

THE STOCKADE SPY

MAY 1988


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A foggy morning - with Spring not far behind.

Photo by John Eoff

MEMBER

STOCKADE SPY

NATIONAL TREASURY FOR
 HISTORIC PRESERVATION

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TIPS FROM MC GRUFF



Support The Neighborhood Watch

Security While Traveling

You are probably more vulnerable to theft, robbery, or even assault while you are traveling away from home than you'd like to think. You can, however, substantially reduce your chances of becoming a crime victim while traveling by taking a few sensible precautions, such as those described below.

- If you are traveling by automobile, empty the trunk of unnecessary items. Never leave anything valuable in the car unless it is stored in the locked trunk or covered storage well. If you turn your car over to a parking attendant or service station, leave only the ignition key, never leave the trunk key or house keys. Make sure your house keys don't have your name or address on them.
- Portable citizen band radios should be removed from the passenger compartment and put in the locked trunk whenever you stay for any length of time and the car is out of sight.
- When you stop at a hotel or motel you should determine the most direct route to and from your room, the most direct route to the fire escapes, elevators and nearest hall phone. Lingering in hallways or other isolated areas is an invitation for assault.
- When in your room, use all auxiliary locking devices on doors and windows. Don't rely on chains only as a deterrent. Use the door viewer to identify anyone requesting entry before you open the door. Then open the door only if you are certain the person has legitimate reason to enter your room. If in doubt, call the hotel/motel office.

Any letters, articles, poems, or other contributions may be sent or dropped off either at 250 Green St. or 43 Washington Ave. #6. That way you may use the location nearest to you if delivering in person. All items will be considered for future issues - with a big thank you.

Extra copies of the Spy may be obtained at Arthur's Market and the Schenectady County Historical Society on Washington Avenue.

Letter From The Editor:

Dear Readers:

Since this will be the last Spy until the Fall, I would like to thank all of you who have contributed in any way to making the Spy a community paper. Our distributor, Sherri Foster (assisted by her mother, I believe), will be graduating and no longer able to deliver the paper. Her task has not been an easy one, especially in wintery weather, and I thank her for her efforts to make sure we all received the paper in good condition. Let us join in wishing her all the best in her future plans. If you know of someone who might consider taking over in September, please let Dawson Van Eps know.

I was pleased to meet Tim Coakley recently and to thank him for his steady contributions to the jazz buffs. I have yet to meet John Eoff whose photos have given such elegance to our front page, but I will say a big thank you, and hope he will be with us again.

As for the rest of the team, Hal, Diane, Wendy, Dawson -- where would I be without their never failing support? Each one contributes so much to make my job easier --and more fun.

We have touched on some matters of serious concern to the Stockade in the last few issues, hoping that an informed neighborhood will make conscious decisions, protect themselves, and feel they belong to a community. I look forward to meeting many of you this summer as we walk the new path in the park or the old streets of our lovely Stockade.

Until September (August deadline!), take care.

The Editor

The Local Jewel: Union

Have you seen a license plate U1928 cruising the Stockade? Or seen radishes growing in that formation in a local yard? There are tales to be told about these phenomena, by our veteran spinner of tales, Dawson Van Eps. In 1928 he graduated from the College that has deep Stockade roots, Union. This will be a memorable occasion, a diamond anniversary, and surely newsworthy to the many Union grads who live here. The event takes place on June 10, 11, 12, so watch out for those livewires as they meet to relive the past. There will be an antique car parade, lots of "Growing old as gracefully as possible" signs (like Eubie Blake's, "If I'd known I was going to live this long, I'd have taken better care of myself."), and, you may be sure, good victuals and lots of sparkling talk. Congratulations to all you DIAMONDS, and may you continue to shine your light on us for many more years.

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Dog Owners Beware

With the warm weather approaching, many city residents will or have already experienced "dog related" nuisances. Many of these individuals have contacted the city's Environmental Health Bureau to report them. City Clerk Karen Morandi-Isabella states that dog owners have a responsibility to obey and practice the laws set forth in Chapter 144 of the City Code of Ordinances for the city of Schenectady.

Nuisances dog-owners will be held responsible for include: loud barking, running at large, defecating, digging or urinating on and causing destruction to property. Dog owners should also remember, when walking their pet, that defecating violates the city ordinance and violators could face fines. Stockadians should be aware that a small plastic bag carried in a pocket or handbag can be used to "clean up after pets."

Ms. Morandi-Isabella reminds city residents that the city dog ordinance was created to protect the health, safety, and well-being of persons and property. We all have a responsibility to ensure our pets' safety, as well as the safety of others. Ms. Morandi-Isabella urged pet owners to be considerate.

For further information, you may contact the Clerk's office at 107 City Hall. Animal Control Officers are ready to assist you and may be reached at 382-5264.

Stockade Association Meeting

The last Stockade Association meeting until September will be held on **May 25th**. The UCP and Staffa proposals will be addressed briefly. Dr. Richard B. Holzman, the new Schenectady Schools Superintendent will be the main speaker. He is a firm believer in public education and may be able to address some Stockadian's concerns.

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Tidings

Ah, tis the merry, merry month of May when the last strains of winter give way to bellowing of summer, and I for one, am ready to do some serious bellowing . . . You know, . . . Summertime . . . and the livin' is easy . . . da da da, de de de . . . However, I do realize that this may not necessarily be everyone's style . . . some folks choose to express their delight in the new season by gently coaxing wondrous things from the cold earth. Just take a walk around the Stockade and see . . . Albert Hall of College Street has a beautiful little garden blooming full of tulips and lots of other colorful flowers, while Dawson Van Eps, of Front Street has quite the arrangement in his vegetable garden; there's a big U made out of red brick, with 1928 spelled out in radishes, but more about that one a little later. Susan Bokan was recently "creating" her garden for this year and it already has that special Susan look . . . Unfortunately, when a plant sees me coming, it hastily excuses itself while inquiring about the nearest greenhouse.

Spring's arrival is always heralded by the Schenectady Garden Club's Standard Flower Show at the Schenectady Museum. This year the Stockade was exceptionally well represented. Father Vang, of St. Geroge's received a tricolor for his arrangement, and Barbara Edwards of Front Street was awarded a design blue ribbon. Congratulations!!!

And it's time for a round of hearty Stockadian kudos to Susan Duggan, who is a recent graduate of the Ellis School of Nursing. It's always good to welcome a new colleague to the profession especially at a time when the need is so great. Susan plans to continue her studies while joining the health care forces. Congratulations and keep up the good work.

On a sadder note, Marjorie Burke of Union St. was recently admitted to Ellis Hospital. Carol Romondo wishes to extend her thanks to all the wonderful folks in the Stockade who helped her find homes for Marjorie's pets Jacques and Puddy Cat. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Marjorie, and we all hope you're feeling better soon.

Summertime is usually the time we go off exploring the world. Our dear friend Lawrence did most of his wandering around throughout the winter months, so this way he can hold down the "fort" while the rest of us go off and frolic . . .

Welcome To The New Minister

The First Reformed Church has authorized a call to Reverend Vincent A. Fasano to be the permanent Associate Minister of Congregational Care. Mr. Fasano accepted the call on April 6, and hopes to arrive in Schenectady by the middle of June. He comes from the First Reformed Church in Pompton Plains, N.J., where he served for 20 years, and before that was at the US Army Air Defense Center in Texas, in the role of Director of Religious Education. He began theological studies in 1986 (after 27 years of Christian Education work), and was ordained in 1987. This call ends a six-month search, and consideration of 30 candidates. He and June Fasano - have two sons, Paul and Kenneth. We welcome this new addition to the Stockade in general, and to the First Reformed Church in particular, and wish the family a happy and fruitful life in the community.

Newspaper Drive

The Senior High Youth Group at First Reformed Church will be holding a newspaper drive from **May 10-17**. A Trailer will be placed in the parking lot on the corner of Church and Front Streets.

People are invited to drop off their papers (**newsprint only please**). The youth will be at the trailer and picking up papers on Saturday, May 14. Please have your papers **bagged or boxed** when you bring them to the trailer.

If you are unable to bring your papers down, please call 377-2201 before May 10 and we will arrange to pick them up during the drive.

Where was Lawrence all this time you say? Well . . . just as Rome wasn't built in a day, neither is an old tired Indian's face lifted, tummy tucked, fanny lifted, arrow sharpened or moccasins resewn. Lawrence is a very special kind of guy . . . he deserves extra-special attention, and he made sure he got it. From the Smithsonian on up, Lawrence made the rounds, checking credentials, i.e. Hummm . . . "oh, you worked on the Liberty Bell . . . I see. Well, don't call me, I'll call you." And he got just what he needed. I think he looks wonderful. Welcome back, old friend.

It's time for summer vacations, fun in the sun and back yard barbecues . . . But before all that, get the summer off to a really good start by headin' down to the park for the Stockade's first big summer event, the Memorial Day picnic in the park. This year it will be held on Saturday, June 4th from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. . . Mr. Will Rogers is the chief this year. Any volunteers, please call 382-1809. As usual all kinds of good food and fun will be on hand, so gather up the family and come on down for the day. See you there.

This next little tidbit was told to me recently and I just can't resist one brief history lesson before I bid all of you farewell for the summer. Being a relative newcomer to the area, I have noticed that whenever Noel and I take off to parts unknown, and we tell the folks we're from Schenectady, one of the first questions asked is what does that name mean? The second most frequently asked question is "How is it spelled?" Interestingly, everyone seems to have heard of it. Anyway, this explanation addresses both those questions, and it certainly seems as likely as any other I've heard . . .

The Mohawk in the 1600's was a shallow river, in fact it wasn't until the advent of the Barge Canal that it became really navigable. It seems that Indians traveling west from the Hudson had to make numerous portages carrying their canoes on their shoulders. One such Indian, arriving at the site of Schenectady with a raw neck from carrying his canoe, and determined to get some protection for his poor neck was overheard muttering to himself, "Skin neck today . . ."

Sooooo, the moral of that story is, make sure you keep your mutterings to yourself or you may have a whole city spending its life spelling its name at least 20 times a day . .

. you know, What's your address . . . HUH? Spell it." I cannot reveal my source for that story on pain of having to spell Schenectady 20 more times, so please, don't ask.

As many of you know, the Spy isn't published during the summer, the better to let y'all do your thing so I can tell all about it in the fall. But I have to say I've had an absolute ball working with Diane and Dawson and Mickie and Hal and getting to know all the neat people that make the Stockade so special. And I especially want to thank Maria Moore and Ruth Harvey for all their help in keeping tabs on all the comings and goings in the neighborhood. Of course, Spy par excellence is our own Arthur, who I think knows just about everything. It's not easy keeping up with all of you. And I'll be back in the fall . . . ready to tell it all. So, have a wonderful summer, and I'll see you in September . . .

Summer Happenings

Northeast happening on the Mohawk begins on Saturday, June 18th at 8 a.m. with human powered boat races, followed at 9 a.m. by boat rides for kids groups (SCCC to Lock 8).


Also at 9 a.m., Kitty-West morning cruise (SCCC to Lock 8).

At 12-3 p.m. the Kitty-West Parade Cruise lets you watch a 200 member boat parade that begins East of Rexford to SCCC.

The water-ski exhibition in Freedom Park is from 4-6 p.m., and a dinner cruise at 7 p.m. At 8-11 p.m. there will be a finale with an Electric Light 25 member boat parade.

Meanwhile there will be other events including a bikethon, clambake, pops concert, and antique boat display. All of this is sponsored by the **Schenectady Chapter American Red Cross**. Intrigued?

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Houses marching to the river's very edge
 Locking in small squares of greenery
 Towering trees alive with sound
 Of strident birds calling for their mates
 While at the tops on thinnest limbs
 Squirrels nest and raise their young
 With love and inoffensiveness -

Oblivious to the siren's sounds
 Pursuing violence and angry love,
 To strange savages in costume and red paint
 Calling tribes to rituals of dare.
 Yet pounding rhythms carry fear to treetop homes.
 New residents have come.

Did those now dusty Dutch, French, and silent warriors
 Read rightly nature's cold foreshadowing
 In silent snows, hot summer nights,
 The river's springtime swelling floods --
 Did they foresee the likes of you and me?

It cannot be
 For if they had all three'd
 Have joined their arms and hearts and dreams
 Into an unknown camaraderie,
 Chased us from the unspoiled streams
 Spilled their fecund seed into the river-rich black soil
 Stopped time -- like Lawrence on his pedestal.

Far better angel's spear
 Than awful dank morass
 Their future now has brought to pass.
 There are worse fates than fallow fields
 See what our progeny can yield.

Donald Van Denburgh

Jazz In The Stockade

by Tim Coakley

This will be the last of our jazz messages until fall, and we're calling it Jazz in the Stockade because there's a lot going on at various places.

To round out the month of May, on the 20th, Reggie's Red Hot Feet Warmers will be at the Van Dyck. This group features Lou Gardner on sax and clarinet, and proved quite a crowd-pleaser the last time. On Saturday, May 21, Doc Scanlon's Rhythm Boys make a return visit to the club.

The month will end on a sterling note, as John Mulroy takes over the Van Dyck piano bench on the 27th and 28th, joined by saxophonist Leo Russo. Leo is without doubt the finest sax man in the Capital District, and it will be a treat to hear him in such a wide-open setting. He's likely to bring his flute along as well.

The weekend of June 3 and 4 will be a good one for jazz: Teresa Broadwell and her group will be appearing at the Van Dyck, and the annual Stockade picnic will be held from 10 to 4 on Saturday, the 4th, down in Riverside Park. Music for the event will be provided by the Tim Coakley quartet (isn't this called nepotism or somethin?). Included in the group will be Rennie Crain on piano, Mike Flanagan on bass and Mike Canonico on trumpet. The group will play from 11 to 3, and a good time should be had. We have only two rules: shoes must be worn on the bandstand, and anyone who falls off must get back under his own power. (That's Eddie Condon's line, but it seems to fit with this bunch).

On June 10 and 11, Tony Zano will play the Steinway at the Van Dyck. Tony, who played often in the area in days past, has a new album out called In Retrospect. It's a fine album, and features a tune by our own Paul Mastriani. Tony will surely play it when he's here, especially if Paul is in the audience.

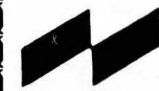
Finally, pianist Hod O'Brien and singer Stephanie Nakasian will make a welcome return to the Van Dyck on June 17-18. We've praised this duo in this space before, so let's just repeat what we said the last time: don't miss this pair.

If I may interject a non-Stockade note: the Jay Street Merchants will again be presenting live jazz once a month this summer, starting in June. The afore-mentioned T.C. combo will be playing on June 9 from 6 to 9 p.m. and on the second Thursday of each month through September. Hope to see you there.

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