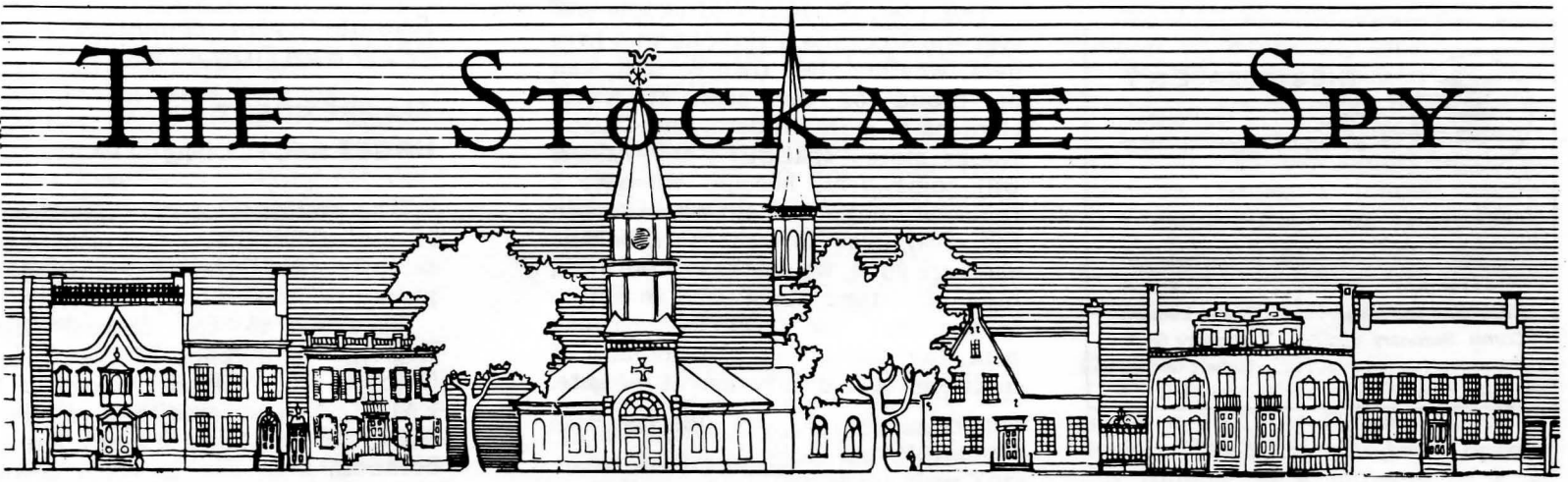


THE STOCKADE SPY



February 1976

Published by The Stockade Association

Vol. XVI, Number 6

IMPORTANT DATES IN SCHENECTADY'S HISTORY

- 1662 — Schenectady's first settlement by Arendt Van Curler
- 1690 — The Massacre and burning of the settlement
- 1748 — The Battle of Beukendaal in Glenville
- 1765 — Schenectady granted borough charter; Duanesburg settled
- 1788 — Duanesburg became town
- 1794 — Founding of first newspaper — "Mohawk Mercury"
- 1795 — Founding of Union College
- 1798 — Schenectady chartered as city; Princetown became town
- 1809 — Schenectady County formed; town of Niskayuna founded
- 1820 — Towns of Glenville and Rotterdam incorporated
- 1825 — Erie Canal opened
- 1848 — Locomotive industry established
- 1854 — Free public school system inaugurated
- 1880 — City Hall built at Jay and Franklin Streets
- 1892 — General Electric Company formed
- 1894 — Public library system established
- 1915 — Erie Canal operations closed
- 1916 — Barge Canal opened
- 1939 — WRGB began operations
- 1967 — Schenectady County Community College established
- 1969 — Schenectady County Public Library moved to new building at Liberty and Clinton Streets

PATRONS OF THE ARTS

The Stockade *SPY* is going broke. No headlines, no exclamation points, just fact. Due to rising costs our overhead has gone up. Due to businesses becoming *ex-businesses*, our volume of advertising is down. Due to the economy, we can't raise the price of our ads without losing our advertisers. We are caught between a rock and a hard place.

Anyone wishing to donate \$10 (or more) may become a patron of the *SPY*, with or without your name. Names of patrons will be listed in the *SPY* (unless nameless) each month. For many years the Association has presented the *SPY* as a service to the people of the Stockade, and subsidized the deficit. This is not enough. Be a patron of the arts, send your contribution to:

The Stockade Spy
Box 1661
Schenectady, NY 12305

This space paid for by A. Friend



HISTORIC PRESERVATION

WRITING AWARDS FOR STUDENTS

The National Trust for Historic Preservation announces the Historic Preservation Writing Awards for Students. This year the awards will be given for an unpublished essay and poem on the subject, Out of Many, One — Preservation in the Bicentennial. Entries may be philosophical or critical of historic preservation and its relation to the Bicentennial.

Each award consists of a citation and a stipend of \$250. The winning entry in each category (essay and poetry) may be published in the National Trust quarterly magazine, *Historic Preservation*.

Entries should be no more than 2,500 words in length and should be appropriate for publication in *Historic Preservation* (a copy of the magazine and other National Trust publications will be sent on request). Any full-time college student, undergraduate or graduate, aged 17-25, is eligible to enter the competition.

Submit one copy of the entry (typewritten, double spaced), with name, address, birthdate and name of institution and department in which formally enrolled at the time the entry is mailed. Submissions will be judged by the National Trust Writing Awards Committee. Winners will be announced during Historic Preservation Week in May, at the National Trust Awards Luncheon held in Washington, D.C.

Deadline for entries is April 1, 1976. Submit to Preservation Press, National Trust for Historic Preservation, 740-748 Jackson Place, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20006.



THE STOCKADE SPY

Editor Pat Davidsen
Business Lorna Strattner

Sponsors — Stockade Association

President W. E. Davidsen, Jr.
Vice President John Barber
Recording Secretary Karen Lamont
Corres. Secretary T. Gregory Sauer
Treasurer Robert George

This year, thousands of people will visit the Stockade. Everyone who lives here, whether they own or rent, can be proud of the area. If Randi Gardens is more modern, and Clifton Knolls more "spacious", the visitors will come *here*, because we have a *tradition* unlike that anywhere else in the area. Even though the Stockade walls are gone, we *still* have a bulwark, built of historic zoning and tradition. In the next few years, let everyone *man the walls*, lest the Indians of indifference find snowmen at the gate.

Bill Davidsen

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PRESERVATION NEWS.

AIA PRESIDENT URGES RECYCLING

The president of the American Institute of Architects said in St. Louis recently that "we need a fresh approach to preserving our cities."

Speaking to the Central States Regional Conference of the AIA on October 23, William Marshall, Jr., FAIA, called on architects to recycle cities. "If a building, a block, a neighborhood, a district is worth keeping and recycling to meet our present needs, then we must do it. If we can convert an old movie house into a performing arts center — and do it with less money, less materials, less energy and less disruption to the city than building a new structure — then we must do it."

Marshall, who stepped down as AIA president last month after serving his one-year term, noted that recycling takes less energy and added that while historic preservation is a worthy goal, there are many other reasons to save cities.

"For the past few years," he said, "it seems as if we have been living through an endless series of crises." He listed the energy crisis, the scarcity of materials and the economic crisis. "These crises mean that we can no longer afford — if we ever could — to treat our cities as disposable commodities. We can no longer assume — if we ever could — that the best way to make our cities livable again is to rip out old buildings and replace them with shiny new developments."

The Norfolk, Va., architect added that conservation of cities should not be limited to single buildings but rather entire areas and said also that recycling provides a continuity to cities that is missing in new developments.

"Those who have been fighting for historic preservation all these years — an uphill struggle — have helped us realize that the best kind of urban growth and development is a process of evolution — a process that doesn't destroy the past, but respects it, builds on it, learns from it and makes it a living part of our present and future," Marshall concluded.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

What is "Historic Preservation"?

The Stockade Association recently filed its request for tax exempt status, and among the purposes of the organization was "Historic Preservation". I was asked to explain to a new resident just what that meant. Perhaps everyone would be interested to know what I, personally, feel is the mission of the Association.

Historic Preservation is keeping the *way things are*, the same as the *way things were*. It is *not*, as one person said, "standing astride the path of progress, loudly crying 'Halt!'" The beauty of this area is that every building was contemporary when it was built. A new Victorian home today would be as unsuitable as vinyl siding on an 1890's frame house.

We have a wide range of construction styles in the Stockade, pre-war, post-war, and modern (Revolutionary War, of course). Due to this, what is in keeping with one house is not in place on another. I am hopeful that any new buildings in the Stockade area will be modern, and neither behind nor ahead of the time.

During this Bicentennial year, everyone of us should take pride in what our homes *are*, as the last hold-out against "potpourri architecture", with modern touches hung on vintage houses, like the nose of a snowman.

The Bicentennial Committee has estimated that as many as 90,000 people will celebrate the Bicentennial in Schenectady this summer. Even though at times it may seem as though they are all going down Front St. at 3 miles per hour, remember that this is one of the 2 or 3 areas in the entire country which has been restored by *the people*, and where people still live (unlike Williamsburg).

IN BRIEF . . .

Horse Feathers! A new city ordinance in Charleston, S.C., requires the operators of horse-drawn carriages to install diapers on their animals. The law was proposed by City Alderman Joseph R. Young, who said it was designed to clean up the streets in the historic section. He said he was acting in response to complaints from business people.

Bulletin: Charleston, S.C., has suspended for 30 days the horse diaper law (above). Instead radio-dispatched motorcyclists will make the cleanups.

OAR REPORT

The Riverfront Steering Committee, OAR, will be working with the Bicentennial Commission to help plan riverfront, bicycle and car access to Freedom Park for the week celebration in July. The Bicentennial barge will dock at the park for three days.

In anticipation of large numbers of viewers and participants in the celebration, OAR will work with the Commission to make available and encourage access by bicycle and boat. Plans call for temporary bike routes, docking space and launch areas for small craft races and events on the Mohawk River during the week-long program.

In long range planning for future use of Freedom Park, OAR will be working with the Group of Advisors and local town Environmental Commissions who are already involved in bike routing. (Not to be confused with a bike trail, bike routes are safe, marked routes on existing roads.) Access by boat is already being planned by the advisors who are working on potential permanent boat launching sites, marinas and service areas.

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FRIENDS

We have an organization in the Stockade that needs "Friends".

A few of us Stockaders together with a small number of other Schenectadians have been working for some months to support the energetic creative staff and volunteers of "Big Brothers of Schenectady" in their valuable, unique work with "Little Brothers" and "Little Sisters".

The support organization is called "Friends of Big Brothers". We meet monthly on the second Tuesday at 8 p.m. in St. George's Old Parish House to plan and execute fund raising endeavors to help maintain and expand the Big Brothers program. Several fun-time events are planned for 1976 but the "FRIENDS" need more "FRIENDS" with whom to share the "FRIENDSHIP" if the '76 plans are to be successfully implemented.

CALL 374-4523 — WE NEED YOU.

Bird Historic Grant Program

Bird & Son, Inc. of East Walpole, Massachusetts

New York State Winners

On June 3rd, in Washington D.C., matching grants totaling \$100,000 to help restore and preserve more than 100 American landmarks were awarded through the first privately sponsored, national historic site grant program.

Over 4,000 inquiries and 806 applications were received in the four month period following the announcement of the program last November.

Following is a list of the New York State winners:

Malone

Horton Mill, built in 1855. It's the last remaining stone mill in St. Lawrence County. Bird & Son grant funds will help the Malone Community Council complete renovation so they can turn the old mill into a non-profit production center for traditional crafts.

Roslyn

The East Toll Gate House. Located in the Roslyn Cemetery, it's the last remaining of a series of board and batten toll gate houses built on Long Island during improvement of transportation facilities by the Flushing-North Hempstead Turnpike Company in the second half of the 19th century. Bird & Son funds will aid in the complete restoration of the front porch, the rebuilding of the cellar, and complete restoration of the building's exterior.

Schoharie

The Schoharie Valley Railroad Complex is all that remains of the shortest railroad in the United States. The complex includes a brick station house, freight shed, a mill, weigh station, and an iron works building constructed about 1840. Bird & Son funds will be used to turn the iron works building into a civic center, theatre and crafts workshop exhibit center.

Shushan

The Shushan Covered Bridge, built in 1856 to link the towns of Jackson and Salem. It was used until 1962. The bridge nearly collapsed during a summer storm, but was saved by local citizens who placed prop poles under it in the river. Bird & Son funds will assist the Bridge Association in turning the bridge and surrounding land into a museum and park area.

Brooklyn

The 145-year old Hunterfly Road Houses of Weeksville, located in the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of New York City, are the oldest houses in the area. Weeksville is a 19th century Afro-American community with an old-folks home, a school, several churches and a branch of an Abolitionist Society. Bird & Son funds will help restore the houses to serve as a museum of Afro-American history.

Dundee

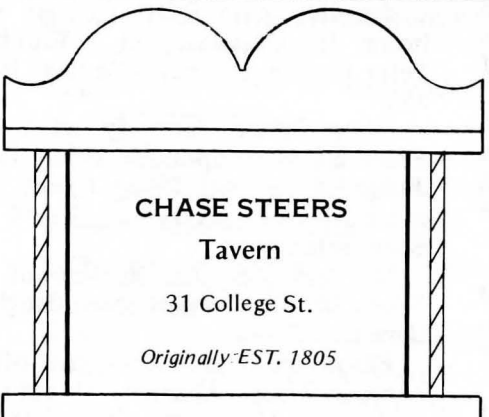
A 100-year old schoolhouse, which is the site of the Dundee Historical Society. The Society hopes to open it this summer as a museum of local history with changing displays, and a community center to serve both senior citizens and student groups. Bird & Son grant funds will be used to repair the slate roof and moisture-proof the cellar.

St. Johnsville

Fort Klock, built in 1750 as a farm homestead. It was used as an Indian trading post and place of refuge during the revolution. Also on the property is an 1825 schoolhouse and a blacksmith shop. The over-all goal is to restore the fort and surrounding 15 acres as a small 18th century farm. Bird & Son funds will be used initially to prepare one section of the land for crops and livestock.

Watertown

The Jefferson County Historical Society House. Designed and built for banker Edwin Paddock in 1876, the house has a distinct "Swiss chalet" flavor (specially requested of the architect by Mrs. Paddock), even though the building is a Victorian structure. Currently, the home is being used both as a base for the Historical Society and a museum. Bird & Son funds will help defray costs of refurbishing the building's balconies.



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The Historical Society has opened their drive for new members. During the months of February and March "tea" parties will be held at homes throughout the county. Helen Mynderse and Marilyn Wemple, Co-chairmen of the Membership Committee, are looking for volunteers to open their homes to prospective members. A speaker will be provided.



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TIDINGS

Mr. E. George Weinheimer, Supervisor of Art for Schenectady public schools, held a one man show of his drawings and prints at the WMHT Studio during the month of February. The opening reception was held on Sunday, February 1st. The exhibit was sponsored by the Oakroom Artists.

The Auxiliary of the Schenectady County Historical Society met to hear Robert E. Mulligan Jr. speak on "The Continental Soldier". An associate curator of the Office of State History, Mr. Mulligan is in charge of the military collections which will be exhibited in the new State Museum in the Albany Mall.

General and Mrs. William H. Milton of Front St. have returned from a vacation in Naples, Florida.

The Chinese Community Center of the Capital District held a cooking class, open to the public, in Chinese cooking at the YWCA.

Mr. van der Bogert Shanklin, vice president of the Schenectady Trust Company, was re-elected president of the Humane Society at 210 Union St.

The Schenectady Art Society held its Annual Meeting in combination with a Smorgasbord in the Great Hall at Saint George's Church. They were hosts to the AAUW contemporary art group.

Mr. Horace Van Voast Jr. presented a program on "Restoring Old Buildings and Furniture" at a meeting of the "Panopticon".

Mr. and Mrs. James C. Cooper of South Church St. have returned from a vacation on Nevis Island and Anguilla Island.

The Women's Club of Schenectady held a luncheon meeting at the clubhouse on Washington Avenue.

Miss Heidi Harlow, daughter of Professor and Mrs. H. Gilbert Harlow of Front St., has been named to the dean's list for academic excellence during the fall semester at the University of Nevada, at Vegas. Miss Harlow is a junior in the college of arts and letters.

Alice and Dave Fatato had a party with many guests who had to park all over the Stockade.

Dick Kazmar and his wife and new daughter were home for Christmas from Florida. They were on North St.

What ever happened to the people who *used* to shovel their walks? Every year it gets worse. Many elderly Stockaders aren't able to even walk to the store because of Bad Walks.

Please send your Tidings to: Alice Fatato at 372-3259; Mary van der Bogert at 372-0280; or Pat Davidsen at 372-1923.

The 411 Union Street Center of the Schenectady Boys Club opened its first cafe of the winter season on January 30. Featured was Rob Lee who presented a poetry reading followed by a slide show of his 9,000 mile hitchhiking trip cross country.

Mr. and Mrs. Frederick H. Grimm, co-chairmen of the Schenectady Historical Society's "Colonial Afternoon", announced that the net return from the event held at the Glen-Sanders mansion was \$6,430. This amount enabled the Society to completely repay its loan on the items returned from Colonial Williamsburg two years ago. The collection, including furniture, silver, china, and personal items from the Glen and Sanders families, is on permanent display at the Historical Society, 32 Washington Avenue. The hours are Monday through Friday, 12:30 to 5 p.m. and Sunday, 2 to 5 p.m., and admission is free.

Mr. James Sherwood of Front St. is the Schenectady Coordinator for the Jimmy Carter for President campaign.

Jennifer and Sally George were home for Christmas at 7 Front St. Peter George and his wife were home also.

Doug Griset, formerly of 4 West Front St. was appointed Police Court Judge. June and Doug Griset have moved to Adams Road in Schenectady.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Buttino of 157 Front St. have a new granddaughter, Cara Lyn Casey.

Elliot Shanklin got the cast off his ankle and Susie Shanklin has returned to Niagara University after Christmas vacation.

Phil and Judy DiSorbo have moved to Quaker St. with Teddy and Paul.

Lillian and Babe Calarco had their family home for Christmas.

Mr. and Mrs. Lane had guests over the holidays — Mr. and Mrs. John Denton from Cranberry, New Jersey.

Peggy Drum of 228 Union St. has a new job as director of Public Relations at Saratoga Performing Arts Center.

Joan, Doug and David Lapp were recently in Pasadena, California for a visit.

We are all glad to hear that Arthur Polachek's shoulder is feeling better.

Jo, John and Billy Musco are in Florida for the winter — how lucky can you get?

Jay Vele of College St. is out of the hospital after a short stay.