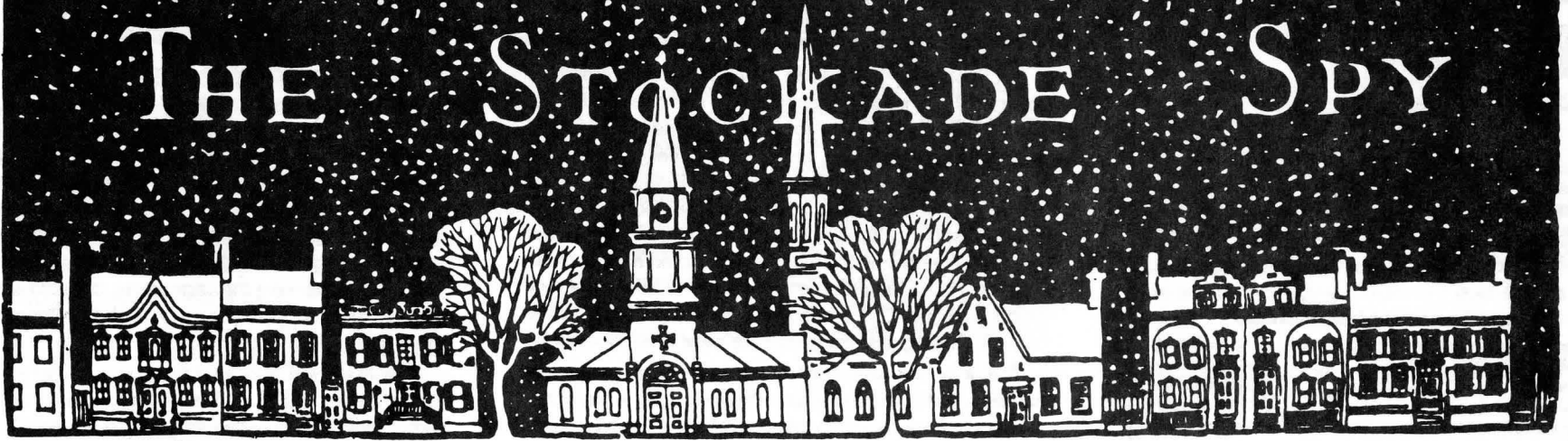


THE STOCKADE SPY



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- Photo by John Eoff



STOCKADE SPY

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Stockade Association Meeting

On September 29th, 1988, The Walkabout committee reported 1119 people attended, a 10% increase over last year. Thanks were given to all who assisted in making it such a success. If you know of any new or different rehabilitation going on, please let Susan Bokan know. She already has some homes volunteered for next year and is always happy to know of special projects. They do not have to be authentic restoration, but should have esthetic interest. Please note the article elsewhere about the new Historic District Ordinance; it is greatly improved over the old one, having guidelines that are clear and enforceable.

The meeting was opened for questions and many residents noted problems with street cleaning when abandoned cars are illegally parked, parking concerns, noisy radios, and other disturbances. Also, is there a schedule for our area to begin the recycling program now being tested in other parts of the city (you can take newspapers to the transfer station, Weaver St. between 8 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. weekdays now, or to Predels). A notice will be posted at Arthur's about churches picking up furniture etc. For questions about drugs in the Stockade, please see letter from the President. At the next general meeting we may have a guest speaker to talk about the problem.

George Marshall reported on the Susan Staffa proposal, giving an overview and showing slides of the signs and their location. Susan Staffa had provided drafts of her brochures and drawings earlier. After considerable discussion, especially about budget, Bill O'Hare made a motion to approve in concept the proposal made by the sub-committee to accept the Susan Staffa project, and to form an oversight committee to work out details of funding. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously. See the latest update under "Colonial Schenectady Project."

The Colonial Schenectady Project

(Since the acceptance of Susan Staffa's proposal) a number of exciting things have happened which bode well for the future of the Project. George Weinheimer has consented to be artistic director and has miraculously finished Susan's illustrations without losing any of the primitive quality which makes them so appropriate for a colonial presentation. Susan has developed a promotional lecture (an illustrated preview of the tour) which she gave at a meeting of the Unitarian Alliance on October 6. It was so successful that she has been asked to give it again for the "Coffee and Crullers" group on a Sunday in November. In addition, the most recent issue of De Halve Maen (The Half Moon), journal of the Holland Society of New York, features an article by Susan on the Project. The Holland Society, which has its headquarters in Manhattan and a membership across the country, sent Susan a letter expressing support for her project a year ago. She knew that her article was to be published but not that it would be featured and that one of her drawings would be on the cover of the magazine to boot! On October 17 she had the opportunity to present a copy of the publication and a mock-up of the brochure to John McEneny, Director of the New York State Urban Cultural Parks Program, who reacted with enthusiasm. He assured her that all aspects of the Project, not only signs but the audiotape and brochure, would be eligible for a 25% matching grant by the state under the provisions of the law covering UCP funding.

"The Historic District Ordinance"

Why It's Important to You

Schenectady is proud of its heritage and the Historic District Ordinance is a means by which we endeavor to preserve aspects of our history as a community to keep our history alive for ourselves and for our children. This Ordinance is designed to promote the economic and general welfare of Schenectady and to insure the orderly and efficient growth and development of our municipality. We wish to preserve the harmonious outward appearance of structures and districts, which, in turn, preserves property values and attracts tourists and residents alike.

The Historic District Ordinance is a part of the City Code; a copy of the Ordinance may be obtained from the City Clerk's Office. The Ordinance is administered by the Historic Commission, appointed by the Mayor, in conjunction with the City Building Inspector's Office.

The ordinance protects three Historic Districts in the city, the Stockade area (B-2 District), the GE Plot (A-2 District), and a section along and contiguous to Union Street (OH Overlay District) as shown on the city's zoning map, together with other Historic Sites and Structures so designated by the City Council. The exterior appearance of all such land and structures which are visible from a public way are subject to the procedures, standards and limitations set forth in the Ordinance.

If you are planning to make any change to the exterior appearance of any site or structure visible from a public way in these areas, your plans must first be reviewed and approved by the Historic Commission (new construction and demolition also require review).

The Commission's prior review and approval is required for the contemplated improvement to your property. You or your contractor should submit plans, as outlined in the Ordinance, to the Building Inspector's Office. Within about a month from your application, the Historic Commission will hold a hearing to review your plans. You will be given notice of the hearing and you or your contractor should plan to attend to present your plans and to answer any questions the Commission may have.

One of the purposes of the Historic District Ordinance is to foster and encourage restoration and rehabilitation of historic sites and structures; this purpose is advanced by such Historic commission review of plans. The Commission's criteria for review are set forth in the Ordinance and include "The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Buildings," available in the Building Inspector's Office. The Building Inspector's office is also ready to provide assistance and guidance to you and your contractor in the process of preparing your plans and application.

If as a citizen, you see any external work being done in an Historic District or to a designated Historic Site or Structure and are in any way concerned or just worried about whether proper prior approvals have been obtained for the work, please contact the Building Inspector's Office at (382-5051) at once. They will investigate your inquiry and, if approvals have not been granted, order the work stopped. Violations of the Ordinance are punishable by fine and by other legal means. Please help us to preserve our community's heritage -- unauthorized work can destroy important and irreplaceable elements of living history.

John Harter

THE NEXT GENERAL MEETING OF THE STOCKADE ASSOCIATION WILL BE NOVEMBER 30th at 8 p.m. CHECK YOUR FLYER FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

As always we are happy to receive your comments, news, literary works, etc. Without them the Spy is dead! Just a few reminders, along with my thanks.

All contributions must be received by November 18th, for publication in the December issue. Please be sure they are typed, double-spaced, and the writer's name, address, and phone included. You may leave materials at 43 Washington Avenue, clearly marked for the Spy editor, or at staff member Hal Thompson's home, 250 Green Street. Thank you for your cooperation. In case of undue hardship in getting information typed, we will consider clearly written letters (not articles). Any original material will be returned **upon request**; otherwise no responsibility for them is taken by the Spy staff. We look forward to hearing from 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 President

Dear Neighbors:

We are fortunate to have our neighborhood back! As most of you are aware, over the course of the summer our little piece of the world was inundated with crack houses. We lost our quiet, safe streets. The irony is that they moved here for many of the same reasons that we did. The Stockade is off the beaten path which allowed them to operate their thriving business without the scrutiny that traditionally tough neighborhoods receive. Thru the tireless work of our special guardians, Patrolman Roy Edwardsen and Detective Ron McClosky, the NYS Task Force, to my knowledge, has eradicated this horrible problem from our streets. They were only able to do their jobs because they received continual help and information from concerned people like the folks on Ingersoll Ave.

It is now our job to keep our neighborhood free of this problem. As a neighbor you are the first and last line of defense. If you suspect illegal activity, please use these excellent men to check it out. As landlords please make sure to verify employment of perspective tenants and then follow thru by being sure that who you rented to is the occupant of your apartment. Drug dealers do not hold down steady jobs. Every building that was involved with this was owned by an absentee landlord and all of them will receive a letter from me about their responsibilities to those of us who live here.

Remember that the police can only solve problems that they know about. We must be their eyes and ears.

On a cheerier note mark your calendar for December 9th at 7:30 p.m. and make plans to come to the tree lighting at the Indian. Anyone who would like to help with any of the various aspects of putting this together please call me at 377-5551.

The next general meeting will be at the Historic Society on Wednesday, November 30. It is important that you attend these meetings since it is our best way to speak out and work as an effective unit on neighborhood concerns. I would appreciate input on whether you feel that the social hour that, for the last year, has proceeded the meeting is worth the effort that it takes.

Susan Bokan

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"AT THE INDIAN"



Poetry Corner

Calling Stockade Poets

The poets of our world seem the people most in need of a support group in a sometimes overly materialistic society. Our editor, Michaela, has told me that there are quite a few poems submitted for the Poetry Corner of the Spy. It would indicate that there are more of us out there than one would imagine -- or hope.

I come bearing an offer. If you would be interested in joining such a group (very informal), I would be pleased to hear from you.

I see the group as a chance to get constructive response to one's efforts; share the "found" poems that have excited one; discuss ideas, and perhaps learn the "ins" and "outs" of getting our better works in print.

In support, Michaela has offered her apartment as a meeting place, if I would undertake the logistics of calling meetings, notifying participants, etc. I am willing to do this.

If you like the idea, contact me at 346-2977, usually after 5 p.m. I await your calls.

Don Van Denburgh

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Historical Society Christmas Party

The Historical Society wishes to invite all members and friends to its annual Christmas Party at 32 Washington Ave., Dec. 4th, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., to celebrate the coming of Sinterklaas as the Dutch settlers did long ago. During the afternoon Anika Bull and her dance ensemble will perform authentic Dutch dances. The refreshments will be Dutch Punch and specialties of the season, and guess who will be Sinterklaas? Rumor has it that it may be a tall, stately gentleman who loves to dress in different guises. We would love to have a great turnout, so please come and help us celebrate. It should be a fun time.

Donation: \$7.00 Silent Auction.

Contact Jo Mordecai at the Historical Society for further information.



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