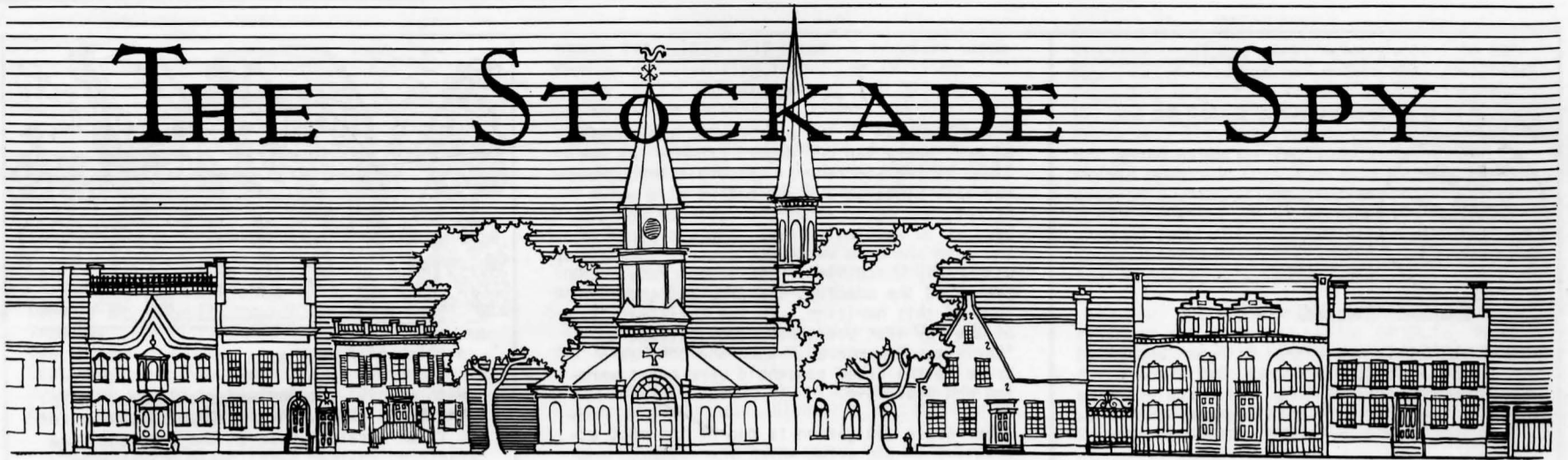


THE STOCKADE SPY



VOLUME X NUMBER 1

PUBLISHED BY THE STOCKADE ASSOCIATION

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OCTOBER 1968

STOCKADE ASSOCIATION OF SCHENECTADY MINUTES OF MEETING Sept. 23, 1968

The meeting came to order at 8 p.m. in Schenectady County Historical Society, Mrs. G. Bryan Shanklin, President, presiding.

The Secretary read the minutes of the last meeting and they were accepted as read. The Treasurer reported that we have a balance of \$1280.95 in our Savings Account and \$454.57 in our checking account. Her report was accepted as given.

The President introduced the following guests: County Manager, Carl Sanford and Mrs. Sanford; Schenectady County Community College President Dr. Charles Scholes and Mrs. Scholes.

Walls Have Ears Mrs. Robert George read a letter from Mrs. Elizabeth Joyce requesting the funds which the Friends of the Stockade had made available for publication of Walls Have Ears be considered a contribution to the Stockade Association. Mr. Van Shanklin moved we thank her for this generous offer.

SPY Miss Gertrude Naylor, Co-editor, reported that the next issue would be ready Oct. 18th.

Fall Walkabout Plans are complete for this event, to be held Saturday (Sept. 28). General Milton reported between 80-120 people will be coming from Rochester to participate in the Walkabout. It was also reported members of the Boys Club plan to attend.

Historic District Commission Meetings are now being held in the Great Hall of St. George's Episcopal Church. Meeting dates will be published in the daily Schenectady newspaper.

A discussion followed which emphasized the need for clarifying guidelines for use by the Historic District Commission. The possibility of approaching the New York State Council on the Arts for assistance was discussed. Mr. John Elsbree mentioned the availability of professional consultants such as staff members of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Beautification Mr. Horace Van Voast announced that he would construct redwood window boxes for residents of the Stockade on request. The cost per box would be \$3.00. Mr. Van Voast also acknowledged the generosity of Neil O. Sheldon, Inc. in providing tulip bulbs to be planted around the Indian Monument. The bulbs were made available to the Association at 1/2 price.

Women's Legislative Forum Mrs. Van Shanklin suggested the Stockade Association might benefit by representation in the New York State Women's Legislative Forum which meets weekly while the legislature is in session. It was moved and seconded that Mrs. Theodore Kurtz attend these sessions during the 1969 legislative session and the registration fee of \$6.00 be paid by the Association.

Resolution General Milton asked for a resolution on the passing of Mrs. Frances Erben, 50 Washington Ave. and Mr. Alonzo Paige, 3 Front St. General Milton agreed to assume this responsibility.

Program The President introduced Mrs. Van Shanklin, program chairman. Mrs. Shanklin introduced the speaker, Bernd Foerster, Professor of Architecture at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute who narrated a slide presentation

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Mrs. Theodore Kurtz,

17th Annual Village Art Show

One hundred eighty-five artists exhibited in the Annual Village Art Show.

Mother nature cooperated again and it was a lovely day - over five thousand spectators trooped by the works of art. The quality of the work reached a new high; many paintings and drawings were sold making the collector and the artist happy.

Jim Gilliland served as show chairman; Lu Whitmyer again took care of the invitations; Dot King and her girls handled the registration; Pat Binzor was hospitality chairman; Harold Kested replaced the old racks; Nef Dietrick and the Boy Scouts took care of display; E. G. Weinheimer and Dot Dietrick, the publicity; St. George's Church again offered refreshments with Elizabeth Perkins acting as chairman; Paul Mahoney was the treasurer.

The Advisors were: Ernie Cohen, Barbara Weinheimer, and Glen Crannell; and Marty Colangelo supervised the traffic. This is truly a village project.

Many, many people were involved and made this the best Art Show yet.



Art Shows

St. George's great hall houses the Oak Room Artists now and this month's artist is Carol Galginaitis. Carol is a competent painter who presents a range of subjects from landscape to portrait to abstract. Drop by and see for yourself. You will find the abstracts the most exciting because of the strength of color and design.

Next month's artist will be Gladys Dziezic. The opening reception will be November 3rd - 3 to 6:00 p.m. - All Villagers are invited!

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FRIENDS OF THE STOCKADE

Friends
of the
Stockade

We often welcome suggestions by which we could benefit the area. Recently a Stockader brought to our attention the importance of making Riverside School an attraction to newcomers as well as established residents.

So our committee had a thoroughly interesting morning at the school. It was a holiday so Mr. Tarrant was able to escort us about without that feeling of being a nuisance. We were impressed with so much including the paintings presented by Mr. Ernest Cohen through the Mildred Radliff Cohen Memorial Prizes and also by the art work of the students. Each of these gives a definite charm and undoubtedly brightens many a day. But most of all, we felt how fortunate the school is to have such a dedicated principal and a Stockader at that.

It seems there are ways in which we could contribute materially and those are being considered now. Our idea is to provide a piece of equipment not likely to be supplied through regular sources. Our funds are not great but our hearts are in the right place. So next time we will hope to have something tangible to report.

Elizabeth Joyce, Chairman

NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING RELATIVE TO U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS FLOOD CONTROL REPORT FOR THE SCHENECTADY AREA

A public information meeting will be held in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, Schenectady, N. Y. on Tuesday, October 29, 1968 at 7:30 P.M. to review the recently published report of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers relative to flood control measures recommended along the Mohawk River in the City of Schenectady.

The purpose of this meeting is to provide information for all interested parties. Subsequently, on November 4, 1968, a formal public hearing will be held by the City Council to receive comments from City residents. These comments will then be considered in formulating the City's official position relative to the Corps of Engineers report.

All interested parties are urged to attend the public information meeting on October 29, 1968 and the formal public hearing on November 4, 1968.

JOHN W. NAGLE
CITY ENGINEER

Date _____ 1968

The Stockade Association
Mrs. Jessica Squires
17 North Street
Schenectady, N. Y. 12305

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Editorial

With this issue the Stockade Spy begins its tenth year of publication. It is a proud decade for the Stockade Association and all the residents of the area. The Schenectady Common Council Ordinance providing for the Historic District Commission is a landmark, which has been widely copied throughout the country. The Association has grown in membership and influence in the community. Its special attractions, the Art show in the Fall, the Walk about the historic sites, and the Christmas tree lighting have attracted great crowds, and extended an interest in the Stockade throughout the Northeast. The Friends of the Stockade are staunch allies to spread interest in the activities of the area and to furnish guided tours to visitors.

But more difficult to measure is the awareness of the residents in our historic heritage; and the need to make living in the Stockade efficient and delightful, day in and day out. Because we live here, we choose to live here because it's convenient, the streets are clean the park is maintained and supervised and the protective services are as efficient for us as the other neighborhoods in the city. We take pride in our houses, whether designated by historic plaque or not, we tend our lawns, our window boxes and keep our sidewalks neat. We love and protect our trees. We participate in Stockade activities and assume protective responsibility for our common good. These are the signs of a vitality that unites us all. More than a pride in the past and a protective custody of antiques, this is the test which insures this rich heritage for the future.

Readers of the Spy will be happy to see Dolores Copper's name, Tidings Editor, added to the mast-head. She has painstakingly collected the personal news items of the comings and goings of Stockaders for many seasons. This year she will be responsible for collecting and editing Tidings from the entire area, and will be assisted by a corps of reporters in each neighborhood. She welcomes your cooperation and is happy to receive notices and items of interest.

The Stockade Spy congratulates The Heritage, Home for Women, which is celebrating its 100th Anniversary. The original site for "The Home of the Friendless" was at 35 Green Street. It then became known as the Old Ladies Home, and more recently as The Heritage. It was founded in 1868 by the Ladies' Benevolent Society to help the needy, friendless and aged. In 1908 the organization moved to its present location at 1519 Union Street.

It's not too early to plan for the Christmas issue of the Spy. We have brave plans to make it Special. Do you have a line drawing or a photograph of your house that you would like us to publish? Last year the Merrill Browns and the General Miltons originated the idea, and drawings of their houses were made and used to highlight the issue. They paid the price of an ad - ten dollars, and feel that it served as a Season's Greeting to their neighbors. Would you like to join them in a similar gesture this year? Would you like extra copies (free) to mail to your friends? How many?

If this proposal interests you will you notify the editors by November 1, 1968. If you have suggestions how to implement this project, please feel free to do so. It's an experiment and we need your help. Phone - Garey - 377-4662 Naylon - 374-8630

IN MEMORIAM

The Stockade is the poorer with the passing of Mrs. Henry van der Bogert Erben. She had lived in the Stockade at intervals throughout her life time; as a young matron at 5 Union Street, and later after the death of her husband at 50 Washington Ave. She was proud of the name she bore which was closely identified with early Dutch history in Schenectady. She treasured the memoirs, the arts and the furniture of this heritage. In the Christmas issue of the Spy last year, her recollections of "Christmas Remembered," when she came as a bride to the Erben household were heart warming and nostalgic.

Her house and garden is one of the most attractive in the area, which she restored and cared for with painstaking effort; most recently the face lifting of the wing on Washington Avenue enhances its entire stature.

Her house was open to her friends and to organizations in which she was interested; it was featured in one of the recent Stockade Walkabouts. She was an accomplished hostess, noted for her fine touch to the cuisine at her table, and the lilt she gave to every gathering.

She was an active participant in the affairs of the Stockade Association; last season she served as its program chairman; appointed a member of the Historic Zoning Commission in 1967. She showed a vital interest in maintaining standards to protect the neighborhood.

She will be sorely missed by her friends and neighbors in the Stockade.

WATKINS COLLECTION TO BE ON EXHIBIT AT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The collection of ancestral portraits bequested to the Schenectady County Historical Society by the late Miss Helen de Lancey Watkins will be on exhibit from October 28th through December 7th. Included are portraits of Governor Joseph C. Yates and his third wife, Ann Elizabeth de Lancey; Jonathan Walton and his wife, Margaret Thatcher. Ezra Ames, the famed Albany artist of the early nineteenth century painted the portraits about 1825.

Local nineteenth century artist, Samuel Sexton, is represented in the collection of portraits by a painting of Grace Thatcher Walton, granddaughter of Jonathan and Margaret Walton.

A North View of the Old Dutch Church, also by Sexton and included in the exhibit was acquired for the Schenectady County Historical Society from the Watkins estate through the generosity of the late Mrs. Henry V. Erben. This painting, primitive in style, has documentary value and is an important addition to the society's collection.

In addition to the Watkins collection, included in the exhibit will be recently restored paintings owned by the society. Included in this group are the portraits of Helena Van Eps Pieterse, the earliest in the society's collection and dated 1742, Maria Dunham painted in 1838 by John Wilkie, Maud Marsh painted about 1855 by T. B. Catlin and 7 Dock Street, an Erie Canal Scene. Cost of this conservation project has been partially financed by the New York State Council on the Arts.

The Schenectady County Historical Society is open to the public Monday through Saturday from 12:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Sundays from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.



ANNUAL FLEA MARKET

With colorful autumn leaves aglow and crisp, clear skies above, the sun chose to shine for the fifth straight year on the Stockade Flea Market and Antique Sale. Held on Saturday, September 21, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., the event was extremely well attended. It would have to be labeled as a record year with a grand total of forty-two dealers in attendance.

The flea market has wide appeal for many of the people of Schenectady and outlying areas. It is, however, especially appealing to residents of the Stockade area where homes are steeped with tradition and historical architecture. The Great Hall of St. George's and the adjoining parking lot were filled with the tick-tocking of antique clocks, the mellowness of pine, maple, and cherry furniture, and the luster of silver, brass and pewter. There were many worthwhile items there and above it all were the tempting smells of homemade roast beef, chili and clam chowder.

For those of you who were unfortunate enough to have missed this, mark your calendars now for the third Saturday of next September. You are in luck for this is an annual event that is destined to become bigger and better with each year.

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Tidings

NEW NEIGHBORS: Miss Michelle Plantier, formerly of the Carmelite Monastery, Duane Ave. is now living with Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Polechek, Front St., she is employed as a secretary at G.E. Mrs. Polechek is Michelle's aunt.

The Rev. Alvin P. Burnworth is the Assoc. Rec. of St. George's Church and lives at 21 Front St. He is from Montvale, N. J. where he was engaged full time with the Child Welfare Dept. and part time assistant at the Grace Episcopal Church in Westwood, N. J. His hobbies are bridge, archery and water sports.

The Rev. and Mrs. William D. Hayes are also new at 21 Front St. Father Hayes is assistant at St. George's. He recently received his S.T.B. from the General Theological Seminary in New York City. They have two children, Ann 12 yrs. who goes to Oneida and Bill 6 yrs. attends Riverside. Mrs. Hayes (Connie) is active in church and community work.

Miss Alice Noonam has moved to the Colonial Apts. 9 N. Church St.

Mr. Kevin Carre is a new neighbor at 25 N. Ferry St. Kevin works at G.E.

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Nitzman have rented the Marshall Lapp home on Front St. while the Lapps are in Europe for a year. Stanley works at the Knolls and daughter Nancy will attend St. Agnes in Albany.

Miss Sally Harlow has moved from Ferry St. to 105 Front St. She is doing substitute teaching in the city schools.

Mr. and Mrs. John T. Mitchell are new neighbors of 219 Union St. John is an attorney in Albany.

Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Usher Jr. have recently moved to 22 Washington Ave. Mr. Usher is director of physical plant at Union College. He has retired from the Navy after 22 yrs. with the rank of Commander. Son, Peter graduated from the Univ. of Virginia and is now working toward a masters degree at Union College. Mrs. Usher (Marie) loves the Stockade and all her friendly neighbors.

Patricia Kennedy moved to 150 Front St. She is with Public Relations Dept. for Stewart Ice Cream Co.

Mr. and Mrs. Mark C. Lewis have moved into the former home of Mrs. Menning Nielsen at 16 Washington Ave.

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SUMMER TRAVELERS: All summer I received cards from my globetrotting friend, Mr. William Cregan, N. College St. First from Ontario, Canada, where he visited friends and did considerable sight-seeing. Next from Cologne and while in Germany he stopped to see "check point Charley" the wall dividing the East and the West in Berlin, from there to Venice, Belgium and Italy to mention only a few.

Mr. Warren J. Tarrant of Union St. toured England and Scotland this summer. Warren is principal of Riverside school.

Polly Merriam had a leisurely vacation at her summer home Gahada at Jenny Lake.

Pat and Helen Garey Union St. enjoyed the summer at their home, Glengary, at Lake George.

Bill Braden, Green St. spent his summer vacation in England working as an I.B.M. computer programmer. While there, like all tourists, he used his free time sight-seeing in England and Scotland with a brief visit to gay Paree. Now who could expect him to be happy in our country village? Bill is a Junior at Brown Univ. and think of all the stories he can tell 'em at college.

Brother, Dan toured Europe too, for two months, won it the hard way by an audition sponsored by the New England Conservatory of Music. Dan and the choir sang their way through Switzerland, Austria, Germany and Czechoslovakia. Bill flew to Heidelberg, Germany to join Dan for a short visit.

Ernie Cohen, Front St. has just returned from two weeks in Bermuda, all sun tanned and not looking forward to the all too soon snow.

Mrs. Lyle Clark, 43 Washington Ave. enjoyed sight-seeing in the Canadian Rockies and also visited her niece, Mrs. Henry Harrington in Los Alamitos, Calif. She has just returned from a trip to Pemaquid, Me.

Mrs. Don Mohr, 37 Front St., also toured the Canadian Rockies and visited San Francisco and Los Angeles, Calif.

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THE STORK REPORT: Beautiful Jacqueline Hanson Koch arrived Sept 3rd all of 7 lbs. & 4 oz. The delighted parents are Mr. and Mrs. Raymond A. Koch, 32 Front St. They are also fairly new neighbors, Raymond is associated with Gilbert, Selee and Carpenter, Land surveyors. Mother, Justiane is busy, busy.

As everyone knows babies arrive at their convenience and Douglas Aaron Lapp arrived too late for our June Tidings. Brother, John 4-1/2 yrs. says he has everything under control and there will be no trouble from the new arrival. Marshall and Joan Lapp, Front St. are the happy parents. They will be leaving Oct. 19th to make their home in England for a year where Marshall will be doing research in physics at the Univ. of Newcastle. David will attend school in England. Their address will be 37 Claremont Rd., Whitley Bay, Northumberland, England. They would love Xmas cards and news from their friends. The Stanley Nitzman's will be renting their house while they are away. Stanley works at the Knolls. Daughter, Nancy is attending St. Agnes school in Albany.

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STOCKADE VISITORS: Mrs. Helen Disco from Van Nuys, Calif. visited her mother Mrs. Josephine Protnicki and her sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Stuarda Wasson both of 118 N. Ferry St. Also Mrs. Wasson's brother and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Protnicki and children Clyde, Karan and Christine from Sao Paulo, Brazil. Mr. Protnicki is with the Union Carbide Co. in Brazil. Son Clyde is attending Blaire prep school in Blaire, N. J. The Wasson's spent the summer at their summer home on Saratoga Lake.

The Rev. Stanley Y. K. Yin a former Stockade resident and assistant pastor to Dr. J. Dean Dykstra of the First Reformed Church was back for a month this summer aiding with church services and duties while Dr. and Mrs. Dykstra were vacationing at their summer home in Maine. Rev. Yin is completing requirements for his doctorate at the Univ. of Syracuse.

Mrs. Frank D. Barclay of Vashon Island, Wash. is the house guest of Mrs. Harold Holden 224 Union Street.

Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Dougall of Front St. had as recent guests their son and daughter-in-law, Dr. and Mrs. Richard Dougall from Pittsburgh, Pa. Dr. Dougall is professor of nuclear dynamics at the Univ. of Pittsburgh.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Beale of Louisville, Ky. were recent guests of Mr. Beale's mother, Mrs. Robert Beale of N. Church St. Mrs. Beale entertained for a few close friends.

Mrs. Sally Stanton, 224 Union St. has had as her recent guests her son-in-law, Mr. Timothy J. Whyte from Endicott, N. Y. Mr. Whyte was here to participate in the Saratoga Golf Tournament. Also Mrs. William A. Kennedy and Mrs. Joseph Kasper both from Bridgeport, Conn. and the Misses Margaret and Eileen Welsh. Mrs. Stanton owns the Madonna Gift Shop on State St.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank K. Cooper of Miami, Fla. have been the guests of Mr. Cooper's mother, Mrs. James C. Cooper, 4 Washington Ave.

Lt. and Mrs. William D. Cohen and son Gregory were the recent guests of Mr. Cohen's father, Earnest Cohen, Front St. Bill has returned from Vietnam where he received the Naval Commendation medal for service in hostile combat and waters. He is now an instructor in the R.O.T.C. school at Rochester, N. Y.

Veronica W. Lynch
 REAL ESTATE 5 South Church St.
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In 1878 Charles Bickelmann, Sr., on the sound principal of providing superior quality merchandise, with courteous, friendly service, founded Bickelmanns in Haverstraw. Ten years later, in 1888, he moved to Schenectady, where he opened a store at 303 State Street. A highly skilled chronometer maker, Mr. Bickelmann then moved to 255 State Street in 1896 where the store was located until 1953. The store, still owned and operated by the Bickelmann family, then moved to its present location at 215 State Street. The same quality and service prevail today.

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The Schenectady Museum in conjunction with the Schenectady County Historical Society has planned a program consisting of lectures, workshops and field trips designed to train volunteers to serve as curatorial aides. Upon completion of the program the aides will be equipped to work under the supervision of staff members of both the museum and historical society in such areas as research, exhibit design, publications, publicity, sales and shop procedures and education.

The program for the year which will begin October 30th and continue through May 21st will be divided into two sessions. The Fall session will concern itself with the basics of museum procedure. The Spring session will be devoted to lectures on the arts and sciences with emphasis on areas in which the museum and historical society have extensive collections. The field trips which are designed to give the participants a behind-the-scene view of museum operation will also be included in the Spring session. Classes will meet on Wednesday mornings from 9:30 - 11:30.

This curatorial aides program is being offered to the community free of charge and is being financed by the New York State Council on the Arts.

Upon completion of the program curatorial aides will be expected to give at least several hours per week of their time to either the museum or historical society.

Further information and applications may be obtained by telephoning the Schenectady County Historical Society.

LECTURE SERIES ON AMERICAN ANTIQUES AT SCHENECTADY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A series of weekly lectures on American Antiques will begin on Thursday, October 17th at the society headquarters, 32 Washington Ave. Included in the twelve week course are lectures on furniture, heating and lighting devices, glass, silver, costumes, 18th and 19th century art, pottery and porcelain.

Field trips to the Metropolitan Museum in New York City, the historic Cherry Hill Mansion in Albany and the Hart-Cluett Mansion in Troy are scheduled. The Hart-Cluett Mansion is currently the home of the Rensselaer County Historical Society.

Guest speakers include William Lassiter, an expert on Shaker furniture; Joseph Marcelli, an authority on American silver; Norman Rice, Director of the Albany Institute of History and Art; Archie Lee Stobie, Director of the Rensselaer County Historical Society; Dorothea Setzer, lecturer and collector of Sandwich glass; George Cole, Director of the Schenectady Museum and Marjorie Foote, Curator of Costumes at the Schenectady Museum. Lectures will also be given by Ona Curran, director of the society.

For further information call the Schenectady County Historical Society. (374-0263) The offices of the society are open from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday thru Friday. The society is open to the public Monday thru Saturday from 12:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and Sunday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

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TWICE GLAD

"Downtown" in 1928, the year I came to Schenectady, was that section of Town from the Railroad bridge to Washington Ave., bordered by State St. and the Mohawk River.

It was inhabited by a group of charmingly definite characters so it was with some trepidation that I attended my first dinner party.

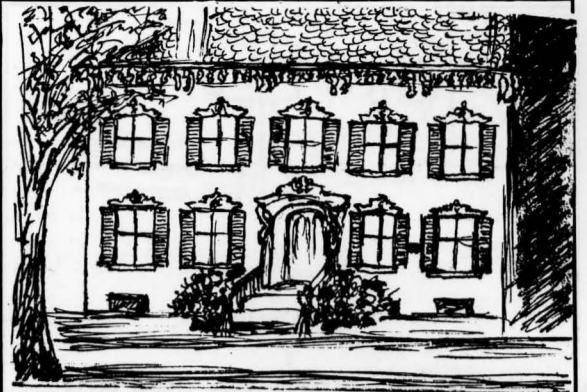
The warmth of their greeting was unfeigned. I must admit I felt rather "looked over" but from then on the bars were down and I was considered a "down townner" and included in the many small tea parties and dinners. Bridge was always played after dinner with great protocol and observance of Culbertson, with the men in black tie and the ladies in trailing evening dress. How thankful I was that my trousseau had too many evening dresses even tho not enough sweaters and skirts for the housework that had to be done.

We lived in a first floor apartment in a handsome old building with a completely inadequate furnace and a landlord who did not want to turn on the heat. One entered the living-room; which joined a bedroom with a wide entrance, no door, no privacy, then into, from the kitchen the bathroom. So it was a rather complicated arrangement, and took youth to manage it.

After a year we moved to 45 Washington Ave. where our daughter was born. Soon we outgrew the one bedroom there and moved to The Fuller property at 19 North Church which is now a parking lot.

This house was built around 1790, had glorious old woodwork, a hot air furnace which required constant stoking, wide board floors, a hopeless kitchen with coal stove and no window; and a desperate need for everything we could not afford. So we undertook to redecorate the house ourselves. We took seven layers of paper off the walls, rewired and painted the house, scrubbed our knuckles bare, moved in, and loved every inch of it.

My husband, who has a green thumb, created a garden in the back; we had lovely flowers and perfect tomatoes, all admired by the tenants of the Colonial and Schermerhorn apartment buildings who overlooked the garden.



We also had Fuller's pond which needs a little explanation. The sidewalk in front of our house must have been one of the first laid. It was anything but even, and from a section of it, just beyond our front door, the water never drained. Consequently in summer we had a small 'ake to skirt and in winter we faced a skating rink which brought down on our heads the wrath of all the old dowagers, and they were legion in that area, who had to travel that way. All I can say is: we survived the acid comments and no one ever fell or was hurt; why I don't know.

Our entertaining at 19 N. Church was always great fun but hazardous until the guests got used to the slanting floors. We did have enough heat and light and plenty of room.

One of the great attributes of our location was the utter neighborliness and kindness of all our neighbors. A Dutch door on the stoop was a great asset; it permitted easy conversation with passers-by, and aired the house with a slight feeling of security. A handsome old brass lock for which there was no key, added tone to a much worn facade.

Finally unable to buy the house (for lack of a clear title) and tiring of building up the house every week-end, we moved above the bridge to the country where we had a little too much garden to care for, although we loved the house which was easy to run.

In our old age we have come back "down town" to our first love and to the city below the bridge. Our present house, once more is old, but this time we did not paint it ourselves. We enlarged the kitchen and porch, completely redecorated it and now have a downtown house we love. Our garden is small but productive; we grow darn good tomatoes in our alley off Barney's parking lot; our friends are around us, and we are at home once more.

Cornelia Lydgate-

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REFLECTIONS

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in
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I

When my "Grandchildren" were little girls they lived at our house because their father was on a Navy ship which followed Air-craft carriers to pick up the men and planes which did not land safely. They were my responsibility to put to bed - so a story promised and delivered - with shades drawn - so they could "see" the "Picture" as they imagined it to be.

What is a river? Water, a lot of it, not sitting still and "waving" at us but going along on its way from springs, thru brooks, over falls, in and out of lakes to the Oceans.

What is it used for? If you were thirsty you could drink it, or swim in it or go on it in a boat or bring it in the house for a bath or to wash dishes or boil vegetables for dinner. Sometimes the water would turn water wheels to grind grain, saw wood or run the machines that made cloth.

Our Mohawk River did all these things and more. The Indians and the white settlers used it as a highway for boats to carry people and things in big and little boats in the warm weather and on sleds in the winter.

We used the ice to skate on, we also cut it up in big pieces called cakes and buried the cakes in saw dust (made of cork if we could get it) and store it in an ice house, and used it in our refrigerators all summer.

One winter the river was covered with thick ice and men with horses and snow plows cleaned off the snow. Then the horses would pull cutting plows to cut the ice into strips and break these strips loose so they could be pushed with pike poles thru canals (just the right width) to the foot of wooden trough so horses on an engine or motor could pull them up and into the huge ice houses.

There was Proper's ice house on Ingersol Ave. for the river ice and Collins ice house, where the ball park is in Scotia for the cleaner ice from Collins lake.

One beautiful moonlight night Mr. and Mrs. Green were skating on the clear ice on the river and did not realize there was no ice ahead of them and skated into the open water. They were drowned.

Several years later four boys wanted to be the first to cross the river on the new ice. We had hockey sticks, to keep us from falling and to hit the ice with to find out if it would hold us.

We started from the foot of Ferry St. skated to the "Intake" (a wooded island a little way from shore) then across the block ice toward the Scotia shore. Suddenly the two boys ahead disappeared and their heads popped up. One of the boys spread his arms and pushed his hockey stick toward another boy who had stretched out flat on the ice and pulled the hockey stick and wet boy up on the ice. The other wet boy was nearer shore and could just touch bottom, and by breaking the ice waded to shore. Then a fast trip back to Ferry St. and a hot bath for the wet pair and all ended well.

You wondered about the "Intake"?

When the river was not contaminated a pumping house with a tall factory chimney, steam boilers and huge pumps sucked the water out of the river thru the intake where screens kept the fish from being drawn into the water system

Many people who did not have their own wells used the water and became sick with typhoid fever and other diseases, so a new water system took its water from a well near Lock 8 and with a huge steam pump furnished water to the city.

When Mr. Hans Yates had his boat house on the river bank end of 29 Front St. before there was a riverside park he had a dance hall upstairs where Pop Vanarnum conducted a dancing class in the winter time. In the summer time Mr. Yates would rent boats and use a little car on tracks to move them from the boat house to the river and at the end of the day bring them back into his boat house. Prices per hour for the boats with oars: flat bottom 10¢, round bottom 15¢, round bottom, mahogany with cushions 25¢ and canoes with rest backs, cushions and paddles 35¢.

Sometimes his customers would leave the boats along the river bank and not pay for the extra hour or two. Mr. Yates would then go on a boat hunt the next day to recover his boats.

The water works, its intake and the Yates boat house left when the park came.



Swimming - Mr. Yates would rent us a 10¢ per hour boat which we would row up the "big river" (north channel past Sanders house) then avoiding the narrow branch which came to a dead end at the Ulrich farm we arrived at a sand bar which was sufficiently secluded for naked bathing and acquiring a sun burn. Other times we would go up (what is now the main channel) called the Bennekil where high (8-10 feet) banks on the north side made it possible to gouge out a chute or slide and splash it with water so we could slide down into the water. I could not swim but enjoyed the chute. One day two of the larger boys put each of my arms around their necks and towed me into water over my head in depth and gave me a shove under water. I had taken a deep breath and managed to hold it while I crawled several feet where I could stand on the bottom and put my head above water.

Several years later some of the down town girls either promoted or agreed to a mixed swimming party not far above the present Gateway bridge. One of the boys did not have a bathing suit - but a fast talking girl convinced us that she could do without the skirt of her costume and get by with only the bloomers if I would use her skirt and a strategically placed safety pin I would have an acceptable pair of trunks. We had a good time and I found a group picture of the party in the water as proof of this yarn.

When the trolley car tracks ran down Washington Ave. from State St. the Scotia bound cars crossed the river on steel spans placed up stream from the toll bridge for horses, wagons and the walking public - the river was used to dump snow laden flat cars into the river. On this particular year there had been plenty of snow - so the snow pile extended from the water level up to the bridge floor - it had also forced the ice down so far that there was very little space for the flood waters to flow - so the thaw came, the river rose up stream from the bridge because it could not flow past the ice and snow at the bridge. Trolley cars were parked on the bridge but the water came higher and finally 7 Washington Ave. was an island. I brought my canoe down and ferried women who were marooned in #5 up to the unflooded part of the street by #9. Then the Fire department brought hoses and with the water pressure cut holes in the stoppage under the bridge and the flood receded above the bridge and went down stream.

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STOCKADE WALKABOUT

The Ninth Annual Walkabout of Old Schenectady jointly sponsored by the Schenectady County Historical Society and the Stockade Association of Schenectady held on Saturday, Sept. 28 was a financial success with gross receipts of over \$2,000.00.

That is, "success" as measurable by the number of persons present or the amount of money collected. Only one Walkabout in the past has exceeded this year's record. But let us consider the Walkabout success from a different vantage point --- that of the spectators.

Actually, the selection of homes could not have been better suited to bridge the gap in age and interests that characterized this year's homogeneous participants.

Instead of being limited to a museum-like view of standard Dutch-Colonial decor, as might have been expected, The "Walkabouts" were treated to a melange. It ran an architectural gamut from the richly austere Rectory of St. George's Church, occupied by Reverend and Mrs. Darwin Kirby to the way-out treasure-trove at 17 North Ferry Street where architects J. D. Schmitt and Werner Feibes live in their ingenious home. Those who love the real Dutch architecture were entranced with Mrs. Bryan Shanklin's home at 109 Union St. Mr. and Mrs. Van Eps, who live at 119 Front St. had a lot of guests who would have liked to live in - or so it seemed from the pace at which they poked through the authentically tiny rooms. Younger couples appreciated the functional beauty of the BeVier home at 12 N. Ferry Street while their surprisingly well-behaved children stood fascinated by a tank of colorful tropical fish. Sophisticated moderns were impressed with Marvin Friedman's glamorous apartment at 241 Union St. ---and everyone loved the weather.

As usual, the neighborhood's three historically and architecturally important churches: St. George's Episcopal Church, the First Presbyterian Church and the First Dutch Reformed Church were included in and always add so much to the tour.

Those visitors and old friends fortunate enough to stop at the Historical Society in the afternoon, enjoyed the refreshments and hospitality of the Historical Society Auxiliary as well as the many interesting exhibits there.

Needless to say, without the very capable supervision of co-chairmen Gertrude Naylor and Lavinia Shanklin and their very able Committee there would have been no Walkabout---without the knowledge and diligence of the hostesses we would have missed the most fascinating details---and without the kind consent given by the owners of the selected homes we would all be trespassers.

June and Doug Grisct

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Mr. and Mrs. Andre Berthe, N. Ferry St. welcomed a daughter, Natalie Anne Marie Grace. Andre is an engineer with G.E. and graduated from the University of Liege in Belgium. Mrs. Berthe lived in Holland for six years and appreciates our lovely old houses.

PARTIES: The Rev. and Mrs. Darwin Kirby, Front St. entertained at the rectory recently for Mrs. Hewlett Scudder on her 90th birthday.

A few long-time friends were on hand Sept. 8th to help Mr. W. V. B. (Billy) Van Dyck, Washington Ave. celebrate his birthday (how many yrs. is our secret).

WEDDINGS - ENGAGEMENTS: Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Polechek have announced the engagement of their niece, Miss Michelle Plantier to William Szumiloski. William is with the State Dept. in Albany. An April wedding is planned.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Palkovic of College St. have announced the engagement of their daughter Patricia Ann to Harry H. Jordon of Ft. Johnson. Harry has recently returned from Vietnam. The wedding is planned for February 22nd.

Robert St. John and Mary Koteski were married June 8th. Robert is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Philip St. John of Front St. and Mary's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Ray Koteski of Powell, Tenn. Mr. St. John was best man for his son. Both Robert and Mary are graduates of the Univ. of Tennessee. Robert is affiliated with Cameron-Brown Co. They are residing in Fayetteville, N. C.

Miss Susan Harlow became the bride of John J. Northrup. Susan's parents are Mr. and Mrs. H. Gilbert Harlow, Front St. and John's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Northrup of Addison, N. Y. John is a methodist minister in Thiells, N. Y.

Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Vrooman, 20 Washington Ave. spent the summer attending the weddings of their grandchildren or maybe it only seemed that way. On June 15 Charles W. Rice III, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Rice Jr. (she is the former Jane Vrooman) was married to Miss Fay Read in Southern Pines, N. C. On August 18 Miss Jill Rice became the bride of Robert Bendick Jr. in Rye, N. Y.

Frederick Monks is recovering nicely from a hand injury and will be playing his beautiful music again soon.

Peter George has left for the Naval Officers Candidate School, Newport, R.I. Now Peter don't try to prove that adage -- "A girl in every port".

Miss Christine Ferluge, Ingersoll Ave. is teaching fifth grade at Euclid. She graduated with honors from State Univ., Potsdam this spring.

Fred Dinkelman Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Dinkelman Sr., N. Ferry St. enlisted in the Air Force of Lackland A.F.B. in Texas.

Miss Susanne Staffa, Front St. received her Ph.D in June and flew to Egypt to teach social anthropology at the American Univ. in Cairo. From her 11th floor apartment she has a beautiful view of the Nile R., the Pyramids and the Citadel.

Mrs. Willard Kitts, Front St. is recovering nicely from her recent eye operation and will be home soon. She has been convalescing at the home of her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. James Sherwood, Adams Rd.

Mr. and Mrs. George Robert Tod of Belmont, Mass. announced the birth of a son, George Robert Tod Jr. and Capt. and Mrs. William H. Tod of Kincheloe, Mich. announced the birth of Scott George Tod. Both boys are grandsons of Mrs. George B. Tod, 10 Washington Ave.



A number of new faces joined the rest of the staff of Riverside School in welcoming the student body of about 170 students. Among these new faces are six teachers, the librarian, and the principal.

Mr. Warren Tarrant, principal, has taught in many different schools including Ecole des Roches in France and two U.S. colleges. He has been in Schenectady since 1960 as head of the elementary French program, a position he continues to hold. He lives in the Stockade.

Mrs. Barbara Wells is the new first grade teacher. Although this is her first year as a first grade teacher, last year she taught fourth grade in North Carolina, and the year before she taught third in Schenectady at Elmer Avenue. Her hobbies are sailing, sewing and antiqueing. She and her husband have an apartment on Front Street in the Stockade.

Mr. Gordon Usticke, the fourth-fifth grade teacher, has formerly taught at Nott Terrace School, Kingston, and Brooklyn, N. Y. He enjoys reading and collects books. He also serves as President of the Family Centered Maternity Association.

Mrs. Nancy Smith, the fifth-sixth grade teacher, is new to the Schenectady area. Last year she served in the Teacher Corps in Philadelphia, coming East after graduating from Pomona College in California. She especially enjoys camping, skiing, and music.

Mrs. Jeanne Corrigan is enjoying her first year of teaching as the first year special class teacher. She graduated in June from the College of Saint Rose.

Mrs. Pat Parisi enjoys living and teaching in the Stockade. She teaches special level two and her class enjoys taking afternoon walks through the area.

Mrs. John Snapp is a graduate of Saint James College and has taught two years in Albany. He enjoys teaching special level three at Riverside.

Miss Louise DiNardo, the new librarian, has lived in Schenectady all her life. She was formerly librarian of McKinley Junior High School. Her hobbies are traveling, bowling, golf, reading, and cooking. Miss DiNardo is at Riverside two and a half days a week, and she appreciates the help of parent volunteers the other days.

This news has been gathered and written up by reporters from Mrs. Smith's fifth-sixth grade class. The reporters are:



Jayne Binzer
Tina Frederico
Stephen Graves
Michelle Kurtz
Richard Lupi
Elliott Shanklin
Susan Shanklin

"CANNEL COAL
"LEAF BAGS
RAKES
"DUTCH BULBS
"SUNFLOWER SEED
"WILD BIRD SEED

"What Would You Do?
What would you do
if someone stepped on your heel?
Would you squeal
or hold your heel?

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AGWAY
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Raymond Zegger
Grade 2



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Teachers, principals, and school administrators -- there is now a program for you -- a weekly, half-hour television show designed to help keep you informed, advised, and on top of your news in education.

It is called "This Week in Education" and will be produced locally by Channel 17 with the disseminating help of educational TV stations across the state.

Dr. Donald J. Sayles, Assistant Superintendent of the Schenectady Schools, will moderate the series -- which will be seen each Wednesday at 3:30 p.m. beginning October 9, and each Thursday at 12:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. He will be joined by Mrs. Lillian Turner, a Schenectady high school English teacher who will serve as assistant news-commentator; and Mrs. Sara Moyer, a math specialist in the Schenectady elementary schools who will review films and books for the program.

The reams of written material that cross an average principal's desk are not easy to keep up with, and school teachers often do more homework in reading educational bulletins than their most conscientious students.

"This Week in Education" is designed to eliminate some of the work, to filter and coordinate the material, and to present to the teacher in concentrated form some of the important weekly developments in education -- whether it be new methods, new materials, or new personalities.

For example, the first three programs will probe: "The Teachers' Professional Organizations -- A.F. of L., N.E.A. Is There a Difference?"; "Humphrey or Nixon -- Does It Make a difference for Public Education?"; and "Haircuts, Hemlines, and Hooliganism."

The program will be seen for thirty weeks and will be carried to educational TV stations across the state via the New York Network.

Mary Bidaers

THIS 'N THAT: Sometimes when we loose a fight or a bet the favorite expression is "We wuz robbed". For Mr. John Birch, Washington Ave. it was for real. While he was visiting friends burglars broke into his home and made off with considerable loot. Which goes to prove a safe is not always so safe.

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