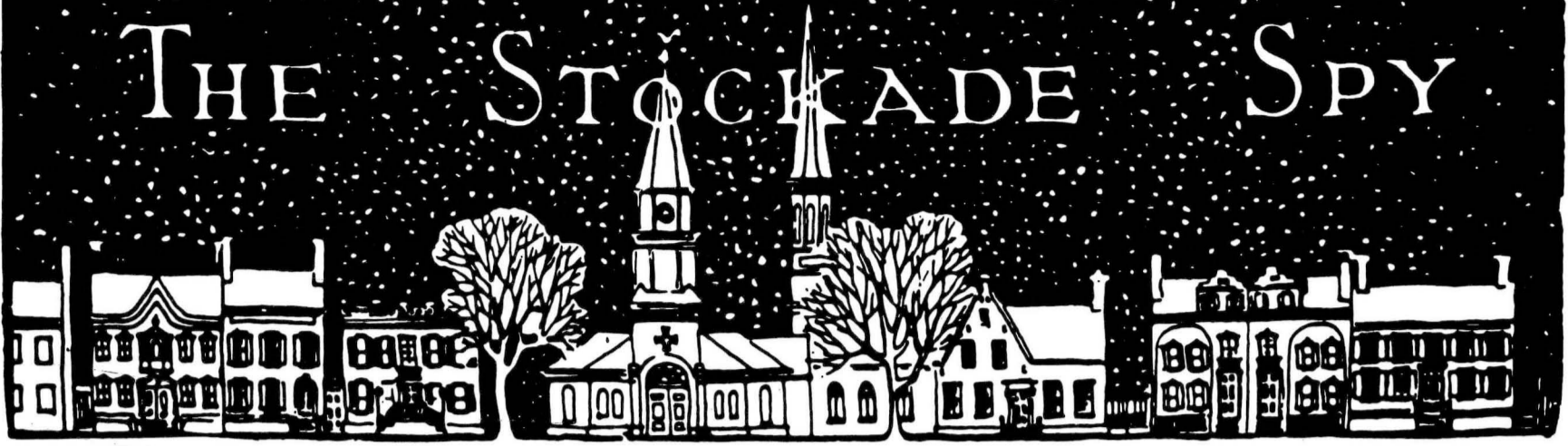


THE STOCKADE SPY



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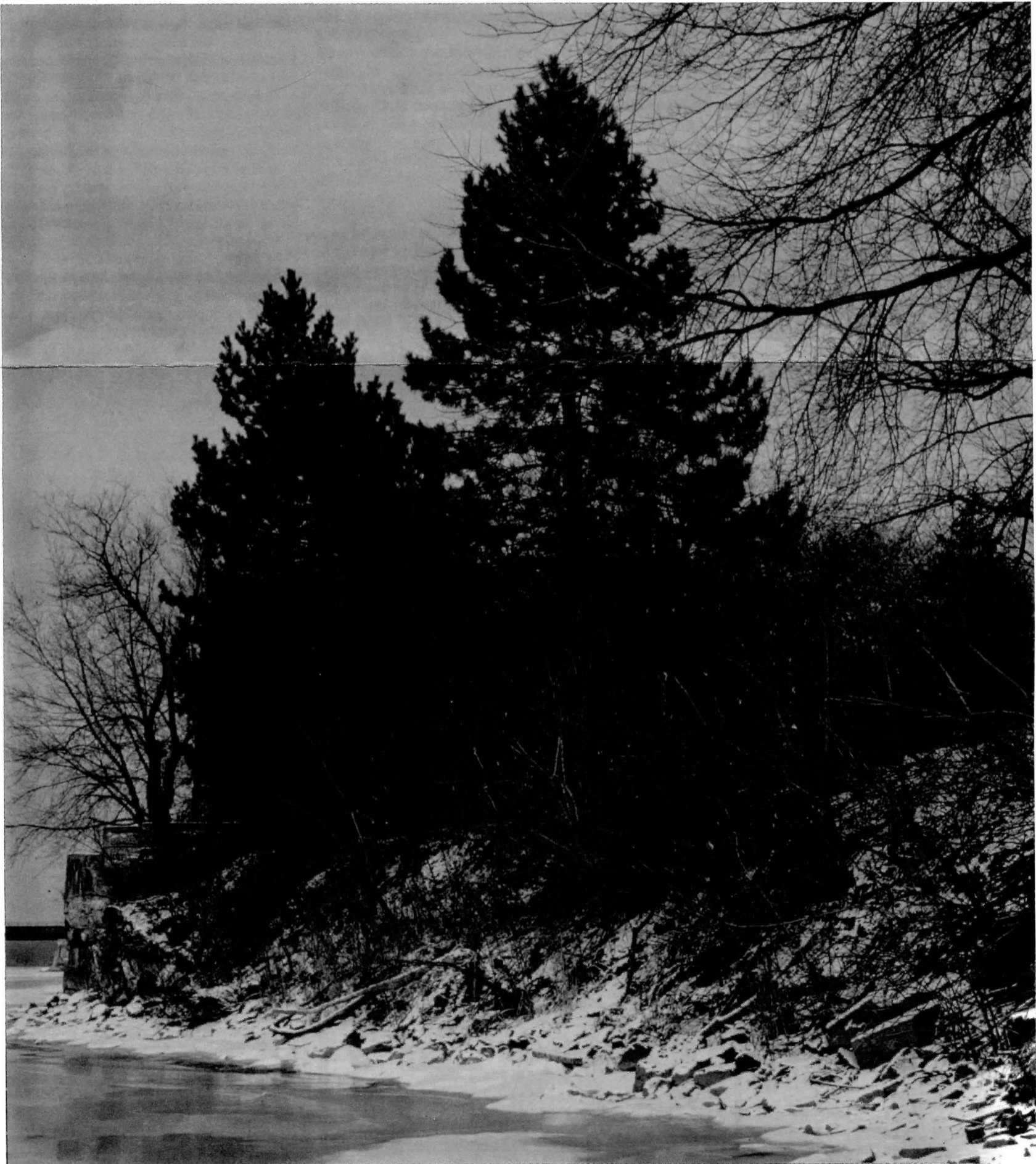


Photo by Mike Powell



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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 14 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 or mail materials to 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:

So winter finally decided to pay us a visit! However, we can say that we have been really lucky so far, as we throw on an extra sweater — and keep our tempers when our suffering cars groan, and sometimes refuse to obey our start up signals.

I previously mentioned that Peter Colangelo is our new business manager, and would now like to note that Pete is happy to hear from anyone regarding advertising, and also when there are problems with deliveries. Although we do try to keep tabs on how many **Spy**s go out, and where they are delivered, we can't really know if they are reaching all residents. So please, call Peter at 372-6384 and he will be right there to rectify the problem. This is especially true for large building complexes, like the Riverside and Broom Factory apartments, because we have no way of knowing if multiple copies of the paper are delivered, and thrown out before anyone picks one up, or if they should be delivered to someone who will take responsibility for internal distribution. We will do all we can to insure that at least you have the opportunity of getting the **Spy**, and hope that you also read it.

Again, I urge you to send letters to me directly. I cannot publish letters that come without original signatures, or without addresses or phone numbers. Often the subject matter is presented incorrectly and before editing and publishing I need to speak with the writer directly. Of course, I do not publish **ANY** anonymous letters, no matter how well written, timely, or interesting.

Lots of thoughts in this issue, ranging from our personal environment according to "Miss Manners" (who has some quaint ideas about matchmaking!), to that of the outside world. Enjoy them — and make a contribution yourself!

The Editor.

**General Meeting
of the Stockade Association**

January 8, 1992

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 P.M. by President Bokan.

There were no reports given.

Susan Bokan read a letter sent recently to area organizations from the YWCA announcing their plans to build a new residence wing at the Y. It is projected to supply single resident housing for 40 women over age 60 years and 20 rooms for the program for battered women of Schenectady County. An environmental impact study is due to be completed in 1992. The letter will be reviewed.

Ruth Ann Evans reported the cost estimate received to restore the non-working gas lamp in front of the Historical Society was \$187.50. A motion was made, seconded and unanimously passed to give the Schenectady County Historical Society the \$187.50 needed to repair the gas lamp.

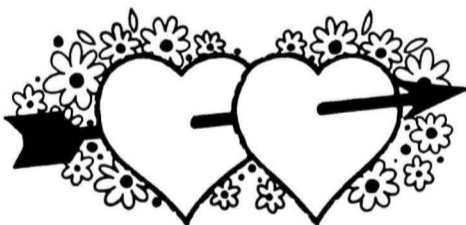
PROGRAM:

Guest speaker was Philip Lord from the New York State Museum. He spoke to us about **The New York Durham Project**. This is an interdisciplinary undertaking of late eighteenth century navigation on the Mohawk/Oneida corridor to commemorate the bicentennial of the Western Inland Lock Navigation Company. There will be a reconstructed Mohawk River batteau at the Reenactment/Encampment Program scheduled for August 21-23, 1992 in the old Schenectady Harbor on the Binnekill behind the Schenectady County Historical Society building. To help in the Batteau Project or the Reenactment/Encampment program, contact Mr. Lord at Room CEC 3097 at the New York State Museum.

Please note that the **General meeting notes of the Stockade Association** are slightly edited from the original versions submitted by Mimi Bliss, Recording Secretary. If you wish to see the original version, please call Mimi or the **Spy** editor. The submitted copy will be kept on file until approved by the Association and is available to any Stockade Association member.

Notice Regarding Tidings:

Sorry, no **Tidings** this month due to the apparent "hibernation" of our Stockade residents. We'll see you next month with oodles of info on the comings and goings of all your neighbors and friends.



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February

It's an easy month to hate. Maybe that's why they made it short.

February is horizontal snowfalls and single digit temperatures.

It's mystical frost crystals on the window and little children wrapped up to the point of immobility.

It's nostalgic phrases like, "It's good packing!"

It's the month of Presidents' Day, sort of. I'm sure George minds the situation little. After all, he moved his own birthday himself to correct for the shift it took when the calendar went from Julian to Gregorian. Abe, on the other hand, is probably wondering what one has to do to get a holiday.

February is mulled wine and cider, hot toddies and staring into warm fireplaces as humans must have for eons.

It is looking at our withholding statements in disbelief wondering where all that money went, then finding much of the answer a bit further on the page.

This year is the three hundred and second anniversary of the burning of this town and Symon's historic ride. During the decade I lived in Boston I wondered what that ride's historical place would be if he had Longfellow for a PR man. By comparison, Revere's ride was a pleasant evening's outing. On the other hand, Symon's detractors do suggest that, having seen sixty of his fellow townfolk slaughtered by two hundred and ten French and Indian killers, it occurred to Symon that he had a horse!

February marks the beginning of the end of Winter.

It's being wrapped in comforters on the couch with a book (remember books??).

It's the end of the real football season.

February has Groundhog day. Whoever came up with this belief probably lived in the northern part of Sarasota.

It's days growing markedly longer and snowflakes falling on sunny days.

It's skating and skiing and fishing through ice and wearing bright sweaters and hand knit scarves.

Actually, it's like a break time in the year; a point where nature asks us to reflect on ourselves a bit and to perhaps see that the small pleasures are the important ones.

MP

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Our Times

Used to be that being polite, kind and considerate to loved ones and neighbors pretty much satisfied the requirements of being courteous . . . as Webster describes it: courteous is one who is "polite and gracious; considerate towards others; well-mannered." Of course, this still works just fine — but leave it to "Miss Manners" (aka Judith Martin) to point out some of the realities of "courteous" as we know it in the Twentieth century.

In her book **Common Courtesy**, Ms. Martin speaks to the changes that have occurred as a result of **everyone** — in particular women — having joined the work force. She mourns the loss of "neighborhood, civic, philanthropic, cultural and religious institutions," for those who kept them viable — primarily women and the very wealthy — no longer have the time or energy to care for them. More importantly, this move to the workplace has changed the way we socialize with one another.

Martin sees the rules of business being applied not only to the public arena, but to the private one as well. What does this mean, and what are the results of applying business standards to one's private life?

Well, for starters, more and more private "functions" are routinely used to further the guests' careers — the host who can gather together the most "movers and shakers" under one roof — regardless of whether or not they are friends — is to be envied. Friends should "fit" into one's life; they should at the very least be able to advance one's career. Married couples only socialize with married couples, or with people without any children . . . the most telling example of this is how one can lose a whole set of friends when one acquires or loses a spouse, or a job.

And what is the result of this M.B.A. attitude towards life? Loneliness in America has never been more widespread. As Ms. Martin states, "There was no singles problem until singles got so single-minded that they stopped wasting time with anyone ineligible. Before that, it was understood that one of society's main tasks was matchmaking." Matchmaking?!?! Think about it — something so simple — yet today it is virtually nonexistent in America. There's a lot to be said for matchmaking — singles clubs can't begin to compare with a dear friend introducing you to someone she just knows you'll get along with. She should know, shouldn't she???

Back before women joined the workforce, matchmaking was a favorite pastime. People knew and understood the value of lifelong friends. The isolation that today so often accompanies retirement, old age and the loss of a spouse was unheard of. Everyone had an extended family of friends who could always be counted on.

I suppose that at one point someone thought it was terribly clever to treat one's private life like business — but the bottom line in one's personal life is relationships — real ones with real commitment. Of course, being courteous is one of the best ways to make friends — and to keep them. After all, Americans have always been known for their tradition of being neighborly and friendly — and this is one tradition that is alive and well in the Stockade.

Wendy Espina

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A Ride Along the Mohawk — Late Eighteenth Century Style

On January 8, 1992, at the General Meeting of the Stockade Association, residents of the Stockade relived an historic journey up the Mohawk-Oneida navigation corridor, "a network of natural rivers, streams and lakes that linked the wilderness areas of western New York . . . and promised communication between the Atlantic trade port at Albany and the inland markets and resources of the Great Lakes and the Finger Lakes region."

Philip Lord, from the New York State Museum, was here five years ago, and noted that at that time he thought he had an interesting presentation. He compared that information with what he and the rest of "The Durham Project" have since discovered in tracing the archaeological remains of the Western Inland Lock Navigation Company (later incorporated into the Erie Canal). It was a fascinating account of navigation on our waterways, starting from Schenectady, during that time period, and accompanied by slides showing the actual route that would have been taken in Philip Schuyler's original survey of the Mohawk River. At that time, 1792, the river was only a few feet wide in many places, hardly the image we have of it today. Indeed, it would seem impossible that a boat could navigate the many problems encountered on the way, which Mr. Lord described as a series of "rocks, rifts, and rapids." Often the route was circuitous, almost doubling back upon itself; later, canals were built, cutting across the larger bends in the river, thus saving many miles of tedious travel. Sometimes the boats had to be carried overland, and here again, canals were built to provide better transportation.

For those who wish we did more to enhance the history of the Stockade, this was a memorable evening. It was an excellent opportunity to realize, visually, the importance of the old Harbor, the port for all inland navigation except that of the St. Lawrence. Mr. Lord has made models of the types of boats used to navigate during this period, and these were on display.

It is obvious from listening to him that Mr. Lord is dedicated to his work, willing to examine the slightest trace of what might uncover remnants of the old canal locks. He has amassed a wealth of knowledge that he integrates with slides so that this long ago journey becomes an impossible possibility. He admits his excitement for the project, saying at one point, "this slide may show what looks like just a bit of wood to you, but to me it was heart pounding!"

Mr. Lord's enthusiasm for finding and preserving historic places was evident throughout. He has a poet's touch to some of his words, and, as he finished, he spoke again of the importance of the old Schenectady Harbor, and pointed towards the place where it used to be, behind the Historical Society Building — "where the moonlight is glinting on the Binnekill."

RMF



The Binnekill today: the route west has been filled in and these pipes discharge water from sources unknown to the author.

Photographer's note (they said I could have one): After listening to the explanation of the importance of the Binnekill to this city's early commercial efforts, I went to take a look at what's left of it. Rest assured, commerce still thrives there. In one thirty foot stretch of sandbar the following enterprises sought my attention in their cute, nonbiodegradable fashion: Napa Oil, Mountain Dew, Macaroo, Dunkin' Donuts, Friendly's, Nestles, Busch, Duplicolor, Wilson, Slice, Price Chopper, McDonald's, Champion, Hawaiian Punch, Pabst, Nabisco, No-Touch Tire Care, Lilt, Marlboro, Budweiser, Stewart's, Frito Lay, Veryfine and Snickers.

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Recycling Notes

On reading last month's *Spy*, about the Bliss's attitude towards their home — that they are "custodians" not "owners," I thought how appropriate their comments were to the way we should be thinking of preserving the environment. "Our ideas, laws and customs should be based on the proposition that each generation in turn becomes the custodian rather than the absolute owner of our resources — that each generation has the obligation to pass this inheritance on to the future." (Alden Whitman, **EarthWorks**). We are, indeed, custodians, but what a poor job we have done in the last 100 years or so. For billions of years the earth has produced itself, for thousands of years mankind (I use the word with no apology) lived in and enjoyed the fruits of the earth without destroying it, yet we, in our infinitesimal space of time have done, and continue to do, some irreparable damage. Any thinking person knows why this is: ignorance at first, and then uncaring greed. With this in mind I would like to point out that there are some hopeful signs, that the message of the "lunatic fringe" (as many pro-profit groups called us) has got through to many.

In 1990, a Roper survey showed that 50% of those polled were willing to force compliance with very strict air pollution standards. The question is: who forces compliance?

A Gallup Report notes that concern about the environment is no longer associated with younger, better educated people as it was two decades ago, but is now "a broad based coalition from diverse social and economic backgrounds."

Saying that you support caring for the earth and really doing something about it are often far apart. IT IS NOT EASY TO GIVE UP CONVENIENCE IN FAVOR OF A BENEFIT TO FUTURE GENERATIONS. Let's think about a few ways we could help:

1.3 million TV dinners are eaten every day — are all the aluminum and cardboard trays recycled?

Single-serving, multi-packs of food are one of the worst offenders — and they are expensive. Use the larger, reusable containers.

126 million glass containers are used each day in America, and a large percentage are thrown away. Glass can be produced from recycled material — and reduce related air pollution by 20%, water pollution by 50% (**EarthWorks**). RECYCLE.

Personal care products account for 12.1% of household waste in the municipal waste stream (**EarthWorks**). Check the packaging — and the ingredients.

Okay, okay, you say, so how am I to get rid of all this stuff? The answer is not to **get rid of it**, it's to buy and use recycleable products whenever possible. When you do have to "get rid of" stuff, find out the best way.

WHO IS HELPING? Well, **Reynolds aluminum** has a toll-free number to help you find a recycling center for valuable aluminum: 1-800-228-2525.

The EPA hotline for disposing of hazardous waste — 1-800-424-9346, is open weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. It's often busy — which seems to be a good sign.

Finally, teach young children how important recycling is, and will be to them. They are highly motivated, but need encouragement from adults. Several good publications are available for children — ask your librarian or bookstore.

Henry David Thoreau said: "Men have become the tools of their tools." Again, he voiced his opinion about progress: "Thank God men cannot as yet fly and lay waste the sky as well as the earth."

RMF

The City Downtown Dance

Friday, February 7, 1992 from 8 p.m. to Midnight
On Proctor's Stage

Join in the fun for the Colonial Festival! This year, The Downtown Dance is replacing the Colonial Ball and Banquet. Four downtown business people, all born outside the United States, are sponsoring music for this unique event — designed to enliven Schenectady's downtown area and to remember that our heritage includes people from many countries and all walks of life.

Enjoy this opportunity to dance on Proctor's stage and to be a part of this annual celebration.

Tickets are \$10.00 each or \$17.00 a couple, and include light refreshments. Available from Downtown Merchants, the Chamber of Commerce, the Mayor's Office, Annie Schaffer Center, **Arthur's Market**, and members of the Colonial Festival Committee.

The Chinese say that poetry is the direction of your will. If that is not enough, you add a sigh. If that does not express what you mean completely, you chant or sing it. If that is not enough, you move your arms and legs too; you dance. That is poetry.

Chuang Tzu

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February 6	Thursday
February 13	Thursday
February 21	Friday
February 28	Friday

- * Waste collection pickup starts at 6:30 a.m.
 - * Don't put waste on the curb before 7:00 p.m. on the night before collection.
 - * Separate your yard waste and leaves.
 - * Separate your newspapers.
- Any questions? Call the HOTLINE: 382-3144.

Where to go for recycling

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 and third class mail
County Farm Hetcheltown Road Glenville Hours: 8 a.m. — 3 p.m. Monday — Friday 9 a.m. — 2 p.m. Saturday	Accepts: newspapers, corrugated cardboard, tin and aluminum cans, aluminum foil containers, plastic containers, clear and colored glass, household batteries, junk mail and magazines

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