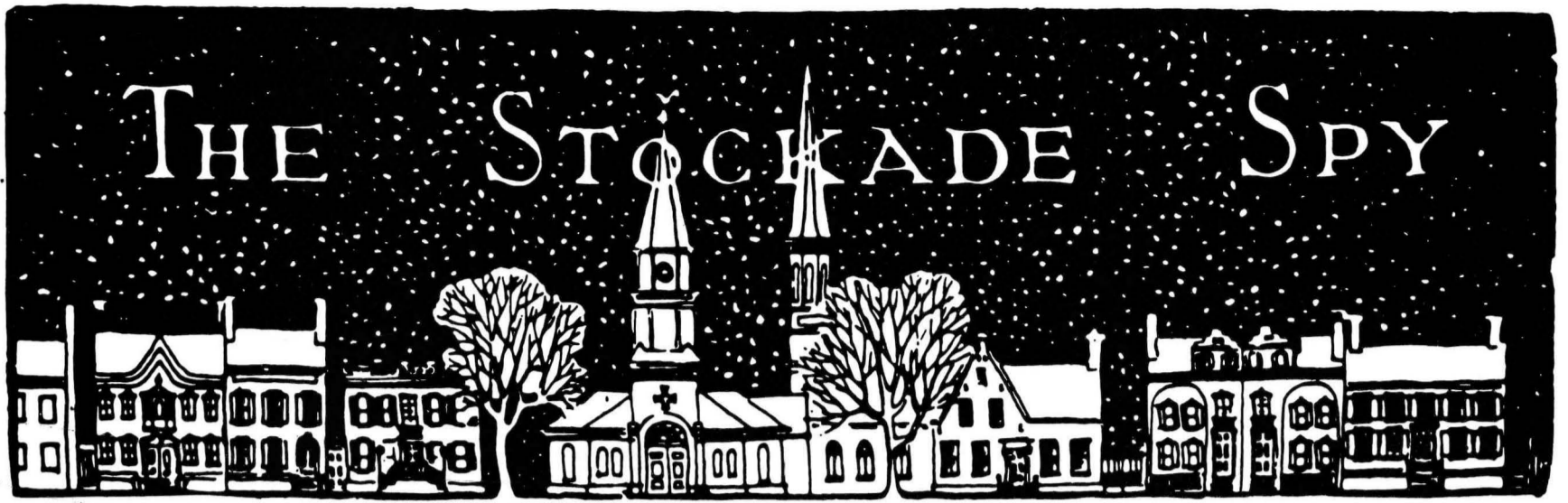


THE STOCKADE SPY



November 1992

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Photo by Mike Powell



STOCKADE SPY
P.O. Box 1661
Schenectady, N.Y. 12301

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Letter To The Editor

Dear Editor,

Due to the retirement of our regular mailman, Tim, Stockade residents have been experiencing many problems, as far as mail delivery is concerned. Problems range from not getting mail on time to not getting mail at all. As a resident, I have been experiencing many of these problems. I have talked to a few residents and I have, also, talked to the Post Office and complained about the shoddy job the post office has done.

I realize that it's not the mail carrier's fault. The fault lies within the internal structure, the U.S. Government. The fault also lies with the residents. I admit there was no name on my mailbox, so a new carrier would only know the address. (No wonder I was getting mail for people who lived here five years ago.) I also found out that the postal carrier is not supposed to deliver a check to a mailbox without a name. (One of my friends told me that they received a note from the mailman saying, "The mailman is not clairvoyant!"). One mail carrier said that because the Stockade has so many "transient" people, "It takes as long to sort out the mail, as it does to deliver it."

I want to inform readers that complaints on delivery in the 12305 area are handled by Jules Titolo (395-5404) at the Schenectady Post Office. If you want to go "higher up" and place a written complaint, the person to contact is:

Caesar Taormina
Consumer Affairs
Albany, NY Field Division
30 Old Karner Road
Albany, NY 12288
Phone: 452-2486

If you believe that what you're experiencing requires criminal action, you should contact:

R. J. Smith
Postal Inspector
P.O. Box 557
Albany, NY 12201-0557
Phone: 449-4176

I want to remind Stockade residents to try to be sympathetic to their mail carriers. After all, they are only doing the job the best they can. With the holidays right around the corner, we can avoid most mail delivery problems by having our boxes clearly marked with the current resident's last name.

Hal Thompson

Stockade Association Board Minutes

Meeting, October 1, 1992

Present: S. Bokan; J. Widdemer; L. Brown for A. Brown; E. Desmond; M. Powell; M. French; J. Bernat; M. Bliss.

Meeting called to order at 7 p.m.

Announcements:

There will be a meeting of the Schenectady Board of Zoning Appeals on October 6th at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall to hear responses to objections and decisions concerning the EIS of the proposed addition to the YWCA. It will be determined if it is prudent for members of the Stockade Association to be present or if we will be able to receive a written report.

Copies of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Stockade Association will be copied and made available to the new Board members for the next meeting.

New Business:

A letter received in August from the President of the Board of Directors of the YWCA was read. (Copy available from Susan Bokan.)

Decided On:

A reply to the above mentioned letter together with concerns about some of the claims in the recent YWCA flyer will be sent to the President of the Board of Directors of the YWCA.

Minutes of the Board meetings will be made available to those interested. These minutes of the first meeting will be published in the **SPY** and future minutes will be available at the Historical Society.

Discussed:

Board members were asked to list goals for the Association in the coming year. A further listing will be made at the next meeting. Some ideas mentioned were:

- 1) Increasing membership in the community;
- 2) Have membership applications available at all functions;
- 3) Bulletin Board Notices for the Assoc. at Arthur's;
- 4) Form a welcoming committee for new residents;
- 5) A change in format of annual events;
- 6) Increase interest and input into the Neighborhood Watch Program and the Community Policing Program;
- 7) Promote a neighborhood cleanup day to include Riverside Park;
- 8) Promote a campaign to light up porch lights in the Stockade during evening and night hours;
- 9) Educate about and promote recycling.

A check was received from the YWCA for a membership in the Stockade Association earlier in the summer and forwarded to the Board for this meeting. It was noted that organizations are not allowed membership but only individuals as described in the By-Laws. A letter of explanation will be sent to the YWCA.

M. Bliss

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 13** 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 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,

Welcome to November, and with it shorter days, colder nights, and perhaps a renewed concern about who and what is around in our neighborhood. For that reason the Stockade Board, at their last meeting, asked all members to emphasize the need to keep porch lights on. While this may seem contrary to the equally important need for conservation, if such a move can be a deterrent to unwelcome prowlers, then it seems to be a good idea. So please, if you are visiting your neighbors, share this idea with them. I'm sure you will be more comfortable if you walk into a lighted area yourself, and, as you will see elsewhere in the **SPY**, the Neighborhood Watch appreciates it too. This is another area the Stockade Association Board discussed, and would like to see more participation from the community. Our focus this month is on that, hoping to arouse some interest or at least raise consciousness about what the Neighborhood Watch does.

Apart from that item there is little for me to add, so I will once again ask you to remember that this is your forum: if you don't like something that is going on, or if you would like to commend someone or something, please do so. You might have a poem, or an article of local interest, an answer to something we have written that may be historically unsound — we don't know if you don't tell us! Pete and Arthur are the recipients of many comments I am sure, but they can't speak for you! We would love to get copy, just remember — no anonymous materials will be published. We will withhold your name upon request.

May this month's holidays find you healthy and happy.

The Editor

We regret that there is no "Tidings" this month. Please send any news to Wendy Espina.

55 Alive!

MVP Health Exchange has scheduled "55 Alive", a two-part class on driving skills presented by AARP Instructor Eleanor Friedman on Wednesday and Thursday, November 4 and 5 from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. The program is a comprehensive curriculum offered for the older (55+) driver to strengthen existing skills and learn safe defensive driving techniques. The material is based on adjustments for age-related changes in vision, hearing and reaction time. The course is \$6.00 for MVP Members and \$8.00 for non-members. Pre-registration is necessary, forms are available through MVP Health Plan, 111 Liberty St., Schenectady or by calling (518) 374-5669.

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Watching What?

In dead of night — or at least early dusk
They tread, pacing steadfastly, keeping vigil.

Meanwhile, 20th century Cyclops watchers,
Joggers, hiding from themselves,
or, by some quirk of fate, that anomaly
from by-gone times — a reader —
Stay oblivious.

If questioned, all see their acts as essential —
Viewing others as somewhat odd.

Well, you are, aren't you?

6/29/92

R.M.F.

An Evening Stroll



Looked at the clock and thought for just a minute. There was no burning need in me to do this. Ah, hell, somebody sure should. Why not me? Grabbed the radio, my flashlight and stood at the closet door trying to remember what the weatherman just said. I've learned to hate the word, "chilly." I grabbed the lightweight leather jacket and put it on. I made a call to locate a base. Steinmetz Homes would be glad to take care of me tonight.

At the bottom of the front stairs I mentally commended the weatherman for his precision and convinced myself that twilight was a wonderful time for an evening stroll. A mental coin flip and I turn north, toward the river. At the end of the road two guys are still fishing and there's a couple sitting in a new blue Buick looking out at the river. As I enter the park I see Gary jogging away from me. It's late for him to be out running. There's a couple of guys sitting at the picnic table sucking suds. They nod. I wave and walk.

Jim Duggan's just closing his book. I reach him just as he folds up his chair and walk him home. Funny how in just under three minutes he can make the world more interesting. At Front Street I decide to loop and walk back to Ferry. Coffee at Arthur's to go. Pete says it was a quiet summer. I take it as a compliment and walk north. Vivian waves and hurries off in her blue wagon. I wave, sip coffee and wish I had her energy. The Bartons' lights are out. I'll check the place later. Laurie's garden is still showing flowers. Hope she likes her new house.

I check in with base. It's past light on the river now. The last glow of the retreating sun hugs the far hills. I can hear the guys at the picnic table laugh. As I reach the tennis courts a young couple races into the park. She's screaming. Play or fear? I look for shadows I can't see into and walk into them to observe. She yelps again when he catches her. Then they tumble to the ground and both of them laugh. Now the guys from the picnic table are walking straight at the couple. They're big guys. I hear the greetings. She's glad to see them and gives the newcomers a hug. Already, the coffee's getting cold.

An hour later, after a trip past both the Ys, I'm back in the park. The fishermen and the Buick are gone. The Bartons are home and Vivian's car is back. At Union Street, Howard and Mimi greet me as we pass. They're on their way home, their walk completed. Don Wexler's on the Van Dyck's steps and tells me about the jazz playing there this weekend. The price is right so maybe I'll make it. Only one light on where I work. Mike likes working when it's pure quiet. People are kind of seeping into the night after the St. Jude's novena at Holy Cross. Several wave or ask how I am. At Bonfare yet another Mike makes a fresh pot of coffee for me. I take the twenty ounce thingy.

Stroll con't. . . .

The street light in front of the bowling alley is out. I promise to call the power company in the morning and jot down the pole number. The roofing job on Madison is done and that orange Camaro is still sitting there. Note the plate and VIN and hope I remember to call it in. At the end of Front Street I see Dacia's new car. It's cute. It's time to turn back towards home. As I pass the pool I tell myself that anyone dumb enough to go in there when it's this cold deserves drowning, then check it anyway. The white cat is glad to see me again and tries to bite the antennae of the radio. Sue Bokan enters her house. Her outside light being on is a real plus and a lot of people are doing it. Wish everybody was. The Rogers are home. That new fence of theirs looks good. Two cars pass me on Ingersol, drive to the end and park. The driver of one gets into the other's car. It's none of my business.

It's ten o'clock. A last pass by the Ys and then home. Four hours have passed quietly and my feet are killing me. I pause at the end of Cucumber Alley to reflect that much of a nation was born right at this shore. I'm tired and so is my base. Just before she signs me off she reminds me there's a meeting of our Neighborhood Watch Saturday. She wonders why there aren't more people from the Stockade on patrol. Don't they care? I tell her the truth: I don't know.

M.P.

The Walk

A man walking, measured step,
Upright stance, arms swinging . . .
Why then, the catch in my breath,
The cold on my neck, my hackles rising?

Had I read too much "news,"
Seen too much "reporting,"
Heard too many tales?
Whatever the cause, the fear mounted.

But this was my home, my community —
Here I had gone to the river for solace and strength.
Here I had walked the paths, briefly nodding to strangers,
Each walk a new wonderment of diversity.

Why then this fear, this foreboding? He approached.
I thought, "Should I pass the time of day?"
While still thinking, I remembered no more.
Mercifully, I remembered no more.
9/16/92

R.M.F.

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"AT THE INDIAN"

The Sidewalk Sale . . .

Was it Fun?

"Yes," says Alan Yerdon — "I want to do it again next year and have strolling vendors."

He moved into the neighborhood after the '91 sale and was chagrined to find that there wasn't one planned for '92. So the Washington Avenue Gang (Deb McCoy, Betsy Colburn, Mike Bartlett and Alan) assumed responsibility as a neighborhood team.

It was financially successful with about forty households paying for a table permit. That money paid for the cost of flyers and ads in the Gazette (art and layout by Mike) and the remaining funds (approximately \$300) went to the Stockade Association Treasury.

Alan "got rid of stuff I can't remember missing" and made \$500 while having a socially terrific time. Cookbooks flew off his shelves by the hundreds and he met friends he hadn't seen in years.

Arrangements were made with the City Mission for a 4:40 p.m. curb pickup of unsold and unwanted items . . . and the Gang all went out for dinner with their guests to celebrate. Remember all of this for October of '93 — have some fun and get rid of some of your abandoned treasures and junk that someone else REALLY wants.

And we all thank them for a job well done!

Diane Buckley

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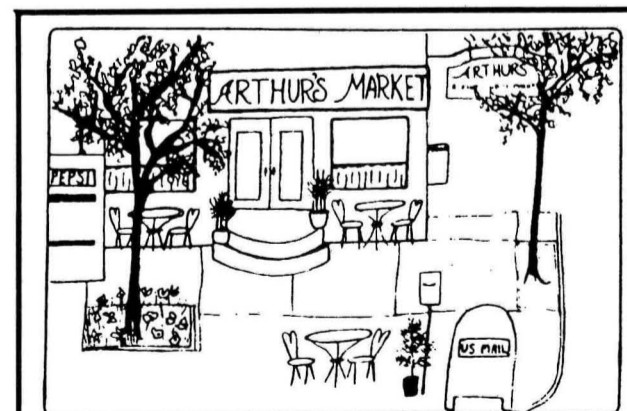
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Environmental Notes

It is quite "politically correct" to support environmental ideas just lately. What that means after the election is anybody's guess. Well, whichever side wins, remember how enthusiastic they were about promising a better planet. Regardless of how the elected behave, let us not forget that it is **our** voices that are listened to if we speak often enough, and together. What does one do if aware of misuse or outright exploitation of the environment? Call 800-EN-CRIME if you know of situations at work that abuse the current laws: improper disposal of chemical waste; suspecting that co-workers are sick or injured because certain harmful substances are used; seeing suspicious trucks dumping at night or disposing of liquid; or anything you believe, with good reason, to be violating state regulations. The NY Attorney General's Environmental Crimes Unit will pursue reports (last year 180 businesses and individuals were convicted), and it is up to us to be aware of what is going on in our neighborhood and workplace. According to an EPA report, **4.8 billion pounds of toxic chemicals** were released into the air, water and ground by US industries alone in 1990. (ECOS XXII:1)

Did you hear the report on selling real estate in Love Canal? Although the area has been pronounced safe, few buyers are snapping up the bargains there. Wonder why? Would you? So if the answer to the last question is "NO," and yet you say the radical "crazies" are exaggerating the dangers, is there some contradiction there?

NIMBY has received official recognition: the US Department of Housing and Urban Development issued a report by that primary title which, among other interesting statements, recommends the "Wise Use" idea we spoke about recently: the government would be forced to compensate landowners for **decrease in property values caused by environmental activities, and to put more emphasis on "economic" values.**

An interesting comparison may be made to the Stockade and Tokyo: in an effort to solve parking problems, Tokyo residents may own cars only if they can prove they have off-street parking!!! In the US 73% of workers drive to work alone. . . .

When a state tries to rectify the car emission problems, it seldom is allowed to stay on the books. Maryland had taxed high gas consumption vehicles \$100, and given a \$50 rebate for low consumption ones. The law was rescinded by the National Highway Traffic Administration. Too bad the politicians cannot agree on what they want to do about such important issues. To say nothing of the powerful lobbyists. . . .

Pretty weird that DEC wants to reintroduce more moose to the Adirondacks. We are either decimating animals or artificially promoting their existence — in either case interfering with some better plan it seems to me. But what do I know?

For all of these pieces of news I am indebted to ECOS. I find so much in their little newsletter that seems worthwhile passing on to you, and I should also tell you that they hold many informative classes, walks, and other programs. I know some of you are ECOS members, but many of you may not know about the organization. Should you wish to contact them for more information, their office number is **370-4125, M-F, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.**

TIME magazine gave us reason to cheer — or so we thought. In January they agreed to use chlorine-free paper. Greenpeace publicly commended this move, but now Greenpeace (Oct., Nov., Dec. 1992 issue) has been told it was a false promise. "Every year chlorine-bleached paper used by **TIME** results in the dumping of over 806,000 pounds of persistent pollutants dumped into North American waters." Is this a game? Whose side are YOU on? Greenpeace asks you not to buy any **TIME-LIFE** magazines. Call 1-800-843-TIME to tell them you will not buy until they honor their promise.

THE INTERNATIONAL JOINT COMMISSION (IJC), A JOINT U.S. AND CANADIAN AGENCY WHICH OVERSEES THE GREAT LAKES, CALLED FOR AN END TO THE USE OF CHLORINE IN INDUSTRIAL PROCESSES. WHY? BECAUSE THEY CONCLUDED THAT CHLORINE IN THE ECOSYSTEM POSES A DANGER TO HUMANS AND THE ENVIRONMENT (Greenpeace, Summer, 1992).

R.M.F.

November Waste Collection Dates

November 6	Friday
November 16	Monday
November 23	Monday
December 2	Wednesday

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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Schenectady Recycling Program

The Schenectady Recycling program begins November 15th. Stockade residents will be receiving pamphlets telling what to do with their waste.

According to these pamphlets, residents are to provide their own recycling containers. The city will provide decals to designate the containers for recyclable materials. One container will be for **CONTAINER PRODUCT** (tin, plastic and glass). The other container will be for **PAPER PRODUCT** (newspapers, magazines, corrugated cardboard and brown paper bags).

Residents, also, will have to put non-recyclable solid waste in clear or translucent bags. Collection crews will need to see through the bags to make sure people are not throwing out recyclable materials. After November 15th, the city will give a 90-day grace period before issuing fines for violations of the recycling law.

The city will prohibit plastic bags from being placed in the recycling containers. It also will limit the size of recycling containers to 30 gallons. The containers must be kept clean and dry, with tight-fitting lids. They must be at the curb by 6:15 a.m. on collection days. The pamphlet will break down the recyclable materials into the following categories:

GLASS BOTTLES AND JARS

All bottles and jars must be clean, empty and unbroken. Caps and lids must be removed and placed in the trash.

ACCEPTABLE ITEMS: clear, green and brown bottles and jars.

PLASTIC BOTTLES

Clean plastic bottles with necks can be recycled. Labels may remain, but caps must be removed. It is recommended to step carefully on plastic bottles so they take up less room.

ACCEPTABLE ITEMS: bottles for soft drinks, milk and water, detergent and fabric softener, shampoo, conditioner, liquid soap, cleansers, salad dressing, syrup, ketchup and mustard.

UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS: margarine tubs, yogurt containers, bags, stretch wraps, containers for pesticides, herbicides, solvents or paint, egg cartons, foam cups, food storage or microwave containers, flower pots and toys.

METALS

Food and beverage containers made of aluminum, steel and tin must be recycled. Containers must be clean and paper labels removed from tin cans. It is recommended that tin cans be flattened.

NON-ACCEPTABLE ITEMS: aerosol cans, gas or oil cans, pie plates, aluminum foil, propane containers, pressurized containers and paint cans.

The city will continue to pick up and recycle bulk metals: water heaters, washers and dryers, tubs, sinks, refrigerators and freezers with the doors removed.

PAPER PRODUCTS

Newspapers, magazines and brown paper bags must be separated and placed in separate brown paper bags. The bags must then go into the "PAPER PRODUCT" recycling container along with corrugated cardboard, which must be flattened.

UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS: paper products that are contaminated by water, food, paint, soap, chemicals, urine or feces, gray cardboard (clothing, shoe or cereal boxes), wax-coated boxes (milk or juice cartons), packing material, plastic tape, junk mail, catalogs, brochures, telephone books, paperback and hard-cover books.

YARD WASTE

The city will continue to pick up grass, leaves, twigs and plant materials placed in 30-gallon paper bags.

CONSTRUCTION DEBRIS

Construction and demolition debris from residents and small contractors can be dropped off, for a fee, at the Weaver Street transfer station.

H.T.



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