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Photo by John Eoff

While The Stockade Slept . . .



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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, February 15, for publication in the March Issue. Please be sure they are typed, double-spaced, and the **writer's name, address, and phone included**. You may leave materials at 43 Washington Avenue, clearly marked for the Spy editor, or at staff member Wendy Espina's home, 37 Front Street. Thank you for your cooperation. In case of undue hardship in getting information typed, we will consider clearly written letters (not articles). Any original material will be returned **upon request**; otherwise no responsibility for them is taken by the Spy staff. We look forward to hearing from you.

Letter From The Editor

Dear Readers,

I am writing this on Saturday, January 19, 1991. I cannot claim to have the wit or the inclination to comment on the one thing that has drained our emotions these last few days, and my only thought association takes a strange turn, back in time. I keep remembering my thinking, "This is like forever," as I dutifully prayed night after night for the war to end and to bring my brothers home. Yes, when you ask for the same thing for year after year, and you are not yet old enough to conceptualize abstractions, one, two...six years seems forever. I can only hope no child will have to feel this latest war is "forever."

The Editor

Neighborhood Watch

Watch for those checks left in your mailbox! Our local policeman, Roy Edwardson, cautions everyone to be on the alert, because once again there have been reports of stolen checks turning up along with false IDs that have fooled the banks. Only last year the **Spy** editor lost checks mailed to her, and only became aware of the situation when a security officer called to verify a check (NOT written by her) that had been cashed. **SHOULD YOU BE MISSING CHECKS, CONTACT THE POSTMASTER**, and remember that stealing mail is a Federal offense. Be especially wary of having checks delivered to a foyer that is open to the outside, and if possible change the building security to include an outside lock (there is a system so the mailman can still deliver your mail). Non-secure mailboxes are also a temptation. You may also arrange to pick up your checks at the bank.

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Colonial Schenectady Project, Ltd.

At the Stockade Association Board Meeting, January 17, 1991, members solicited any information regarding results of pilot signs for Colonial Schenectady Project. An article from Fred Kindl, Chair of the Project, addresses this item in detail, and is printed below.

Colonial Schenectady Project Activities

At the time of the installation of the two trial signs, one at the Indian and one on Union Street, a box to receive comment sheets was placed at Arthur's market. It remained there until shortly after Thanksgiving when it was opened and the contents examined. All comments were read to the committee members attending the November meeting. Favorable comments numbered 26, unfavorable 9, and neutral or unrelated to the signs 5, for a total of 40 received. Since that time one additional unfavorable comment has been received. The committee is very thankful for all the responses.

In view of the strong favorable vote we are proceeding with the program essentially as planned, although attempts are being made to incorporate constructive criticism in future activities, to the extent possible. A personal interview with one of the critical respondents has been held since the November meeting.

The company supplying the sign faces installed last fall indicated they wished to supply replacements because of minor imperfections in the originals. These replacements have been received and will be installed this spring as soon as the weather is warm enough for the cement to set properly.

Current plans are to focus on the completion of the tour brochure with a target date of June 29, 1991. This will make it available to go on sale at the Urban Cultural Park Visitor's Center, which is tentatively scheduled to be open at that time.

Skits have been recorded on tape for four stations on the tour route. Additional sign installations and recording of skits for the complete tour, will proceed as quickly as funds from contributions and grants become available.

Fred Kindl

Watch for more information on applying for sidewalk grants to match the one presently in place.

Stockade Commemoration, February 6, 1991

Instead of a re-enactment of the Massacre, there will be a commemorative service at the Indian in the Stockade on February 6, 1991, at 7 p.m. There will be a dramatic reading, songs and hymns from colonial days, and a 21 gun salute both to honor the United States Armed Services in the Persian Gulf and to commemorate those who lived and died in the Stockade's colonial days. All are invited to a reception, following the ceremony, in St. George's Great Hall. **Residents are asked to fly flags and light candles and lanterns as acknowledgment of this commemorative occasion.**

346-7275

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38 North Ferry Street
Schenectady, N.Y. 12305

"AT THE INDIAN"



Environmental Concerns

Medical Waste

Mayor Thomas Whalen and a group of Albany lawmakers supported a recommendation for a full environmental review on a plan to site a regional autoclave plant to process medical waste at the Port of Albany. BFI made the proposal to develop the plant using new technology: autoclaving 25 to 30 tons of waste from 17 counties in Upstate NY. A consortium of area hospitals view a regional autoclave as preferable to upgrading current incinerators, a costly and often unpopular option, that must be met by 1992 (**Capital District Business Review**, November 26, 1990).

Incinerators

Closer to home, according to the Daily Gazette 1/16/1991, the city Planning Commission approved incinerator regulations that would apply to new or modified incinerators, but approval depends upon the City Council. The Council has extended the incinerator moratorium (imposed last spring while the city developed guidelines for regulating such facilities) until March 1. The proposed regulations would affect new or modified incinerators with the capacity to burn more than 900 pounds per hours. It was also proposed that developers put up at least \$500,000 in case of any environmental problems; and changes to burn more than 51% from outside sources or changes to increase pounds of waste burned per hour by 50% or more be prohibited. The proposal would also keep incinerators out of flood plains and at least 500 feet from residential zones.

Recycling tips from here and there

The energy saved by recycling **one** glass bottle is enough to light a 100-watt bulb for four hours. (EarthWorks)

It is more energy efficient to keep your refrigerator and freezer full, since food retains cold better than air does, but remember to leave enough air circulation. (EarthWorks)

Mereco, 790 Watervliet-Shaker Road, 785-1703, and **Berns Camera Store** in Colonie Center accept used batteries for recycling. (ECOS NEWS Nov., 1990)

BIOCYCLE says that we still recycle only 8.5% of our waste, compost .04%, incinerate 8%, and send 83% to landfills. (ECOS)

Department of frustration: "Everyone wants their garbage picked up, but no one wants it put down," ... a county solid waste manager. (ECOS)

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So...it's war. I don't know about all of you out there — but I really was hoping it wouldn't come to this. Let us pray that it will be over soon.

Thankfully — the Stockade remains the oasis it always is, but not because you folks aren't up to stuff. As usual, there are lots of comings and goings to report.

Mother Nature contributed mightily towards making things exciting around here last month — delivering major snowfalls two week-ends in a row. Just for that — a few of us headed south — hoping to walk barefoot in the sand instead of climbing through snow drifts. Susan Bokan (ya'll know her) and Steve and Jessica Spacil of Front St., and Noel, Erik and I all headed for St. Croix. Mother Nature was far gentler to us down there — but then again I obviously don't speak for all you snow and skiing buffs. The weather up here was custom made for you. Anyway — we all had a wonderful time seeing the sights and seeing old friends.

Seeking peace and quiet and a little civilization is Angela West. Angela and her son Buddy recently moved up here from Queens, New York and are happily settled on North Church Street. Buddy is now a student at Linton High School and is active on the basketball team, and is also a rising bowling star. Angela works at Planned Parenthood and plans to pursue a degree in Human Services at SCCC. A hearty Stockade welcome to both of you!!!

And in the better late than never category — our very own artist-in-residence George Weinheimer and his wife Barbara recently became grandparents. Kurt Weinheimer and his wife Serena welcomed son Cyrus on October 15, 1990. Cyrus weighed in at 7 lbs. 11 oz. Congratulations to one and all!!

And Agnes Regan of N. Church St. is back home again and on the mend after a long hospital stay. Keep up the good work and we look forward to seeing you around the neighborhood. Welcome home!!

Now...I noticed the other night while watching Peter Jennings that he found it necessary to explain some geography. Sooo...I thought perhaps this might be a good time to point out some mighty interesting facts I learned while reading up on just what is represented by the "Arab World." For you folks out there who've been wondering just what is meant by the "Arab World" — and believe me, it's not as simple as it may seem — here goes.

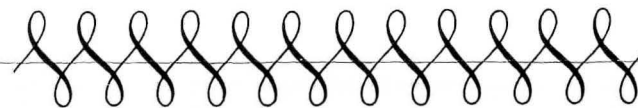
The "Arab World" is an expression that is used to define those countries that are Arabic — so this eliminates Israel, obviously — but it also leaves out Iran. Iran is Moslem — not Arab. It also leaves out Ethiopia, which is full of Christians, as well as Turkey, which is full of Turks. However, the "Arab World" does include Tunisia, Algeria, and Morocco, which together with Libya form a strictly regional grouping called the Maghreb, from the Arabic word for "west" which is where they lie with respect to Egypt and Saudi Arabia, the secular and spiritual Arab headquarters. An even more important aside is the term Orient (from the Latin word "rise") which until this century represented Turkey, Arabia, Egypt, Iran (Persia), Palestine, etc. and not China, Japan, Korea and the Philippines. After all as the song goes... "We three kings of Orient are..." weren't shoguns... Soooo...any more questions?


And that's all the news...for now. Let us not forget all our men and women who are putting their lives on the line. They need our support. And let's pray for peace.



General Meeting of the Stockade Association

Join your neighbors on Wednesday, February 13, 1991, in the Schenectady County Historical Society. A social half-hour at 7:30 p.m. will precede the main meeting at 8 p.m. The featured speaker will be a **representative of Schenectady Fire Department** who will speak about fire prevention. Attend this meeting and learn how you can avoid a disaster like the one on the cover of this issue.





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Whisper Down The Lane

After volunteering to help direct traffic flow during this year's Walkabout, I was further tasked with briefing each group of visitors on the many architectural details of my assigned station. My knowledge of Victorian architecture being limited, I had a lot to learn.

After listening carefully I was able to memorize enough of my predecessor's speech to venture this job on my own. With rare exception, most of the patrons knew less than I. Not being shy, I quickly became the resident expert, discussing Victorian architecture as if it were my college major. The story of that hallway and the house became more and more involved.

My two hours of fame (slightly more than the 15 minutes promised me by Andy Warhol) finally ended. As my relief listened to what was now my adaptation of what I had learned, I confided in him that most of this information had been passed on to me in the five minutes prior to assuming the watch: an adult version of "Whisper Down the Lane."

Since he looked comfortable, I asked him to try it on his own. I was amazed how quickly he could memorize what I now considered my own very personal (and somewhat embellished) version of life in the Stockade; circa 1850. Turns out he was a real life historical architect. Happy that he was doing quite well on his own, and having had all I could handle of fame in the 90's, I quietly departed for home.

After questioning a "real expert", my fears were eased. All the information I had detailed that day was indeed correct, or at least as correct as should be expected from a chemical engineer thrust into the role of historical expert. Later discussion amongst the guides brought much laughter, as all of us admitted to embellishment of the Victorian facts we had been entrusted with on this particular day.

As the day ended and my wife and I reflected, we both agreed the lessons from childhood still apply; when you play "Whisper Down the Lane" you are never sure what will be the result. The more I thought about it the more I realized I had learned everything I needed to get along in life as a child; everything except Victorian architecture, that is. It was an easy lesson to relearn as an adult, and I pledged to review more of my childhood lessons. I also pledged to leave the Walkabout in more capable hands next year and stick to things I know more about. Hmmm, wonder what I know about the art show???

Jim Masieri

Am I in the forest
Playing in the smells of pine?

Am I crossing a field
in a strange country?

or

Am I in the sea
Deep on the ocean floor?
Hiding in the sand
Away from the fish that would bite my skin

I hear the Indian spirits calling
Up eight thousand feet,
And to the west

A ghost of my ancestry
Easing the pain
That started long ago

Elizabeth McGaughan
July 1990

February Waste Collection Dates


Feb. 5 — Tuesday
Feb. 12 — Tuesday
Feb. 20 — Wednesday
Feb. 27 — Wednesday

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With Acknowledgment To A.E. Houseman's Poem 31 From A Shropshire Lad

On Glenville ridge the wood's in trouble,
The forest fleece on Closson heaves.
The gale, it bends the saplings double,
And thick on Rector snow the leaves.
'Twould blow like this up ridge and hollow,
When on the flats the stockade stood.
'Tis the old wind and rage to follow,
But then it threshed another wood.
Then, 'twas before my time, the Dutchman
At yonder heaving hill would stare.
The blood that warms a modern watchman,
The thoughts that hurt him, they were there.
Then, like the wind thru woods in riot,
Thru him the gale of life blew high.
The tree of man was never quiet;
Then 'twas the Dutchman, now 'tis I.
The gale, it bends the saplings double;
It blows so hard 'twill soon pass by.
The early Dutchman and his trouble
Composted in the Stockade lie.

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