

September 1994

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Vol. 35 No. 6



The Stockade Association
GENERAL
Membership Meeting

"Open To All Stockade Residents"

Tuesday, September 20, 1994

Historical Society Building

7:00 pm Social

7:30 pm Business

- Agenda -

Secretary's/Treasurer's Report

Walkabout Report

Sidewalk Sale Report

Special Guests

Schenectady County Legislators

Joseph Pangione

David Tessitore

Tina Panetta-Zaza

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Letter from the editor

Dear readers,

Welcome back to another year of the SPY. I hope it will continue to be your forum, for current and historical news. September brings many annual events to the Stockade, and you will find some of them described elsewhere in this issue. I hope you will participate in them, either as an active participant, volunteering in the effort, or at least enjoying the fruits of others.

On a more personal note, I have been pleased with some of my own happenings which I would like to share some thoughts with you. I heard **Terry Anderson**, who was a hostage in Lebanon for seven years, speak of his experience in a moving talk, given with great sincerity, yet tempered by lightness. This was a unique opportunity to hear first hand from someone who discovered his way back to wholeness after being in "hell." After seven years in prison he had some strange impressions on his return to the United States -- he mentioned the difference in technology, the public interest in himself, and, wait for this you culture vultures, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles!! On a more serious note, he said all the hostages he has spoken to agree that terrorists won't win if we don't give in.

Speaking of culture, I did get to NYC to see Medea, and speaking of terrorists. . . . Also spent a week at Harvard, a really good experience, and oh for just one block of Cambridge in Schenectady! I was privileged to participate in a Native American reburial ritual up at the Peace Pagoda in Grafton. Very moving.

Then there was the heat and humidity. Ah yes, well let's not dwell on that now that it's September. Suffice to say that open windows contributed to many unpleasant noises for many of our residents, including human voices and mechanical monstrosities. Our Park benefitted from the many volunteers who worked to clear the river banks, but our tennis courts suffered from neglect and storms. The volley ball area is off and running and so are the players.

Overall it has been an interesting summer. Perhaps the best part for me has been the opportunity to meet and talk with people spontaneously, to enjoy relaxed meals and conversation with friends, and to watch the incredible growth of my grandchildren (even went to a Little League Allstars Game!). It doesn't take much to make me content with my lot does it?

Do let us know what you find good (or bad) about living in the Stockade. There is such a lot going on that one can only guess without some input from you. Thank you, and may this be the beginning of a good year for everyone.

RMF

Boy Scouts Auction

Watch for a detailed update on the auction held on August 12, 1994, of the Boy Scouts building, 2 Union St. This will be in the October-issue. The Boy Scouts Council has agreed to meet with the Stockade Association Board in September to discuss mutual concerns.

Letter to the editor

Dear Editor,

Greg and I would like to thank our many friends and neighbors who have given us a wonderful welcome back to the Stockade. It has been great! One truly can come home again.

Nevertheless, these last four months have made very personal some disturbing trends that are now evident in the Stockade. Since returning here in Mid-April, our house has been both burglarized and vandalized. The burglary occurred at 10:30 a.m. while I was at home. Fortunately, the burglar heard me and my dog and fled, thereby preventing a potentially dangerous encounter. I know that twelve years ago vandalism and burglary were not foreign to the Stockade. It is evident, however, that the number of occurrences has increased dramatically. Police records indicate that, for this July, there were 7 burglaries and 4 assaults within the Historic District and four times that in the immediate vicinity.

I think that most Stockaders will agree that the rising incidence of crime is a serious threat to the quality of life in our neighborhood, and, while individually there is little we can do, collectively, under the leadership of the Stockade Association, we can influence things for the better. I have contacted Police Commissioner Mills, who shares my concern with the crime rate and who would welcome the active assistance of the neighborhood. Commissioner Mills has agreed to come to an association meeting and give us guidance on how we might respond to the situation.

A related concern, and perhaps a contributor to the crime problem, is the number of indigents who now reside in or near the Stockade. I recognize our social responsibility, and reject the "Not in my backyard" mentality. The diversity which has always been present in the Stockade is a valued part of its identity. Nevertheless, I question whether the density of social services supported SRO's (single resident only rooms) in or near the Stockade is in fact not destroying the very neighborhood environment which the social service agencies are attempting to exploit for the benefit of their clients.

I believe that these two issues, along with demolition by neglect which is so apparent in the neighborhood, should be the primary focus of the Stockade Association's agenda in the coming years. Without such focus, the neighborhood that we all value is at serious risk.

Barbara Panetta Sauer

Annual Stockade Sidewalk Sale

It's time to clear attics and basements of all those unwanted treasures for the **5th Annual Stockade Neighborhood-wide Sidewalk Sale**. It is scheduled for **Saturday, October 1**, rain or shine.

Participation forms are below, and are also available at **Arthur's Market**. There's also a flyer to share with friends or post to help advertising. Please return the form to Deb Bartlett, 20 Washington Avenue, 12305, along with a \$5.00 tax-deductible contribution payable to the Stockade Association. Proceeds are used to cover the cost of advertising and to support the Stockade Association. The due date is **Friday, September 23**. You will receive an "Official Stockade Vendor" certificate to be displayed the day of the sale.

This event is once again coordinated by Mike and Deb Bartlett (who have done such a great job in the past). Feel free to contact them at 372-7510 for additional information or suggestions.

Please join in this unique event to convert those unwanted items into cash, to meet your neighbors, and to show off our beautiful neighborhood.

DMcB

Villagers' Stockade Outdoor Art Show: The 43rd Year

Saturday, September 10th, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Rain date, Sunday, September 11th, from 12 noon to 5 p.m.

Only Nick Colangelo can lay claim to being one of the original eight founders of this historic show. In 1944 a group gathered at what is now Arthur's Market, in space donated by Arthur, to start a Monday night art class. The original group, in addition to Nick, consisted of John Watrous, a professional artist who volunteered to teach, Ernie Cohen, Giles van der Bogert, Herman Nielson, Tom Gibbons, Jim Gilliland, and Jim Howgate. Colangelo notes that the Stockade was just beginning to grow, and the art show evolved from the group who put some of their work around Lawrence the Indian. "They were terrible pictures!" exclaimed Colangelo. From these few pictures the show now extends from Ferry to Front and Green Streets, and includes more than 100 artists. Each year thousands of spectators come to view the art. "It's an afternoon out," says Nick, and indeed, people meet and enjoy the neighborhood and the people.

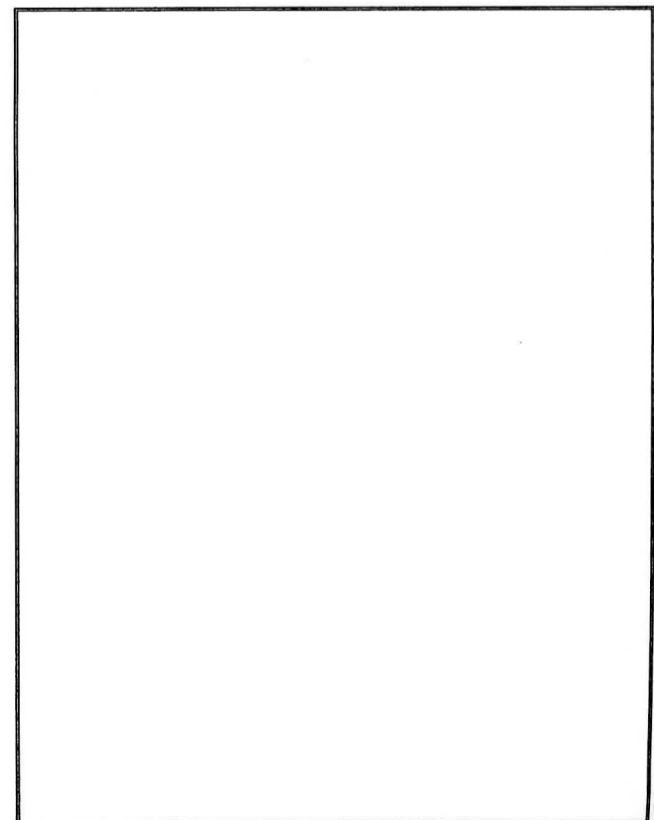
The show has always been coordinated by volunteers from the Stockade community, churches, and the Mohawk Club, thus keeping down expenses and affordable for artists to participate. The Schenectady Museum is also involved. Art which receives 1st, 2nd, and 3rd honorable mention, along with a number of pieces selected by the judges, is displayed during the Fall (tentatively September 18 through October 2, 1994).

This year's co-chairs, Marilyn Fisher and Ellie Strack, agree that the focus is on providing an inexpensive opportunity for local artists. Registration is only \$20.00, and begins at 10 a.m. on the day of the show. Sales are permitted. Exhibitors must be at least 16 years of age.

"If the event generates any additional money" says Fisher, "we give an art prize at the high school." This year's recipient of a \$250 cash award was high school senior Jason Cooper, chosen by the high school's art department.

For further information contact Art Show Chairpersons Marilyn Fisher or Ellie Strack, c/o Stockade Villagers' Outdoor Art Show, 50 Washington Avenue, or Phone 374-4126.

*The Stockade Spy is your Neighborhood Newspaper.
Without your submissions the Spy would look like this:*



* See "Call for Submission" for more information.

A lot of comings and goings happened in the Stockade this summer. Susan Bokan (former President of the Stockade Association) has made a big move and that is --- out of the Stockade. Over the summer, she finalized a deal on a house in Saratoga and left, lock, stock and barrel. The Spy Staff wishes her well in her new abode and hopes that she comes down to visit her friends once in a while. Spy staff members, Paul Spencer and Hal Thompson have taken over Susan's house in the Stockade at 124 N. College.

Speaking of the Spy staff, our editor Michaela French will be gone most of the month of September --- off to merry old England, her homeland. Michaela will spend time with family and friends on a much needed respite.

New residents have been coming in droves to our neighborhood. Among the many new faces are Nicole Fazio, formerly of New York City, and Joan Denagel of Washington, D.C. They're getting settled on N. College Street, and enjoying the Stockade.

John Bradshaw of Green Street, had a two week visit to Antarctica last February, sailing aboard the "Sergei Vavilov," a Russian arctic vessel now in tourist service with the American Association for Advancement of Science (AAAS). They went from the Falkland Islands to south Shetland Islands and back to Ushusia, Argentina, seeing penguin rookeries, old whaling stations, new research stations, seals, whales, petrels and so on.

On a sadder note, Tidings correspondent, Wendy Espina is recovering at home after falling ill this summer. If you would like to drop her a note, I'm sure she'd love to hear from you. You can send it to 37 Front St. The staff of the Spy wishes Wendy a speedy recovery and even quicker return to these pages.

Also recuperating at home is Barbara Edwards, volunteer extraordinaire. Barbara had knee surgery last month. Heal quickly Barbara!

Strolling down Front Street we can enjoy the look of houses freshly painted, like Dawson Van Eps happy red, and his wonderful community garden; right across the street, work is in progress, pointing up the brickwork and making #118 look wonderful. It is a pleasure to see the way our neighbors work to keep the Stockade beautiful. Some of the homes on the Walkabout are having a spruce up in time for that event too.

TOM JARDAS ANTIQUES

I'm looking for objects, books, posters, photos, pamphlets, autographs - anything related to the following subjects:

AMERICAN WEST - PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGNS
WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE - SOCIALIST PARTY
RELIGIOUS SECTS - SLAVERY - TEMPERANCE
LABOR MOVEMENT - GUNS - MEDICAL - MAGIC
RAILROADS - OCEAN LINERS - GAMBLING
THEATER - CIRCUS - SPORTS - OLYMPICS
WORLD'S FAIRS
SCHENECTADY AND THE CAPITAL DISTRICT

507 UNION ST. 374-4931

Did you know ?

The Stockade Spy reaches over 1000 Stockade households eight times a year.

People read spy advertising.
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1994 WALKABOUT

The 35th annual WALKABOUT of old Schenectady will be held on Saturday, September 24th, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tickets will be sold for \$10.00 on the day, and \$9.00 for advanced tickets. Advance tickets can be purchased from the Historical Society, on Washington Ave, starting September 6th.

The WALKABOUT is an important event for the Stockade; it is the largest fund raiser for both the Stockade Association and the Schenectady County Historical Society. This year's tour will be another wonderful show of Victorian and Federal era homes, and other historic buildings:

4 Cucumber Alley - the home of Bobbie and Lee Bowden
216 Union Street - the home of Linda Flanger and Jack Creasy

111 Union Street - the home of Edna Eldrige
22 North Church - the home of Betsy and Guy Graves
226 Union Street - the home of Guido Loyola
105 North Ferry Street - the home of Nancy Bell and Eli Taub

203 State Street - Adaptive use - Katie and Fred Kindl
Schenectady County Historical Society

First Reformed Church
Holy Cross Church
Saint George's Church
Mohawk Club

Volunteers are needed to host at the homes, to assist in early morning set up, and to sell tickets. Residents are asked to spruce up their dwellings and the surrounding area to present the Stockade for what it is: one of the most charming and beautiful neighborhoods of Schenectady.

If you are interested in volunteering your time, please call Committee Chairs, Anne and Joe Bernat at 393-5770, weekends and evenings.

Clean up time in the park.

On a sweltering Saturday in June, thirty or so Stockade resident volunteers met in Riverside Park to help cut and gather the brush that had grown high on the river banks. They mowed grass, removed debris from the turn-a-rounds, and swept the tennis courts so they were playable. Flower gardens reappeared as our good neighbors pulled weeds, and litter, branches, bottles and cans that had been strewn about disappeared -- gathered up and readied for disposal. Sweat and laughter mingled as young and old worked hard to bring the river back into view from the pathway.

City Parks Director Bill Seber provided tools, equipment and manpower to be sure that all debris, refuse and litter was removed from the Park in City trucks. Paul Cardamone brought water for the dehydrated volunteers; City Councilman Tom Isabella came, liked what he saw, and donated pizza and soft drinks to replenish the bodies.

The spirit of community prevailed, renewing the energy of the small nucleus of workers who had come early and stayed late. We should all thank these neighbors for making it possible to enjoy the park walk and view of the river.



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Special Events

Environmental Clearinghouse of Schenectady (ECOS)
Fall Foliage & Wildflower Walks

Tuesday mornings beginning September 20 through October 25, 1994. For more information and a schedule call ECOS, 370-4125

ECOS 1994 Fall courses:

Techniques of Botanical Art -- Weds., September 14 to October 19, 9:30 a.m. to noon.

Getting Acquainted with Woody Plants -- Weds., noon - 3 p.m.

Call ECOS for information and registration -- 370-4125.

Schenectady Symphony Orchestra's 61st Season

Sunday afternoons at 3 p.m. -- More music in beautiful Proctor's Theatre

October 16, November 20, 1994,

March 19, 1995, April 30, 1995.

For a detailed flyer call 374-3217

1994 Preservation Awards

A pleasant event took place during our reprieve from publishing the SPY -- a social to recognize the 1994 Preservation Award recipients. There were two Stockaders so honored, Harold Schneiderwind -- for the Ingersoll House, Union Street (written up previously in a SPY article by Diane Buckley), and John and Mary Simoni -- the Oothout House, Union Street, for the wonderful job they did in restoring 5 Union Street after a devastating fire on a bitter cold winter night. John and Marie Eoff took some wonderful photos of the blaze, one of which was the front cover of the SPY that month.

Thus, we at the SPY feel we have a connection to these two homes, albeit a tenuous one we agree. Still, Harold had the SPY story on display, along with photos and designs of his house, at the above event, and your editor used to live next-door to #5, giving us another strand to grasp!

Regardless of all this, the evening was quite delightful. Friends and neighbors met with complete strangers who stayed that way but a while; the addition of the ubiquitous name tag was an unusually positive, helping those who knew each other from "somewhere," but couldn't remember where or how, to identify a face with a voice, a politician with a program or a favorite restaurant, and old acquaintances with an inner promise to forget the past.

Thanks to the gracious hosts, Dr. Fe Mondragon and Lisa Schoonmaker, the setting was conducive to friendliness, and there was little of the rancor usually found when those of many "shades of political beliefs" (I believe those were Jim Schmidt's words) mingled. Perhaps this was due to the philosophical belief that prevailed over all else: the importance of preserving our heritage in the face of apathy and greed. The Four Historic Neighborhoods proved indeed to be neighborly. Connections were discovered through work or recreational activities, and a feeling of goodwill pervaded. Altogether it helped one to strengthen resolutions to do what one can, and to forget that so many say "How can you make a difference?" Without these districts I would be hard pressed to take my out of town or overseas visitors anywhere in our city. Perhaps this can change . . .

RMF



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Environmental Notes

"Wise Use" is, according to The Sierra Club's Carl Pope, a public relations movement organized by various private interests to promote their use of public land for profit. They do this by protesting their "rights" to make money from exploiting America's wilds. They claim to be "pro-environment," hence the name, yet the Sierra Club has won several legal battles against them, for example against a mining company's claim to the unconstitutionality of prohibiting mining within an Ohio town's aquifer area. Makes one think how, closer to home, there was a threat to our own aquifer. This was overcome by promises to provide compensatory improvements. Anyone checked up on those promises lately? Water, the kind we drink, is not limitless.

Third World countries are rapidly catching up with the industrialized ones of the west. This gives us great markets for further exploitation, a chance to show them how to pollute as badly as we do (world leaders in consumption and waste), and all in the name of progress. Perhaps it is inevitable, more so the pity. For my part I'll still try to recycle, or better yet try to avoid excess packaging, and, most importantly, try to remember and thoughtfully think about why this is important, at least to me.

According to energy expert Amory Lewis, "this country got 4 1/2 times as much new energy from savings as from net increases in supply" This from energy savings as promoted through use of caulking, duct tape, and so on. This is encouraging, but it would be better if the savings meant "not used," but it's more likely that it means more unnecessary use.

Mother Nature will repay your willful actions. In the 1960's the Caspian Sea suffered from wasteful irrigation projects, so engineers reversed Siberian rivers to flow into the Caspian, ignoring information from Islamic scholars, in the Middle Ages, that the Caspian rises and falls in 70 year cycles. Seems that the Caspian followed its own rhythms and began to recover in the 70's, adding waters to the diverted ones. Result? The Caspian today "has moved inland, flooding oil wells, electric towers and marshes, driving fresh-water frogs and snakes into nearby villages." *ECOS News* March 1994.

Perhaps the Japanese should pay attention to the above. They are planning to convert a tidal-flat wetland into an artificial island, complete with "superdock" and high-rise hotels. Our own Mid-West last spring suffered similar flooding problems when housing developments built on flood plains were swept away. (No, I don't work for an insurance company.) The gist of these items was taken from *ECOS News* March 1994.

At the Rodale Institute Research Center,

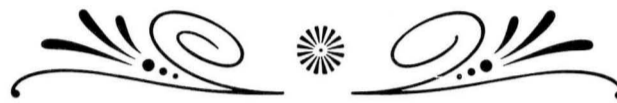
Kutztown, PA, has been experimenting successfully with organic farming, and working with farmers to meet goals of reducing the use of pesticides. Rodale Institute uses many systems to achieve its goal including crop rotation. Three systems are compared for yield and the disastrous effects of runoff. There is also more notice taken of the crops, rather than a mechanical spraying and waiting for the growing season. Is it worth it? To many the answer is yes, and the EPA is giving priority to biological pesticides. *Sunday Gazette*, 6/12/94

About BGH, used on cows to promote milk production: Injected cows suffer increased infections, need more antibiotics and other drugs which may be passed on in the milk. FDA suggests this milk may have more saturated fat and less protein. Finally, in a glutted market, surplus milk means increased price supports, paid for by, you guessed it, to the tune of \$300 and \$500 million (*ECOS News*, May, 1994).

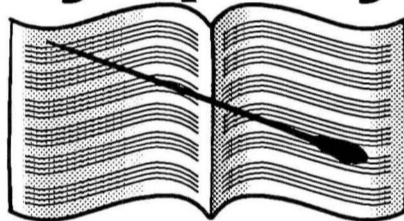
On the other hand, not everything makes rational sense. Ogden Nash described such an event:

*God in His wisdom made the fly
And then forgot to tell us why . . .*

RMF



Step into the Symphony



*"I love classical music, but I don't understand it."
"I would like to know more about it, but I don't read music."
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The November course is open to adults of all ages and is presented annually as a cooperative venture of the Schenectady Symphony Orchestra and the Union College Academy for Lifelong Learning (UCALL). For further information and a descriptive brochure, please call Union College Office of Graduate and Continuing Studies, (518) 388-6638.

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September Waste Collection Dates

September 6	Tuesday
September 13	Tuesday
September 20	Tuesday
September 27	Tuesday
October 4	Tuesday

*Waste Collection Pickup Starts at 6:30 a.m.

*Don't put waste on the curb before 7:00 p.m. the night before.

Remember to recycle:

Separate green, clear and brown bottles and jars; plastic bottles with necks and metal cans, and place into a recycling container marked "Container Product." Separate magazines, newspaper, brown paper (grocery bags), and corrugated cardboard and place into a recycling container marked "Paper Product." For answers to recycling questions call the Recycling Hotline 382-5060.

Recycling Centers

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 & third class mail

County Farm - Hetcheltown Road, Glenville

Hours: 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Monday through Friday

9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Saturdays

Accepts: newspapers, corrugated cardboard, tin and aluminum cans, aluminum foil containers, colored glass, household batteries, junk mail, magazines and phone books.



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Call for Submissions

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, September 16** for publication in the **October 1994** issue. Please be sure they are typed, double spaced, signed with the **writer's name, address, and phone included**. You may mail materials to Riverside Condos, 137 Front Street, #105, clearly marked for the *Spy* editor, or leave them in the *SPY* basket in the open foyer in back of the building. Thank you for your cooperation. In case of undue hardship in getting information typed, we will consider clearly written letters (not articles). If you've entered the computer age, we would appreciate finding your submission on an MS-DOS disk in WordPerfect or ASCII format, so we don't have to typeset. Disks and any original material will be returned **upon request**; otherwise no responsibility for them is taken by the *Spy* staff.

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