

THE STOCKADE ★ SPY



December 1996

Published by the Stockade Association

Vol. 38 No. 4

Stockade Calendar



Annual Tree Lighting

Sunday, December 8
4:30 PM

At The Indian

[This is one of the really fun neighborhood events!]

"Something Old"

A Victorian Christmas

Presenter: Sue McLean
Schenectady County
Historical Society

Wednesday, Dec 4 1 PM

Annual Christmas Party

Historical Society

Saturday, December 14
1:00 PM

Program: *The Nott Stove*
Speaker: Frank Taormina

Greetings (a comedy)

Schenectady Civic Players

December 6-8 & 11-15
All tickets \$10.00
Call 382-2081

Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 6:30 PM

First Presbyterian Church

All are welcome

January Spy Deadline

December 15

Stockade Dressed for the Holidays

Like many a Stockade residence, the Schenectady County Historical Society is all decked out for the holiday season.

This year the Society is particularly

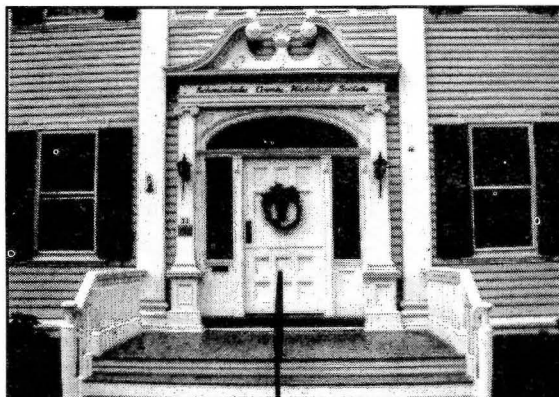
proud of the new balustrade (front entrance stair rail) which was beautifully restored by David Bennett of Innerwood Custom Woodworking in Ballston Lake.

The original balustrade was destroyed over the years by the elements. Howard Bliss and his family oversaw and participated in the placement and painting of the mahogany spindles,

which were turned and shaped by David Bennett to match photos of the original.

The Historical Society was built around

1900 in a graceful Georgian design. It was purchased in 1920 by General Electric Company as a club house for use by the women of the company. In 1958 GE donated the building to the Historical Society.



Notice when you walk by this holiday season that the building bears its holiday wreath with special elan due to the spruced-up front!

Stockadian Calarco Has New Book

Stockade author Tom Calarco has written a whimsical fantasy novel in which the hero – 10-year-old Charles Patrick Paganono – lives in the Stockade. Although the town in the book is named "Haneckhadee", the Indian, the Y, Riverside School, the River, and the Railroad bridge into Scotia are all very much in evidence. Called Hi-Doh Hi-Dee Ha-Ha, Tom's book is described by Tom as "for the child in the adult."

Similar in tone to Roald Dahl's books,

Hi-Doh Hi-Dee Ha-Ha combines fantasy and dark humor with the spiritual – a very original take on the story of a young man's journey to understanding the cycle of life and death. Along the way, Charles becomes a dandelion seed, a cricket, a bird, a prairie dog and a hot dog, and all the while learns to hear the music of the universe.

Tom grew up in the Stockade and attended Riverside School, so the view of

(Continued on page 2)

**MORE
Stockade Calendar**

Advent Quiet Day
Saturday, December 7
8AM - 2 PM

St George's Church
The Reverend Paul Farthing, SSC
Rector, Church of Saint John the
Evangelist, Montreal, Quebec
Lunch Provided
Call 374-3163 to register

**Christmas Eve Programs
St. George's Church**

First Evensong of Christmas, 4 PM
Music of the Nativity, 10:30 PM
The Parish Mass with
Solemn Procession, 11 PM

**Christmas Decorations &
Doll's Town Exhibit**

Schenectady Historical Society
December 2 - Mid-January
Monday-Friday, 1-5 PM
*Dollhouses & Miniatures from Mrs.
Dorothy White's collection;
"Tree of Yesterday" featuring
photos of Schenectadians from the
turn of the century*

Girls Basketball at the YWCA
Ages 7-15

Warm up your skills for January
Saturdays in December:
December 7, 14, 21 and 28
\$2/session or \$5 for all sessions
Call Elaine Troy, 374-3394, x120

The Stockade Spy

Editors:

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23 Washington Avenue
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146 1/2 Front Street

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207 Union Street

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6 Front Street

**Riverside Condominium
Recital Performance**

While the Mohawk River was threatening to overflow its bank on Saturday, November 9, about 50 Stockade area residents and friends were treated to a concert by the Riverside Chamber Players. Organizer John Aasmundstad, clarinet, who lives at Riverside Condominium, was joined by pianist Adelina Krivosheina and bassoonist Alex Shopsha in selections from Hindemith, Rachmaninoff, Mozart, von Weber, Strauss and Joplon. Don't miss the spring recital which will be announced in the *Spy*.

Jack Zegger

**New Gifts for Children
Wanted!!**

The First Presbyterian Church is collecting new gifts for children of parents who are in prison. These gifts will be given to the children for Christmas. Anyone interested in donating can contact the church office at 347-4546 and ask about the Angel

*Dear Children,
Sit quietly in nature.
Look and listen to the birds
They too have things to say*

*Sit under a tree,
watch the branches and leaves
sway in the wind
Listen to the music of nature*

*It's free, and each day if you
listen carefully the music will
change*

*If you sit quietly, you might be
come part of nature for
awhile*

*And you might just see a fairey
or two!*

*Michelle R Kelly
9 North Church*

(Continued from page 1)

Calarco's Book

the neighborhood presented in his book is lively and authentic – the way a child would view it. The book abounds with puns and characters with names like "Capellini" and "Pepperoni."

A former English teacher, Tom graduated from St. Bonaventure University and holds a master's degree from Iowa State. He works as a free-lance writer, often with the *Chronicle* (Glens Falls), Nordeck Publishing and the *Capital District Business Review*.



Hi-Doh Hi-Dee Ha-Ha was illustrated by Erik McKenney, a recent graphic arts graduate of Albany Junior College. Erik's facility with illustration was apparent at a recent book signing when he did the illustration accompanying this article, freehand. This character appears in the book, but in a different pose.

Tom has a Web page which will include a different chapter from his book each week, as well as illustrations and music. You can view his work at <http://www.albany.net/~gcastle/write4you/write4you.htm>. You can get a copy of the book, (a Stockade Christmas present!) at Arthur's Market and a number of bookstores, including the Book Nook in Schenectady, Media Play in Mohawk Mall, Walden Books in Rotterdam Mall, Borders, the Book House in Stuyvesant Plaza, and Barnes and Noble in Colonie.

Letter from the President

Jack Zegger

Stockaders may have noted a review in the October 20, 1996 *Gazette* of a recent book, Home from Nowhere, by James Kunstler, a Saratoga Springs' resident. Kunstler decries our automobile-dependent suburban landscapes and favors a return to traditional urban planning with compact, neighborhood-centered development found in large cities. He feels that zoning laws should be changed to help develop half mile square pedestrian-friendly neighborhoods accessible by public transportation. This would duplicate features that have made urban neighborhoods like Washington's Georgetown, Boston's Beacon Hill, New York's Greenwich Village and San Francisco's Pacific Heights "some of the nation's most desirable places to live." Our own Stockade neighborhood shares many features of these communities.

The Stockade water main distribution system project was completed at the end of October. The project improved the water distribution throughout the Stockade area and provided new curbs, sidewalks and street pavements for Ingersoll Avenue and North Street. A separate job provided a new storm drain at the base of Washington Avenue and corrected a long-standing problem of water flowing into Riverside Park. On behalf of the Stockade community I expressed our thanks to Milt Mitchell, Commissioner of Engineering and Public Works and his staff.

The Stockade Association has learned that the New York State Department of Social Services has withdrawn funding for the proposed adult group home at the former Parkhurst Children's Shelter at 210 Union Street. The building is currently being offered for sale by the Northeast Parent and Child Society.

The Van Dyck Restaurant and Microbrewery renovation is proceeding toward an early 1997 opening. The owners and architect are working with representatives from the City, Stockade Association, Heritage Foundation, Schenectady 2000 and Schenectady Economic Development Corporation to develop a comprehensive landscaping plan for the parking lot and entranceway at Union Street and Erie Boulevard. The "Gateway Project" is a unique opportunity to improve the eastern entrance to the Stockade. We must grasp it!

If you haven't yet sent in your Stockade Association membership form, please take a moment to do it now!

The Stockade Association Membership Drive — 1996

Please support the Association and become a member by returning the coupon below.

Membership dues (10/1/96 to 9/30/97) are \$5.00 per person, tax deductible. Contributions above that amount would be appreciated. Please make checks payable to:

The Stockade Association

Send To: David Marhafer, Treasurer
3 Washington Avenue
Schenectady NY 12305

Thank you!

Name(s) [Please print:] _____

Address: _____

If you would like to participate in any Stockade activities, please describe:

December Waste Collection Dates

Monday: December 2, December 9, December 15, & December 23 **Tuesday:** December 31

Waste Collection Starts at 6:30 AM

Don't put waste on the curb before 2:00 PM the day before

Remove empty containers from the curb by 7:00 PM



Snow Season is Upon Us — City to Use Old Snow Emergency Regulations Until Further Notice

In the last issue of the *Spy* we told you to “stay tuned” for new snow emergency procedures. Now it seems that since the proposed new regulations have yet to be voted on, the city is going to go with the old one for this winter. Watch for a flyer which will be delivered to your doorstep, but in the event of a storm before then, here’s a recap of the regulations currently in place (be sure to watch the *Gazette* for any further information as well):

- ◆ Forecasters predict a major snow storm of 3” or more will hit the City and the Mayor declares a “Snow Emergency.”
- ◆ Radio & Television stations will make announcements that the “Snow Emergency” parking rules will be enforced starting at either 8 AM or 8 PM. *This will alert you to take action with your vehicle.*
- ◆ Move your vehicle to the EVEN NUMBERED SIDE OF THE STREET by the time the Mayor stated (either 8 AM or 8 PM) If you live on a street where it is normally illegal to park on the even side of the street you must still follow this directive — the emergency procedure takes precedence over the normal law. (The *odd* numbered side of the street *must be cleared.*)
- ◆ Plows will plow the snow from the odd numbered sides of the street during the next 24 hours.
- ◆ 24 hours after the designated “Snow Emergency” time (which, remember, will be 8 AM or 8 PM), move your vehicle to the ODD NUMBERED SIDE OF THE STREET. If you live on a street where it is normally illegal to park on the odd side of the street you must still follow this directive — the emergency procedure takes precedence over the normal law. (The *even* numbered side of the street now *must be cleared.*)
- ◆ Plows will plow the snow from the even numbered sides of the street during the next 24 hours.
- ◆ After 48 hours the “Snow Emergency” will be officially declared over unless conditions require an extension.

Summary: First 24 hours: Park on the even side of the street.
Next 24 hours: Park on the odd side of the street.

Note that if there are signs prohibiting any parking during a snow emergency — you can’t park there, even or odd!

Schenectady Historic District Commission Certificates Under Consideration

The Schenectady Historic Commission met on November 25 to consider building alterations at the following addresses:

150 Front Street

Owner Guy Cregier proposed to replace a Federal style roof with a flat roof.

7-9 Ferry Street

Owner David Bruce proposed to replace the rear porch with a pressure treated second floor deck and to resolve the issue concerning two steel doors installed without Commission approval.

A Certificate of Approval, issued by the Historic District Commission, is required prior to obtaining a building permit from the City’s Building Inspector. Even if the work does not require a building permit but constitutes an exterior change visible from a public way, a Certificate of Approval is needed and must be displayed while the work is underway.

Call 382-5051 or stop at room 9 in City Hall to obtain an application for a certificate.

Lidia Pasamanick



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People of the Stockade

To talk to Debbie Lambeth one must catch her on the fly – maybe between a dash to Boston to paint (decorate) a floor at the Copley Plaza and a flight to Scotland to do a wall or floor in a castle. Debbie is one of only ten master craftsmen in the United States and is in demand all over the world as a decorative painter.

Growing up in Grosse Pointe, Michigan, Debbie had no interest in painting and had no idea of her talent. Married at eighteen and soon a mother, she found escape from the loneliness of farm life by taking painting classes. She started in 1963 and by 1966 she was elected to the Historical Society of Early American Decoration. To be accepted as one of the society's 800 members one must submit two pieces of work and have them accepted.

She later became curator of the society's museum which was housed in the Harmanus Bleecker Center in Albany. When the city revoked their lease the society gave up its collection which is now in the Museum of American Folk Art in New York City.

In 1970, Debbie moved to Schenectady and in the late 1970's two events took place which had a profound affect on her future. In 1979 she received the designation of Master Craftsman in decorative arts – one of only ten in the U.S. One may submit two pieces at twice-yearly meetings. There are nine categories and one must receive at least two A's in each cate-

gory to be made a Master Craftsman. The categories are: country painting, stenciling on wood, stenciling on tin, gold leaf on glass, gold leaf, free hand bronze, Victorian painting, ponty-pool (a type of painting on tin from Wales) and reverse painting on glass.

About the same time, the Manhattan interior designer Carleton Varney saw a piece of Debbie's Theorem painting (on velvet) at an antique dealer's in New England. After persuading the dealer to give him the artist's name, Varney called Debbie and asked to see her portfolio. She has been working for him ever since.

Her work for Varney includes gilding, stenciling, glazing and trompe l'oeil on walls, floors and ceilings. Her commissions have taken her to castles in Ireland, to Hawaii and the Caribbean. She did two bathrooms on the Presidential Yacht *Sequoia* and thirteen steps in former President Jimmy Carter's vacation cabin in Georgia. She has also worked on Jenny Lake Lodge at Jackson Hole, Wyoming, The Greenbrier in West Virginia and the Waldorf Towers in Manhattan.

One of her most difficult jobs was working on a floor in the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island in Michigan. A summer hotel, the Grand had no heat and Debbie was there in February. The temperature was 40 degrees below zero, and because no cars are allowed on the island, Debbie learned to operate a snowmobile to get to the hotel. Space heaters were used to give her some heat, but the snow blew in under the doors – and never melted. Most jobs are not that difficult, but decorating a ceiling is not easy either.

Debbie is the mother of three sons and the grandmother of George Patrick Lambeth. In addition to her work for Carlton Varney and her individual clients, she teaches several week-long seminars each year – again all over the U.S.

If you would like to see an example of Debbie's exquisite artistry, the main floor at the Schenectady County Historical Society on Washington Avenue was done by Debbie several years ago as a gift to the Society and the Stockade.

Debbie bought her house on Front Street in 1986 and moved in after stabilizing it in 1988. She has not had time to complete the interior because she is too busy working on other peoples' houses!

Susanna Sherwood



PHIL A. RODRIGUEZ

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Arthur's Home Cookin' 201 Years & still innovating

If you stand in line at Arthur's Market Deli you've probably heard somebody comment that they "never cook any more" since they've discovered Arthur's Home Cooking. The Arthur's Deli team has been cooking up lunches and dinners for about five years — something new in the 201 years that a grocery has stood on that spot.

The Deli Team consists of Harry — who does the majority of the cooking — Eric, Lizette and Michelle (Michelle is usually handling sales if Pete isn't at the cash register, but also does "a mean deli" according to Harry).



Harry is the pleasant blond guy with a modest demeanor — when interviewed he was eager to make it clear that even though he cooks, it's a team effort in a first-name-basis sort of organization. "I couldn't do my job without all the people on the team," he said, and also pointed out that Eric contributes some specialty dishes from his native Puerto Rico, such as beans and rice.

Harry arrives at Arthur's at 8 AM, having done most of the prep-work for the day's meals the night before. If the day's meal is a big production

If you are interested in having your property featured in "Peek," contact Heather Boyne, 372-5133. We will try to do as many as we can.



109 Front Street

— as on turkey day ("every Tuesday it's Thanksgiving at Arthurs!"), he will call Arthur to start up the two ovens at 7:30, so the cooking can start at the dot of 8:00.

The prepared foods at Arthur's Market are a big part of the business, with a menu which has expanded by trial-and-error to include over 25 home-style dishes rotated on a more-or-less regular basis depending on the popularity of the item. Menu decisions are made in conjunction with Pete, and take into consideration not only the customers but also the season, and even the weather. In good weather more people stop by for lunch items, and when it's dark and cold more people may buy the dinners rather than face preparation themselves (I know that feeling!).

Arthur's has a new Take-Out and Deli menu which is available on the front counter. The flyer includes Arthur's hours and information about home delivery service. Look for it! If this were a restaurant review it would be two thumbs up and lot of stars for Arthur's Market Deli Home Cooking.

Bette Brunelle



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"A Peek in the Window"

An old house is a gift that you give yourself. No one forces a person to buy one. That unique "fixer-upper" leaps up from the page of homes for sale or catches your eye as you drive past. The project that never ends, the old house captures your heart, possesses your soul. As you nurture the wood and plaster, brick and stone back to the home you imagined the first time you saw it, the house gives you many gifts. It gives you memories, a vision and a purpose. It gives you a sense that you have made the world a better, more graceful place by preserving a part of history.

It is with this spirit that I introduce the home at 109 Front Street. This elegant brick townhouse has been lovingly restored. The owners now want to share the many gifts that the house has given them with some new owners.

As you enter through the double door foyer, you are greeted by a curved staircase with a walnut railing. To the left is a living room/parlor with a marble fireplace. The dining room has narrow-board pine flooring, a marble fireplace, a staircase to the second floor, and an original light fixture. Both rooms have plaster ceiling rosettes. They are elegant, formal rooms.

You continue on through to the kitchen. It was renovated in 1989 with white cupboards (some original), Koehler sink, Corian countertops, refinished pine floors, brick fireplace, paddle fan, recessed lighting and stained glass window. The kitchen has an eat-in area and, like many modern kitchen/family room combinations, it leads into the den.

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 6)

A Peek in the Window

The den, also restored in 1989, has the original wide-board floor, wainscoting, paddle fan and divided light wood sliding doors to the porch.

Rounding out the first floor is a laundry room with washer and dryer.

On the second floor at the top of the stairs, there is a sitting area (possibly a library) with a fireplace and wood mantle. There is a master bedroom with two closets and built-in cupboard. The master bath has a claw-foot tub. The second bedroom has a wood mantle fireplace and an adjoining alcove and bay window sitting area. The bath in the suite has a tile floor, claw-foot tub and pedestal sink.

The third floor is a self-contained apartment. This is common in many Stockade homes because the present owners have metamorphosed the property from warren-like apartments. This particular home still retains its legal two-family zoning, although there is no longer a separate entrance or exit. The apartment is very large and includes a carpeted living room and bedroom. The kitchen and dining area is fully appliances and the floor has a full bath.

Some other interesting features of the home include a full basement with concrete floor and lots of insulation. There is a doorbell/intercom system for all three floors. All of the

fireplaces have been sealed and there are storm windows.

The home affords beautiful views of the river from both the first floor den and the master bedroom. There are gardens, a deck/porch and off-street parking.

Just walking through this home you get the feeling that the owners truly saw this as a labor of love. There are many unique touches. The style is traditional yet modern at the same time. Anyone interested in this home can call Helen & Al Guiletti at 372-6039. They would love to show you their home.

Heather Boyne

Give a Gift of the *Spy*

Do you know someone who used to live in the Stockade, has now moved away, but would still like to keep up with the news? Why not give them a yearly subscription to the *Spy* as a holiday gift? Or, you might suggest they subscribe themselves. All you need to do is complete the form below, make out a check for \$10.00 to the Stockade Association, and mail to David Marhafer, whose address is below. Lidia Pasamanick, who will be doing the mailings, will send a card with the first issue indicating that you have sent the *Spy* as a gift.

I would like a gift of the Stockade *Spy* for one year (9 issues) to be sent to:

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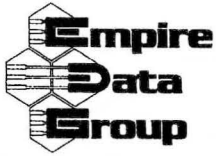
Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

I am not a Stockade resident but would like the *Spy* mailed to me. My name & address are above.

I have enclosed a check for \$10.00 made out to *The Stockade Association*.

Mail to: David Marhafer, Treasurer
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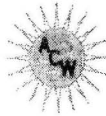
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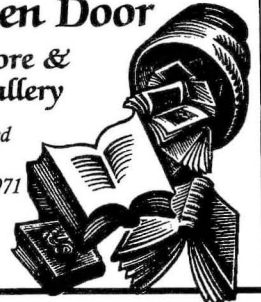
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Stockade Stopper



Look at last month's Stockade Stopper with the strange little figures peering out between the carved leaves of the flanking column capitals.



Gargoyles and demons, like these at the Edward Ellis mansion (now the First Presbyterian Church School on Union Street), were a favorite subject of decorative carvings during the Victorian Age.

Architect Albert Fuller designed this 1884 mansion in the romantic Romanesque manner revived by Henry Hobson Richardson, America's first great architect.

These architects re-established the ageless harmony of basic materials and sound construction devices resulting in a robust massiveness relieved only by the delicate touches of exquisite stone carvings.

Once you start really looking at these carvings, you'll find gargoyles and gods, demons and damsels crawling all over, glaring from gables, pouting over porticos, capping the columns, and presiding over pediments. Enjoy!

Jim Schmitt

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