

This community newsletter publishes information, events, problems and concerns affecting the people of Palisades. 10964 needs your moral and financial support. Please send a contribution for 10964 to Box 201, Palisades, NY 10964. With your help you'll find 10964 in your mailbox every month.

PALISADES IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION -- PART II

THE "DOBBS FERRY" BLOCKHOUSE AT SNEDENS LANDING

At a low point in the Revolution, in August, 1780, Washington wrote Congress that he had ordered the army to march to 'Dobbs Ferry', on this side, where he intended to build "some small works." These were to serve as a means of communication, a guard for the ferry route, and a center for the collection of intelligence. General Wayne had looked at sites along the river and had recommended this, the first real break in the Palisades, as the best location.

The army camped at Tappan, and hundreds of soldiers were sent over to the river to construct a blockhouse at the top of the cliff. Many came over from the camp to watch the construction, privates, officers, the regimental surgeon, the French minister, Washington himself. There is a believable tradition that Washington brought Generals Lafayette and von Steuben with him, and that afterwards they dined at the Big House with the patriotic Lawrences, at the table always afterwards called the Washington table, which is now preserved in the Palisades Library.

With the information we have, it seems probable that Mr. Gilman was right in saying that the heap of stones near Woods Road is the site of the blockhouse, and not the small stone building incorporated in the Adams' house, as George Budke suggested in his scholarly article on the blockhouse in the Rockland Record.

Before the blockhouse was finished, on September 11, 1780, Benedict Arnold stopped here. He had agreed to meet Andre in 'Dobbs Ferry' in Westchester to discuss the betrayal of West Point, but a British warship not in the secret forced him to land here. He wrote Washington a letter, every word of which meant the opposite of what he said.

For a couple of years the soldiers at the blockhouse carried out their task of securing intelligence and watching and

(see page 2)

PALISADES COMMUNITY CENTER CELEBRATION

We are planning a 10th Anniversary Thanksgiving Cocktail Party for Sunday, November 30th from 3-6 p.m. If you have any photos, or other memorabilia that you could share with us for the occasion, please call Judy Englander (8098). In addition to the Yoga and Karate classes we are now offering the following activities: Aerobic dancing; Elegant, but Easy Cooking with Ginny McCarthy; Israeli Folk Dancing; Intermediate Bridge with a life master and teacher. If you would like to participate in any of the above activities please send a note with your day and time preferences to: Palisades Community Center, P.O. Box 222, Palisades, or call Estelle Sollish (4638).

Anticipating the high cost of heating and maintaining the building this winter -- contributions would be greatly appreciated.  
JUDY ENGLANDER

ART EXHIBITION AND AUCTION

The Palisades church is sponsoring an exhibition and auction of art works by Rockland County artists and craftspersons. Location -- Parish House, Washington Spring Road. Dates -- *Exhibit*, Saturday p.m., Nov. 15. *Auction*, Sunday p.m., Nov. 16.

Members and friends who have pieces to contribute or who have friends who will contribute items, please get in touch with Bob Burcaw, 359-1399, Ernie Quick, 359-2692, or Fred Griffing, 353-0619.

Watch for more about this "fun" event -- to help raise money to cover costs of keeping our community church attractive.

PALISADES SENIOR CITIZENS

At our September and October meetings we were pleased to welcome new members -- and begin plans for the year to come. Only one meeting has been scheduled for November (tentative date, Nov. 13 from 2-4 p.m. at the Palisades Community Center), and we have scheduled a party for December.

LAURA EBMEYER

CALENDAR

Nov	1	Folk Dancing - every Saturday night (7:45 - 11 p.m. at Palisades Presbyterian Church)
	10	Lois Rich-McCoy to autograph books and speak on "The Late Bloomer" (Monday 8:30 p.m., Ben Franklin Bookshop & Printery, 318 No. Broadway, Nyack)
	13	Palisades Senior Citizens monthly meeting - tentative date. (2 - 4 at Palisades Community Center)
	15	Art and Craft Exhibition (Saturday afternoon at Palisades Presbyterian Church)
	16	Art and Craft Auction (Sunday afternoon at Palisades Presbyterian Church)
	30	Palisades Community Center cocktail party (3 - 6 p.m., at the Center)

harassing the enemy shipping on the river, under the command of Captain John Pray of the Water Guard. Then in May, 1782, Washington ordered that all communications with the enemy should be carried on through the blockhouse, and it became an important listening post. Washington said: "The importance of the Post renders it essential, that the Major whose battalion is on duty should be there to superintend the general business of the post." In October 1782 it was put under the command of Colonel William Stephens Smith, who afterwards married the daughter of John Adams. He had hoped to see more fighting, and wrote petulantly to Washington of "the general imbecility of the post"; but he remained to supervise the action at Dobbs Ferry until the end of the war.

At this time a historic event occurred here. When Washington met Sir Guy Carleton in Tappan in May 1783 to work out the details of the evacuation of New York, the British frigate *Perseverance* anchored off the western end of 'Dobbs Ferry' on this side. After the negotiations were finished, Washington was invited to dinner aboard the *Perseverance*. As he boarded the ship, and again as he left, the new nation was first saluted, in his person, with volleys of seventeen guns.

ALICE MUNRO HAAGENSEN



#### SATURDAY NIGHT FOLK-DANCING

The folk-dancing group that meets at the Palisades Presbyterian Church on Washington Spring Road every Saturday night (7:45-11 p.m.) finished its first six months of dancing on the Labor Day weekend. There was a break during September and the weekly sessions started again on October 11th. It has been a very successful activity -- the group averages about 15-20 people, and teachers Jeff Weissel and Garry Karner are gratified by the progress made by the beginners over the past months. It seems scarcely believable, but 47 new dances were taught between February and August, most of these coming from places like Romania, Serbia, Macedonia, Israel and Scandinavia. Although the dances taught ranged from very easy to quite difficult, many people mastered all 47. So, if you'd like to spend Saturday nights learning, exercising, and having fun, come to our folk dance sessions. \$2.00 is the General Admission while \$1.00 discounts are offered to Senior Citizens and Students. For more information about Saturday Folk-Dancing, call Garry at 2073.

JEFF WEISSEL

#### THE RED BRICK PALISADES SCHOOL

on Oak Tree Road is filled to bursting again this year with the 'littlest' people - from birth to 5 years of age. Three separate groups/organizations house themselves in that building's special atmosphere:

THE PALISADES PRE-SCHOOL FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN is funded by the state under a special grant and run by the South Orangetown School District. They write us, "South Orangetown pre-school children from birth to 5 years of age who have special needs in language, speech, movement, hearing and seeing, social adjustment, and delayed mental development are wanted and welcome.

The Palisades Pre-School for Handicapped Children is now entering its second year of existence. The school staff and families involved have been pleased by the successful experience of last year's program and look forward to serving additional children this year.

Any parent or professional may request that a child be screened for possible special needs. A screening consists of a parent interview and an opportunity to take a closer look at the individual needs of the child. For further information, or to arrange for a screening call: Catherine McCue at 359-3966/68. The program is offered at no cost to families by the district."

THE OAK TREE PLAYGROUP - pre-school playgroup based in Palisades for over 7 years - provides daily care and enrichment for children ages 2 to 5. Call Teacher/Director Mary Anne Armistead (359-6472 or 358-9464) for information.

THE CHILD-PARENT GROUP - a new concept of child care and development which involves both children and parents - from birth to 3 years of age - was established by Ruth Laud (a licensed psychiatric nurse). Call (359-5720) for details.

#### ARTS AND LETTERS

Among the new books by Palisades authors now at bookstores and the Palisades library are:

DOROTHY SALISBURY DAVIS new book *SCARLET NIGHT* (Scribners); another fine mystery novel to add to Dorothy's well-known and admirable list.

LOIS RICH-McCOY's just-published *LATE BLOOMERS: PROFILES OF WOMEN WHO FOUND THEIR TRUE CALLING* (Harper); a well-received and highly readable collection of biographies of dynamic women. Lois will autograph books and speak on "The Late Bloomer" at 8:30 p.m., Monday, Nov. 10th at Nyack's newest book emporium, Ben Franklin Bookshop & Printery; 318 No. Broadway, Upper Nyack. Come, partake of the punch bowl, and communicate with other potential late bloomers.

PALISADES FREE LIBRARY

*How Big is Your Library:*  
 Books 15,924  
 Paperbacks 750  
 Records 479  
 Cassettes 30

Also: games, maps, microfilm reader-printer, cassette player, filmstrip projector, copier.

*Did You Know?*

Our microfilm collection now includes The New York Times (1973- ), Newsweek, Psychology To-Day, Saturday Review, Scientific American. Also the Gesner Diary and Palisades Notes by Mr. Gilman.

For those who have visual problems, your library has a small collection of reading matter in large print. An additional service is "Talking Books" on records or cassettes which can be borrowed through the New York State Library. The applications for this service are at the circulation desk.

**SPECIAL INTEREST ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN  
 RAMAPO CATSKILL LIBRARY SYSTEM AREA**

*Museum of the Hudson Highlands* - Exhibits and special programs on the natural and cultural history of the Hudson Valley. The Boulevard, Cornwall on Hudson, N.Y. 12520 (914)534-7781.

*Storm King Art Center* - Outdoor sculpture garden and indoor art exhibits. Old Pleasantville Road, Mountainville, N.Y. 10953. (914)534-3115.

*Washington Headquarters State Historic Site* - Museum containing artifacts from Revolutionary War. 84 Liberty Street, Newburgh, N.Y. (914)562-1195.

*Stony Point Battle Field* - An American Revolutionary Battlefield and Museum. Route 9W, Stony Point, N.Y. 10980 (914)786-2521.

*U.S. Military Academy, West Point* - Museum, Chapel, riverfront historic site. West Point, N.Y. 10936.

*Museum Village* - Museum of 19th Century crafts and technology. Displays, exhibits, and working craftspersons. Monroe, N.Y. 10950 (914)782-8247.

*Hall of Fame of the Trotter* - Memorabilia, exhibits, displays of horse-racing and training. Goshen, N.Y. 10924 (914)294-6330.

*Historical Society Rockland County* - Restored village containing barns, blacksmith shop, smokehouse and museum. 20 Zukor, New City, N.Y. 10956 (914)634-9629.

*Minisink Battlefield Memorial Park* - Major Revolutionary War battlefield, also see Roebling Suspension Bridge spanning the Delaware River. Oldest bridge of this type still in use in the U.S. Route 97, Minisink Ford, N.Y. 10973.

BEATRICE AGNEW  
 LIBRARIAN

\* \* \*

The plant sale at the library was a huge success this fall due in great measure to the wealth of unusual and delicious food at our food table.

We on the board wish to thank all of you who were so thoughtful as to contribute something from your kitchen or to donate cuttings, herbs, and ground covers to the plant sale.

ANDREA D. WILLIAMS, PRES.  
 PALISADES FREE LIBRARY  
 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

THE TITANIC SEARCH

[Excerpted from the Columbia Univ. Record and the Lamont Log]



"Where does the Titanic lie?

Cradled in a deep submarine canyon? In pieces, broken across a rugged seabed? Buried in the avalanche of sediments and debris that has cascaded down the steep edge of the North American continent?

No one yet knows. But Columbia scientists from the Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory (located in Palisades, New York), after three weeks of searching with the latest underwater instruments in black, two-and-one-half-mile depths, still believe the great ship will be found and explored."

\* \* \*

[Excerpted from W.B.F. Ryan's Cruise Report]

"... The principal accomplishments of the expedition [follow]:

- A near-bottom search was carried out over a sufficiently large area to indicate that there is a low probability that the Titanic lies in an unbroken piece in open terrain.

- It is highly likely that the wreck is intermingled with geological features.... It is also possible that the Titanic has been camouflaged... into the substrate by active geological processes.

- A first-stage scientific documentation of a fascinating geological area of the deep seafloor has been completed."

\* \* \*

The TITANIC search, a two-year project, will move into stage II in spring, 1981, with several weeks of field work searching for, then photographing, the wreck site. Stage III involves the submersible ALUMINAUT. Scientists and film crew will dive for a view of the TITANIC. An attempt to enter the hull utilizing robot-tethered TV-camera-equipped vehicles, complete with manipulative arms. Sophisticated equipment used during the expedition -- financed by Texas oilman Jack Grimm -- becomes LDGO's property.

LAMONT LOG ED.

10964 Ed. Note: Bill Ryan, former Palisades resident, will have more to tell at stage II and III.

CLASSIFIED

CLOSTER PLAZA TRAVEL -- Closter Shopping Center. Dale Botwin and a highly experienced staff to serve all your travel needs. Please call home (914)359-6080 or office (201)768-8405.

FOUND -- 10 speed bike. Please call 1765 (and describe).

FOR RENT: Fully furnished and equipped luxurious contemporary on Century Road cul-de-sac, Palisades. 5-6 months beginning January 1981. 4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 baths, eat-in kitchen, 2-car garage, 1st floor laundry and much more. \$1,300 per month plus utilities. 359-7392 evenings and week-ends.

FOR RENT: Catskills - large comfortable home on mtn top. 150 pte acres. 3 miles to shops. All conveniences. Hunter area. 2 1/2 hours GW Bridge. Call days & w/e (212)694-5575, w/e & evenings (914)359-0021.

THE STING RAYS will perform at parties, celebrations, etc. For more information call 359-3051.

MEDICAL SECRETARY seeks part-time secretarial and/or typing at home. Own IBM electric typewriter. Familiar with dictating machines. Call evenings 0021.

WE SELL EFFICIENCY NOT OIL -- That should tell you something about what our business attitudes are. We want to save you money on oil consumption and one of the best ways is to review your burners' efficiency. Possibly you're wasting more oil than you need to waste. Possibly an adjustment is all that you need. And, possibly your burner is quite out of date and needs to be replaced with a high efficiency high

speed retention burner. You can trust us to tell it to you honestly and to do high quality work. We've worked on many of your neighbors' units and we'd be pleased to give you a free review of your oil burner needs. Call Olympic Maintenance, (914)623-4114.

CLASSIFIED ADS are free for Palisades residents. Send yours to 10964, Box 201, Palisades, N.Y. Donations requested from businesses.

UNCLASSIFIED

If at any time you do not receive your copy of 10964, call Jane Bernick (8382).

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Writing contributions to the newsletter are welcome. Send your story or announcement to 10964, Box 201, Palisades, N.Y. for consideration. 10964 reserves the right to edit material submitted for publication.

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Deadline for December issue is November 10.

ED'S NOTE

Sorry, but it is 10964 policy not to print unsigned communications. We welcome signed letters to the Editor.

10964 STAFF

Carol Eleyitch/Editor; Marilyn Solimine/ Assoc. Editor; Lynn Seidler/Treasurer; Joan Tankel/Fundraising; Lois McCoy/ Founder-Consultant.

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