

THE STOCKADE SPY



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STOCKADE SPY

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From The President's Desk

Dear Friends,

I had a wonderful time at the first general Stockade meeting (kind of like a great surprise birthday party that I also had recently). So many new folks came and got to meet, and get advice from, our noble veterans. The food at the social hour was great inducement and Phil Lord was a wonderful speaker, enlightening us about the Durham boats (built right here in the Stockade) and the early canal systems (pre Erie Canal) of upstate New York. All in all, even though I don't know Robert's rules of order, I felt that the meeting was a great success. Thanks to those who helped.

With all of this, I am spurred to orchestrate an even better meeting next time. We will have Leslie Adler to explain the investment tax credit program, Lynn Dunning-Vaughn will talk about the facade easement program and our own Dan Ertel to tell us how this can affect our taxes. The meeting will be on Wednesday, November 18th at 7 PM in the Historic Society at 32 Washington Avenue. First we will have a social hour, then the meeting. Please come and bring a friend, new neighbor, or both! If you would like to show off your culinary talents (Betty, not Julia) by making an hors d'oeuvre or dessert, please call Marie Eoff during the evenings at 346-3374.

I would also like you to voice, at the meeting, any problems or concerns that you feel the board should be aware of. At the last meeting, there was a rumor that the city was planning to remove the bricks prior to re-paving the streets. Much discussion ensued, and on further investigation by Charles Del Signore, it turned out that it was indeed just a rumor, the bricks will remain. Had it not been a rumor and not brought to our attention, we might have lost forever the bricks which are a significant part of the history of our community.

I hope that you all have a wonderful autumn and look forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

Tidings

New things are blowing around town on the heels of our recent flash snowstorm. I, for one, am the latest Stockade Spy to come in from the cold. I'm Wendy Espina, a registered nurse in real life and now a full time student at SUNY Albany. I also work part-time as a unit supervisor at Teresian House. I live with my husband, Noel and my grandmother, Mrs. Helen Mohr at 37 Front Street. I'm now your new Tidings editor and it's my job to gather all the blarney and bluster you can muster. So, here's the latest...

Just in case you haven't noticed, everyone's sprucing up, with Front St. taking the lead this month. The Harter's and the Schmidt's homes are sporting new coats of paint, while the Eoff's have stripped the paint off theirs -- and I know quite a few of us have walked by and admired the splendid results. But kudos for the most work done goes to Lee Willard and June Cummings who are slowly but surely completely restoring 9 Washington Ave. I understand the newly sand-blasted tin roof upstairs is stunning. And special thanks to all the neighborhood gardeners, their efforts are much appreciated. Now, if I've left any of you hard workers out, do let me know, and you'll get all the credit that you deserve. In the meantime, my 'spies' and I are keeping our eyes open.

Once again, it's time to roll out the welcome mat for some new arrivals in the neighborhood. Pat and George Marshall have moved to Washington Ave. Pat is the Director of Ambulatory Care at Sunnyview, while George is a food broker at Marshall-Berlino Assoc. Inc. Jim Tomlinson has made Front St. his new home. Jim is currently enrolled at Union College and is also working with GE. Henry Dupont is now living on Ferry St. and is a student at Union as well. Tom and Cindy Holbrook-Provow moved to College Street all the way from Iowa. Tom is a professor at Union College and Cindy is a librarian. Welcome one and all to the Stockade!!

Summer '87 has bid us farewell, but Adelaide and Gilbert Parker of Church St. will enjoy fond memories of a lovely two weeks in Nantucket. Phyllis Marmein of Front St. had a wonderful summer in Manomet on Cape Cod Bay. Everyone's back home now, and getting ready for the holidays.

For some of us, visitors made this summer a super one. Ann and Bob George thoroughly enjoyed a visit from their daughter Jenifer and granddaughter Julie, both here from Tucson. Barbara Edward's nephew, Philip Alspach, is visiting as well and treating Barbara to the joys of vegetarian food.

Well, we had the Art Show last month, and in spite of Mother Nature's efforts to "dampen" the festivities, a good number did show up and everyone enjoyed the fine work on display. Unfortunately, our guardian Lawrence was not part of the activity but between raining on our parades and flash snow storms, no wonder Lawrence doesn't want to stick around. Any takers for his pedestal???

The Stockade is keeping up nicely with the baby boom -- new parents on North St. Cathy and Don Zizzi welcomed Anthony Emmanuel on Sept. 21. Congratulations!

And congratulations are also in order for Noel Espina (yes, my husband) for successfully defending his doctoral thesis at The Mount Sinai Medical School on Sept. 29. YAY!!

October is a very special month for birthdays. Our President Susan Bokan, like a fine wine, just keeps getting better with age. And last, but by no means least, Dr. Louis Navias is 90 years young this month and I wager few of us could even begin to keep up with him!! Here's to many, many more.

Before I sign off, I would like to encourage all of you in the Stockade to feel free to drop any news that you would like to share in my mailbox. Ruth Harvey and Maria Moore have been good enough to help keep me posted on the comings and goings. My heartfelt thanks to both of them.

So, that's it from this end. Do keep me "informed" of the goings on, and of course I'll make sure all the right people get to hear about it. And all you hard-working renovators, keep up the good work and in the words of Dan Rather, "COURAGE"! See you next month.

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Walkabout 1987

By Kathy Johnson

There were 1010 visitors to the Stockade on September 26th for the Twenty-Eighth annual walkabout of Old Schenectady. All of the expenses are not yet in, but we estimate that one half share will be approximately \$2500 for each of the sponsors, The Stockade Association and The Schenectady County Historical Society.

By all accounts, it was a great success. Considering the competition we had to contend with for peoples time and the fact that it was the first nice weekend we had in the past 6 weeks, we are all very pleased with the turnout.

Many people commented that they felt it was the best Walkabout ever. The selection of homes was certainly representational and covered all areas of our neighborhood. We would again like to thank all of the home owners for all of their hard work. Each home was shown to it's best possible advantage as a result of the time and effort the following home owners displayed:

Pat & Hank Binzer
 Mary Ivey & Charles Del Signore
 Alice Duel
 Richard Brown
 Reverend Father Vang
 Whitmyer Broom Factory

We would also like to acknowledge the contributions made by Arthur's Market and the Friends of the Stockade which helped to defray some of our expenses. In addition, the printing of the ticket brochures was generously underwritten by Barney Square Associates. The support of all these neighbors is very much appreciated.

Although some people may not think so, each years walkabout is different from every other one. A big surprise this year was the self portrait of Rembrandt hanging in the living room at the rectory of St. Georges Church. It was on loan for the day by a private Schenectady collector and what a special treat for our walkabout visitors. The flower show at St. Georges Church was also lovely, and we hope this is a tradition that will continue.

We also want to recognize all of the people at Buchyn, O'Hare & Werner. What a wonderful job they did guiding people through their very special building. The care they have taken in adapting their building to it's present use and the pride they feel in it is rightly deserved. A very special thanks to Mr. and Mrs. William O'Hare for coordinating the entire effort.

The Friends of the Stockade did their usual super job of helping people and answering questions about the neighborhood. I'm sure they got tired of explaining where Lawrence was, but wasn't it nice having Mike Iacabucci riding around on horseback to fill in for him in his absence? I thought he did a great job and added a lot to the parade of the fife and drum corp. It really lent a festive air to hear the music. You could catch another glimpse of days gone by at the encampment of the Third battalion Tryon County Militia. Their dedication to authenticity is remarkable.

Emily Farrell and I would again like to acknowledge the great job done by all of the members of our committee. It was a lot of work, but we had a good time at our many meetings at 9 Front Street. They are a great group of people to be associated with.

Cris Harter
 Ann George
 Eileen Julian
 Wayne Harvey
 Marie Eoff
 Gloria Kishton
 Katie Kindl

I wish I had the time and the space to thank everyone who contributed their time and efforts on walkabout day by hosting at a home, selling tickets, volunteering at the churches or in many of the other ways that may seem small but are so necessary to the success of the tour. If I have left anyone out, it is purely unintentional. The walkabout is a wonderful neighborhood effort in the truest sense of the word. If you enjoyed it and would like to become more involved, please contact either Emily Farrell or myself. There are lots of jobs to be done, both big and small, and we would welcome anyone who would like to participate.

We would also like to encourage anyone interested in having their home or apartment on the tour to let us know as soon as possible. We already have a number of the stops lined up and it looks like next years walkabout will be better than ever.

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Calendar Notes

Time to get out your calendars. I have been asked by several people to publish the deadlines for submissions to the Spy to help them in planning their submissions. Currently the deadlines for the next 2 months will be November 12th for the next issue and December 11th for the issue after that. Please remember that this is your newspaper, and without your submissions the paper won't be published. While we are on the subject of calendars, I thought I would give you advanced notice of the next general meeting of the Stockade Association. It will be on November 18th at 7PM at the Historical Society on Washington Avenue.

Early word has it that the annual Christmas carol sing and tree lighting will be held during the evening hours of December 4. So get out your pencils and mark those dates on your calendars!



Photos by John Eoff

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From Spy Headquarters

Well here we go again. Thanks to all of those who contributed articles and poems to this issue of the Spy. A special note to the person who submitted the poem in this issue, I am sorry, but I misplaced the note you sent with your poem, so I can't give you credit or return it. If you drop me another note, I will make sure you get credit in the next issue, and I will return the original to you.

Last week I told you all that I live with my cat, but I neglected to tell you that I also enjoy bird watching (quite difficult with a cat!) and photography. The photo on the cover is one I took this summer of one of my favorite birds, the Great Blue Heron. I had seen many of these birds flying over the Mohawk this summer and had always wondered where these birds were staying in the area. One day I was fortunate enough to discover the answer. While walking along the bike path on the other side of the river, I stumbled across a small colony of Herons roosting in the trees. It is really quite a sight to see these large birds, which stand about 4 feet tall with 6 foot wingspans, standing 40 or 50 feet up in a tree. It was especially gratifying for me to see these birds roosting in the area as it would tend to indicate that the river is becoming clean enough to support a fairly substantial supply of healthy fish, the Heron's primary food supply.

Last week, I was talking with the gardener at St. George's who reminded me that the black walnuts are once again appearing in great quantities. If you would like to avail yourself of some nuts, feel free to help yourself, but please be careful not to do any damage when you walk around the lawns of the church, and have lots of fun trying to get at the lovely nutmeats inside.

Did you know that the Concorde, seen at the air show in August, is 10 inches longer when flying at top speed than it is on the ground?

Death With Father

Was that you Dad, there standing by the curb?
 The look was filled with invitation; expectation
 That I was on the way and then would stop
 And open up the door to take you in.
 But I drove by, too fast, as usual.
 And checked remembrances in rear-viewed mirror.
 I knew the image in my mind
 Had risen from old latent angers we two shared.
 Yet you had looked so much like life before.
 Not rigid, cold, with pink aid shocking in your ear
 As I had seen you last, when life had left
 And only tissue thin moustache,
 Remained to my unwarranted, indifferent view.
 I see you often, old perturbed ghost.
 I've followed just behind you in your small white car
 As you, just as so often in the past, had made the green
 While I put on the jarring brakes, and once again saw red.

Why do you haunt me so?
 Have we old differences to settle before we rest
 Here, now between the worlds of quick and dead?
 It may be so. We let each other go too quickly.
 Your kind of love was lost on this new Oedipus.
 But, blood will tell, and after all you were my father.
 So now we'll make a pact.
 I'll walk half way across the gap.
 I'll come to you with arms and heart both open
 And forgive a life misunderstood
 If you in turn with your new gifts,
 Will see me as I am, a product of the life and times
 You gave me.

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