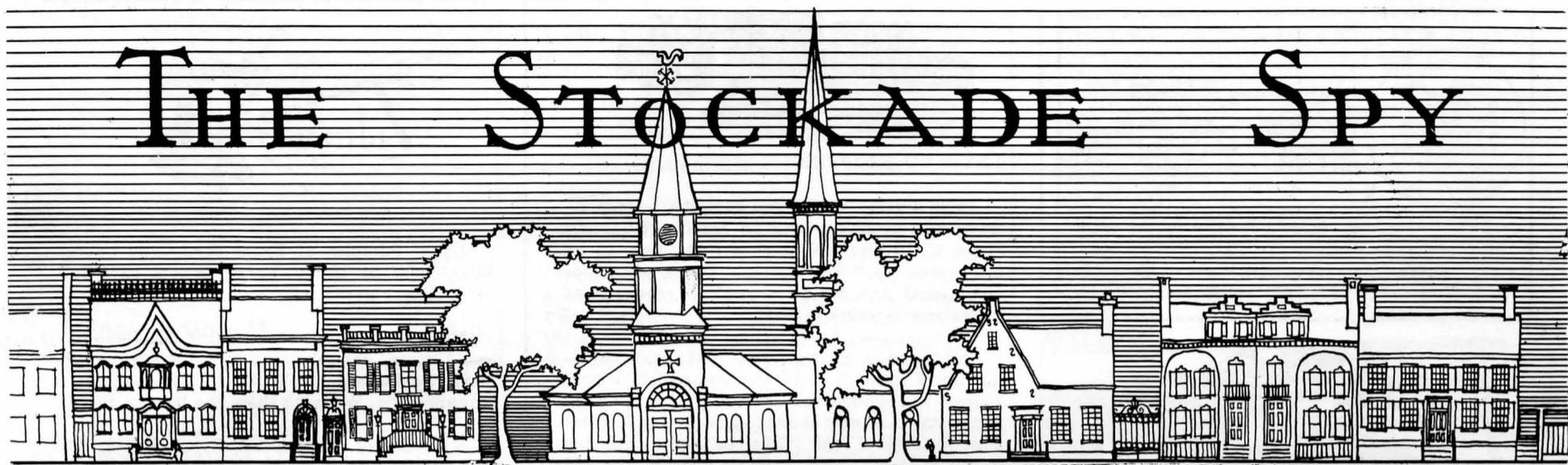


THE STOCKADE SPY



VOLUME IV NUMBER 5

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STOCKADE GUIDE FOR CHILDREN PLANNED

A new guide to our historic district is the latest project to be sponsored by the Association. The project has been undertaken with great enthusiasm by Stockaders well versed in the needs and potential of young people. The guide committee consists of two area elementary principals - George Weinheimer and Miss Patricia Herbert, and four elementary classroom teachers - Miss Esther Rorich, Mrs. Marshall Lapp, James Lane and Ollie Bunch. Two area tour guides, Mrs. William Quinn and Mrs. Robert George, complete the committee. They bring to the group their experience in dealing with children as Stockade visitors.

A county-wide competition for written and illustrative material will be held between March 1 and April 17. Participants, who must be third through sixth grade students, will be asked to choose a person, place or event of significance to the development of the Stockade. This choice may then be expressed as a written or graphic contribution to the guide.

The format of the guide promises to be ideally suited to the touring youngster. Stories, anecdotes, maps and drawings shall be arranged in the sequence of the walking tour. Thus each stop can be enriched by a variety of background material. Details on editing and format are still under consideration. Anyone wishing to offer suggestions at this time is urged to contact any committee member or member of the Board of Directors. All suggestions will be considered by the guide committee.

School superintendents and librarians, the public library, city museum, historical society, city and county historians have been contacted by the guide committee. It is felt that the support of these agencies will be vital to the success of the project. It is sincerely hoped that these sources will join in making available to participants a wide variety of resource material. Since there is limited literature on the Stockade designed especially for children, Stockaders themselves can provide an additional and valuable resource. Much of the excitement and color of the area is available only "in the telling." Thus residents willing to talk with boys and girls - give background, relate stories, answer questions - are earnestly sought. Any Stockader willing to participate in this project in any way is asked to contact Mrs. Robert George at EX 33290.

The publication of this new guide has been undertaken in hopes of presenting to young people a vital and living Stockade. During the many visitations made to the area by boys and girls studying early Schenectady, the need for material at a child's level has been noted. It is hoped that this new guide will fill that need and, in so doing, make a Stockade tour more exciting and enriching for young people.

ASSOCIATION COMMITTEES REPORT PROGRESS

The various Stockade Association committees have reported their progress to date.

Membership Committee: Mrs. William Quinn is chairman, and Mrs. Earl Farry is co-chairman. This Committee numbers among its members the following persons: Mrs. Timothy Connelly, Mrs. Chris De Risi, Miss Marion Duffy, Miss Mildred Ey, Miss Eleanor Keaveney, Mrs. Vander Bogert Shanklin, Miss Anna Sherman, Mrs. Michael Slovak, Mrs. George Staffa, Miss Gertrude Sullivan, Miss Judy Van Voorhis, and Mrs. Eugene Wine.

At present a drive for new and renewed membership is underway, and as of February 4, 1964 there are 155 renewals and 27 new members. Telephone contacts are still being made in an effort to swell the ranks of the organization. All enrolled members are urged to forward their dues along with the billheads. Dues have been forwarded by vacationing Stockaders from Fort Lauderdale, Florida and Madison, Wisconsin. Mrs. Quinn adds, "We are hopeful we will hit the 300 mark by March 1st. Our organization increases its activities, its community strength, and its purpose with every member. **DO JOIN!**"

Trees: Mrs. George Braden plans to continue this year as in former years, to make her spring 'walkabout' in April or May, selecting suitable Stockade locations where new trees may be planted. You may remember that two years ago Mrs. Braden and her committee sold forty trees to Stockade residents. To reduce the residents' cost of purchasing and planting the new trees, an arrangement made it possible to sell the trees wholesale, and the Stockade Association paid \$5.00 per new hole in each sidewalk.

We will hear more from this committee with the onset of good weather.

Park Planting: At present Mr. Horace S. Van Voast, Jr., is chairman of the park planting committee. The members of this committee are: Professor H. Gilbert Harlow, Dr. Roger Kambour, Mrs. Elizabeth Perkins and Mrs. Philip Stanley.

According to Mr. Van Voast, the purpose of this committee is to "act as a clearinghouse for suggestions from area residents as to the improvements, policing, appearance and maintenance of the park." The committee is concerned with making the park a safer and more attractive part of the area, by bringing its needs to the attention of the city of Schenectady. Any person having proposals relating to park improvement should submit his written suggestion to the editor of the STOCKADE SPY.

Photography: Mr. Horace S. Van Voast, Jr., is chairman. This committee has a project underway to photograph every building in the Stockade area in order to provide a permanent record for the archives of the Historical Society of Schenectady County, the Stockade Association, and the Zoning Commission.

Dutch Treat: New members will be welcomed at the bi-monthly Stockade Association meetings by Mrs. James Gilliland, chairman of the Dutch Treat Committee, Mrs. Robert George, Mrs. Roger Kambour and Mrs. William Gold.

This hospitality committee will serve at the meetings of the Stockade Association and help newcomers to become acquainted with their neighbors.

Drafting Committee: A drafting committee, itself as yet on the drafting boards, is being organized by Mrs. Doris Manley.

Because of the law written into the new historic ordinance covering the Stockade area, requiring home owners to submit plans of proposed alterations in their dwellings, it is thought that such a committee might serve them, particularly if the contemplated alterations are not large enough in scope to warrant the services of an architect.

Mrs. Manley received her training at Hudson Valley Community College and has at her disposal students from this college and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Walkabout Study: Mrs. James Barr will head a committee to examine many of the problems and questions associated with recent "Walkabouts." This committee is vitally interested in public opinion and in the ideas of people in the Stockade area. Information and suggestions are welcome, as the survey is still in the formative stages. The committee will be pleased to receive comments by mail or telephone.



SPY REPORTERS ANNOUNCED

To make sure that "Spy" readers are kept up-to-date on Stockade events, three reporters have been added to the staff. They are Mrs. Donald Hart, Mrs. Ronald Gruberg and Mrs. Constance Porcari.

"Pat" Hart, a new Stockader, arrived in Schenectady during October from Herkimer, New York. Residing at 30 North Ferry Street, Pat is the mother of four children and has cultivated her interest in writing by attending creative writing classes.

Connie Porcari resides at B-34 Yates Village and is employed by WMHT. The mother of four children, she is also a free lance writer and has had some of her fiction published in national magazines.

Sandi Gruberg is a graduate of the State University College of Education at Potsdam, New York, where she received her B.S. degree in English. Before coming to Schenectady Sandi taught English in Potsdam and Norwood, N. Y. The Grubergs have one child and reside at 38 North Ferry Street.





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COOK OF THE MONTH

Editor's note: This is the first in a series which will highlight the many fine cooks in the Stockade.

Our first "Cook of the Month" is Mrs. Frank VanderBogert of 111 Union Street. This heavenly confection will certainly be the piece de résistance of any meal!

Angel Pie

- 2 egg whites
- 1 tbs. cold water
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1 tsp. vinegar

Beat egg whites and water until ropy. Add vinegar. Beat very stiff, adding sugar, a little at a time. Pour into pie tin lined with brown paper. Bake at 250 for 40 minutes. Cool. Turn upside-down on plate. Remove paper. Spread with 1 cup heavy cream, beaten stiff. Cover with 1 square Baker's chocolate, grated. Set in refrigerator for 2 or 3 hours.

EVALUATION PROCEDURE EXPLAINED

The problems connected with the evaluation of an historic area were presented to the members of the Stockade Association at the general meeting on January 27. Mr. Charles Ernst, representing the H. L. Yoh Company, presented these problems and cited various methods of appraisal which can be employed. Following his formal remarks, a general question and answer period was held.



LENTEN OBSERVANCES BEGIN

The following is a schedule of the various Lenten services planned by our Stockade churches:

St. George's Church: Beginning February 18th, a special series of address will be given every Tuesday evening at 7:30 by The Reverend John H. B. Rye of St. Cuthbert's Anglican Church, Toronto, Canada. The service will be preceded by a supper in the Great Hall at 6:30.

The annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, sponsored by the Georgians, was held February eleventh. A hearty dinner was enjoyed by all!

The Right Reverend Allen W. Brown, Bishop of the Diocese of Albany, commenced the Lenten observance at St. George's on Ash Wednesday with a Service of Litany in Procession and Penitential Office.

First Reformed Church: Lenten dinners will begin February 19th to be followed by a guest speaker: Speakers scheduled are: February 19 - Dr. Ralph Garcia, Dean of the Inter-American University at San German, Puerto Rico; February 26 - Dr. Frank W. Beare, Trinity College, Toronto, Ontario; March 4th - Dr. Charles DiSalvo of the American Foundation of Religion and Psychiatry, New York.



LET'S GO SHOPPING

Back around 1787 if you wanted to buy something you probably went to Mercer's Variety Store at 10 North Church Street, This is an interesting building being a fine example of late Dutch Architecture carefully modernized to become Greek Revival.

I don't know what Mercer sold in this building but I suspect from the name that he sold almost everything you desired probably varying from a spool of thread to a jug of rum. That's what I call "Variety" and may the super markets take note! Of course, the old store had long since gone and now this splendid building is converted to a residence. I will tell you more of this story some other time. Right now I am only using Mercer's as a theme for shopping. We're going to shop over on Ferry Street in much more recent times, say five or six decades ago.

Before the Roosevelt Apartments were built on the corner of Union and Ferry, some charming buildings stood between the Old County Court House at 108 Union and the corner. There was concern among the old timers when these were razed, some of which was due to the fact that the store on the corner would go. Oh well, there were others around the corner on Ferry to serve us. Although everything was not under one roof like at Mercer's you certainly could find variety and you didn't have to go much past Liberty Street. The Stockade had its own little shopping center right there. Of course, if you wanted dry goods, thread or a new dress, you would have to go up Liberty to Barney's back door but no further. Virtually the butcher, the baker, the candlestick maker and all the rest were there. Just what do you need? Hanson's "Pink Pills for Pale People," fresh fish, a roast of beef, fresh baked buns, an extra key, your stiff collars cleaned and strached? You name it. We've got it.

On the corner where Dr. Senn now has his office, there was Ball's, the Cleaner; next door was the Chinaman, who did your stiff shirts and collars so beautifully and who sent you Liche Nuts every Christmas in appreciation of your trade. Across the Street was Keller, the Druggist. Opposite him was Rosenfelt, the Tailor, and Mr. Sitterly, the Butcher. Of course Krueger's has always stood there on the corner of Liberty and where Liberty now cuts through to Church stood Mr. Swatling's Fish Market. There was the shoemaker and Mr. Wesson, the Keyman. There was the Bakery and if you needed a haircut there was Bozzi's.

I know I have forgotten some who have come and gone or who have remained there over the decades. However, I think I have given you some idea of our little shopping center.

You name it! We have it!

Giles Y. van der Bogert



AMA PRESIDENT TO SPEAK

Doctor Edward R. Annis, President of the American Medical Association will speak on "Private Control of Medicine vs. Government Control" on Monday, February 24, at 8 p.m., in the Union College Memorial Chapel. The lecture, which is sponsored by the Medical Society of the County of Schenectady, the Medical Auxiliary and the Pre-Medical Society of Union College, is open to the public.



Louis Pomplin of Front Street and Lester Alkinburgh of North Ferry Street have left for military service.

Mr. and Mrs. James Farthing, ~~58 Washing-Union S~~ ~~ton Avenue~~, are planning to make their residence in Buffalo, N. Y. due to Mr. Farthing's transference. We wish them the best of luck.

Mr. Ernest Cohen, 27 Front Street, has just returned from a trip to Puerto Rico.

Welcome to new Stockader Louise Estevenes, 145 Front Street. Louise is a reporter for the Union Star.

Congratulations to David W. Lando, son of Dr. and Mrs. Santino Lando, 26 Front Street, for finishing second in the annual Times-Union American History Contest at the Washington Avenue Armory, Albany. Nine hundred and forty-nine contestants represented fifty area high schools.

Births: A son, Stanley Joseph, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Chester Lence, 4 Ingersoll Avenue.

A son, Stephen Gregory, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Crozier, 101 Front Street.

A daughter, Linda Sue, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Fred Dinkelman, 113 North Ferry Street.

A son, Gregory Scott, was born to Ensign and Mrs. William D. Cohen. Ensign Cohen is the son of Mr. Ernest Cohen, 27 Front Street, and the late Mrs. Cohen.

Mrs. Frank Marro, 235 Green Street, is chairman for the Muscular Dystrophy Drive in the First Ward. She is assisted by Miss Marion Marro, Mrs. Martin McAuliffe, Mrs. Joseph Buttino, Mrs. Robert George, Mrs. Earl Farry, Mrs. Alice Colangelo, Miss Christine Bryant, Miss Deborah Dinkelman and Mrs. Blanche St. John.

Home from college between semesters were the Harlow twins, Susan and Sally. The girls attend the State University of New York at Plattsburg.

Miss Lolly Zukauskas, 115 College Street, will appear in the Schenectady Light Opera's production of "Guys and Dolls." The show will open February 27 and run until March first at the Niskayuna High School auditorium.

Miss Patricia Palkovic, 107 College Street, will perform at the New York World's Fair as a result of successfully completing accordion competition in New York City.

Mrs. and Mrs. Joseph Ottati of 21 State Street will leave for Hawaii February 13th with the Schenectady Kiwanians.

ETV OFFERS GREAT DECISIONS SERIES

In cooperation with the "Great Decisions" discussion programs being held in the Capital District, WMHT, the educational television station, is presenting a series of eight, half-hour programs designed to enhance the discussion groups. The programs, produced by National Educational Television, can be seen on Channel 17 Monday evenings at 7:30. Stockaders interested in joining a discussion group should contact Helen Garey, 14 Union Street, or Betty Burnett, Department of Adult Education, 108 Union Street.



FOUNDED 1690

OUR CHURCHES . . .

Editor's note: The Churches in the Stockade have interesting, as well as unusual, backgrounds. This is the first in a series of brief articles highlighting the known and unknown histories of our churches.

February is a most eventful month in the long history of the First Reformed Church. It was during the first week of February, 1690 that the very first dominie of the church was killed when a party of Canadian Indians and French Soldiers burned the village.

The Pastor of the First Reformed Church in the first years of World War II was Clark V. Poling. Surely all of us remember the story of "the four Chaplains" who lost their lives when the troop ship Dorchester was torpedoed on February 3, 1943. Clark Poling was one of the Chaplains.

The first Sunday in February marked the date of the disastrous fire in which all but the exterior walls of the church were destroyed, as well as the Sunday School building.

So, each year during the first week of February, the First Reformed Church observes Rededication Sunday, at which time its ministers and congregation take a moment during their service to recall some of its past. This year it was on February 9th that the First Reformed Church prayerfully remembered.

Pat Hart

ARTISTICALLY SPEAKING . . .

We know you will appreciate the work of Werner Louis Feibes. A graduate of Mont Pleasant High School and the University of Cincinnati where he received his B.S. degree in architecture, Mr. Feibes was born in Aachen, Germany. A partner of the architectural firm vander Bogert, Feibes and Schmitt, he is also a visiting professor of architectural design at R.P.I., Troy and resides at 17 North Ferry Street. Werner Louis Feibes...one of the many Stockade artists you will be meeting in the future.



AT THE PLAYHOUSE

A *Shot in the Dark*, due to open at the Playhouse on March 16, is already in rehearsal, and, as a mystery-comedy taken from the French should do much to raise the winter-sodden spirits of Schenectady theatre-goers. Two Stockaders are working on the production: Margaret Eighmey of Ferry Street is assistant director and Green Street's Jo Braden is in charge of props.

William Gibson's *The Miracle Worker* was on stage the week of January 27 to February 1. There may be internal storms raging inside the Playhouse (ours, is not to reason why), but from the onlooker's viewpoint this is all to the good. Seldom has there been a season when the shows were so uniformly good - not always in the same respect, but still solidly good. The production staff of the new play will have to work hard to maintain the pace.

The Miracle Worker is, as plays go, a lamentably bad one. Ostensibly concentrating on the relationship between little deaf-blind Helen Keller and her dedicated teacher, Anne Sullivan, it also rings in all Helen's family and a host of personalities who made Anne's early life in a Boston institute for the blind so insupportable, that the job of teaching Helen in an Alabama wasteland seemed by contrast a piece of glorious good fortune. Playhouse casting facilities being what they are, there are some pretty obvious misfits in smaller roles, but the central parts, Anne and little Helen, were unexceptionally played by Betsey Morray and Lisabeth Reynolds. As actresses both of them knew the opportunity before them and they both exploited it to the full. They were strong, convincing and wholly satisfying, and the Playhouse was lucky to have obtained their services. Sets, costumes, make-up and lighting were the usual Playhouse so-so, but the leading performers triumphed over all shortcomings and made a memorable evening for everyone.

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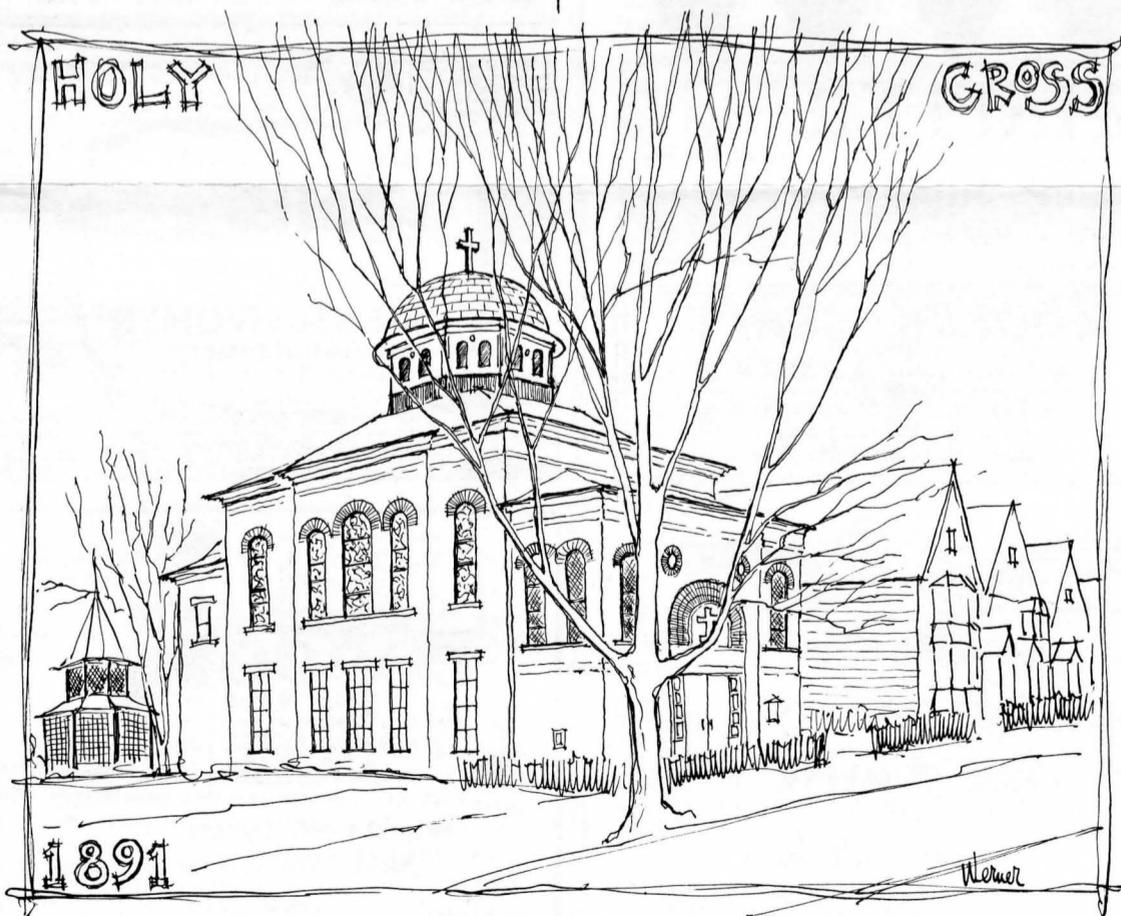
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AT THE

INDIAN



Lenten Observances...

"Men's Luncheon and Dialogue" will also be held every Wednesday noon, in Assembly Hall. These luncheons offer area businessmen and Dr. J. Dean Dykstra, First Reformed's Pastor, a chance to get acquainted. A program of scripture and music and an opportunity for meditation will be offered at 12:15 noon during the Lenten season.

First Presbyterian Church: Each Tuesday at noon Lenten luncheons will be served in the Chapel of the church, sponsored by the Capital District Association of Evangelical Churches. Guest speakers scheduled to follow the luncheon are: February 11 - Dr. Richard W. Gray, Reformed Presbyterian Church, Willow Grove, Pennsylvania; February eighteen - Dr. Harry Denman, General Secretary, General Board of Evangelism, The Methodist Church, Nashville, Tennessee. February 25 - Dr. Bryant M. Kirkland, Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, New York City.

The Mid-Winter Doctrine Classes, which began in January, will continue through March. These classes are held Monday evenings at 7:30. Many aspects of religious life are explored by the classes which feature well known teachers.



This statement or request, call it what you will, has been publicized recently, of course, due to the arrival of that sentimental day we call St. Valentine's Day. Fair, young lasses have wondered if that special "he" will come through with "hearts and flowers," while husbands, fiances and "steady" boyfriends have been subtly or not-so-subtly reminded of the approaching day through the serving of heart-shaped salads, rousing choruses of "Heart of My Heart" or simple statements such as "My, my, time does fly! It's almost February fourteenth!"

Do wives, fiances and girlfriends really become concerned and upset if their respective beaux forget this romance filled day? Of course not... Not Much!

So how did it all begin? The obvious beginnings of Valentine's Day stem, of course, from St. Valentine or St. Valentinus, patron saint of lovers. St. Valentine, a Christian, was beheaded on February 14, in the year 270. Legend tells us that while awaiting execution he made friends with a blind girl whose sight he was able to restore. Saddened by his fate he wrote a farewell message to her on the eve of his death. It was signed "From Your Valentine."

If this is true, it was the origination of the expression which has been used through the centuries.

The relationship between his martyrdom and the exchanging of valentines seems quite vague, unless gentlemen then (and now?) considered the loss of their hearts to fair ladies a fate equal to the loss of their heads! However, this is not the case. There is a direct, though accidental link, for the death of St. Valentine occurred at the time of the year when the holiday spirit was much in evidence. It was the eve of the ancient feast of the Lupercalis, when the Romans habitually preserved the memory of an ancient rural god, Faunus. It is not difficult to imagine that the public beheading of Valentinus, the Christian, became a natural part of the pagan celebration of the Lupercalis.

The first written message using St. Valentine's name, known in this country, was sent by Edward Sangon to his sweetheart in 1684.

It is most interesting to note that the early valentines were made by hand. An abundance of leisure due to the absence of radio, television, cars and movies gave youths more time for love and sentiment. Not only were valentines made by hand, but they were posted by hand and deposited on the lady's doorstep. One can well imagine the excitement felt by each lady as she opened her door to find her valentine, made especially for her by someone very special. Today we need only visit a store, select our valentine, sign it and mail it. It is, however, still sent with special thoughts to a special person.

The history of valentines in this country appears to have begun during the middle of the eighteenth century. The pieces were simply, yet artistically done. Nevertheless, one wonders about the verses which accompanied the art work, since they, too were "home-made."

Today we find "contemporary" valentines with messages that would probably seem quite strange to our ancestors. Messages such as "It's Valentines Day and I don't know what I can get for you... Nobody's made me an offer"... or... "Happy Valentine's Day... from your friendly Neighborhood Valentine" are a far cry from the romantic phrases grandma knew, but yet they have their place... if only as ice-breakers on the road to courtship and, who knows, perhaps marriage.

Valentine's Day is a romantic, sentimental day which asks and will continue to ask the question "Will you be mine?"

Here's hoping you didn't forget your valentine!

