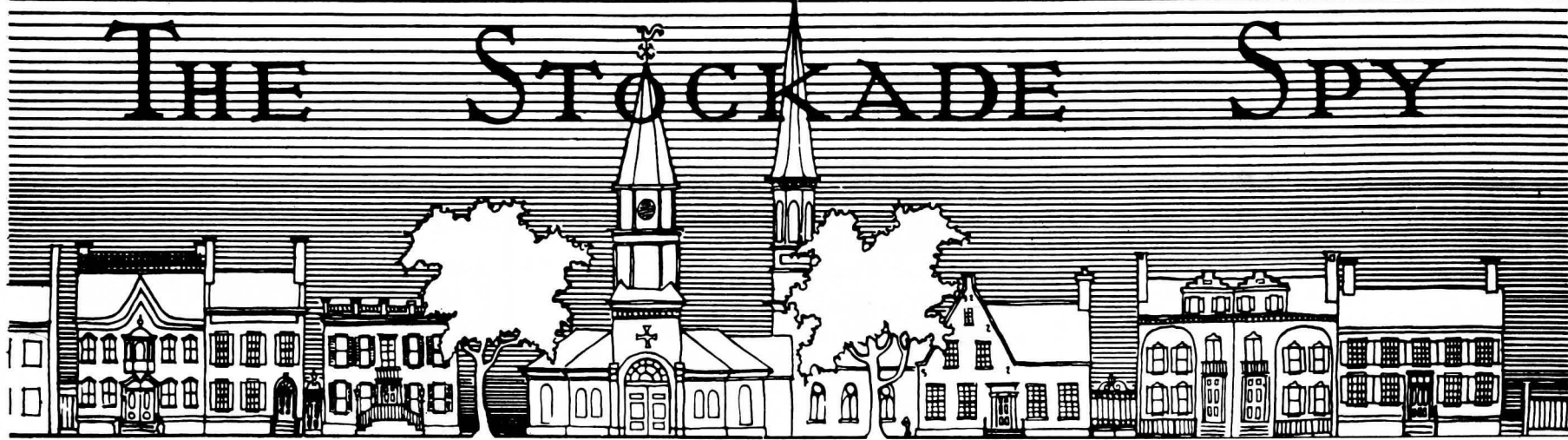


THE STOCKADE SPY



MAY/JUNE 1982

Published by The Stockade Association

VOLUME XXI, Number 8

STOCKADE LIVE



THE STOCKADE SPY

Editor William M. Gurr
 Assistant Editor ... Diane S. Zuraw
 Business
 Manager ... J. Dawson Van Eps
 Distributor Kent Johnson
 Art Director ... George Weinheimer



Sponsors — Stockade Association

President Henry Binzer
 Vice President Henry Binzer
 Recording Secretary Catherine Kindl
 Corresponding Secretary Richard Brown
 Treasurer Kathy Johnson

The President's Column

In this issue you will find information about the Stockade Neighborhood Watch program. This is an activity which has the full support of the Board of Directors of your Stockade Association. We have long felt the need for a major effort with which each resident of our neighborhood could identify. This looks like it. It is not that we are overburdened with crime. We are not. We want to keep it that way. The Neighborhood Watch will help us do that if we all help. It doesn't take much of a commitment. We all just have to fill out a simple application, get an identification number, and then use the number to report any suspicious activity in the neighborhood. The police do the rest. Right now there are over 50 residents of this community who have gone through the necessary steps to become members of the Watch program.

We would like you all to join the NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH. It is truly an all Stockade program. Let's support it.

Henry Binzer

The Stockade Neighborhood Watch

The Stockade Neighborhood Watch was organized on April 20, 1982 at a residents' meeting held in the Great Hall of St. George's Episcopal Church located at 30 North Ferry Street. More than 50 persons attended the meeting and signed membership applications. The application forms were provided by the Schenectady Police Department, represented at the meeting by Sgt. Raymond Wemple. After registration, each member was assigned a specific membership number, to be used by members each time it is necessary for them to report suspicious or criminal behavior in the Stockade. Use of the number will simplify the procedure by which information can be reported to the police.

During the organization meeting, Sgt. Wemple addressed the group on the objectives of the Neighborhood Watch program. He stressed the fact that the Neighborhood Watch does not encourage prying or nosy neighbors who try to stop criminals all by themselves. Each member has the responsibility to call the police and report what is seen. The member is not to take action himself or herself.

Sgt. Wemple also showed a film entitled "Home Security Survey" which demonstrated simple techniques to strengthen home security.

Also at the meeting, Home Security Inspection Checklists were made available to the members of the Watch program. The checklists are simple forms which are produced by the National Sheriff's Association. They help identify features in houses and apartments which can increase vulnerability to burglary. The checklist will help residents to eliminate or reduce these hazards. Distribution of this type of information is a function of the Stockade Neighborhood Watch.

It was also mentioned that, by working together, neighbors can learn how to safeguard each other's homes and reduce the risk of crime. Members of a Watch program will become more alert to unusual circumstances, individuals, or vehicles. The program is designed to familiarize members with how to inform police when they see something suspicious; even if these suspicions prove to be unfounded.

Suspicious activity which might be reported by a Watch member:

- A stranger entering a neighbor's home that appears to be unoccupied.
- Anyone looking in a parked car, or removing parts, gasoline, or license plates.
- Anyone entering or leaving a place of business after hours, or loitering outside.
- Breaking glass, gunshots, screams, or abnormally barking dogs.
- Anyone loitering around the neighborhood, schools, or parks.
- Anyone going door to door who tries to open a door, or who goes into a backyard.
- Anyone carrying unwrapped property at any unusual time, or running while carrying property.
- Any vehicle cruising slowly back and forth on the street.
- Any abandoned vehicle on the street.
- Windows or doors recently broken at a home or business.

Further information about the program and applications for membership are available from Roy Giebel. He may be reached by calling 372-8391.

Roy Giebel

— MOVING —

Must sell everything; art work, antiques, rugs. No reasonable offer refused.

Adrian Fiscus

104 Front Street
 Evenings and Weekends

XEROX COPIES

as low as

4¢ ea.

HERITAGE COPY CENTER

corner Jay and Franklin St.
 393-0301

Books Antiquarian & Used Books

Browsers Welcome • Libraries Purchased

W. Somers, Bookseller
 841 Union Street
 -1 Block from Union College-

Member ABAA, ABA
 Established 1971

Monday-Friday 1-5
 Saturday 10-5

JIM'S BLVD. SUNOCO

ALL REPAIRS MINOR & MAJOR
 TOWING SERVICE

(518) 382-8983

JIM MARKLE, Owner



1305 ERIE BLVD. SCHENECTADY, N.Y. 12305



Schenectady Trust

Telephone: 377-3311

The Schenectady Trust Company
 Schenectady, New York.
 A full service bank.
 Member FDIC.

Before or After the Show enjoy
**SUPERB DINING IN DOWNTOWN
 SCHENECTADY AT UNCLE TED'S
 OXBOW INN**



- * open Mon.-Sat. 11:30 a.m. to 1 a.m., Sun. 4 p.m. to 10 p.m.
- * both our lunch and dinner menus are available from 5:00 p.m. to 1 a.m. on Mon.-Sat. and all day Sunday.
- * on Friday and Saturday night, enjoy a relaxing, intimate dinner in the rustic atmosphere of our beautiful new 2nd floor dining room.
- * beautiful new private banquet and meeting facilities, lunch or dinner, any group from 15 to 75, unique menus with wide selection.

Ted Barnes'

Oxbow Inn

"At the Bottom of State Street... At the top for Fine Dining!"
 10 STATE STREET, DOWNTOWN SCHENECTADY
 PHONE 372-5252



JAY JEWELRY COMPANY

"Jewelers to the Stockade
 for 62 years"

Diamonds - Watches - China - Silver - Gifts

374-8219

315 State St.

Schenectady

Annabel's

For Men and Women
 Hair at its Best

Annabel's

137 South Ferry Street

372-1949

Stained Glass

by

Lausen

In the Stockade

393-1607

Riverside Park Improvement

Residents dismayed about the poor condition of Riverside Park in recent years may soon receive a pleasant surprise. Plans for improving the appearance of Riverside Park are now being developed, says Glenn Gibbs, planner for the City of Schenectady. According to Gibbs, the plan's purpose is "to develop the park to its full potential as a recreation area, by upgrading its physical condition and layout and by providing for the recreation interests of persons of all ages".

The person primarily responsible for devising the improvements for Riverside Park is Maya N. Goldgof, a landscape engineer temporarily employed by the city Department of Planning and Economic Development. Goldgof, who emigrated from Russia last year, was a senior landscape engineer for the Moscow Parks Department for many years, and has extensive experience in park restoration and design. Mrs. Goldgof comes to the Planning Department through the courtesy of the Schenectady Employment Training Agency.

To insure that redevelopment plans for the park suit the interests of the city and of the neighborhood, the Riverside Park Improvement Committee was established. Comprised of Stockade neighborhood association members and representatives of the city Parks, Planning and Engineering Departments, the committee is responsible for developing the overall objectives for park improvement and for reviewing all proposed improvement strategies. All proposed improvements will be presented to the full Stockade Neighborhood Association.

Although the city has yet to procure funds for the Riverside Park Improvement Project, it is hopeful that funds will be eventually forthcoming. Gibbs notes that Riverside Park is identified as one of the components of Schenectady's Urban Cultural Park. The New York State Legislature presently is considering bills which provide state-wide funding for the Urban Cultural Park Program and, if passed, will be a potential source of funds for Riverside Park.

Little Front Street Park Pool Complex

Construction on the long-awaited swimming pool complex at Little Front Street Park will soon be underway, according to Glenn Gibbs, a planner for the City of Schenectady.

The project will be built with \$500,000 of federal and state aid. The U.S. Department of Interior will fund 85% of the cost and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation will provide the remaining 15%.

Greenman-Pedersen Associates, an engineering consultant firm from Babylon, New York, designed the pool complex and will supervise the project's construction. The complex is slated to include a 25 meter pool, a bathhouse, a 16-space parking area, a wading pool and various landscaping improvements. Because of the project's limited budget, only the construction of the pool, bathhouse and parking lot is assured. All other improvements will be contingent on the amount of remaining available funds.

Before the design of the Front Street Pool complex was begun, members of the Stockade

(Continued on page 4)

Arthur's Market

"Heart of the Stockade"

This article continues the Spy's series of reports on businesses in our residential community.

If the Stockade has a 'heart', it's at Arthur's Food Market, almost in Lawrence's shadow. And both the Indian and owner Arthur Polachek are equally familiar to Stockade residents.

Fortunately for us, of this pair, Arthur is in constant motion, well before opening time and often into the evenings. When you interview him, prior to opening, you must follow him around the store as he and wife Mag (Margaret) prepare for the day's business.

Also working with Arthur are son Peter, grand-daughter Emily during school vacations (daughter Rachael lives in Boston), and part-time helpers Mark and Richard, who handled the deliveries that are a trademark of Arthur's enterprise.

Born in Schenectady, as was Mag, Arthur was at GE before World War II. He spent the war in the merchant marine and opened a food market in 1945, across the street from the present location, to which he moved in 1951. In the post-WWII period, Arthur had "at least a dozen competitors in a three-block radius"—all of them now long gone.

He also faced the challenge of nearby super-market competition—traditionally, if you believe TV dramas, the institution which puts the corner 'Mom & Pop' store out of business. Arthur, though, is the man who 'bit the dog'—the A & P on Union St. has been boarded up for months, in spite of the price advantage afforded by the chain's buying power.

How does Arthur do it? "We feature service", he says, which to him means the personal touch. . . being the community's confidant. . . being willing to special order, even in small quantities. . . reciting the long list of available ice cream flavors on the phone, knowing it may mean a one-pint sale. . . learning, and remembering, individual preferences, so that a customer can end a phone order with "and send something for breakfast"—knowing that Arthur will choose the right item.

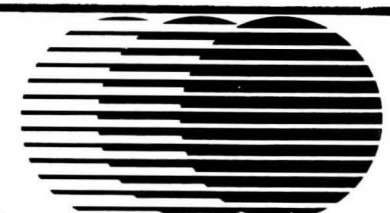
Since butcher Sol Goodman retired, Arthur has handled these chores. Customers will be glad to hear that Arthur is in touch with Sol on occasion. "He's fine, and is 100% retired."

Speaking of retirement: Arthur is beginning to think about it, or at least, of semi-retirement. "I'd like to have more free time." When this happens, son Peter will take over, and Arthur says that Peter is greatly interested and involved in the business. "He'll work here two or three evenings a week, after I've gone home." Most of us can envy Arthur his daily commute—in the New York City style, Mag and Arthur 'live over the store', in a gracious home.

Arthur must do the brain- and paper-work involved in dealing with some 50 suppliers of the literally thousands of items his pocket-size supermarket displays for an often discriminating clientele. An accountant handles the numerous government reports which are a time-taking necessity for even small businesses today. "I couldn't possibly do them all myself."

Fortunately for Stockade residents, at a time when everyone can tell stories of the poor service received from government agencies and businesses, Arthur's Market is fighting this nationwide trend—and is winning!

John H. Ronayne



NORTHEAST ENERGY SYSTEMS
AZTEC RADIANT HEATERS
 Wood & Coal Burning Products
 1033 Erie Blvd.
 346-6265

Phone Bus. 393-2109

Res. 399-6410

Charles W. Merriam & Son, Inc.
Always Ready To Serve Your Insuring Needs

Charles W. Merriam, Jr.
 202 State Street Schenectady, N.Y.

Ingrid's

FEINKOST & KONDITOREI

Imported
 Wines & Beers

175 Jay Street
 Tel. 346-7012



B. CORNELIUS & SMITH
 137 CANAL SQUARE • SCHENECTADY, N.Y. 12305



104 - 108 STATE ST. at CHURCH
 Phone 382-9127
 OPEN SUNDAYS

The coziest place in the Stockade.

SAINT MARTIN'S
Cafe

1 Mill Lane.
 Schenectady.
 382-9784.

The Colonial Petal
Distinctive Wedding Designs
Dare to Be Different
 Unusual floral materials and up to date ideas, create a setting for your most important day.
 Call for an App't. 377-6648
 OR stop in to see our silk Bridal Display
From Traditional Cascades to Contemporary Sprays
 131 Canal Square
 Schenectady
 D. Cavoli

Beyond the Trestle

Whether by geographic quality, historic value, real estate value or resident vitality some neighborhoods blossom and become—let's say—preferred. Beverly Hills, the Hamptons, New York City's Park Avenue, Albany's Center Square and, of course, our own Stockade are perceived as such neighborhoods.

The Spy staff was curious as to how the residents of adjacent communities feel about their neighboring status strata. To tame our curiosity, we wandered past the train tracks on Front Street, into what we deemed for the purpose of this story, Stockade East.

The following articles are accounts of those visits.

3X

Have you ever been in a bar where the bartender and the only other patron are both about three times as drunk as you? Or they seem to be and it's really no problem. Hawaii Five-O is on the TV, behind the bar, on a shelf, are arranged various aperitifs and a bottle simply labeled "Stock", a colored picture of an Indian chief in full war bonnet hangs on the wall, a sign over the bar reads, "If you ain't friendly, you can leave", there is a pool table, various electric games like bowling with a heavy metal slider. The bar itself, is a beauty of woodcraft: long and elegant.

It is about four in the afternoon. Light streams in the open door. In the warm afternoon outside a Stockade jogger hustles by. The other customer watches with me and says, "Kill 'em! Kill 'em all! Let 'em die out! He is not talking to me, so I keep looking out the door. It seems like a good idea.

Two young guys come in off the street. One, pretty slick, seems to know the place well. He says to the bartender, "Mind if we put on some music?" The bartender, who knows him too, politely asks if anyone is watching the show. No problem.

Chuck Berry's wailing version of ROLL OVER BEETHOVEN rocks the place. The bartender and the other guy at the bar start bopping to the music. The other guy is still very serious.

The bartender buys me a drink and tells me how his family started the business over forty years ago. The place rocks to the Stones. Everyone is feeling better. The warm light still floods in the door.

The bartender tells me about his skill as a checker player. He has the look of a skillful player. I have another drink as he continues to tell me about various braggarts he had trounced in the game. "You may have played everyone in New York City, but you haven't played me." We, the afternoon, all of it, are so mellow by now, that in the words of Bill Murray, "It just doesn't matter".

I notice the serious guy has varied his chant: "Me, myself and I—that's who I trust—me, myself and I—me, myself and. . .

The Stones, meanwhile, are waiting for a friend. And we—we are feeling no pain.

Donald Moyer

Something Else

Spring has come to the Stockade East, a constantly-changing, eclectic neighborhood just beyond the trestle on Front St. Music falls from an open window of a newly-renovated apartment building. A young couple have moved their wicker rocking chairs onto the

the sun. Across the street, like a guardian, a retired doctor watches people from the porch of his liquor store, waving or talking to most of them. He's lived in this neighborhood all of his 75 years. He remembers walking through the Stockade as a boy and recalls the kids there were snobs. Would he want his neighborhood to be considered part of the Stockade? "Never!" Most people who live in the Stockade East agree with him, he tells me. "The Stockade wants us, but we don't want them", he says with a measure of pride. He tells me of the old days when the area was a bustling Italian-Irish-Polish neighborhood and everybody knew each other. There were bars on every corner, a clothing store and grocery stores. He is very happy about the renovations going on and likes the influx of young professional people. Many of the younger residents who live in the Stockade East are attracted to the area because of its proximity to the Stockade and the lower rents.

One man tells me that this area really IS the Stockade but to many buildings have been torn down for it to be historic anymore.

Most people who live in the area feel that it is turning into an area very similar to the Stockade. Buy not quite yet. . . there remain the vestiges of the old neighborhood. Many of the longtime residents remain. Pierre, a miniature poodle, hangs out in the doorway of a small tavern. The people in the bar seem to have known each other forever. They greet each other with nicknames and joke and talk until a race is broadcast on TV. Then, a hush comes over the bar and each person grips his racing form a little tighter. A man pours shots of whiskey into his beer explaining that it keeps him from getting hung over. Two of the women in the tavern are lifelong Stockade East residents. They feel safe night and day in the neighborhood, they tell me, but not in the Stockade. "The Stockade is beautiful, certainly, but it's also full of muggers."

As I sit in the sun on the stoop of a laundromat, a car built in forties creeps by. Its driver must be in his eighties. He can barely see over the steering wheel. Coming the other way, is a sleek new Peugeot driven by a suave, sophisticated-looking Stockade kind-of-guy. The two men never even see each other. Perhaps the residents of these two, very close neighborhoods never really will see each other.

Our assumptions about other people and other ways of life are seldom correct. Before the Stockade East becomes something else, it is worth taking a closer look at now, as you drive up Front St. and under the trestle towards home.

Joanne Assini

(Continued from page 3)

Association met with Greenman-Pederson Consultants and city officials to discuss their concerns and offer project suggestions. Of particular interest was the design of the bathhouse and the continued availability of parking at the site for neighborhood residents. Each concern was incorporated into the final plan.

The swimming pool will be 82' in length, 45' wide and will have a maximum depth of 13'. Diving boards will be included if funds are sufficient. The bathhouse will provide male and female restrooms, change facilities and outdoor showers. The wading pool, if constructed, will range from a minimum depth of 6" to a maximum depth of 1'6".

Construction on the project will begin in early June, and is slated for completion in mid-September. The pool will open for regular use in the summer of 1983. Admission will be free.

the difference is. . .


- ... the difference is exciting gifts
- ... the difference is distinctive stationery and cards
- ... the difference is your kind of clothes

the difference is

corner of liberty & s. ferry sts.
visa

382-7600
master charge

ARTHUR'S MARKET

AT THE INDIAN  **FREE DELIVERY**

372-4141

We direct our advertising to "old-house-people", and we feel that our presence has a salutary effect by fostering awareness of the special nature of historic property. We provide an alternative to the traditional real estate market for those concerned about the future of Schenectady's historic districts.

Owners listing with us voluntarily agree to donate one percent of the final sales price to a local preservation oriented organization.

Although, like any brokerage, we seek to obtain the highest sales price for our clients and profits from our commission, this merchantile aspect is secondary to our goal. The Historic District Realty Company, because of its ability to involve itself in areas beyond the realm of not-for-profit organizations, is a valuable adjunct to preservation in Schenectady.

**THE HISTORIC DISTRICT
REALTY COMPANY INC.**

Multiple Listing Service

Tel. 346-6655

SCHENECTADY'S FIRST BANK

*Serving the Stockade Area
Since 1807*



Longmeadows 
COUNTRY CUISINE

Join us on Sundays for. . .

**Brunch 10 - 2
Family Suppers 3 - 7**

lunch . . . cocktails . . . dinner
Mon. & Tues. (Lunch • Cocktails • lightfare)
Wed. thru Sat. (also serving dinner)

393-0439

"On the Ice" . . . Center City . . . Schenectady



**Veronica W. Lynch
REAL ESTATE**

5 SOUTH CHURCH ST. PHONE 393-3609

Have a Fun Summer

**Next Issue of the Spy will
be published in Sept.**