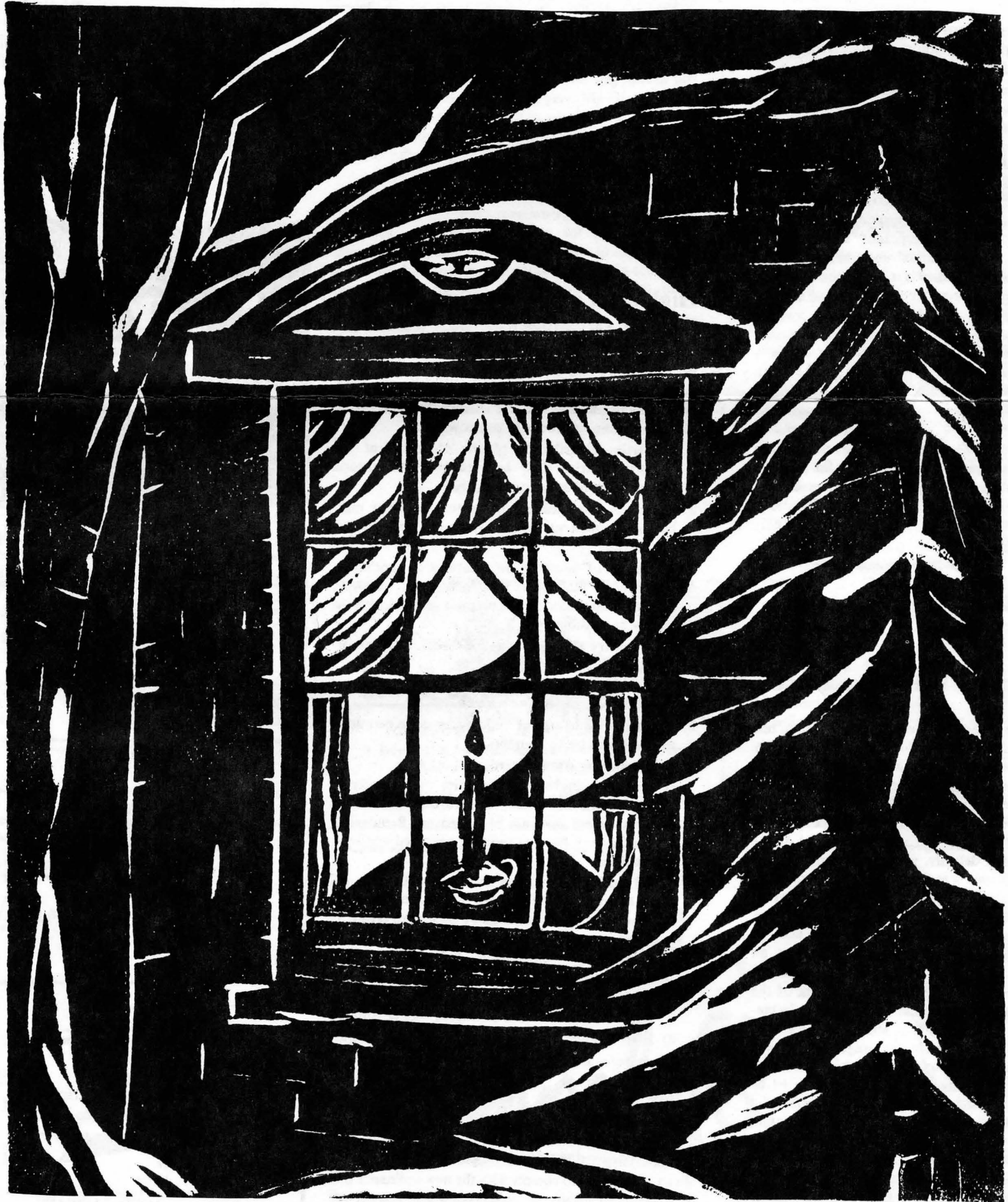


DECEMBER 1988

Published by The Stockade Association

Vol. 29 No. 9



Paul Spencer

Tidings

Now that we're all Bused...it's time for some real excitement. Ladies and Gentlemen **START YOUR SHOPPING!!!** The holiday season is upon us and as you all know too well, the turkey is barely defrosted before Santa's elves start putting up decorations all the while exhorting us to the malls.

A sure sign of the season's onset is Stockade's Annual Tree Lighting, set for December 9 at 7:30 p.m. This year is extra special as Peter Collangelo, who lit the tree 25 years ago, will be assisting Marcus Moran push the magic button. Besides being the sunshine of her life, Marcus also happens to be Michaela French's grandson. An extra special treat as well...the music for the tree lighting this year will be provided by the Hand Bell Choir of the Dutch Reformed Church. And don't forget, there's lots of goodies to be had at St. George's Great Hall afterwards. So...come one and all, for there's a merry, merry time to be had.

The annual pilgrimage of friends and relatives has begun as well. Mary Ivey's parents, (better known as the Proud Grandparents of Gabriel) visited for most of the month of November, and enjoyed it so much that they'll be back for Christmas. Believe it or not, this is where they come to get away from their winters!!!

Marilyn and Jim Fischer have been heading to western New York to visit their brand new granddaughter Stephanie May, who decided to show up almost three weeks early.

Stephanie May is the daughter of David and Lisa Fischer. Marilyn is absolutely thrilled about the whole thing - She and Jim have a brand new deck on the back of their house, and as I understood it - just waiting for Stephanie! Congratulations to our newest grandparents!!!

Eileen Licodemi thoroughly enjoyed a brief visit from her son Michael, who is a security police officer at the Elgin Air Force Base in Florida. Eileen just wishes it could have been longer - but someone's got to look after this great country of ours...

And hearty Stockade Congratulations are also in order for Don Zizzi of North Street who was recently appointed to the Heritage Foundation.

Some folks on Front Street recently enjoyed a wonderful weekend in Washington, D.C. Sean Lane, son of Jim and Betty Lane played the piano at the annual Open House at Kennedy Center. This is the third year that Sean has been invited to play in this Open House, which is a showcase for new young performers in the D.C. area. Sean also teaches music therapy in a

high school for emotionally disturbed children in Prince Georges County, Maryland. Jim, Betty, Betty's mom and Irene Denton all went to Washington to hear Sean play. What a treat that must have been!!

As if there wasn't enough to do during this time of year, Jean Adams of Front Street, a long time Stockadian, is bidding us farewell. Jean's new home is in Northville, and it sounds perfectly beautiful...lots of green things and wide open spaces. Jean had all kinds of wonderful things to say about living in the Stockade; I bet we'll be seeing her around...enjoy your new home Jean. You'll be missed.

Gordon Moppert of Ferry Street is also leaving the Stockade and headin' west to Arizona. Gordon has done wonders with his home on Ferry Street, but has decided to heed the calling of warmer climes. Gordon has done some wonderful work on quite a few of the homes in the Stockade besides his own. The best of luck, Gordon.

And a word to the wise...Yes, 'tis the season to be jolly, but 'tis also the season to be careful...as Michaela will attest to; her purse was recently stolen, and it's no fun. So...this is just a gentle reminder to be on the lookout and beware...

And last but not least, there are two very special birthdays that happen this time of year. My Grandmother just had a birthday. Needless to say, it was a wild affair with Noel, my sister and her family trying to keep up with Grandmother.

And Father Vang of St. George's will be celebrating his birthday on the same day as the tree lighting - for those of you who don't remember, that's December 9. Last year a party was thrown for him at Ruby's diner...that's going to be mighty hard to top, but if I know Stockadians...they'll come through. In the meantime, Happy Birthday Father...and here's to many more.

Soooo folks, that'll do it for 1988. It's been a year -but it really doesn't feel like it, does it??? Anyway, to everyone, a Happy Chanukah...a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. May your credit lines be long and your hangovers short...and I'll see y'all in '89.

Be Happy -- And Hang On To Your Purse!

The following tips from the Neighborhood Watch and the Schenectady Police Department are even more important during this holiday time.

PROTECT YOURSELF ON THE STREET

Snatching purses, mugging, and picking pockets. Penny-ante crimes, only for amateurs. Right? Wrong! Pickpockets average \$124 a "take" and purse snatchers get about \$98. Pretty big bucks for such a "simple" crime.

Protecting yourself against these crimes just takes plain old common sense. You've heard it all before, but it's worth repeating:

- Walk confidently. Be alert - notice who passes you and who's behind you.
- At night, don't take shortcuts through parks, tunnels, parking lots or alleys.
- Hold your purse tightly, close to your body. Keep your wallet in a front pocket or button your hip pocket.
- Carry as little cash as possible.
- Consider carrying a whistle or any type of noisemaker. If you're in trouble, use it! If there's a Whistlestop program where you live, your neighbors will hear and call the police. Muggers won't hang around to see what happens next.

Protect Those Presents You Give and Receive!

Op ID can help you with this guide.

These items can usually be marked with an engraver on the back, underneath, or on a side--wherever space allows. It's best to mark on a part that can't be easily removed or dismantled. Be sure not to mark on a removable lid.

Record Players	Car Radios
Adding Machines	Typewriters
Appliances	Clocks
Toasters	Musical Instruments
Blenders	Electric Razors
Sewing Machines	Vacuum Cleaners
Car Batteries	Projectors
Battery Chargers	Slide Trays
Hub Caps	Projection Screens

Other articles may have less available space. The following list contains marking suggestions for some of them:

- Bicycles - On bars or frames and rim of each wheel.
- Binoculars - Underneath on center post.
- Electric Tools - On cast housing.
- Fishing Reels - On side.
- Fishing Rods - On handle. Metal surfaces most desirable.
- Garden Tools - Metal surfaces most desirable.


Be sure to keep a record of everything you have marked.

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Transitions

"GET OUT", said the man with a broom. He was talking to a student in a basement office of the local community college. "You aren't allowed in here, get out." The student looked puzzled, she'd been told to get a page copied, and this was the place. The man with the broom was upset, he'd been told to watch out for students loitering around the machines, to keep them out.

The great virus mystery had broken a few weeks before and suspicion was in the air. But was this all there was to it? Or was the man, obviously not in this country too long, trying to respond to a transition in his life that left him unsure, treading lines that were no longer clearly drawn between his responsibility and his desire to keep his job? The student, no wild-eyed, bushy-haired radical, but a middle-aged, rather kindly and motherly type, was equally unsure. She too was in transition, breaking away after 20 years of wielding the broom and keeping authority in the home. What had gone wrong, why had this man been so rude? Somehow she felt like a child who had misbehaved, yet she knew she had done no wrong.

What had gone wrong? Was it that when we are in transition we don't know the new rules, we are fearful of change even though we want it -- some of it. The man with the broom wanted the change of a new country, a job that would support his family, and this person (he couldn't really place her position, she didn't act like someone who should be there, yet she looked too old to be one of the students he saw all day) was a threat. His supervisor had told him to watch out for trouble hadn't he? No one had told him what to expect. She was still locked into the authority of the institution, whether from a janitor or a president, no one had told her what to expect.

There's the real problem: no one told either of them that when you make changes in your lifestyle everything changes with it. The supervisor had neglected to talk about adult students to a man who knew little about this country and the influx of adults into the classroom. The woman had lived a sheltered life in suburbia, and had little sensitivity to the problems faced by immigrants unfamiliar with our language and ways, yet was intimidated herself when her motives were questioned.

Transitions like this can cause a crisis in our lives, yet can so easily be prevented by a little preparation. Next time you find yourself in an uncomfortable situation, ask yourself, is it only me, or is someone else uncomfortable too?

Displaced

Winter cold outside and snow flurries
fleeting glances in windy streetlights
now three blocks an arctic expedition
a contradiction I can't resolve inside
hot radiators steaming
a false fire warmth tonight
even she gave up on the night
closing the door behind her
a crack of light and one cat appears
then a second: black
displaced
two black cats and I
sit restless in the night
I chain the door and read two pages
but I wander to the window again
I want to go out but it's late
and so city cold out there.

D. Beerly

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