

THE STOCKADE SPY



March 1976

Published by The Stockade Association

Vol. XVI, Number 7

A Stockade couple, Mr. and Mrs. Van Voast of Front Street, were recent witnesses to the Guatemala Earthquake. Here is their story.

EARTHQUAKE

As I write this brief account of our earthquake experience in Guatemala, just one month ago, as requested by Pat Davidsen, it seems to me that most of the shocking and fearful experience has been somehow erased from my mind. I guess that is nature's way of making it possible to get over the effects of traumatic experiences and readjust to a normal way of life.

At any rate, here's what happened to Mary and me, shortly after we arrived in Guatemala on February 1st to begin a long planned two month winter holiday in that fascinating Central American country. We flew directly from New York City, and found our small apartment in a modern six-story building very pleasant. Our first two days were spent in shopping, local sight seeing and brushing up on our ability to make our sadly neglected Spanish more useful than it was as a means of communication. We turned in early Tuesday night, our third since our arrival, and all went well until about 3 a.m. Wednesday, when "Wham!"

We were on our feet almost instantly, in complete darkness, and instinctively knew it was an earthquake, and a violent one. The building shook back and forth so fast that it seemed as if it certainly would collapse the next moment, but strangely enough the duration of the quake was so brief (about 39 seconds) that it ended before a person, awakened from a sound sleep, had barely enough time to realize that he should be scared stiff. I guess we both were, but didn't fully grasp the enormity of what was happening all around us, before it was all over. The lights in the building, and in fact in the entire city went out, all public services cut off, and as we were soon to realize, would be for some time.

The tragic part of it all was of course, the terrible loss of life, the thousands injured and left homeless, the disrupted life of the entire country and loss of property.

Some time soon we hope to return, and intend to do so at a time when the fine people of Guatemala have recovered from their disaster and want to welcome visitors again to their normally lovely country.

Hoddy Van Voast

DONATIONS SOUGHT FOR SCHENECTADY ANTIQUE AUCTION

Donations are sought for an April 14, antique auction at the Schenectady Museum.

Mrs. Harold P. Curran, chairwoman of the sale, announced that the following items will be welcome: antique furniture, including art nouveau, art deco and oak, silver, pewter, crocks and jugs, pottery, including Canton, creamware, Staffordshire, and Chinese export porcelain.

Also, glassware — including depression, carnival, tinware, quilts and coverlets, toys, jewelry, stamps and coins, primitives, Victorian scrapbooks, frames, postcards and records, baskets, old tools, early radio equipment, musical equipment, early photos and equipment, Native American items, prints and paintings.

Donations in these categories may be deposited at the museum on Nott Terrace Heights in downtown Schenectady between 1 and 4 p.m., Tuesdays through Sundays preceding the auction. All items donated are tax deductible within the limits of the tax law.

Make arrangements for pick-up of large items by phoning the museum at 372-3386.

PROGRAMS FOR '76

Vrooman Room
Schenectady County
Historical Society

Wednesday, April 14 — 7:30 PM
*Annual Meeting — Manuscripts of
The American Revolution*

Wednesday, May 12 — 7:30 PM
Decorated American Tinware
Margaret Coffin — Author/Teacher

Wednesday, June 9 — 7:30 PM
*Colonial American Music
and Its Sources*
William Carrigan — Harpsichordist

The *SPY* wishes to thank everyone listed for their support.

PATRONS OF THE SPY

DONALD B. TASSEDY
THE CHASE STEERS TAVERN
GORDON ALLEN
BIG BROTHERS, BIG SISTERS
OF SCHENECTADY COUNTY
MR. and MRS. HAROLD McNEAL
PHILIP L. ALGER
A. NOTHER FRIEND
MIRIAM ROHRER SHELBY
SUZANNE B. SHERWOOD
BERNICE E. HODGES
MARGUERITE B. PEARSON

Please help the *SPY* — send your contribution to:

Box 1661, Schenectady, N.Y.



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

A VEGETABLE GARDEN

George Washington said in a letter written in 1788, "The more I am acquainted with agricultural affairs, the better I am pleased with them; insomuch, that I can nowhere find so great satisfaction as in those innocent and useful pursuits."

In a letter to Charles E. Peale dated in 1811 Thomas Jefferson advised, "No occupation is so delightful to me as the culture of the earth, and no culture comparable to that of the garden. Such a variety of subjects, some one always coming to perfection. The failure of one thing repaired by the success of another, and instead of one harvest a continued one through the year."

If you liked to make mud pies or build sand castles or play in dirt as a child you are probably well qualified to be a successful gardener.

The first rule for a beginner is keep your garden small and near the house. Small because it is best to have a garden that you can maintain in a satisfactory fashion after the enthusiasm of spring diminishes in the hot humid days of summer. Near the house because of convenience and also because woodchucks and racoons are less likely to be a nuisance. Don't think that the population of the Stockade does not include some of the aforementioned animals.

The time to start is as soon as the soil is dry enough to be worked, without compacting.

Seeds that are hardy and may be planted about April 1st or as soon as the ground is tillable are: kohlrabi, onion sets, parsley, peas, radishes, spinach and turnips. About April 15 beets, carrots, swiss chard and parsnips may be planted. On June 1st varieties which require warm weather go in and include beans, squash, cucumbers, corn and tomatoes.

"How to Grow Your own Vegetables" by Michael Kressy is a good source of additional information as is "Vegetables and Fruits", one of the volumes in the Time-Life Encyclopedia of Gardening.

There are numerous garden plans outlined in seed catalogues, magazine articles, etc. It's a good idea to have a plan, drawn to scale, but it does not necessarily have to be a small version of a football field. Last year I had a 15' x 15' square made available by the removal of a worn-out strawberry patch. A design suggested by Jacques Ramé in his original plan for Union College was used. In the center a circle of pole beans was located. This was surrounded with a brick walk with a kale border. There were clumps of fresh beans in each corner and a square border of marigolds on the outside. The effect was quite pleasant and the beans helped to improve the soil by manufacturing valuable nitrogen.

The introduction of flowers in a vegetable garden provides added interest. In this bicentennial year a combination of red, white and blue bachelor buttons might be worthy of consideration as the Stockade has existed under three red, white and blue flags — Dutch, British, and the United States.

An investment of \$20.00 in seed produces at least \$200.00 in produce in our garden. Beets and carrots keep very well throughout the winter in a simple root cellar made from a 55 gallon steel drum covered with dirt. Leek and parsnips stay in the ground and are a welcome addition to the menu when the soil thaws in the spring. Winter squash keeps very well in an unheated room or storage room in the cellar. In addition frozen beans, broccoli and tomato sauce are an added convenience.

Something should be said about compost both because of the importance of improving the quality of soil with organic material and because of the pleasure derived from producing something out of nothing. A scientific compost pile may be made by constructing layers of carbonaceous wastes and nitrogenous wastes. The carbonaceous materials include fallen leaves, pine needles, hay, straw, sawdust, wood chips and chopped cornstalks. Nitrogenous wastes include, green grass clippings, green weeds, vegetable wastes, garbage, digested sewage sludge, manure and soil. The material should be moist but not wet and the whole pile should be turned over at 8 to 12 week intervals to hasten decomposition.

A quotation from Walt Whitman's "Leaves of Grass" follows:

"This Compost"

"Compost is soil's natural balancing agent, building up and breaking down Through its chemistry It grows such sweet things out of such corruptions. . . It gives such divine materials to man, and accepts such leavings from them at last."

Dawson Van E.

BUS TRIP TO "AMERICA'S GREATEST GARDEN" OPEN TO ALL

A bus trip to the Arnold Arboretum near Boston and a walking tour of the famous garden is planned May 13 by the Thursday Natural plant study group. They welcome anyone interested in joining them.

The Arnold Arboretum's 265 acres contain some 6,000 varieties of ornamental trees and shrubs from all over the North Temperate zone. Each plant is labeled with its common and scientific names, age, and origin. Among the plants blooming in May will be azaleas, dogwoods, horse-chestnut, redbuds, silverbells and the rare dogwood tree.

The bus will leave from Mohawk Mall at 7 a.m. arriving at the Arboretum about 10:30. Participants will bring their own picnic lunches, and the bus will stop at the Public House in Sturbridge for a Dutch Treat dinner. Cost of the bus will be \$15.00. The Arboretum is free. In case of rain the trip will go to the Peabody Museum at Harvard and visit the famous Ware collection of glass flowers and other exhibits.

Those interested should call Todd at 399-3286. Deadline for sign-ups is May 1. The tour will be limited to the first 39 people who sign-up.

FRIENDS OF THE STOCKADE

STOCKADE TOURS By Appointment

Donation: Adults \$1.50 (Min. \$5.00)
Special rates for Students.

Call: Mrs. J. W. Joyce — 393-8622
Mrs. Robert George — 393-3290

PLANNING A BICENTENNIAL GARDEN?

For a late May or early June planting, start your seeds in middle to late March. Seeds should be sown inside at least 8 weeks before planting outside.

How about a garden in red, white, and blue petunias? Verbena are just as effective and are available in all three colors.

The ambitious gardener may try to plant a living American "flag" in red, white, and blue flowers. Or a bed of blue surrounding a large red seven and a six of white.

FOCUS AGREES TO DOWNTOWN SURVEY OF TRAFFIC, PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION

Schenectady's FOCUS Redevelopment Corp. agreed Wednesday, Feb. 25, 1976, to participate in a federally aided study of traffic and pedestrian circulation in the downtown business district.

Greg MacConnell, planner for the Capital District Transportation Commission (CDTC), outlined the study proposal to the FOCUS board at its monthly meeting. He said the study, which would begin early next year, would cost \$25,000 of which the city will pay 5 percent in fees and/or services.

The study would be conducted by the city engineering department, FOCUS, CDTC and the State Transportation Department. Its purpose is to provide a comprehensive analysis and plan for street layout, pedestrian and vehicular traffic circulation, parking and the proposed downtown mass transit terminal.

MacConnell said the city council will be asked to agree to the study. The time between March and the start of the study would be consumed with paperwork seeking state and federal approval for the study scope and funding.

James Duggan, FOCUS executive director, said "one way or another" the city needs the results of such a study so it can put plans for the downtown business district into operation.

Kenneth George, city development director, agreed, saying, "A traffic circulation study is something we definitely need in an overall plan for downtown."

In other business, FOCUS authorized Duggan to provide the developers of the State Street-Erie Boulevard area with specific recommendations for their economic analysis and marketability study for the downtown area.

Duggan said he received a letter from Robert Garbade, project contractor, authorizing him to seek and recommend the services of a consultant for the study. His analysis recommendations state they are aimed at producing a "clear, compelling justification to establish the prompt and coordinated action essential to redevelopment and optimum benefits for our community."

His study recommendations include defining and evaluating the current economic productivity of private and public properties in the business area; establishing short- and long-term market potentials for further investment downtown; forecasting the effects on the city tax base if the downtown area is not redeveloped over periods of two, five and ten years; identifying specific market potentials which should be promoted by the community through development projects, and recommending strategies for promoting appropriate projects, both in retail business investment and residential and light industrial areas.

Letters to the Editor

Feb. 25, 1976

Editor, Stockade SPY:

On February 11, the Schenectady Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) heard a petition from Mr. Lachowicz to override a decision of the Historical District Commission (HDC) and to allow him to replace wooden porch posts with iron ones at 2 Ingersoll Ave., and to apply aluminum siding there. In order, I think to avoid another direct rebuke to the HDC, the BZA kept one or two requirements set by the HDC, but the BZA granted most of this petition.

The Stockade area has been called an outdoor museum; I say fine — there are some museum pieces here, which carry plaques and date before 1825. This museum concept, applied to less distinguished buildings of the type that were torn down right and left in our recent urban renewal effort, is not supported by the Bard law, and leads the HDC into decisions that the BZA has to reverse. It is *not* "appropriate and reasonable control of the use or appearance of neighboring private property within the public view" to hold that rotting Victorian porches are community assets, to be renewed by the owner forever like the Japanese shrine at Ise, even if several such porches happen now to stand in a row.

Sincerely,
John Bradshaw
223 Green St.
Schenectady, N.Y. 12302

The Shop at St. George's 30 NORTH FERRY STREET

many beautiful and
useful gift items

open Tuesday thru Saturday

10 - 4

something new every week

stop in and browse



Veronica W. Lynch
REAL ESTATE 5 SOUTH CHURCH ST
PHONE EX. 3-3609



SCHENECTADY'S FIRST BANK

Serving the Stockade Area
Since 1807

Mohawk National Bank

Get together with the money planners



SCHENECTADY TRUST
Member FDIC
A FULL SERVICE BANK
TEL 393-4131

At your service with 13 convenient locations in the city of Schenectady, and Towns of Clifton Park, Colone, Glenville, Gunderland, Niskayuna and Rotterdam.



GRAUBART

WINE & LIQUOR CO. INC.

WIDE SELECTION
WINES LIQUORS
CORDIALS SPECIETIES

374-6060
OPEN 9AM-9PM

LOCATED NEXT TO PARKING LOT

OPEN

Arthur's
Market

From 9 to 6

AT THE
INDIAN

on Saturday also

Abon
CLEANERS



OPEN DAILY
7:30 TO 6
SATURDAY
8 TO 1

21 STATE ST.

TIDINGS:

Mr. and Mrs. Mark C. Lewis of North Church St. have returned from a trip to Florida and a visit with Mrs. Lewis's parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Bartling, in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Dawson Van Eps of Front St. have returned from a cruise on the American-Canadian Line's New Shoreham to the Bahamas.

Mrs. J. Gilbert Parker of North Church St. has been visiting family and friends in Charleston, West Virginia, and Washington, D.C.

Mrs. Giles Y. van der Bogert has returned from a trip to Bermuda with her son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Giles Y. van der Bogert and their sons, Giles Y., and Johann M.

Mrs. Gerald Perkins and Miss Nina Rose have returned from a trip to Puerto Rico.

We welcome Miss Karen Pollack to North Ferry St.

Unhappily we are losing the Theodore E. Kurtz family who are moving to Buffalo, N.Y. Every member of that family did so much for the neighborhood and for their close neighbors they will be sorely missed.

Mrs. J. W. Sculli and her daughter Mrs. Piscetelli are back from a visit to St. Thomas.

Mrs. John M. Bradbury is back from a visit with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John T. Glenn, in Louisville, Kentucky. Mr. Glenn celebrated his 100th birthday at a reception in Louisville.

Welcome Mr. Ronald Cook to North Ferry St.

Marvin W. Friedman entertained at a reception at his home on Union St. following a concert presented by the Schenectady Concert Association.

The Schenectady Art Society presented the works of Nicholas Morello at the Great Hall at St. George's Church with an opening reception on February 29th.

Mrs. George D. Braden and Miss Anne Braden have returned from a vacation in Bermuda.

Mr. and Mrs. Neff T. Dietrich have returned from a trip to Spain.

Mr. and Mrs. Eric C. Fisher have bought property on Green St.

"The discovery of a new dish is more beneficial to mankind than the discovery of a new star." Brillat-Savarin

IMPOSSIBLE PIE

1/4 cup margarine

1/2 cup Bisquick

1 cup cocoanut

4 eggs

2 cups milk

1 tsp. vanilla

3/4 cup sugar

Blend all ingredients in a blender for 2 minutes. Pour into a greased and floured 10-inch pie plate (the 10-inch size is necessary).

Bake 30-40 minutes at 350°.

This recipe was given to the SPY by Mary Jane Van Voast who said it resembled cocoanut custard pie.

BICENTENNIAL WORRIES

There are some worried Glenville officials concerning the big bicentennial goings-on in Scotia's Collins Park this summer. Plans are to rent some trailers with rest rooms for those who will attend the festivities and tour the Bicentennial Barge to be docked off Schonowe Avenue in July. "Can you imagine having only a few rest room facilities for an expected crowd of 50,000 a day?" one Glenville town official asked, wrinkling his brow and thinking about taking a vacation when the barge floats down the river to Scotia.

Scotia and Glenville officials are also making plans for the heavy traffic expected in the area. There are bound to be traffic jams but village and town authorities are trying to map out a plan to alleviate that problem. One idea is to run shuttle buses from the General Electric parking lot across the river from Scotia.

All the towns in the county are steaming ahead with all kinds of plans for the 200th anniversary of the good old U.S.A. Balls, parades, carnivals and concerts will be part of the celebration throughout the area.

