injustice much greater than that which exists today. Our priceless abilities to think and to reason have taken us great strides toward improving the overall human condition. Along with this progress comes the downfalls which result from the idiosyncrasies of man's collective intellectual power. These idiosyncrasies when left unbridled create situations which warrant decisions of unimaginable consequence. Addressing these decisions effectively lies in the ability of every individual, particularly those fortunate enough to live in free societies, to make sound individual decisions. These appear to be less perilous and breed effects of lesser magnitude, but it is these that contribute to a collective consciousness that will enhance humanity's potential for continued growth.

In the following passage from James A. Michner's novel, *Chesapeake*, a Susquehannock Indian, Pentaquod, makes such a decision. His intense reverence for life and its surrounding beauty help him to transcend the madness of his fellow tribesmen.

"... Pentaquod leaned forward with his paddle across his knees, content to allow his yellow canoe to drift quietly into the bay, and with each length that the log moved forward, he saw some new revelation: the immensity of this water, the way the fish jumped as if they were eager to be caught and tasted, the constant movement of birds back and forth, the majestic trees lining the shore, and over all, the arching sky more blue than any he had seen before.

For the whole day he drifted south in wonder, now close to one shore, now venturing out into the terrifying yet consoling middle. It was even bigger than the old seer had been able to convey; it was more beautiful than a lifetime along an inland river would have intimated. From the moment he saw this magnificent body of water he lost all regret at having left his village on the river, for he had exchanged that collection of wattled wigwams for a greater majesty.

He spent two days on the bay, enchanted each hour with some new brilliance: he loved the movement of the fish and the feeding of the birds, the way the sun rose enormous and red from the waters, or went to sleep in flashes of gold.

'Oh, what a universe!' he cried when his joy was greatest. To express this thought he used a Susquehannock word

meaning: *all that is seen on earth and unseen in the heavens*, and he never doubted that this word had been invented so that a man like him could describe this new world which he had been allowed to enter.

It had been his intention from the first moment he fled his village to find this legendary bay and take shelter in some likely haven on its western shore, for in his youth the shells his people had treasured had been brought to them by a stalwart tribe of people called the Potomacs, and he remembered that they lived along some river to the west. They were a warlike tribe, and in the years when they did not come in peace to trade, they came in war canoes to ravage. He would seek to join these Potomacs, reasoning that since he was much taller than most men and broader of shoulder, he would be welcomed.

But now as he drifted down this peaceful body of water, so different from the constricted river he had known, so infinitely grander, he realized that he had no desire to join those warlike Potomacs, among whom he would be forced to serve as warrior. He was surfeited with fighting and with the old men who encouraged it. He wanted refuge in some tribe more placid than the ones he had known along the Susquehanna, more peaceful than the shell-trading Potomacs. So he refrained from paddling to the western shore.

As a child he had been told that along the eastern shore of the bay lived other tribes of lesser breed who accomplished nothing in arms; they were not even brave enough to venture north in trade. Occasionally bands of Susquehannocks had penetrated south to fight them, finding them ridiculously easy to subdue.

'It's hardly fair to call them enemies,' a warrior from beyond the bend had reported to Pentaquod's village. 'They have a few arrows and small canoes. Not many surplus shells for making roanoke, and no desirable women. Believe me, they aren't Potomacs. Those Potomacs know how to fight.'

Each disparagement of the eastern tribes that Pentaquod could now remember made them more attractive. If they were unlike the Susquehannocks, that was good; if they differed from the Potomacs, that was better. And now, as if to exemplify this judgment, there appeared on the eastern shore the opening of a broad and congenial river, guarded by a low island burdened with magnificent trees. The river was spacious, inviting, peaceful and glowing with birds.

And so, in the middle of the Chesapeake, Pentaquod, the Susquehannock who was tired of war, turned his log canoe not to the turbulent western shore, as he had intended, but to the quieter eastern shore, and that simple choice made all the difference. . .

Many men like Pentaquod have reached for a better existence by believing in ideals and making decisions supported by reason and a supreme respect for life. Men like him probably traveled our own Mohawk River during the early dawnings of the Stockade.

Men like him live along its banks today as well as other places throughout the world. They are men who believe in themselves and understand the important role they play, as individuals, in the support of man's existence. Their thoughts do not bring wars and suffering to a grinding halt, but they contribute to a human awareness that will help to continue the advancement of mankind.

The Indian Connection: Iroquois-Dutch Relations In Early Schenectady

The following is an abstract of a presentation given by Dr. Susan Staffa (local historian & anthropologist) at the Annual Meeting of Schenectady County Historical Society, April 21, 1982.

An appreciation of the Iroquoian culture and society sheds light on the relationship which flourished between Dutch settlers and Indians in the conduct of the fur trade. *Indian as well as Dutch attitudes and social frameworks made possible the mutually favorable connection which lasted well over a century and was responsible for the success and the very survival of the early settlement of Schenectady.* Both Iroquois and Colonial diplomats played important roles as Schenectady became the primary node in the vast trading network which extended throughout the domain of the Five Nations. The careers of the most prominent men of the valley in the pre-revolutionary period, Arent Van Curler, Peter Schuyler, and Sir William Johnson, illustrate the nature of the Indian connection. All of these men were highly regarded by the Indians and played essential roles in the establishment of our town and its subsequent development. Also, some less well-known Schenectadians, frequently allied to the Iroquois by blood or marriage, acted on their own and as agents of the above in the capacity of traders, interpreters and smiths traveling and living in the land of the Five Nations.

The Iroquoian connection as it flourished in Schenectady was a unique relationship which depended both upon a coincidence of interests and a balance of power. Iroquoian sophistication in social relations and the willingness of the Dutch to tolerate differences enabled a symbiotic relationship to develop. In a very real sense, the Indian connection gave birth to Schenectady and the Indians nurtured the settlement until it grew away from them. Their role, at first central in the drama, became more and more peripheral as the town evolved in the sphere of European civilization, a sphere not just technologically superior but having a different world view. The Iroquois could not control the outcome and tragically, in the frustrations of their young warriors and the wisdom of their sachems, they realized the inevitability of their decline. The marvel was that they were able to stave off defeat for so

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Stockade

"Neighborhood Watch"

To date, two meetings have been held in the Stockade in an effort to organize a Stockade "Neighborhood Watch" program.

The objective of a Stockade "Neighborhood Watch" program would be to organize Stockade residents to look out for each other's safety, and to help Schenectady's law enforcement officers protect the people and homes of the Stockade against crime. It would show Stockade residents how to cooperate with each other, and with the police, in a common cause—a safe home and neighborhood.

Those interested in more information about the program should contact Stockade Program Chairman Roy Giebel at 372-8391.

Save the Sidewalks

An incentive program is being offered by the Stockade Association to improve the appearance of our sidewalks in the Stockade. The incentive is a cash award to any property owner who upgrades the sidewalk in front of his/her property according to some simple guidelines available from the Stockade Association. Up to \$120.00 per award is possible.

The overall purpose of the program is, by the end of the summer of 1982, to reverse the trend that has been degrading our sidewalks for the past decade. The trend has been that of replacing or covering slate sidewalks with asphalt blacktop.

An important aspect of the program is to improve the appearance of our community. No one benefits more from the Stockade's appearance than its residents. There is little disagreement about the beauty and permanence of slate walks or the poor appearance and non-permanence of blacktop. Furthermore, if you look at places where cars habitually park on the sidewalks you will often find blacktop paving; as if it were an invitation for the cars to invade the domain of the pedestrians. There is a good compromise between slate walks and blacktop. Concrete. It is a long term investment. You can find concrete walks in the Stockade in very good condition that have the date 1944 marked on them.

Although, slate sidewalks are expensive

to install, there is no reason that they should not last indefinitely. A good quality concrete is less expensive and will last about 20 years or more—providing salt is used sparingly for ice removal. Blacktop is the cheapest to install, but requires annual maintenance which eventually becomes more costly than the alternatives.

Stockade sidewalks are classified as follows:
 Class A: Full width slate, brick, or stone
 Class B: Concrete
 Class C: Blacktop.

The cash award consists of \$20.00 per square yard, up to \$120.00 per piece of property. For instance, if you have a slate walk that has been covered with blacktop, restoring the slate surface to acceptable condition will bring you the cash award. For acceptability a sidewalk must meet city standards and be reviewed by the board of the Stockade Association.

Since sidewalks must be kept in good repair by law, any work that does not upgrade the class of the sidewalk (for instance, filling cracks in concrete) will be ineligible for an award. Only "public right-of-way" sidewalks are eligible for this program.

If you wish to improve the sidewalk on your property, contact the president of the Stockade Association at 372-8716 or Art Levy at 346-3326, before you start the work. Payment will be made after the first Stockade Board meeting following the completion of the work.

The Stockade Association has budgeted \$1,000.00 for this summer program. Resident and non-resident property owners are urged to take advantage of it.

Art Levy

Lawrence's Defenses Down

On the morning of March 29th, as Lawrence the Indian peered bravely the other way, a careless motorist smashed the gates of his modest domain. The accident caused considerable damage.

An alert Niagara Mohawk worker noted the license plate number of the involved car and reported the incident to the Schenectady Police. Negotiations are being made for a settlement.

Seeds from the Past

The Dutch Valley Garden Club, with the assistance of Stockade resident Dr. Susan Staffa, created a fascinating exhibit for the 1982 Schenectady Spring Plant and Flower Show. The exhibit, which was 12 feet long, 8 feet high and 5 feet wide, recreated a plot of land from the Stockade as it would have looked in the 1700's. Specifically, it provided a perspective of the land between what is now Cucumber Alley and the Mohawk River, as if one were looking at it from Scotia over the Mohawk River Binne Kill.

The same types of plants that are believed to have been cultivated in this area during the 1700's were actually planted and growing in the exhibit.



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DTV: "Running Harder than Ever"

This article continues the Spy's series of reports on businesses in our residential community.

The sign at 111 South Ferry Street reads, 'Devey, Thompson & Vignola'. But with Dom Vignola retired and Art Devey planning to follow at the end of 1982, Sam Thompson, as the sole active founder, will direct the 15-year old advertising agency's 15 member staff.

DTV employees can't complain about lack of variety. They serve GE Cablevision along with several other GE components, Northway Auto Club, Dorp Travel, baseball's Hall of Fame at Cooperstown, plus several banks and industrial companies. This miscellany, along with a employee profit-sharing program are just two reasons for DTV's low employee turnover, in a business normally plagued by high employee turnover.

DTV offers a full range of communication services, including the design and supervision of exhibits, public relations counseling, advertisement creation and media placement and counseling.

President Sam Thompson graduated from GE's Advertising & Sales Promotion Program, which stresses hands-on experience in all phases of communications. Sam was involved in promotion of the world-famous House of Magic, still remembered by many people for its striking dramatizations of the wonders of electricity. Sam is proud that he was Jack Welch's first advertising manager, at polymer products, which Welch headed as part of his fast climb to his present position as GE's Chairman & Chief Executive Officer.

Sam Thompson earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in business at Indiana University, and he is a Korean War veteran.

Favorite DTV case histories include their work with Glens Falls Travel Agency, when it was taken over by Dorp Travel. The new client had done little promotion and had stiff competi-

tion from four other travel agencies in the city. DTV created a one-month radio/newspaper campaign, built around the fact that the two women running the agency were life-long city residents, with the theme: "They know the world's travel spots as well as they know Glens Falls". The client reported: "We've never seen business pick up so fast. It was a real pleasure to see advertising work."

Another success story is about a campaign for GE's Lexan Plastic. DTV's objective was to advertise Lexan's potential use as a snowmobile windshield. DTV created a model of a Lexan windshield and featured it in a direct mail campaign to snowmobile manufacturers. According to Art Devey, the 50-piece mailing produced an unheard of 90%+ return.

As to DTV's future Sam Thompson hopes to fill gaps left by retirement from his present staff. "We've got good people and we'll move them up."

According to Thompson: "We're very optimistic, and we're running harder than ever. We've just hired another art director, as an extra investment in our future."

Sam Thompson recommends marketing and advertising to anyone interested in continually facing new challenges.

John H. Ronayne

Winter's End

The winter's end is nigh upon us
Dreary months to which we bid
A cheerful farewell, gone
With the heaping mounds of many snows
Already receding slowly
Before the mild persuasion of a transient sun.

Now little pools of melted ice greet the daily walk
With here and there a patch of dreary green.

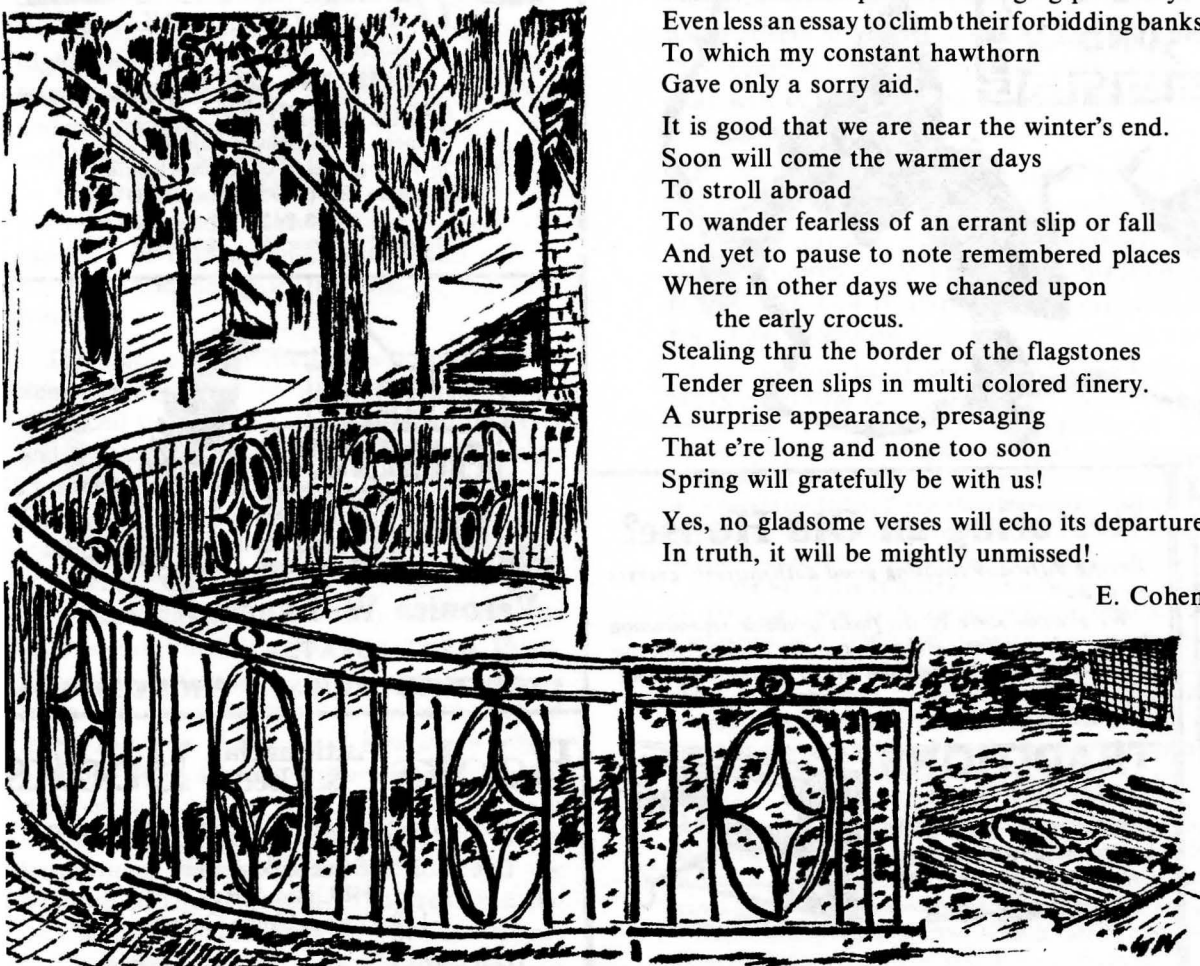
I have found naught to delight my eyes
Or give a lift to my spirits
In this snowbound shroud
From which we now begin emerging
Nor a mite of fun in the reluctant foray
Out on to the trampled sidewalks
Frozen with footprints of trudging passersby.
Even less an essay to climb their forbidding banks
To which my constant hawthorn
Gave only a sorry aid.

It is good that we are near the winter's end.
Soon will come the warmer days
To stroll abroad
To wander fearless of an errant slip or fall
And yet to pause to note remembered places
Where in other days we chanced upon
the early crocus.

Stealing thru the border of the flagstones
Tender green slips in multi colored finery.
A surprise appearance, presaging
That e're long and none too soon
Spring will gratefully be with us!

Yes, no gladsome verses will echo its departure
In truth, it will be mightily unmissed!

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Diane Cavoli

The following article concludes the 1982 Spy staff's review of area restaurants.

Stockade Dining

Longmeadows Center City Plaza

A revitalized downtown Schenectady has spawned several new restaurants, one of which is Longmeadows. The restaurant has a country cuisine theme and features a menu of mouth-watering entrees such as, "Coquilles St. Jacques Mornay"—bay scallops, mushrooms, green onions, in a bechamel sauce, surrounded by duchess potatoes and glazed with mornay. Menu prices are moderate with nothing priced more than ten dollars.

Longmeadows' two-story floor scheme boasts an interesting decor of smartly framed prints, brass railings, plants, and a spectacular view of the Center City ice skating rink.

The restaurant, although not in the Stockade, employs several of its residents including head chef Jim Westervelt of North Ferry Street.

Longmeadows' hours are as follows: Monday and Tuesday 11:00 AM to 4:30 PM; Wednesday through Saturday, 11:00 AM to 9:30 PM; and Sunday for brunch, 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM. They feature local piano artists Thursday and Friday evenings from 4:00 to 6:00 PM.

Ingrid's 175 Jay Street

Ingrid's is owned and operated by German-born Ingrid Forst. Ingrid came to the United States in 1953 with a degree from a culinary trade school in Hamburg, Germany.

Ingrid began making a name for herself locally by cooking meals at the Stockade's YWCA for the casts of various productions at the Schenectady Civic Playhouse.

Today Ingrid continues to win the appetites of many local, as well as visiting, performing artists; Hal Holbrook and the road casts of *Annie* and *Dancin'* to name a few. But as Ingrid's radio ad says, "You don't have to be a star to eat at Ingrid's".

The menu offers a wide range of items including specialty quiches, home-made pastries, and yummy desserts—with nothing priced more than \$3.45.

Ingrid's cooking is complimented by a warm decor. A huge 100 year old Regina music box stands against one of the restaurant's walls. It plays beautifully and typifies the unique charm of Ingrid's.

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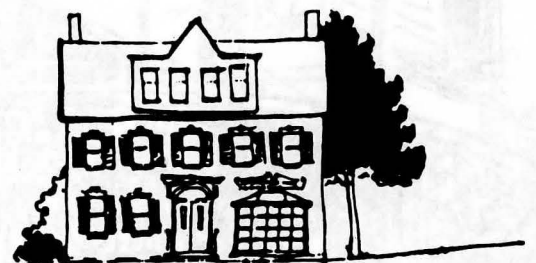
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