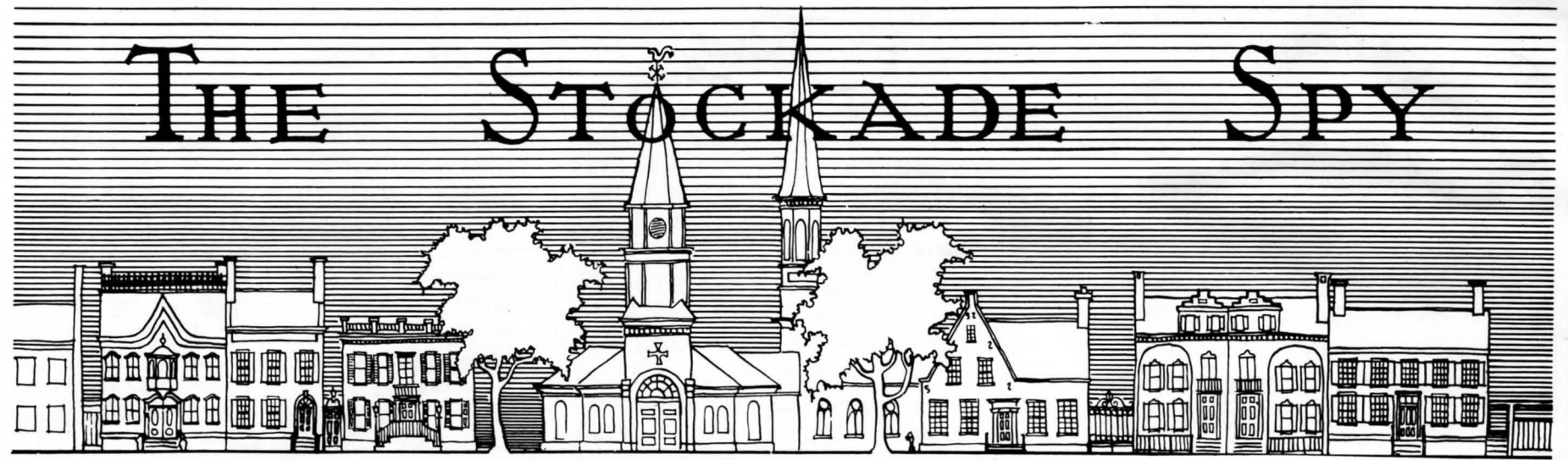


# THE STOCKADE SPY



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March 1973

## BIG BROTHERS HEADQUARTERS ON FERRY STREET

Whatever course a community takes in dealing with its social welfare, action occurs only when an aroused citizenry becomes involved. It is most often the volunteer who causes constructive social change.

The Big Brother movement is a classic example of the power of the volunteer. Active in the area since 1969, Big Brothers of Schenectady County (located at 30 N. Ferry St.) is constantly recruiting volunteers from the community to become big brothers to boys, who in order to reach their full potential as adults, need the influence of a mature, responsible and responsive man during the formative years.

The foundation of the Big Brother program is the "one man—one boy" concept of friendship between a volunteer man and a boy who has no adequate male figure to help him. Through these "one man—one boy" relationships Big Brothers seeks not only to prevent and correct problems which the youngsters may be experiencing, but also to promote their healthy growth and development.

The majority of fatherless boys have a need for acceptance, understanding, guidance and caring which can be met by a volunteer who brings interested friendship to a growing boy. The fact that the volunteer is not paid and elects to participate in the program out of a desire to form a friendship has special meaning to the boy. His confidence and self-respect will often improve as he discovers that his big brother is interested in him because of what he is and what he can be.

The friendship between a big brother and a boy is something very special. It has as its aim to supply the affection that ever youngster needs. But it also can serve as the experience that helps the boy become a social being, capable of forming satisfying personal relationships with other people.

In understanding who a big brother is, it is helpful to understand who he is

(Continued on Page 4)

## SNOW SCULPTURE VICTIM OF INCLEMENT WEATHER

While not being a howling success because of the flood and ice flows over the park plus the howling winds from the river, a great many people reneged on their promises to sculpt. Well over a hundred people had promised to sculpt. As it turned out we had very few participants, partly because it was vacation week for both the public schools and colleges. It has been suggested that next year there should be a co-chairman and the event be held earlier in the season. Also at the first snow some of us should go to the park and make pylons of snow—adding to them with each additional snowfall, as they do at Union and Williams Colleges among the fraternities, there being no time limit when they can start sculpting.

The merchants were most generous as to donations although out of a committee of ten, only two (beside myself) did any soliciting. The donations were raffled off at the reception following the contest, and we did have quite a good turn out for that, in spite of the weather at the park. Thanks to Sally Bishop and Vi Putnam we had a number of gifts to raffle and I believe that we made expenses for the contest. Vi and Emily Phelps acted as hostesses for the reception.

Our radio and TV publicity was remarkable, to say nothing of the two Schenectady newspapers, the Gazette and Union-Star. There was hardly a day that there was not something in the papers. And as to radio, there was an announcement at least once, and sometimes twice or three times over our local stations.

The City Engineering department took an air hammer and cleaned the five blocks of walk so that the judges could walk to see the separate sculptures. Perhaps next year we can get the fire department to flood the ice on the river and have a regular winter carnival with ice skating.

The most original prize was given to little Michelle Banghart. Although she started to carve a dove out of an icefloe, it turned out to be a remarkable resemblance to an eagle with a branch of laurel clutched in his claw. It was amazing to see the artistic ability of the child who is only eight years old.

The most artistic trophy was given to Kasmir Markowski of North Ferry Street with his reproduction of the American flag carved in ice and painted with water colors.

Naturally, Riverside School receives the group trophy, although some vandals had kicked the sculpture down during the vacation period. Previous to that it had been a scale model of the Stockade complete with blockhouses on each corner and a beauty to behold.


We do need more group participation—especially families—and more enthusiasm among the Stockaders. No matter what your age, everyone loves to build a snow man, or snow sculpture!

Next year we will contact all of the colleges and schools several months in advance to give them time to decide just what they would like to sculpt and to work up more enthusiasm for the project.

—H. Scott



RGH

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# Tidings

Marianne and Merrill Brown of Front St. have had their daughter Marianne Brown George and granddaughter Kimberly visiting from out of town. The Georges have just moved to Westmont, New Jersey.

New tenants at 145 Front Street are Donald Craig, from WRGB, and Riverside teacher John Davies. Hearty welcome from your neighbors.

Nick Colangelo and family beat the cold by vacationing in Puerto Rico last month. "The weather was great, and the temperature just got stuck on 85!"

Jim and Darlene Duggan and Jessica Squires and five children between them traveled together to New York City for four days. They took in the Statue of Liberty, and the Rockettes etc.; and the men saw the New York Knicks at Madison Square Garden. Especially notable on the return trip were the Great Falls of the Passaic River in Paterson, New Jersey. The Falls are the second wonder of the North American continent and are located in an historic industrial town, home of Colt guns and once the silk capital of the U.S. Alexander Hamilton was once its mayor.

**Stockade Association**  
**MEETING**  
**March 26, 1973**  
**8:00 P. M.**  
**HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Jim Duggan will teach a course called "Experiencing Architecture" at Union this Spring term. The course will handle strictly American architecture, and aims at raising the level of perception of laymen and non-experts who need to know more about the structures that surround them. Jim plans it to be a "laymen-oriented survey of a lot of good quality anonymous and vernacular architecture," and hopes to help his students begin learning at the "gut-sensual" level of their perceptions. Noteworthy insights for the perennial student!

Talent lurks in every corner: Dinah Dietrich spent a wintry Winter Worktime at home on North Street doing poetry and is returning to Bennington College in the spring for the first term of her Senior year. May her steps be in free verse and the Muses not abandon her.

Doris E. Clark, friend of the Stockade Association, has written us from Phoenix, Arizona, and gives us her change of address. Please note that she is now at 3101 N. 7th Ave., Phoenix, Arizona 85013, Lanai Apts. B 207. "I intend to continue on as a Friend and do enjoy the spate of news from the beautiful Stockade area," she writes. She was formerly the book buyer at the Union Book Company.

A reception was held on March first by the Visiting Committee of St. George's Church for about 17 senior members of their congregation who had been unable to get out much recently. Mrs. Charles Muir, Chairwoman of the Committee, described the scene of the lovely party, at which unofficial hostesses from the Stockade helped keep spirits high and conversation flourishing. There were several colorfully decorated tables; one of them wore an Indian Batik print tablecloth which was much admired.

Mrs. Muir estimated that there were about forty people in attendance altogether, including hostesses and helpers. The guests are reported to have enjoyed the birthday cake for Fathers Winek and Snyder. One of the honored guests was ninety-four years of age. There were three guests from Hallmark Nursing Centre. Many senior members from locations scattered around the city were picked up by St. George members and brought to the Stockade for what sounded like a truly enjoyable affair for all.

A future event at St. George's that Stockaders will want to take note of is the talk to be given on March 16th (Friday) by Don Luce, 38 year old agriculturalist and Director of the Indochina Mobile Education Project since 1971. Mr. Luce has spent the last 14 years of his life in Vietnam. He has testified before the U.S. Senate and House Committees on prison conditions and refugees in South Vietnam. He has been sponsored in Vietnam by various organizations, including International Volunteer Services, the World Council of Churches, and, in 1972, the ABC. He speaks fluent Vietnamese, and is the author of **Vietnam: the Unheard Voice**, and co-author of **We Promise One Another; Poems of an Asian War**. According to Time Magazine, he is to S. Vietnam what Ralph Nader is to General Motors. This is a lecture (at St. George's) which will be too informative to miss. St. George's, at 9:30 A. M. (Sponsored by Churchwomen United).



Sandy Uhlig and Jeanne Murray traveled to Switzerland last month on a skiing expedition in Krans-Montana; there they ran into Kris Lund of Washington Avenue. The weather was apparently grand, and the happy skiers' faces are still pleasantly suntanned.

Mrs. Harlow will be taking her granddaughter, Kathy Koral of Scotia, to visit the Reverend and Mrs. John J. Northrup in Las Vegas. Mrs. Northrup is the former Susan Harlow.

Nancy Walbek, psychologist and resident of Front Street, recently appeared on Joan Lapp's show, "Carousel," and her topic was Security.

## THE PRESIDENT:

May is the month of the Annual meeting for the election of officers and a full board of directors for the forthcoming year. In addition it is the time to consider proposed amendments to the Constitution. This is considered the most important meeting of each year because it lays the groundwork for the future of the Stockade Association.

March is the month of preparation for the May Annual meeting. It is at this meeting that a Nominating Committee, consisting of three members shall be elected for the purpose of presenting in May a proposed slate of officers for the new year. The March meeting is also important because it is at this time that amendments to the Constitution will be proposed. To date three amendments have been proposed, more are expected at the March meeting.

The three proposals are as follows:

Article IV Section 3 **Election**, shall be amended to permit all elected officers to serve more than two successive terms.

Article IV Section 4 **Vacancies**, shall be amended to include that three unexcused absences for officers or directors from Board meetings shall constitute automatic dismissal.

Article IX **Dues**, Sections 1 and 2 shall be amended to establish the amount of initiation fees and annual dues as an annual directive of the Board of Directors.

Amendments require two-thirds vote of the quorum present for passage.

The full membership is urged to attend the March meeting on Monday the twenty-sixth at 8:00 P.M. at the Schenectady County Historical Society on Washington Avenue. Your selection of a nominating committee and your proposals for an improved constitution will strengthen and make your organization more viable.

As a result of the very successful Membership Drive we have increased our ranks by approximately 20%. Many of these new members come from the younger generation now living in the Stockade Area. Let's seek out these Young Bloods and give the Old Organization a transfusion. It's time their optimism and forward looking creativity were put to work.

—James D. J. Schmitt

## BIG BROTHERS

(Continued from Page 1)

not. He is not a substitute father, probation officer, psychiatrist, social worker, tutor or guidance counselor. He has no financial obligation to the boy or the family. And he does not come into the boys life to moralize or lecture. Rather, he comes as a friend whose involvement implies kindness, good judgment, tenacity and sincerity of feeling.

Age is not a determining factor for selecting big brothers although most fall within the age-range of twenty to fifty-five.

When a man volunteers as a big brother, he is screened by the professional staff of the Big Brother agency, and when accepted made familiar with procedures, methods and techniques developed over many years.

He is assigned to a boy whose interests match his own and whose needs can best be met through his friendship. With the counsel of the professional staff, which is available throughout the relationship, the friendship begins, often lasting for several years, and in some cases much longer.

The values that grow out of this relationship have been demonstrated over the years. These values accrue not only to the boys but to the men as well, who find in their friendship an enriching and satisfying experience, and who often gain a deeper understanding of how they are relating to other people.

The most important factor to emphasize about a big brother, however, is that as a man he is stirred to the knowledge that he is wanted, that his human potentials are needed, and that they can begin to be realized in his friendship with a boy.

Anyone interested in obtaining further information on the program may contact the office either personally at 30 N. Ferry Street, or by calling 374-4523. Big Brothers is also sponsoring a 20 mile Walk-A-Thon on Sunday, April 29 to raise funds for its program and to assist the annual recruitment drive. Persons interested in participating in the Walk-A-Thon or sponsoring one of the walkers can do so by contacting the Big Brother office.

## APOLOGIA

Last month your editor was obviously not keeping his mind on his editorial duties. Three errors were made that really shouldn't have been.

The first was the confusing abbreviations in the article on the Review of Zoning Proposal resulting from too eager editing. The letters CPC stand for City Planning Commission and, CDC stands for Community Development Committee. I trust these full titles make the articles more comprehensible.

The second error is in the date of the Desmond Guinness Lecture. It was actually scheduled for March 9, not March 4. My apologies if I caused any inconvenience to my readers who may have made arrangements to be at Union College on the wrong evening. And apologies to the Irish Georgian Society as well.

The third error is charmingly brought to the attention of the editor by the following letter.

Mrs. E. E. Kimball  
Glenridge Hospital  
Schenectady, N. Y. 12302

February 20, 1973  
To Editor of Stockade:  
Dear Mr. Elsbree,

I have lived in Schenectady over 50 years so am pretty well acquainted with the town, especially the old part. I note in current issue of Stockade Spy (Feb.) you speak of Cucumber Alley and Frog Alley as being the same. They were not—Cucumber Alley was a sort of continuance of Front Street and Frog Alley was where Hotel Van Dyke stood—Fred Auchanpaugh, Saratoga Road will agree with me.

I enjoy your paper. Good luck to you.

Yours,  
Mary Anders Kimball

Thank you, Mrs. Kimball, for keeping the facts straight. —Editor

## MEETING MINUTES

(Continued from Page 3)

would allow the president to serve more than two consecutive terms.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Lamont,  
Recording Secretary.

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# STOCKADE ASSOCIATION MEETING MINUTES

## Stockade Association General Meeting Minutes — Monday, January 29, 1973

President James Schmitt called the meeting to order at 8:00 P.M. The minutes of November's general meeting were accepted as printed in the Spy.

**Treasurer's Report:** Will Taggart reported \$304.54 in the savings account and \$1764.00 in the checking account. Dues account for \$518.00 and that amount represents an 80% return on dues.

**Correspondence:** Mrs. Merrill Brown moved and Mrs. Lavinia Shanklin seconded the motion that the Association maintain its corporate membership in the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Sally Bishop will be the Association's representatives at the New York Legislative Forum. Mrs. Brown gave a short outline of the forum's aims.

Mr. Schmitt received a letter from Commissioner Henry Diamond about airport noise. The state is currently seeking legal means to abate aircraft noise. Mr. Diamond believes action on the federal level will be the quickest solution. Mr. Schmitt commented that there is now forming a larger citizen's committee which would consider the total environmental impact of all proposed improvements at the county airport. Mrs. Bishop reported on her meeting with Assemblyman Clark Wemple. Mr. Wemple stated the problem was related to flight patterns and referred the delegation to the county level. Mrs. Bishop suggests continuation of a letter writing campaign.

**New Members:** Mr. Schmitt introduced new members including Mr. and Mrs. Carl Miller, Joe Stigliano, and Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Parker.

**Guests:** Mrs. Peg Harrison introduced Mrs. Nuala Reuter. Mrs. Reuter is a native of Ireland and is active in the American branch of the Irish Georgian Society. The Society preserves and restores Georgian architecture in Ireland. Mr. Desmond Guinness, of the society, will present a slide show at Union's Memorial Chapel on March 9 at 8:00 P.M. Donation is \$2.00. There will be a reception following the presentation at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Smith.

**Old Business:** There was no old business.

**Chairman Reports:** Mrs. Harriett Scott reported on the snow sculpture scheduled for Saturday, February 17. The theme is "Birth of a Nation" and the judging will be from 2:30 to 4:30 P.M. Mrs. Scott hopes to receive national coverage via the Associated Press. She hopes the sculptors will choose an historic event as subject matter.

Jane Ricard and Ted Kurtz are forming committees for the Memorial Day Picnic.

**Gathering at John Elsbree's:** On Tuesday, January 16, John Elsbree and Mr. Schmitt hosted an informal meeting to interest younger people in the Stockade area in the Association. The meeting was used to explain the activities of the Association to those who do not attend meetings.

At this point, Mr. Schmitt raised the possibility of forming a study committee. This committee would prepare a master plan of the area. Discussion followed. One suggestion was that this committee should represent a cross-section of the residents plus an input from absentee landlords. The question of compiling a Stockade directory arose. The general feeling was that this would take an inordinate amount of work to compile and then to keep up to date. The 1970 census, the list of registered voters in the First Ward, and the city directories are all available.

**Tax Exemption:** Will Taggart reported that he is in the process of applying for tax exempt status and incorporation as a non-profit organization's name.

**National Register and Zoning:** The Stockade area historic district application, which contains a photographic and literary survey of the area, is in Washington. It was sent to Washington in October, 1972. The Board voted to assert pressure to have the application reviewed as soon as possible. Mr. Schmitt will contact Congressman Samuel Stratton.

Louis Navias reported that a committee is currently considering the Barton/Ashman report on zoning. This committee will make recommendations to the planning commission and the planning commission then goes to the common council. The Barton/Ashman zoning cuts into the present historic district boundary. The Stockade Association Board prepared a zoning change which enlarges the present boundary. The Association boundary corresponds with the boundary in the application to the National Register. Dr. Navias will continue to follow the progress of the study committee and the Association will be present at public hearings to present the Association's position.

**Constitution:** Mr. Schmitt stated there would be an amendment before the membership to delete the amount of dues from the actual constitution. Mr. Elsbree proposed an amendment that


(Continued on Page 4)




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