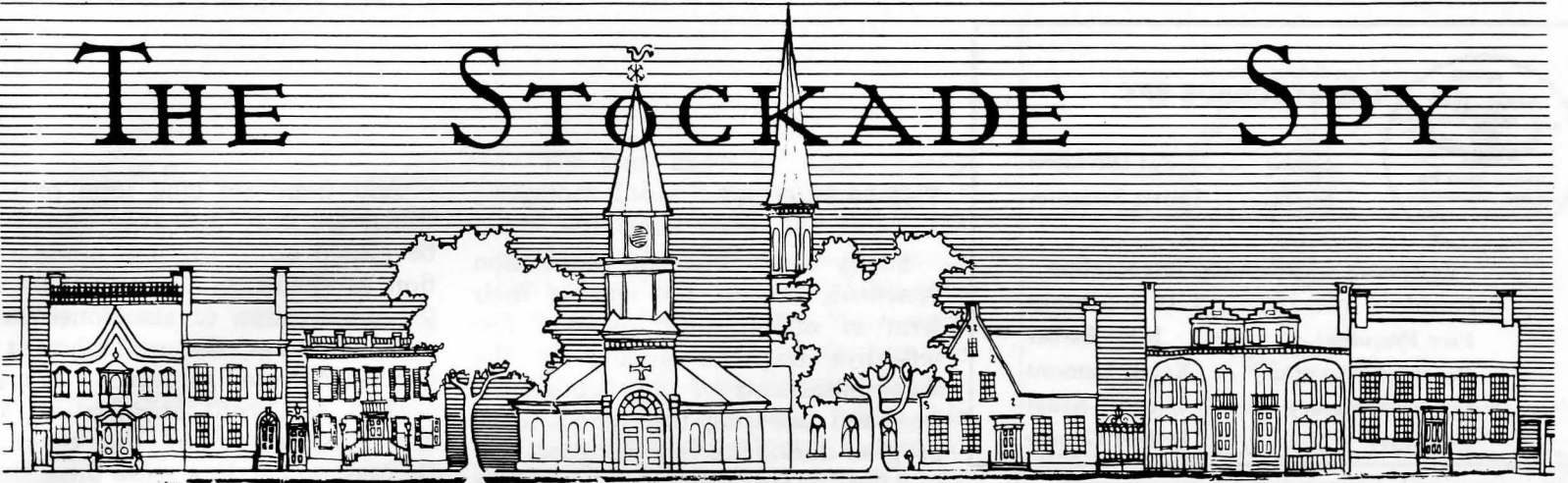


THE STOCKADE SPY



MAY 1975

Published by The Stockade Association

Vol. XV, Number 9

POOR FIREFLY

Ah there! You fluttering firefly!
I've waited thru the long dreary Spring
For you to finally appear with your
erratic flashing
Against the background of my dark-
ened evening lawn.

So many early summer nights have I
watched my sons
And my daughter, too, when they
were little,
In wild abandon chasing you as you so
errantly frolicked
Thru the blackened nights of a
summer lately come.

And I wonder, if maybe the sons of
my sons' sons

Ad infinitum, and daughters, too,
Will romp in a similar wild rampage
On some future darkened lawn
With a bottle in their hands,
To seize your sons or their sons' sons
Ad infinitum, and their daughters, too
(why not?)
To halt their fluttering flight
And seal their phosphorescence in a
bottle.

And maybe, will come the morning
and they will see
Those glittering lights are gone
And their bottled prison stilled with
the inert bodies

Of your sons' sons and daughters, Ad
infinitum

And they will then release these life-
less creatures from their con-
finement

To fall out upon the dew laden grass.

And mayhap they will wonder,
What happened to the fitful flashes of
light

That broke thru the darkness of even-
ing before,
And maybe they will be a little
saddened!

And yet, they will conspire, I am sure
To renew the game another night to
capture and to bottle

New victims who may be your sons'
sons and daughters, too,
Ad infinitum.

And even tho they tire of the sport
They will pass on a heritage of this
pursuit

To their sons' sons and daughters, too,
Ad infinitum.

It's sad, is it not, that this progeny of
yours

Cannot be left in peace to fly willy-
nilly,

And fleetingly like fireflies should
And not be chased and bottled
By innocent little kids who don't
understand

That fireflies should be left to fly like
this

And make savage love mid-air
Whilst they cavort over one's dark-
ened lawn

On those first nights of a long awaited
summer.

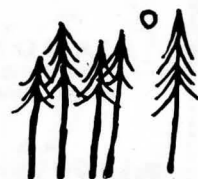
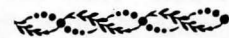
by Ernie Cohen


A NEW LOOK AT OLD ALBANY

On June 7th there will be the first
House and Garden Tour sponsored by
The Historic Albany Foundation.
There will be eight homes and an
historic Albany church open to the
public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and
there will be ample parking. Tickets
will be on sale the day of the tour at
Willet and State Street and at Lark
and Jay Street (at the foot of Wash-
ington Park). Refreshments will be
served. The donation of \$3.00 will be
used to reclaim the once beautiful
area of downtown Albany.



The *SPY* notes with sadness the pass-
ing of Walter Snyder of North Street.





THE STOCKADE SPY

Editor Pat Davidsen
Business . . . Lorna Strattner

Sponsors — Stockade Association
President J. D. J. Schmitt
Vice President John Barber
Recording Secretary . . . Karen Lamont
Corres. Secretary . . . T. Gregory Sauer
Treasurer Robert George

18th Annual Membership Meeting
 MAY 19, 1975 — 8 P.M.
 AT THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
 ALL ARE WELCOME!

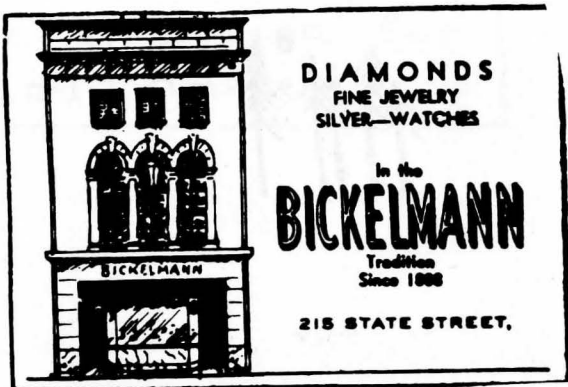
HELPFUL HINTS

FILLING CRACKS — hairline (or larger) in plaster or wood, use joint compound from paint or hardware stores. Easier to work with than spackle; has consistency of, and handles like, finish-coat plaster; dries hard, sands easily.

STRIPPING WOODWORK — try a stiff, brass-bristled brush, like those used to clean white-wall tires (can be bought at auto supply stores). Much easier to work with than steel wool, especially on heavily carved ornamentation. When bristles clog, dip in alcohol to clean, and continue working.

Outside doors need good, safe locks, but also check the hinges. With old loose-pin hinges, new locks won't help keep trouble out.

PAINTED MARBLE — if it can be laid flat, soak for several days in Spic 'n Span solution. Then use a stiff-bristle scrub brush to loosen the paint. Marble should emerge unharmed, with a satin-finish surface.



DIAMONDS
FINE JEWELRY
SILVER—WATCHES

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THE PRESIDENT

Surely every Stockade Association President, toward the end of their term in office, must spend a few reflective moments adding up the accomplishments of their administration and assessing the Association's progress during the year just past.

After three successive years in office, I now find myself at that day of reckoning. On balance I feel the Officers and Board of Directors, the Chairpersons and their committees and the Membership and the Residents of the Stockade all turned in a superb performance and deserve the gratitude of all. They are the ones who have successfully propelled the Association through its programmed functions for this past year.

The successful Memorial Day Picnic kicked-off the year with Vice-President John Barber at the helm. The *SPY* brought the neighborhood scene to a thousand doorsteps each month under the talented direction of Editor Pat Davidsen and Manager Lorna Strattner. Dawson Van Eps delighted us with an ever more beautiful Indian Circle. More than eleven hundred people were enchanted by the wonders of the 15th Annual Walk-about, again staged by Ann George, Gertrude Naylor, Lavinia Shanklin and John Elsbree. The committee headed by Louis Navias to strengthen our Historic Zoning Law presented a membership-approved resolution to City Council for their enactment. The July Stockade evening at SPAC Ballet was exciting and entertaining under the imaginative organizing of Lynn Barber and Diddy Quinn. Treasurer Bob George completed an up-to-date membership roster and reported membership up, dues up, and Heritage Fund savings up. Bill Davidsen's traffic study has restructured vehicular movement through the Stockade for a review by the City Manager. Karl Miller and Henry Binzer continued their enthusiastic leadership to all outdoor and Park activities. Karen Lamont and Jane Ricard recorded and "achieved" the Association's activities throughout the year. All Stockaders thrilled to their most wondrous Christmas gift, the Annual Lighting of the Tree at the Indian Circle, this year organized by Barbara and Gregg Sauer.

And there are long term projects which are only formative enough to be passed on to the new administration as challenges. Among these are the preservation of abandoned landmark buildings, the establishment of our incorporated association as a tax exempt non-profit organization, and the development of the Stockade Heritage Fund. In a sense these three projects of preservation, tax exemption and revolving fund form a direction for our organization to achieve its ultimate goals of preservation and rehabilitation of this Historic District.

We must never lose sight of the fact that the overriding consideration of any organization is not how well it perpetuates itself but rather how well it achieves its aim.

J. D. Schmitt

TIDINGS

by Suzy Sherwood

Michele Brzoza of 151 Front Street was married to Peter Stabinski in candlelight service at St. Mary's Church on April 26th at seven P.M. Best wishes to the happy couple!

The many neighbors who have been concerned over George Staffa are happy to welcome him home to Front Street from Sunnyview. His daughter Susan Staffa is expected to return from the Middle East in June to live with him.

Welcome to John and Barbara Nyland and son Justin of 19 Ingersoll Avenue.

Dr. Charles Lasky and his family have been visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lasky of Ingersoll Avenue. Dr. Lasky is a Captain in the U.S. Air Force, stationed in California and came East to attend a Medical Seminar in Boston.

Come one, Come all — a Strawberry Festival at Riverside School — May 23 from 6:30 to 8:30 P.M. There will be booths, games, good food and fun!

Jeanne Murray of 166 Front Street is back from a Spring vacation in the Virgin Islands.

John Elsbree and Werner Feibe spent a day in New York City going to Museums.

Frederick Wells visited his daughter Karen Lamont. Karen and her husband Burt will be going to the Coopers-Town Graduate Study Conference.

Teddy Sherwood will be working on the *Saratogian*.

The Duggans and Squires spent a weekend in New York City during the children's Spring vacation from Riverside School.

"We two know so many secrets together. I shan't divulge them all. But that old rascal down the street! Oh goodness, what I could tell you about him! He did have his respectable days as we both have now. Yes, it was once the home and office of Dr. van der Bogert. In fact it was here that his son was born, the guy that writes this column. Then the Doctor moved to 111 Union Street and rented 216 to a group of GE Test men. I don't know if you know what Test men were like in those days. They tested everything, including a Prohibition test of gin formulae: which proportions of water to alcohol to juniper juice got you there faster. As an old lady I won't divulge who these young men were. Truly it would not be proper because they became some of our most respected citizens. However, I am glad to still be around to talk about it."

Giles Y. van der Bogert



WALLS HAVE EARS

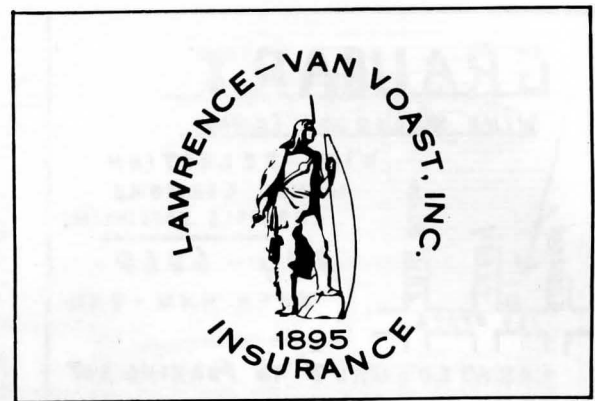
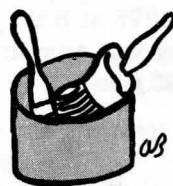
As you walk up Union Street above Ferry, you cannot help but feel how the city grew. You come upon row houses, Gothic and Romanesque Revivals, and Victorian, all fitting into place because the Presbyterian Church, an old lady and an old gentleman give the street mellowness.

220 Union, the little frame and brick house of Jacobus Van Antwerp, ca. 1740, sits there like a pristine little lady looking at all the victorian youths around her and you can hear her say:

"Why do they call them Victorian? I was here when the Georges reigned. I fought the War of Independence. So I became free only to hear a bunch of intellectuals call the new buildings being built around me Victorian! What's it all about? *She* never reigned here.

"It is sad that lots of my old friends were torn down to be replaced by those things. Oh! I lost many good friends. But I must confess I bought a new hat. Look at my front porch, new for me but modest and nice. I think it becomes an old lady who is trying to keep up with the times.

"Now, if I may gossip, let me tell you about the gentleman down the street. I refer to the Abraham Grant House at 216. He is younger than I am, born about 1800. He is an old rascal but I like him even though he has bought a new suit to keep up with the Victorians.



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Stockade Memorial Day Picnic

MAY 24, 1975

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**STOCKADE ASSOCIATION
 GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

March 31, 1975

President James Schmitt called the meeting to order at 8:45 p.m. Mr. Schmitt introduced Cobb and Jane Milner who are the new owners of the Yates House (57 Front Street).

The minutes of the last general meeting were approved as published in the *SPY*.

Treasurer's Report: Bob George reported that as of March 31, 1975, there is \$2,604.00 in the General Fund and \$1,820.00 in the Heritage Fund. Income from January 24 to March 31 was \$48.00 and expenditures were \$100.00 for annual insurance and \$10.00 for delivery of flyers.

Nominating Committee: Two officers, President and Treasurer, and three Board positions are up for election in May. The Board members whose positions are up are Louis Navias, Bill Davidsen, and Jane Ricard. Members of the nominating committee are Pat Davidsen, John Barber, and Louis Navias.

Historic District Zoning: John Barber presented to the membership a resolution to strengthen the present zoning ordinance. The amendment would expand the present boundaries to correspond with the boundaries in the National Historic Register. It would also protect all buildings in the district from demolition. In the existing ordinance, only those buildings dating from 1825 and before are protected; all later buildings are only subject to a one year delaying period. The new ordinance would protect all buildings from demolition unless they were a threat to public safety.

John Elsbree pointed out that even the expanded boundaries did not include the Floyd Ladd gasoline station. He suggested an amendment to include Floyd Ladd in the boundaries. Louis Navias moved and Jo Braden seconded a motion to accept the proposed resolution with an amendment to include Floyd Ladd in the boundaries. The question was called and accepted unanimously.

The Annual Meeting will be Monday, May 19, 1975 at 8:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Schmitt at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
 Karen Lamont,
 Recording Secretary

**THE GREAT STOCKADE
 CHRISTMAS CARD CONTEST**

Last year, the board decided to print and sell Stockade Christmas Cards. Because there was a very good chance that they would not be ready in time for sale, it was decided to have a Christmas Card Contest, and to select two pen and ink drawings at the Fall Art Show.

Why talk about it now? Because, in the Spring, strange changes come over artists, causing them to mill about the Stockade, clad in smocks and/or berets, and to paint pictures of everything in sight, in every known artistic media.

If you are subject to these strange urges, consider that we will be choosing two pen and ink drawings for Stockade Christmas Cards, at the Art Show. Think of the fame within your grasp!!

More details will be published in the first or second *SPY* of the Fall, but now is the time to start planning an entry. As an aid to artistic creation, perhaps you can pretend the pigeon droppings are snow.

Bill Davidsen

The *SPY* notes with sadness the passing of Mr. and Mrs. William Kunkelmann of 211 Green Street. We extend our sympathy to their family and friends.

The *SPY* would like to thank everyone who helped to make this year a success for the *SPY*, especially Lorna Strattner of College Street and Suzy Sherwood of Front Street.

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