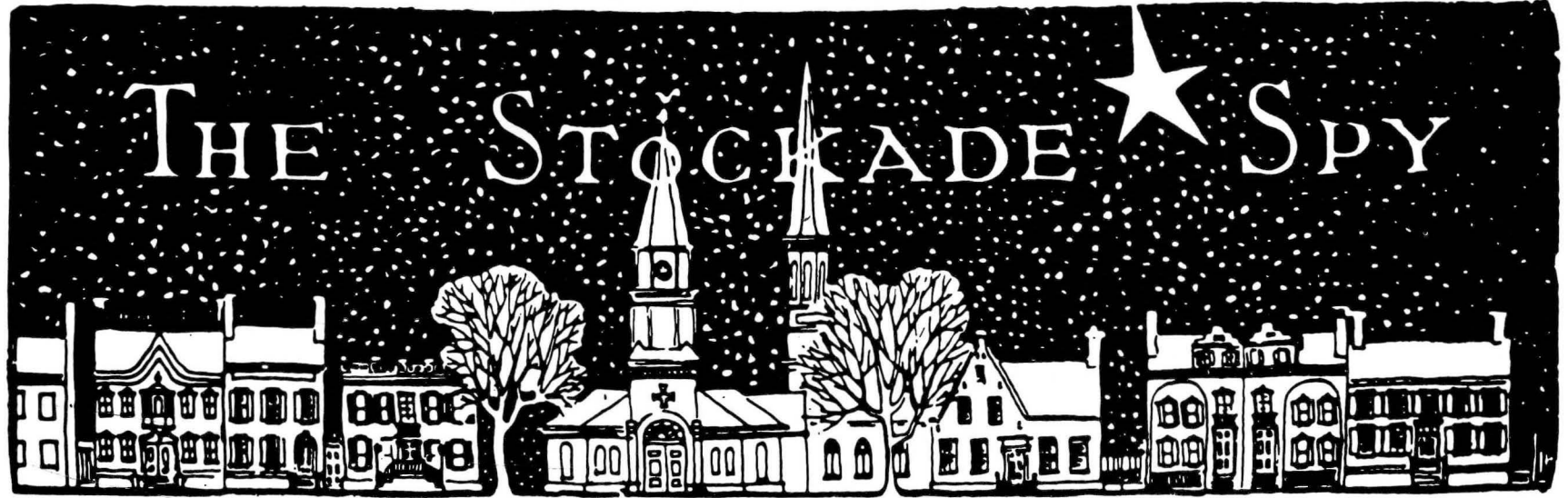


THE STOCKADE ★ SPY



December 1994

Published by The Stockade Association

Vol. 35 No. 9



Photo by Mike Powell



STOCKADE SPY

Editor
Business Manager
Tidings
Staff

R. Michaela French
David Kopecek
Wendy Espina
Diane Buckley
Hal Thompson
Paul Spencer

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Letter from the editor

Dear Readers,

Already December, and we have been so lucky with our mild autumn that we can hardly complain.

There are a few things I would like to note in my letter, first to say that the late delivery of the SPY in November was due to several unrelated events that culminated in the delay. I can assure you that it was not due to any neglect on the part of the staff. Speaking of the staff, **Dave Kopecek**, the business manager for the last year or so, has found that his new job demands so much out of town travelling that he is finding it impossible to keep up with the advertising for the SPY. He has also recently moved out of the Stockade and we understand what the pressure of moving means. Therefore we are looking at another possible candidate for the position and trust we will have good news soon. Thanks go to Dave for his previous work for the SPY, and we wish him well in all his endeavors.

Again, in speaking of the wonderful staff here, I must tell you that **Hal Thompson** has been writing "Tidings" for the past few months, during Wendy Espina's absence. He has done a great job, and only yesterday someone told me she thought Wendy was still responsible, because it continued to have her bright and breezy style. I am most grateful to Hal for coming through as he has. If you would like to assist him, just send in any news of the neighborhood that seems appropriate. They can be left at 137 Front Street (in the SPY basket in back) or dropped off at his home on 124 North College Street.

Another frequent contributor and, of course, our main photographer, is **Mike Powell**. He has often come to our rescue when we needed a front page, and always with a quality photo. Thanks to you too Mike.

If there are any, so far, unsung heroes (ines) in this group, let me say that they are truly appreciated by me. In times of stress they all come through with support for each other, and we usually end up happy with our efforts! It is a working relationship that is seldom repeated in our "real" world, more's the pity.

Recently we have been blessed in another direction. You, our readers, have been sending in items to use in this, your paper. It is tremendously helpful to have copy and not to have to scramble for it at the last minute. Many, many thanks to all who have contributed material. As always, my rule is to publish anything that is not scurrilous, obscene, or anonymous.

May whatever holiday you celebrate in December be a time of joy and love.

The editor



General Membership Meeting

November 17, 1994

In the absence of Commissioner Mills, the meeting focused on problems associated with enforcement of traffic regulations, especially as related to cars and trucks parking on sidewalks, in clear disregard of the legal constraints of so doing. The members attending agreed that more proactive measures should be taken by residents in reporting these and other incidents. A motion to adopt Jean Zegger's suggestion (published in November SPY) was unanimously passed.

Motion: That the Stockade Association establish block representatives who would consolidate information on segments of the neighborhood to report to the Stockade Board of Directors for appropriate action.

Jean Zegger has offered to answer phone calls concerning this concept and to serve as a coordinator of the Block Representatives. She has, as a result of the SPY piece, received some calls to volunteer, but needs several more to cover each block.

The SPY staff adds these comments:

Please check the November 1994 issue of the SPY for phone numbers to report various incidents. It is on the back page under "REPORT IT!"

Another area of mischief many of us have experienced is in tampering with your mail. You can get a formal sticker from the post office that reads as follows:

WARNING

Willful damage to mail boxes and theft of mail are federal crimes (felonies) punishable by fine or imprisonment or both. (18 U.S. Code 1705 & 1708)

Letter to the editor

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I am writing to you to tell you that the spirit of Christmas is not dead in the Stockade.

Here's what happened:

We live on Front Street, and the Whitmyre Broom Factory Apartments are behind our house. For the past several years, I have put lights and a star on the tall evergreen in our back yard. Two years ago, someone deliberately cut the wires on the lights. I then posted the following message on the fence by our tree, facing the broom factory:

"To the cowardly Scrooge who cut the wires on our tree -- If you did not like the lights on the tree, you should have told us before you cut the wires. We could have come to some compromise agreement. Merry Christmas anyway."

A couple of days later this note appeared on our fence:

"Please don't judge us here at the Broom Factory for the senseless act of some Scrooge. I, for one, have enjoyed the lights tremendously. Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and THANKS!"

I immediately re-wired the lights for all to enjoy. Because of that note from a friendly and caring neighbor, I feel that the true spirit of Christmas is alive and well.

Happy Holidays!

Jim Lane

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PETE POLACHEK, Owner

Schenectady County Historical Society

An invitation to an OPEN HOUSE, December 10, 1994 from 2 - 4 P.M.

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN IN A CELEBRATION OF THE SEASON, TO SEE AND HEAR OUR "NEW" RESTORED BOSENDORFER PIANO AFFORDED US THROUGH THE KINDNESS OF KURT GLACY OF CIRCLE MUSIC AND TO PARTAKE OF "HIGH TEA."

Meeting announcement

A meeting on Saturday, January 14, 1995 at 1:30 P.M. Cris Harter, co-chair of the Mabee Farm Committee will report on the day-long symposium "The Mabee Farm: Planning for its Fourth Century," held at the Historical Society recently to discuss the current status and future plans for the development of this important project.

Katy Kindl

Rotondo Park Update

On October 20, 1994, Stockade residents Mary van der Bogert, Werner Feibes, Malcolm Willison, and Jean and Jack Zegger, attended a meeting Jim Crick, Union College, had called with Karen Engelke, Urban Cultural Park, George Robertson, Schenectady Economic Development Corporation, and members of the Schenectady 2000 Committee for the Riverfront.

Karen Engelke displayed a diagram with proposals for Rotondo Park that were developed by the Urban Cultural Park in the early 1980's. The Stockaders mentioned above favored the park essentially as it exists now, which was the response to the proposal when it was first presented. They viewed the features of the proposal -- a winding path, earth berms, additional vegetation, raised overlook, kiosk, parking for cars in the park between North Ferry and North Streets -- in the light of problems of security, flooding, vandalism, and noise. Assurance was given that any proposals for Rotondo Park would be presented for Stockade residents to consider before any grant funds would be sought.

The top six priorities selected by residents in the March 1994 Stockade Associations's Rotondo Park neighborhood survey were related to: a change of name back to Riverside Park, maintenance, refurbished tennis courts, trash containers, widening the walkway, and improved police patrols and neighborhood (in that order).

In January the general meeting of the Stockade Association will be devoted to a discussion of the park.

Jack Zegger

Call for Submissions

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 **Friday, December 16**, for publication in the **January 1995** issue. Please be sure they are typed, double spaced, signed with the **writer's name, address, and phone included**. You may mail materials to Riverside Condos, 137 Front Street, #105, clearly marked for the **Spy** editor, or leave them in the SPY basket in the open foyer in back of the building. Thank you for your cooperation. In case of undue hardship in getting information typed, we will consider clearly written letters (not articles). If you've entered the computer age, we would appreciate finding your submission on an MS-DOS disk in WordPerfect or ASCII format, so we don't have to typeset. Disks and any original material will be returned **upon request**; otherwise no responsibility for them is taken by the **Spy** staff.

For many of us bemoaning the past election comes this tale about the wife of Tom Dewey, governor of New York (1942-54):

In the 1948 presidential contest between Truman and Dewey, the latter looked like a winner. On the night of the election, Dewey asked his wife, "How will it be to sleep with the President of the United States?" She replied, "A high honor, and quite frankly, darling, I'm looking forward to it." At breakfast the next morning after Dewey's defeat, Mrs. Dewey said, "Tell me, Tom, am I going to Washington or is Harry coming here?"

Former mayor, Karen Johnson, who is now Director of Development at Proctor's Theatre, recently gave a talk at Union College Academy of Lifelong Learning on the history and future of Proctor's. She encouraged us all to patronize this piece of history in order to preserve it as part of our heritage.

Congratulations to Dr. Benjamin Pasamanick of 12 North Ferry Street who received the Scientific Distinction Award from the World Association of Psychosocial Rehabilitation at the United Nations in November. The good doctor was recognized as "a pioneer in the use of community-based psychoeducation and rehabilitation for schizophrenia" and as "the author of Schizophrenics in the Community." The recipient of the Irving Blumberg Human Rights Award was none other than Tipper Gore, who was unable to attend the luncheon due to post-election strategy meetings.

Congratulations are also in order to Gordon Moffert for his recent marriage. Gordon and his lovely wife were married in September in Grand Canyon with none other than Ron Chard of Church Street serving as best man. At the moment, Gordon is in the neighborhood helping Ron with the restoration of his new house before heading back to warmer climes.

A hearty welcome to new neighbor, Nancy Reutta, of Union Street. Ms. Reutta who says she loves living in this unique neighborhood, is the proud proprietor of the flower shop, Mille Fleur on Upper Union Street.

A fond farewell to Betsy and Guy Graves of Church Street who recently relocated to Florida. You'll notice their house on the corner of Church and Front Streets is for sale. Son, Steve, is taking care of loose ends there as the couple enjoy the sunshine.

In the new sidewalk category, Ms. Debbie Lambeth of Front Street is enjoying the restoration of her walkway. Believe it or not, her first load of slate was broken in transit. Tough breaks, so to speak!

St. George's Church is to be commended for the fine job that has been done in the redecorating process of the Great Hall. Residents can check out the handiwork after the Annual Christmas Tree Lighting on December 4th. And speaking of the Tree Lighting, thanks again are due to Alice Duell for supplying the tree. It's people like Alice who make the Stockade the special place it is.

Until next month, Happy Holidays to one and all from myself and the staff of the Spy!



Christmas Tree Lighting Reminder

December 4, 1994: Begin the Yuletide celebration as you meet your friends and neighbors -- at 4:30 p.m. at the Indian. Listen for the church bells to herald in the season at 4:15 that day.

Please remember to bring your cookies and finger foods to The Great Hall at St. George's before the tree lighting.

How Stockaders Voted on November 4

For two decades it has been axiomatic in the First Ward: "As the Stockade goes so goes the Nation." This past November's election saw not only the fall of the Democrat's control of Congress but also the shattering of the Stockade's political crystal ball.

The nation did a turnabout while Stockaders stayed their course. Here's the unofficial Stockade vote tally for the major political parties' candidates:

GOVERNOR:			
CUOMO	Dem. Lib.	346	
PATAKI	Rep. Cons.	222	
GOLISANO	Ind.	30	
COMPROLLER:			
McCALL	Dem. Lib.	343	
LONDON	Rep.	188	

ATTORNEY GENERAL:			
BURNSTEIN	Dem. Lib.	359	
VACCO	Rep. Cons.	188	
U.S. SENATOR:			
MOYNIHAN	Dem. Lib.	377	
CASTRO	Rep. Cons.	183	
SUPREME COURT:			
LOYOLA	Dem.	325	
MEADER	Dem.	304	
WARD	Dem.	305	
FERRADINO	Rep. Cons.	184	
DAWSON	Rep. Cons.	194	
CARUSO	Rep. Cons.	212	
U.S. CONGRESS:			
MCNULTY	Dem. Cons.	395	
GOMEZ	Rep.	149	
STATE SENATE:			
VAN SCHAICK	Dem. Lib.	281	
FARLEY	Rep. Cons.	282	
STATE ASSEMBLY:			
BARNES	Dem. Lib.	241	
TEDISCO	Rep. Cons.	335	
COUNTY JUDGE:			
EIDENS	Dem. Lib.	346	
CAMINO	Rep. Cons.	180	
SMITH	Ind.	9	
FAMILY JUDGE:			
REILLY	Dem.	329	
REILLY	Rep. Cons.	185	
COUNTY CLERK:			
WOODWARD	Dem.	329	
BARBARA	Rep.	169	
ISABELLA	Cons.	37	
SHERIFF:			
BARNES	Dem. Lib.	373	
MARTIN	Rep. Cons.	189	

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James D.J. Schmitt, president
First Ward Democrat Committee

Environmental Notes

The holidays are here, and how about a few gifts we can all enjoy? Some of the most unlikely sources are hearing the cry of our planet and trying to help. Okay, so it is often economically beneficial, if the end result helps, that is what we want isn't it?

The **United Parcel Service** saved 3.1 million gallons of gas last year. They taught their drivers to drive with gas savings in mind -- accelerating smoothly, shifting as soon as possible to the highest gear, pacing themselves in traffic and anticipating traffic signals to avoid sudden stops. The UPS has 52,495 vehicles, and says it saved all that gas by educating the drivers. Lots of those tips we could benefit from in our own driving habits.

Garbage giant **Browning Ferris Industries** opened a store to sell recycled stationery, wood products made from scrap lumber, and jewelry made from old computer boards! (ECOS News, 11/94)

Mohawk Paper Mills has a great idea: closed-loop recycling. This procedure helps a company send its waste paper to be converted into pulp which in turn is made into paper for that company. According to an article in *The Sunday Gazette*, 10/30/94, customer demand brought about this innovation, when Xerox Corp. and Niagara Mohawk Power Corp wanted their annual reports printed on their recycled office waste paper.

The Sierra Club's Cascade Crew conducted a stewardship event for the Adopt-A-Lake/Adopt-A-Highway project for the Cascade Lakes. They picked up trash on the highway bordering the lake and planted birch trees donated by the NYS Department of Transportation. Now that's cooperation.

Schenectady County's Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) needs assistance in planning how to alert the public in case of catastrophic accident from the release of toxic substances. Much of the help can be met without technical know how. The Sierra Club is asking its members to help out.

Do you know of any surviving American chestnut trees? Karen Pandell, our Stockadian author of wonderful childrens' books, sent me an article about a research project to combat the fungus that has killed most of them. The American Chestnut Foundation and the D.E.C. want

Ni-Mo

Niagara Mohawk is completing a three year program checking all of its 500,000 service lines. The program is for leak detection and correction. There are several categories of leaks. Not only the size of a leak, but its proximity to a residence helps to determine its priority status. Most leaks detected in the Stockade are Priority I leaks, due to their closeness to homes. Class I leaks demand immediate attention. The holes that have been dug were to find and repair these leaks. Detection is done above ground.

The detection and correction program is a mandated public service program. We may be safer due to this program, but all those holes dug and filled will make many pot holes to contend with this winter.

P.S.

people to search their properties for surviving trees (they may only be shoots, but these can be used to collect seeds for research and planting). If you have any, call your local forester; you may be helping the rebirth of a stately American tree. Thank you Karen for your contribution.

Winter is upon us and there are problems with deer - both their survival and the over abundance in some neighborhoods where they have become nuisances. The latter is, of course, because we have taken away their natural habitat, which is on the edges of the forests, and destroyed that fringe where they used to live, often replacing it with housing developments. Nevertheless, it is a problem to be faced, although not, I believe, one we face in the Stockade. The question of feeding wild deer during winters is also a problem, and in an article by Dick Henry in the ECOS NEWS, November, several sensible points are put forth. First he notes that a general rule about wildlife is "if you love them, leave them alone." Yes, Nature is indeed red in tooth and claw, and many will not survive. So, unless you understand the basic tenets of deer biology and physiology, Henry suggests you could kill them with kindness. Why? Because deer need special diets that nature usually provides, and this is what they can digest. Introducing other foods may actually weaken them, resulting in further loss. Feeding deer responsibly is a commitment, not a one-time event, so would be helpers should be prepared to find out about what and how feeding should be planned. Also remember that browse damage to shrubs is bound to occur near feeding sites, not only on your land, but also to neighboring property. Henry's final word: "Doing it 'right' requires dedication and proper planning. Doing it 'wrong' is easier; however, it can have great negative impacts on deer.

The Schenectady Aquifer is the sole source of drinking water for over 150,000 Schenectady and Saratoga County residents. That's a lot of people, in fact it serves the greatest population and is the most productive of New York's 18 primary water supply aquifers. Another jewel in our area, and one we should protect as such. Water can become contaminated by careless use of many items, and here are Dos and Dont's published in ECOS NEWS, September/October, 1994: * Use less toxic substances for cleaning etc. in place of commercial ones. * Never rinse paints or solvents down the drain. * Take used motor oil to a service station or other store that collects petroleum products for recycling. * Participate in a cleanup day to collect and dispose of hazardous house and garden products. Yes, you can make a difference.

"Leave it as it is....

The ages have been at work on it, and man can only mar it."

Theodore Roosevelt

RMF

December Waste Collection Dates

December 6	Tuesday
December 13	Tuesday
December 20	Tuesday
December 28	Wednesday
January 5	Thursday

*Waste Collection Pickup Starts at 6:30 a.m.

*Don't put waste on the curb before 2:00 p.m. the day before.

Remember to recycle:

Green, clear and brown bottles and jars; plastic bottles with necks and metal cans, should be placed into a recycling container marked "Container Product."* Separate magazines, newspaper, brown paper (grocery bags), and corrugated cardboard and place into a recycling container marked "Paper Product."*

*Note: As of July 15, 1994, clean Drink Boxes & Juice/Milk Cartons are now recyclable, just add them to the bin marked "Container Product".

Junk Mail, Catalogs and Telephone Books are now recyclable, just place in paper bag and add them to the bin marked for "Paper Product".

For answers to recycling questions call the Recycling Hotline 382-5060.

Recycling Centers

Weaver Street Transfer Station - Schenectady

Hours: 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Saturdays

Accepts : Tin cans, plastic containers, glass bottles

Sofco Inc.- 702 Corporation Park, Scotia

Hours: 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m weekdays

Accepts : magazines, telephone books, circulars & third class mail

County Farm -Hetcheltown Road, Glenville

Hours: 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Monday through Friday

9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Saturdays

Accepts: newspapers, corrugated cardboard, tin and aluminum cans, aluminum foil containers, colored glass, household batteries, junk mail, magazines and phone books.



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