

PALISADES FREE LIBRARY

# 10964

MAY 1981 NO. 41

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.

*The following is the second installment of Mildred Rippey's GROWING UP IN PALISADES.*

On June 21st summer arrived. One morning you woke up and the thermometer would be hovering around 80 degrees and you just knew it was summer. Church picnics were in order, with barrels of iced lemonade, and good homemade food and lots and lots of family games. Swimming holes were popular and of course you could stretch out on a blanket under a tree.

At the end of summer we all looked forward to the Orangeburg Fair which lasted about a week and closed with a "Children's Day." This fair was a great institution -- I still miss it. There were exhibition halls which displayed baked goods, jellies and jams and all sort of needlework and quilts. There was farm produce of all kinds also farm animals, horses, cows and pigs plus farm equipment. Of course there were the fun things, a merry-go-round, a ferris wheel, all the usual midway entertainment. But the greatest thing as far as I was concerned was the harness racing on the track. My uncle had horses and raced them at all the local fairs. On the last day of the fair the children took over. They came from all the schools in the county. We had games, races and jumps, anything that would bring prizes to the schools and joy to the participating children. I remember how happy I was and how I cheered when our school won a trophy. During the games a balloonist climbed way up on the mountain (now covered with graffiti) and took off from a rocky platform flying way above us against the blue sky. It was breathtaking and exciting to watch. Later we sat on the grandstand and listened to the band music and watched the horses and sulkies dash by. (Cont. pg. 3)

## BURGLARIES

A growing problem. The South Orangetown Hamlet libraries will be sponsoring a program on *HOW TO PROTECT YOUR HOME AND YOURSELF*, Monday, May 18th: 8 pm at the Greenbush School Auditorium in Orangeburg.

## ART SHOW - AUCTION

Palisades Church (on Washington Spring Road) Saturday May 2nd 1981. Exhibit 10 am to 12 noon. Auction begins 12:15 pm.

Oil paintings, watercolors, photographs, ceramics, early prints, silk screen prints and a great variety of art by local crafts- persons will be available. A very unusual first edition volume of Civil War Battle lithographs will be put on auction for the Civil War buffs.

Come early, look over the exhibit and bid on your favorite piece. Refreshments will be served at this special event aimed at raising money to repair and refurbish our beautiful Church building.

## 10964's BIG NIGHT

"It was a huge success," a good time was had by all and the proceeds of the April 11th Goods and Services Auction will enable us to continue to bring 10964 to you for at least the next two years.

The combined efforts of many people in the community helped make this a night to remember. It took long hours of preparation by the committee and everyone pitched in on Saturday to set up chairs and podium as well

(Cont. Pg. 4)

## LIBRARY PLANT SALE

\* Saturday May 9th 1981, 10 am to 2 pm \*

The Annual Spring Plant Sale for the Palisades Free Library is planned for the Saturday before Mother's Day, May 9th.

A colorful variety of plants, vegetable seedlings, flowers and potted flowers will be on sale. Other sales of used books, a food table of cakes, pies and homemade baked goods, refreshments and drinks will be available. The raffle will offer a large number of plants and other prizes.

Come to the plant sale, buy a Mother's Day gift.

## CALENDAR

- |     |    |   |
|-----|----|---|
| May | 2  | Art Show-Auction (Palisades Church, Washington Spring Rd., Palisades, Exhibit 10 am-noon, Auction 12:15 pm) |
|     | 3  | Palisades Soccer plays Paterson Athletic Grau (Away, 10 am)   |
|     | 9  | Library Plant Sale (Palisades Free Library, 10 am-2 pm)   |
|     | 10 | Palisades Soccer plays Glen Rock (TZE, 10 am)   |
|     | 10 | Palisades Soccer plays Closter (TZE, 12:30 pm)  |
|     | 14 | Senior Citizens (Community Center, Oak Tree Rd., 2 pm)  |
|     | 17 | Palisades Soccer plays River Vale Eagles (Away, 10 am)  |
|     | 17 | CROP Walk to End Hunger (start Pearl River High School, 1 pm)   |
|     | 18 | How to Protect Your Home and Yourself (Greenbush School Auditorium in Orangeburg, 8 pm)                     |
|     | 25 | Pancake Breakfast (Palisades Presbyterian Church, Washington Spring Rd., 8 am-10:30 am)                     |
|     | 25 | Memorial Day Ceremony (Flag Pole, 9 am)   |
|     | 28 | Senior Citizens (Community Center, Oak Tree Rd., 2 pm)  |

MEMORIAL DAY

The Flag Pole Committee is happy to report that this year we will have a ceremony at the Flag Pole at 9 am, Monday, May 25, 1981. We did not have this traditional celebration of Memorial Day last year in Palisades because of a conflict in the date. This year we expect to have the parade with the participating organizations, Veterans, Firemen and the Women's Auxillary of the Sparkill, Palisades, Fire Department, Girl Scouts and a marching band. The marchers will assemble at Swan St. and travel to the Flag Pole. According to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Etiquette of the Stars and Stripes this is the only occasion that the Flag of the United States may be properly half staffed without Presidential proclamation between sunrise and noon. It should fly full-staff from noon to sunset.

We are honored that this year our speaker will be Lt. Colonel John G. W. Finke, Retired United States Army, who served his country in the North African and European campaign with the 1st Infantry Division.

Now that the differences in the date to observe this National Holiday have been resolved and more than likely concessions made, let's support the event by your attendance.

PALISADES, NEW YORK,  
FLAG POLE COMMITTEE

ARTS AND LETTERS

Ernest Quick, for many years director of the museum collection at American Heritage, and Richard Benizio, restorer of antiques and art objects, have pooled their considerable wealth of knowledge and exquisite taste to form, along with a third partner, an exciting business venture: "Sign of the Phoenix." In the past year they have traveled across the United States visiting major museums and their curators looking for objects that can be reproduced. Their objective: to develop a collection of high quality museum reproductions which will become available through a mail order catalogue that they will put together, a collection that will include some furniture but mainly porcelain, glass, pewter, sculptures, etc. "Sign of the Phoenix" has also been responsible in the past year for creating the catalogues of a selected group of retail reproduction houses; among them last years highly successful "Sturbridge Village" catalogue. And this year they will be doing the first catalogue ever to be produced for "Historic Charleston Reproductions." Each catalogue they create is a testimony to the high quality reproductions can attain.

Andrea Williams is holding a cooperative figure drawing class in her studio. Each member of the group contributes toward the cost of the model. There are one or two places available so anyone interested should contact Andrea. The group presently meets from 1 - 4 on Thursdays but times may change according to the availability of the model.

LYNNE AUBREY SEIDLER

PALISADES FREE LIBRARY -- HISTORICAL COMMITTEEMOLLIE SNEDEN'S TOMBSTONE

Here's news which should electrify every history-loving resident of Palisades: Mollie Sneden's epitaph has been found!

Readers who are less than electrified, in fact even mystified, should know that Mary-known-as-Mollie Sneden was the redoubtable lady who lived at the foot of the hill for over a century, rowed the ferry across the river during most of that time, raised five sons, is suspected of and forgiven for Tory sympathies, and was famed in legend for bringing down twenty birds with one shot.

In 1810 Mollie died at the age of 101 years and 18 days, and was buried in the Palisades cemetery. Her tombstone, inscribed with her dates and a four-line epitaph, stood there for more than 100 years, but gradually crumbled into earth. A photograph taken in 1903 exists, but many of the words of the epitaph are indecipherable. Six years ago, hoping to erect a new stone in time for the Bicentennial, the Historical Committee of the Palisades Free Library began to search for any other record, but until now the search was in vain.

No longer! Browsing recently through an old Dutch Reformed Church hymn book, Helene Stansbury came across a quatrain which looked familiar -- and was. "Lord of our days, whose hand hath set..." She took out the photograph, and compared. Every legible word on the stone fitted the words of the inscription.

Believing that a woman who is so much a part of our community's heritage deserves a new tombstone, the Historical Committee now hopes to order one. The one we favor will be of a very soft pink granite, looking like the original sandstone. It would be of the same shape and size as the original, and the lettering would be the same. The cost would be about \$1,000, installed.

The Historical Committee does not have that kind of money, and would be extremely grateful for any donations. Checks, which are tax-deductible, should be made out to "Palisades Free Library -- Historical Committee," and should be sent to Mrs. Sven Kister, Palisades.

BOD SQUAD SHAKE-UP

A group of women meet on Wednesday nights at 7:30 pm *sharp* for one hour of rigorous body-moving, including a touch of ballet, floor work-outs, and postural movements. Each participant donates \$1.00 to the cause, and follows the leader in a round of exercises guaranteed to slim silhouettes prior to bathing-suit season. Bod-Squaders also lend support to one another in dieting efforts. The more the merrier -- come and join the Bod Squad! 7:30, Wednesdays, Palisades Community Center.

(Mildred Rippey)

In September we said, "Fall is here, and in six weeks we will have our first frost." This was a happy season, raking leaves and burning them (I will never forget the pungent smell of burning leaves) walking thru the woods and watching the little creatures preparing for winter, getting ready for Halloween, dressing up in funny old costumes and doing all sorts of devilish pranks -- not as devilish as our parents, so I've been told.

On to winter and a beautiful Christmas, with the snow squeaking under our boots, the church lighted with candles and decorated with wreathes which we had helped to make. I'm glad that I lived in those long-ago days. It seems like another world, as I look back, but a precious one.

I almost forget to mention the scissors grinder coming through town once or twice a year, and the meat peddler and the fish peddler who came often. They were part of my young life too. I well remember the meat man and how he made my mother laugh. No matter what the weather might be -- rain, snow, or a sunny day -- his one remark would be "lovely weather." Mother always agreed with him and came in the house laughing. There is still evidence of the fish man when we dig in the driveway and come upon oyster and clam shells. How could I forget the iceman who cometh almost daily! And the dear rag picker. Someone wrote a song about him I think.

I wasn't allowed to do some of the exciting things I would have enjoyed doing. Such as "walking out" on Sunday afternoons with my friends or sledding in the winter after dark. And oh how thrilling that was! Throwing yourself belly whoppers on your sled and rushing down hill in the dark, dragging your feet so you wouldn't plunge into the river. I was glad that, thanks to my mother, I had a few furtive trips. Sometimes the river froze over and horses and sleds could drive across to the other side because there were no boats keeping the channel open. My uncle and my mother did this several times.

Grandfather had an ice pond like the one in Sparkill and all the men in town came to cut the ice. Sometimes they worked on Sunday and would take me to watch. I am a little vague about what happened but I believe I remember the horses going out on the ice pulling some sort of ice cutter that carved squares in the ice. Then the men sawed thru these in some fashion (how did they keep from being submerged?) and the ice cakes were pushed on a moving trestle and dropped into the ice house and packed in sawdust. I recall that long poles were used for some reason. There was much shouting and swearing and one day when grandfather had drunk too much apple cider he fell head-first into the pond! I didn't see this happen but it was the talk of the town for days. Everybody made apple cider in the fall and it was considered most delicious when it started to bubble. No one seemed to consider it an alcoholic beverage but what a kick it had! Poor grandpa! I recall that grandma never said he was drunk -- he was sick, but I could hear him singing lustily.

In our kitchen we had a huge black stove with a name on the front of it which my mother always polished. She used to incinerate egg shells and lemon and orange peels under the back lids. In the late summer she made crabapple and grape jelly. A cloth bag was suspended from the stove shelf dripping into a kettle on the stove. Everyonce in a while mother would give the bag a good squeeze so the juice would pour out. She also made grape juice and stored it in the cellar. Sometimes it would ferment and we could hear the bottles exploding downstairs. In front of our big stove we had our Saturday night baths in a great big galvanized tub. Oh how happy we were when water came through Palisades and there were no more W.C.s, no more pumps and cisterns.

In those days when the Republicans were in power we had a Republican Postmaster and a Republican mail carrier. The same was true when the Democrats were in the driver's seat. The mail carrier used his own horse and wagon (car later on) to pick up the mail at the West Shore station in Tappan. I believe he made two trips a day. Delivering the outgoing mail to the station and picking up the incoming mail.

During a Republican regime, David Mann was the mail carrier and on nice days he used his beautiful Shetland pony and two-wheel pony cart for deliveries. He lived halfway down Oak Tree Hill in a fine old farm house. His father worked the farm but I don't believe young Dave helped a great deal. I know he liked children. When he drove his pony cart he would often take a child or two with him. Sometimes he took me and my sister. Ponies and pony carts were stylish at that period. Rich people along the river front and in Palisades drove their children around the countryside in pony carts. I loved Mr. Mann's best of all because he took such good care of the pony and the cart. I can't recall the pony's name but he was always curried and combed and beautiful and the two wheel basket cart was clean and handsome.

We bought milk from Mr. Mann's father as did many of our neighbors. In the spring and summer I walked down to the farm in the early evening with a young friend. There were sassafras bushes by the roadside and we would strip a branch and chew it. Papa made us lanterns out of tall cans. He punched holes in them to make a design and then put a candle inside and attached a wire handle. They were so pretty when they were lit and cast interesting shadows. Part way down the hill was the Wallace estate, surrounded by a magnificent stone wall. Mr. Argenti, a stone mason from Northvale, N.J., constructed this wall and people came from miles around to watch him fit together perfectly those great stones. He was a fine craftsman, a big, sweaty man with an artist's touch. I'm sure there was not another wall like this one. It was deep and smoothed on top with cement so we could walk on it. It must have been at least 3 feet wide. There were columns at the beginning and end of the wall and two or maybe four huge ones at the entrance to the estate with iron bracket lights on top. Everyone admired the wall and cared for it. It was never marred or defaced by

(Cont. Pg. 4)

### THE ROCKLAND CENTER FOR THE ARTS

plans a Summer Program for children with courses in Painting and Art, Stitchery, Modern Dance (Girls) and Rhythm, Folk Singing and Recorder, Ceramics, Creative Dramatics, Tennis, Creative Experience. There will be two sessions, June 30 - July 23, and July 28 - August 20. Applicants may register for one or both sessions. Tuition is \$165 per session with a \$10 reduction for the additional children in the family. Enrollment is limited to 100 children. For further information call the Center at 358-0877.

### PALISADES, NEW YORK SENIOR CITIZEN GROUP

Thanks to all of you who have saved your articles for our rummage sale. To those of you who have been inconvenienced trying to make our fund raising affair a success by holding these saleable articles for our group please accept our apologies. The rummage sale that was planned and announced for Saturday, May 16, 1981 is cancelled. The Community Center is not available to us that day. We all thank you for your interest. For those of you who have expressed disappointment that the sale is cancelled, be assured that the Seniors are equally disappointed, we had looked forward with great enthusiasm to our project.

LAURA E. EBMEYER,  
PRESIDENT

(Mildred Rippey)

vandals. We did walk on top of it but so carefully and proudly.

When my friend and I got opposite the farm we jumped off the wall by the pink stucco pump house. We went in to the Mann's big kitchen and waited for the warm milk to be poured in our pails. My pail was blue enamel with a sturdy handle and a metal cover. I can see it in my mind's eye -- a lovely speckled blue. We paid as little as 5 cents a quart for milk in those days. We were both shy little girls and never stayed long in the huge kitchen, although we were made welcome by the old folks.

Years later the beautiful wall was destroyed. I'm glad I didn't witness its' destruction -- I'm sure I would have cried. The Wallace house, which the wall encircled, had burned down, another person had bought the property and finally it became a development (our development). I remember rationalizing it this way "one man and his family enjoyed that glorious view over the years -- now many people could enjoy it." That thought made me feel better about the destruction of the wall.

At the foot of Mann's hill (more often called this than Oak Tree hill) at the junction of what is now Route 340 and Oak Tree Road, there was a tremendous oak tree with a spring at its roots. The spring came out of the rocks which cropped up all around the tree. It was such a cool, peaceful spot. On my way home from Piermont High School I would sit on the rocks and rest and drink from the spring. What happened to that beautiful bubbling spring? To be continued...

### PALISADES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Mark your calendar for May 25th, it's the date of the Annual "Special" pancake breakfast of the Palisades Church -- hours from 8 - 10:30 am. For further information call Bob Rasmussen.

### PALISADES FREE LIBRARY

#### Some Vital Statistics About the Library

Are you curious as to how many books, records and other materials your library owns? Here's the count: 15,354 books, 735 records and cassettes, 44 periodical subscriptions. The 1980 circulation per capita is 11.60. 619 items were borrowed on interlibrary loan and 556 books were sent to other libraries. Last year 1,012 titles were added to the library shelves.

#### Some Guidelines for Book Donors

We gratefully accept donations of old and new books in good condition, though we cannot guarantee that they will become part of our collection. We cannot use books that are yellowed or musty. Books that we do not keep are sold or given to other libraries. Sorry, we cannot give estimates on your gift's value.

BEATRICE AGNEW  
LIBRARIAN

### LIBRARY PARTY AND DANCE

has been scheduled for fall, 1981. Please watch 10964 for announcement and date of this annual event which is sponsored by the Palisades Free Library.

(Big Night)

as the wine and food tables. Donations of delicious hor d'oeuvres and even ice were graciously given and recieved.

We the staff of 10964 wish to thank everyone for their generous contributions of time, effort and money and especially those members of the committee other than the regular staff members who gave their time and efforts namely Silvia Devan, Karen Jefferies, Jan Stark, Marguerita Jellinek, Joan Bracken, Johanna Lo, Joan Hooker and Barbara Loweree.

The success was due also to our sharp, witty auctioneers Don Bracken, Lois McCoy, Ernest Quick and Andrew Norman. They got the bids going even if they had to bid themselves.

A very special Thank You to Helen and Andy Norman who not only gave us the use of their home and put up with our all day preparations but stayed and worked right along with us.

This was truly a community affair of which we all can be very proud.

### BURGLARY FOLLOW-UP

House on Century Road and on Washington Spring Road during month of March.

HAPPENINGS

George and Terry Albin are the proud grandparents of their second grandchild George Michael, 9 lbs. 10 oz., born March 14, 1981. Their first grandchild Jennifer was born June 13, 1980.

Justyn Vreeland was promoted to Sales Director in the independent field marketing organization of Mary Kay Cosmetics, Inc. It was announced by Mary Kay Ash, Chairperson of the Board of the Dallas based firm. Mrs. Vreeland became a beauty consultant in March 1979 and now joins a group of almost 1,500 directors who coordinate and aid the efforts of over 120,000 independent Beauty Consultants who are actively selling and demonstrating Mary Kay products in the United States, its territories, Canada, Australia and Argentina. A consistent winner for outstanding performance in her Unit, Mrs. Vreeland was cited for highest sales in her unit two years running. Mrs. Vreeland has been a resident of Palisades for 25 years and is the wife of John, the mother of 2 children and 3 grandchildren.

Ann Gray, Henry Shaw, Doug and Phylis Brunson, all members of the Palisades Presbyterian Church will be part of the first annual *CROP Walk to End Hunger*. The ten mile walk is scheduled for Sunday, May 17th at 1 pm starting at Pearl River High School. The purpose of the walk is to alert people to hunger here and abroad and to raise money for self-development of hungry nations. For further information call the Brunsons, 359-5598. Come walk for the hungry -- it's good for your heart.

UNCLASSIFIED

10964 welcomes news items, notices of births, marriages, awards, and any and all accounts of events which are important to you. Please call a staff member with your announcement or drop a note to 10964, Box 201, Palisades, NY. Deadline for June issue is May 10th. (10964 reserves the right to edit material for publication.)

If at any time you do not receive your copy of 10964, call Eileen Larkin (6589).

SPECIALTIES ADS offer special services. CLASSIFIED ADS list items for sale, exchange, jobs wanted, houses for sale or rent, etc. Ads are free for Palisades residents. (Donations requested from businesses). Send yours to 10964, Box 201, Palisades, NY.

SPECIALTIES

*THE BLUE ONION* (a gift shop). Are you ready with Spring things like baskets, vases and flowers. 99 Main Street Tappan (op. '76 House) 359-0801. Closed Mondays.

*E & F LANDSCAPE GARDEN SHOP* 249 Ferdon Ave., Piermont 359-5604. Trees, shrubs, annuals, perennials, vegetables, lawn and garden supplies, *cut flowers*, Mother's Day Specials.

*"DOVETAIL ANTIQUE"* Restoration of Fine Antiques. Piermont, N.Y. Call Joseph Chmara, 359-6697.

*CLOSTER PLAZA TRAVEL*, Closter Shopping Center. Dale Botwin & Bobbi Ross will efficiently serve your travel needs. Call Office 201-768-8405 or our homes: 914-359-6080....914-268-7972.

CLASSIFIED

FIREWOOD for sale. 1 full cord PLUS, red oak. Split and delivered. 359-5188.

WANTED: 1978, 79 or 80 CORVETTE, low mileage, good cond. stock, garage kept, pref. automatic. Call Scott Solimine. 359-2476.

10964 STAFF

Carol Elevitch/ Editor; Marilyn Solimine/ Assoc. Editor; Eileen Larkin/Treasurer; Marlene Barba, Joan Bracken, Chris DiCarlo, Lynn Seidler, Joan Tanke  
Lois McCoy/Founder-Consultant; Rusty Lotti/Lay-out.



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**!! WARNING !!**

IF YOU CROSS 9W AT OAK TREE RD. (ON FOOT OR IN A CAR) DO NOT RELY ON LIGHT. STOP AND LOOK BOTH WAYS FOR ONCOMING TRUCKS AND CARS WHO ARE RUNNING THIS LIGHT. PALISADES RESIDENT HURT ON 4/24 DUE TO A TRUCK AND CAR RUNNING THIS LIGHT.

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