

APRIL 1983

Published by The Stockade Association

VOLUME XXII, Number 7

The Stockade Association Minutes of the General Meeting held at The Schenectady County Historical Society

March 28, 1983

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M. by President Mary van der Bogert.

The minutes of the January 26, 1983 meeting were accepted as read.

The treasurer's report was accepted as read.

Incentive Program

Activities have been slowed somewhat. A report from the chairman of this program is expected at the next meeting.

Traffic Management

The City of Schenectady hopes to lessen certain kinds of traffic in the Stockade. The Traffic Commission is not yet ready to meet with us. They hope to find a traffic management specialist to help in the identification of traffic problems in the area. Suggestions regarding the nature and whereabouts of these problems have been requested from the public.

Old Business

This evening we must select a **nominating committee** to put forth nominations for the election of officers at the next meeting.

Interested persons are invited to attend a **meeting of the Historic District Commission** on April 4 at 7 P.M. They will discuss the alteration of existing windows at 151 Front Street and the conversion to 2 townhouses at 237 Green Street.

The Ellis Building (Amity Hall) is getting a building permit. Blake Realty and Warren Grand Associates have bought the Broom Factory. They plan a number of two bedroom apartments. They've presented their pre-preliminary plans to the Historic District Commission.

We have a new graphic artist for *The Spy*, Barbara Contompasis. The new editor is Georgia Tucker.

The **Chamber of Commerce** has joined the **I Love New York** program. They are active with various groups to change Schenectady's image.

The **Festival Parade** will be on the river this Spring. Mrs. van der Bogert advised we not have our annual picnic the same day.

"**Little Park**" was damaged by snow dumping. The Stockade Association has sent a letter to the Mayor describing the damage and asking that we be included at a meeting to discuss possible alternatives.

Mayor Duci has written a letter regarding a **proposed re-apportionment plan**. He wished to review it with the neighborhood associations and the City Council. A meeting will be held to discuss this issue on Tuesday, April 5, at 7:30 P.M. at the Sons of Italy. Mayor Duci wants to appoint a citizens committee for voters to make the final decision.

A hearing will be held on April 18th in the Council Chambers regarding changes in **signage regulations**. Those interested are invited to attend.

Richard Purga of the City Planning Department was introduced to discuss what is being proposed for the **Riverside Park Community Development funds**. The Mayor and City Council are still negotiating who will get what portion of these funds. It is not yet decided if we'll get anything for Riverside Park. But Mr. Purga described the Mayor's proposal for Riverside Park, which calls for \$17,500 in improvements, including:

- historic information kiosks
- Park signage at the intersections of Front Street and Washington Ave.
- covering the abandoned pool and demolishing protruding wall and the adjacent asphalt walk
- the placement of benches
- shrubbery planting
- playground equipment consisting of a slide, spring animals and play equipment for the handicapped.

Renovation of the bath house has not been included. Discussion ensued regarding the bath house and problems there in the summer. There is a strong feeling on the part of some that it should be torn down. Others feel it has historic value.

Nominations for the Nominating Committee were made as follows: Fred Kindle, Rachel Armstrong, Roy Giebel, Joe Milano.

A vote was taken. The results: Rachel Armstrong, Fred Kindle, Roy Giebel.

Elsa Church and Marilyn Freitas from the Historic Society were introduced to present the program for the evening.

Marilyn Freitas, Curator, Schenectady County Historical Society:

The Historical Society is divided into two areas, the library for geneological research and the collections. For 10 years there had been no curator. Marilyn Freitas was hired as curator 2 years ago. Since that time many changes have taken place. The children's room has been re-done. The front hall now holds a changing display area. A country store has been installed on the third floor. A Shaker bedroom and a dollhouse room with the Yates Dollhouse that has been restored at Cooperstown are on the second floor. A railroad room is being planned for the basement. A colonial kitchen and a Schenectady industries exhibit are also being planned for the basement.

Many paintings are being restored, for the cost of materials, at the Cooperstown Graduate School program in Conservation. Also, much cleaning is being done, particularly of leather and wooden items. Many textiles have been restored. Damaging lighting from harsh sunlight and fluorescent light is now being filtered through mylar sheets.

The Historical Society has raised funds with a flea market, thus creating more storage space. The dollhouse reception enabled them to get a chandelier and new curtains. The Historical Society is dependent on donations. \$18,000 yearly from the city government has been cut back slowly until the Historical Society now receives only \$1,800 yearly.

Elsa Church, Archivist:

Elsa discussed activities in the Historical Society Library. She stressed that volunteerism is the key to their efforts.

Old documents are being put in mylar. All books and manuscripts are now catalogued and our Historical Society is a model in this regard for others around the State. The Historical Society has a superb microfilm collection. Scholars, authors, people who want to document their houses, college students, High School students and interns use the library.

Their greatest need is for more space. What can we do to help? Mrs. Church suggested we do any of a number of things, including joining the society, visiting, word of mouth advertising, volunteering to help or giving gifts of money.


The meeting adjourned at 8:47.






THE STOCKADE SPY

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Residents of Stockade

The next meeting of the Stockade Association will elect a new President, Treasurer and three (3) Board Members. Nominations for these offices are now open. A three member nominating committee was elected at the last meeting of the Association. The members of this committee are: Roy Giebel, Rachel Armstrong, and Fred Kindl. Nominations will also be accepted from the floor during the next meeting.

All residents of the Stockade are encouraged to evaluate the performance of the Association to determine what, if anything they would like to see changed or improved. They should then consider what people they know who could best implement the courses of action. The names of these prospective officers and board members should then be submitted to the Nominating Committee. To make this easy, names, addresses, and telephone numbers may be dropped in the mail slot at 5 Front Street. The Nominating Committee will check with each person whose name has been submitted to make sure that the person is willing to be considered for the suggested office.

It is very important for all residents of the Stockade to realize that they are very influential in determining how the Association will operate in the 1983-1984 year. The Officers and the Board members of the Association determine the courses of action and then strive to put them into effect. Members of the community through their selection of those officers and board members can directly determine what the Association will try to do. There is no reason for members of the community to hesitate in making recommendations. The future of the Stockade Association depends upon this responsibility.

Roy Giebel

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Alas, Poor Sony

by B.A. Nilsson

We're not immune, here in the Stockade, to little acts of unremembered terrorism. A couple of years ago a person or persons unknown jimmied my front door and made off with new color TV set. It was not a welcome loss. My wife and I were discovering the joy of cable, as well as the fact that it was possible to be well over ten years old and still fight over who'd watch what.

"We'll get a new one," I sighed, but the purchase got postponed. And postponed. So now we're still without a TV set—but it looks like we're going to stay that way for a while.

Oh, I'm not going to rant about lousy programming, biased news, that sort of thing. My wife and I don't believe we've "risen above" the box. It was that curious kind of intruder whose intrusion is felt only after the departure.

Interesting to hear the reactions of friends. "No TV, huh? Good idea. Me, I only watch the educational station and 60 Minutes."

"You don't understand," I'd hasten to point out. "Mine got swiped, I'd watch it if I had one."

So, "We really ought to get a TV," I said to my wife a few months after the tragic event. We went to Caldor and priced them. Young marrieds that we were, we'd neglected to insure ourselves, so we were looking for something tasteful and cheap. Ha! We calculated the amount we had already saved on disconnected cable service and spent it on dinner at the Van Dyck.

Next time we went TV shopping we wandered by the kids' toy department. We bought Monopoly and Scrabble. We hadn't played those in years. My wife, it turns out, is a cut-throat in the real-estate biz.

A neighbor stopped by. "What do you people do without a TV set?" she asked. We looked at each other, my wife and I, and shrugged. And confessed to playing board games. This intrigued the friend enough to inspire a heated Monopoly championship with her and her husband. "Kind of quiet without a TV on," he said. My wife won the game and we scheduled a re-match.

That's about when we started getting into fancy dinners. With all this TV-less time in the evenings, I got the idea of making "restaurant-type" meals. Right off the bat I plunged into a pretty fair approximation of Beef Wellington, if you overlooked the leaden puff pastry. When our friends came by for that Monopoly session, we fed them Tournedos Rossini. "You people must have a lot of time on your hands," they said.

"We do," said my wife. "We—shall I tell them?"

I nodded.

"We bake all our own bread now."

The new life was not without its drawbacks. "I can't stand it any more," my wife announced one day. "Every time I talk to people at work it's, 'Did you watch this? Did you see that?' And then they remember about me and lower their voices as if they're discussing a disease I have!"

"Read books," I suggested. "That's what I'm doing." Then you beat them to the punch. 'Did you ever read. . .?' People always feel guilty about not reading enough. In an effort to share books the way we once had shared TV shows, I began reading them out loud to her.

I do have a confession: it's the late-night movies I have trouble doing without. Love 'em all, terrific or rotten. And there's something magical about late-night programming. I'll even watch Joe Franklin.

But it's a sacrifice I'm learning to live with. When I discovered that Proctor's was (and is) showing old movies, I contented myself with the pleasure of seeing those films in the environment they were meant for. "But you save so much money with the new movie channels!" someone insisted. "And you don't have to leave the house!"

Well, I like going out of the house. It's an event, to sit there in Proctor's, holding hands with my wife, eyes on the great big screen. We'd been losing touch with that nice custom. And why should I stay home? Guard the TV?

As I said before, I'm not trying to make any cultural statement. It's just that we have all these evenings free and we've been discovering so many interesting things to do with them. My puff pastry's getting to be pretty damned good.

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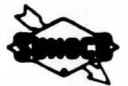
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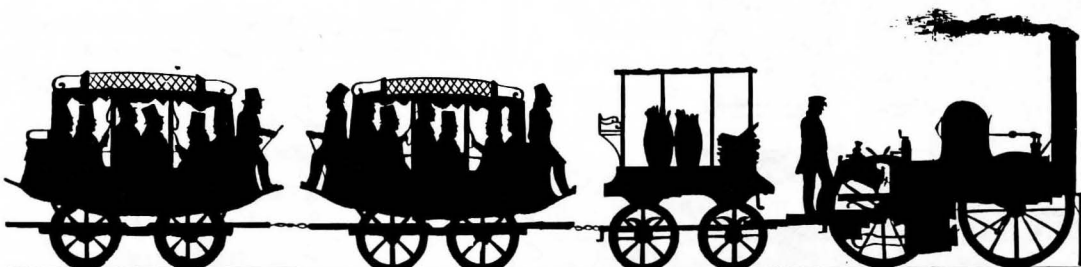
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Front Street Affront

by B.A. Nilsson

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 flight
 When dodging through the evidence of Dog.
 They're out in force, and twice a day
 They leave their "little duties" on the ground.
 So all poor saps like me who want to cut down
 what they weigh
 Must share the tiny sidewalks with some hound.
 It's not the beasts themselves I mind,
 I like them: Collie, Spaniel, Peke, and Pug;
 But, oh, how disappointing when you've
 somehow failed to find
 Those soft surprises 'till you've trod the rug.
 But still I'll run. I'll always run.
 I've failing fitness (fat, that is) to fear;
 And I won't let those canine-droppings soil and
 spoil my fun:
 I'll run until I—oops. What's that? Oh dear.



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