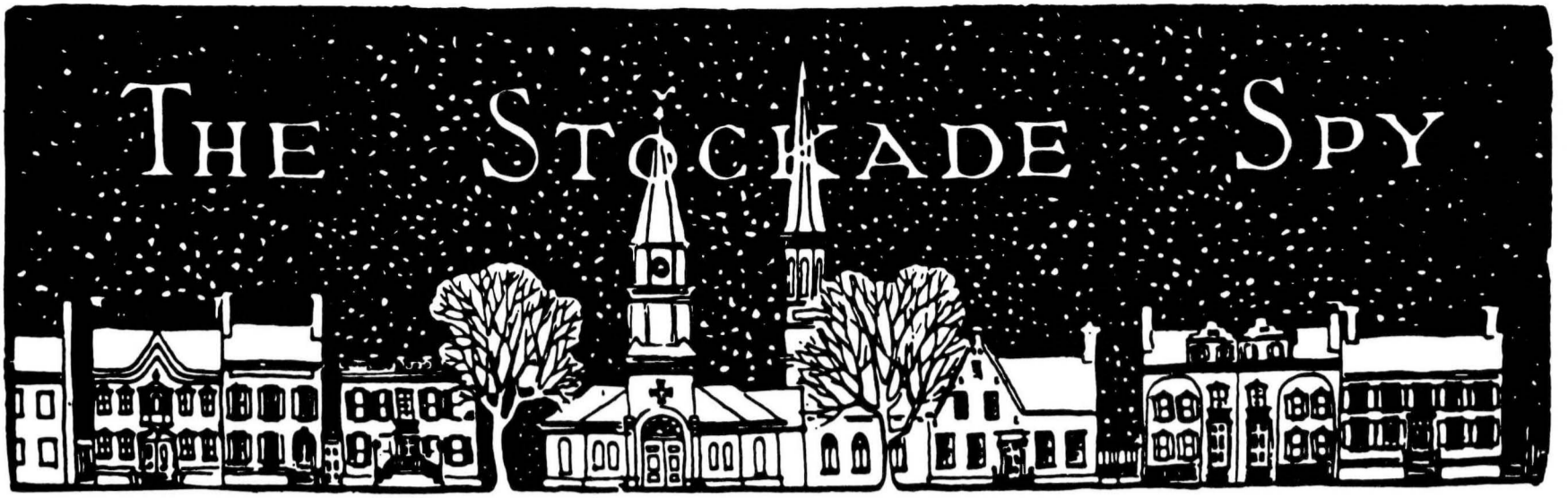


THE STOCKADE SPY



November 1991

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Photo by Michael Powell



STOCKADE SPY
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October 1, 1991 General Meeting of the Stockade Association

Summary Notes
Submitted by Mimi Bliss

The meeting began with the induction of Susan Bokan as President; Kathy Johnson as Treasurer and Mimi Bliss as a new Board member.

Kathy Johnson reported on the Walkabout the previous weekend which was as always a great success. There were 950 tickets sold (8 less than last year). Thanks were expressed to all those who volunteered their time and efforts.

The tanker parked at the Ferry Street Pumping Station will be moved in the next day or two. Its use at the pumping station was cancelled and it will be located at the Alco plant.

Suggestion: a written format for obtaining an historical plaque for restored buildings.

A group of residents on Union Street are concerned with redirecting through traffic on that street. During a meeting with Mayor Johnson last month they expressed concern about speeding on Union Street, especially during schoolbus hours, and the concentration of through traffic during rush hours in what is a residential area. The group plans a more definitive speed study, a review of different times for the alternative side parking law and alternative traffic flow patterns to direct more traffic away from this residential area.

Discussion of a housing report, made available by Kay Ackerman, which compares numbers of single resident occupancies (SROs) in different areas of the city followed. Concerns about the saturation of the areas just outside as well as inside the Stockade, and projected increases in SROs for the future were aired. This was ranked high as an issue for concern for the Stockade Association. Suggestions: form a committee to monitor the project at 1-3 State Street; review and formulate ideas concerning future projects in our area; attend City Council meetings as advocate for the Stockade Association; and network with other neighborhood groups concerning compatible problems. Jim Schmitt proposed a committee of 9 members be formed to address this problem.

John Harter made a motion that Susan Bokan be empowered to appoint a committee of nine members before the next Association meeting so that they could begin immediately. The motion was seconded and carried without dissent.

Guest speakers were Karen Engelke, Schenectady Urban Cultural Park and John Harter, Chair, Schenectady Historic District Commission. Karen Engelke gave an overview of the Urban Cultural Park program, an update on the visitors' center located in the Schenectady Museum and information about grants received and those for future programs.

John Harter presented a review of the newly appointed Historic District Commission and the routine for obtaining approval for restoration projects within its jurisdiction. He stressed the importance of dialog between the Commission and applicants, noting that 80% of all applications are approved with recommendations. He also announced that all future meetings are open to the public.

Next General Meeting of the Stockade Association

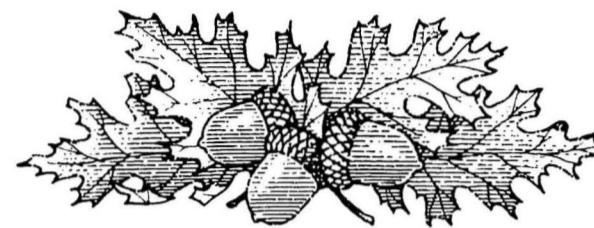
DATE: Tuesday, November 12, 1991

TIME: 7:30 P.M. coffee, tea, cookies
8:00 P.M. General Meeting

WHERE: Schenectady County Historical Society
32 Washington Avenue
Schenectady, NY

TOPIC: The Colonial Schenectady Project, Ltd.

Be sure to attend what promises to be a very interesting and informative meeting. Fred Kindl, Co-chairman of the Colonial Schenectady Project, will describe the current status of the project and its future plans within the Stockade.



Recycling Centers For Schenectady County Residents

Tin cans, plastic containers and glass bottles can be dropped off at the Weaver Street transfer station on Saturdays. The drop-off center is open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. every Saturday. The center will accept bottles of clear, green and brown glass but not light bulbs, ceramics or plate glass. Plastic containers that once held motor oil are not acceptable. There is no fee.

Magazines, telephone books, circulars and third-class mail can be brought to Sofco Inc., 702 Corporation Park, Scotia. Bins are available on the side of the Sofco building for paper drop-offs from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. weekdays. Again, there is no fee.

Newspapers, corrugated cardboard, tin and aluminum cans, aluminum foil containers, plastic containers, clear and colored glass, household batteries, junk mail and magazines can be dropped off at the County Farm in Glenville. Containers made from 1, 2, 3 or 5 plastic are acceptable. These types are usually found on the bottoms of the plastic containers.

- Type 1: cranberry juice or liquor containers
 - Type 2: detergent and household cleaner containers, milk or spring water bottles
 - Type 3: premium water or vegetable oil containers
 - Type 5: ketchup or maple syrup containers
- All plastic and glass containers must be clean and have their caps removed. All paper recyclables must also be clean and dry. County Farm is located on Hetcheltown Road. It is open 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday and on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Hal Thompson

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, November 15 for publication in the December 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:

October, with its brilliant colors, changes in weather, and nostalgia, is on its way out as I write this. In its place comes that harbinger of winter, November, bringing with it many festive occasions, as if to belie the seriousness of the season. Along with the colder days and longer nights we find more time to think about many things, without the temptation of going to sit lazily in the warm outdoors, or to throw, hit, or catch some spherical form.

One of my favorite pastimes has to do with words, whether someone else's or my own. In connection with this, I have, for some reason, been mulling over an event that happened long, long ago. It seems that, despite the disbelief of some, a situation can trigger memories that have long been forgotten, and this is what happened to me.

As a very young child, burdened with two teasing older brothers, I loved to read. As so many of us have done, I would discover a new word and make up the pronunciation of it as I thought fit. One day I accused my brothers of harrasing me, with the emphasis on the first syllable. What mocking and scorn greeted me as they hastened to correct me. Never again did I dare to pronounce it as anything but harrass, emphasis on the second syllable! Recently I have felt vindicated however, as scarcely a day goes by without mention of that word — with both pronunciations used indiscriminately. Would that all else had been vindicated.


RMF

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Who would ever believe that on the weekend before Columbus celebrates his special day — and there are those who would argue that he doesn't deserve his own day — that this nation of ours would be glued to the boob tube watching, of all things, the confirmation hearings of Judge Clarence Thomas. I, for one, was enthralled and appalled — all at the same time. It's a fine thing to see our lawmakers in action, but I'm not sure that this is the sort of thing that we need to see them in action doing — you know what I mean??? Why, I've never heard of such a thing — as my grandmother would say. Regardless of whose side you were on, seems to me that this sort of thing deserves to be handled a bit more privately, perhaps. Oh well, enough already about "As the Senate Turns . . ."

Here in the Stockade, things have certainly kept pace . . . that is to say just as exciting, if not as spicy . . . October was a traveling month for many Stockadians . . . our very own President, Ms. Susan Bokan of College St., headed out west to California to visit some old friends and see some sites. She's back in time to get things going for the holiday season here at home. Ms. Barbara Edwards and Steve and Jessica Spacil of Front St. headed way down south to St. Croix for a few days of fun in the sun . . . And the **Spy's** very own Diane Buckley headed out to Colorado to visit some of her family. She's back with some beautiful memories and great pictures. Ms. Leda Christy of Ferry St. was down in Texas for a few days, also visiting friends. She had a terrific time getting caught up on all the latest with old friends — one of those special visits.

Jim Lerversee stopped in from Jackson Hole, Wyoming to visit his sister Ann. Gave the Stockade rave reviews (are we surprised?) for being an overall neat place to live . . .

The Stockade was saddened by the death of Jeanette Harlow last month. The Harlow family is much beloved here, having shared their beautiful home and pool with Stockadians for so many years, and is known for being a very generous family. Jeanette always had a friendly smile and warm words to share. She will be greatly missed, and we extend our most sincere condolences to the family.

Before I close, let me remind everyone again that it is very important that we all get out and vote on November 5th. Remember, you have only yourself to blame if the right person doesn't get elected. So . . . see you at the polls . . .

So, it isn't confirmation hearings — but it's Tidings for November. I wish everyone a safe and happy Thanksgiving, and write me a note about all your goings on . . . See y'all next month.

Those who are too smart to engage in politics are punished by being governed by those who are dumber.

Plato

It is dangerous to be right when government is wrong.

Voltaire

Your public servants serve you right.

Adlai Stevenson

Emily Farrell's Magik Herbs

Emily Farrell: Active Stockader, collector of antiques, purveyor of herbs and crystals, and owner of two "collectible" cars. That was enough to whet my appetite for more about this dynamic lady, and I gladly went to meet with her.

As a child Emily lived in Scotia, but remembers one of the Stockade's long-time residents, Ernest Cohen, talking to her parents about life in the Stockade. Although she had never been here, she remembered the stories. Many years later, when she was living in Charlton, she decided to leave that home for a neighborhood of older homes with less land. The Stockade was ideal and she loved it instantly.

She became very involved in Stockade life — serving on the executive board for eight years, co-chairing the Colonial Ball and many house tours. Five years ago, at the urging of her children, she decided to do what she had been talking of for years — opening her own store and somehow having it relate to her fascination with herbs and minerals.

"The Magik Herb" on Jay Street presents itself calmly in colors of soft rose and mauve. The 'k' in Magik is because Emily didn't want anyone to think she was dealing in sleight of hand magic. Here are the teas, powders, herbs, gemstones, crystals, books, oils and jewelry she envisioned and chose with a sensitivity to the earth and its elements. There is an earth magic ambiance that is deliberately evocative of solace for the mind and body.

Colorful natural mineral stones and crystals are in open boxes on the counter to look at closely, hold in your hand and choose the right one for you. Their reputed physical and mental properties are well noted on the box. Many customers sort out their needs by chatting casually with Emily, who is articulate and a good listener.

In the back are walls lined with glass jars of the potentially refreshing and medicinal: frankincense, mistletoe, mandrake root, peppermint, valerian. Emily never gives medical advice and she claims she learns much from her customers.

The stones and herbs with their ancient heritage of healing suggest, in this age of electronic analysis of old violins and computerization of jogging shoes, that we must leave room for the magic of the nebulous.

For fun away from the store Emily owns two very interesting cars: one a '64 Mercury convertible and the other a '54 Ford Victoria custom that has been restored to "a real car buff customized condition". It's so much fun she became secretary four years ago to a group known as Albany Rods and Customs. In her enthusiasm she organized their 1991 car show at Ft. William Henry in Lake George. It was so popular that 1,000 cars were entered from the northeast and one from Florida and some were turned away for lack of space. If you're interested in the local group she will be glad to return your call. Just leave a daytime message at 377-2873.

When asked about her decision to move from the Stockade Emily commented, "While I love the Stockade I need more physical space for hobbies" . . . that is, restoring antique furniture, refurbishing collectible cars and planting a much, much larger herb garden.

Whatever she does, you may be sure it will add yet another dimension to an already fascinating story.

Diane Buckley



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Rehabilitation Of Another Stockade Building

Many of us have noticed big changes at 237 Green St., now the home of Paul Cardamone. Until Paul took on the task of rehabilitation, it appeared for many years to be abandoned. Looking into the history of the building, I discovered that the structure was built in the Federal style in the 1830's as a boarding house for women. It was called the Saratoga House. Much later, in the 1940's or 50's, it was converted into "apartments," with commonly shared bathrooms. Walls were removed to enlarge the units usually to two rooms, and small kitchen units, consisting of a sink and a hot plate, were added.

When Paul bought the structure it had already been gutted by two previous owners. The building had also been subdivided into three deeds. The left side, the right side, and the rear portion were slated to become town houses. Since the original building contained many small rooms, and no kitchen, Paul did not want to restore the interior to its original; he has recombined the left and right sides of the building to make his home. The rear or north wing has only been roofed. Future plans are not firm at this point, but it may become part of the main house or be developed into a town house.

The interior of the house is now spacious. Many walls are gone and a new spiral staircase leading to the third floor has really opened up the space. On each side of the house you can now see from one end to the other, adding to the spacious feeling. Because it was not a one-family home to begin with, Paul had a lot of leeway in the interior design. The kitchen, located in the rear of the right side of the house, was designed by Paul and a friend of his. It is contemporary yet fits in with the integrity of the building. For that matter all the work done to this point flows smoothly from contemporary new work to the original structure. In front of the kitchen is the informal living room complete with an entertainment center. The formal living room is in the front of the house on the left. Separated by pocket doors is the dining room and behind that, a game room. Much of the design and layout was worked and reworked on an almost daily basis.

The exterior virtually has not changed, although restoration of the outside has been extensive. Bricks have been pointed, the cast iron sills and lintels have been restored and all the trim has been painted three colors. The trim is white, with black and blue-gray as the accent colors.

A major obstacle was getting permission for a garage. To add to an existing structure in a historic district, especially an addition that can be seen from the road, is not an easy task. That might be putting it mildly, according to Paul. The Schenectady Historic District Commission must approve plans before any work can begin. Paying an architect \$150.00 an hour to come up with a design that all members of the committee can agree on can become an expensive undertaking. Once plans were approved, with revisions and demands including reroofing a newly roofed section of the house, Paul estimates about a \$10,000 cost overrun to satisfy the Commission's demands.

Historic Commission aside, Paul has found the Stockade neighborhood very friendly. Residents have stopped by to tell him how pleased they are at what he has done with a previous eyesore. Neighbors have taken in packages for him from UPS, and his first visit to a Stockade Association meeting was very positive. We all hope that he will become an active member of the Association, enjoying everything the area has to offer.

Paul Spencer

Environmental Notes

Headlines: Troy — "Phone book recycling called a success." Gazette 4/1/91

What did you do with yours? Did we have a program here? I was told that they could not be recycled.

P.S. See Hal's article on recycling centers.

"Stewart's Commended" (for selling soda and milk in refillable bottles) Hudson-Mohawk Group of the Sierra Club, in ECOS summer 1991.

Schenectady — "Schenectady considers recycling center." Gazette 5/31/91

"Group opposes incinerator proposed for Bethlehem." Sierra Club Newsletter, May-June 1991

Johnstown — "Incinerator operators defend environmental record." Gazette 6/3/91

Albany — "Origin of Inter-Power errors murky." Gazette 7/10/91

Byline Tim Rumberger — "Summer of '91 was smog-filled." Gazette 9/28/91

Schenectady — "New Sch'dy recycling center gets good reviews from users." Gazette 9/28/91

"Burning promise" (discusses monetary incentives offered by incinerator companies) 9/91 Capital District Business Review

Byline Ilaina Jonas — "Inside the inferno: A town learns to live with a waste incinerator." Sunday Times Union 10/6/91

Schenectady — "Waste budget may rise: Proposal would expand recycling in Schenectady." Gazette 10/8/91

Obviously there is much interest in environmental concerns, with the obvious conclusion that recycling is favored by many.

We all know that Schenectady now has a free recycling center on Weaver Street, and this is a big step in the right direction. Of course all the politicians have claimed their support was vital to its becoming a reality, a point that I am very happy to hear. Certainly the issue is much too great for partisan politics, so now let us see this carried out after the election, with city wide programs in place. Lest we forget, it will cost money, but while accepting this we must ask our city mothers and fathers to watch their budget in all areas.

RMF

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November 14	Thursday
November 21	Thursday
December 2	Monday

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