

10964

MAY 1984 NO. 67

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.

10964 AUCTION!!

IT'S HERE AND NOW!!!

SATURDAY, MAY 19, 8:30 P.M.

VIEWING FROM 7:30 on

JAMES HARRISON HOUSE
Woods Road
Palisades, New York

Wine and cheese will be served. Please come and prepare to bid on fantastic services and objects of art, as well as some just plain useful objects.

SEE YOU SATURDAY NIGHT!!!

Thanks to all of the following contributors, we are able to have a May issue. We not only appreciate your monetary contributions but your complimentary notes, saying how much you enjoy reading our Newsletter each month was pure joy to our ears. We have tried hard to make this a special issue and trust you will enjoy our efforts.

Marilyn Solimine, Editor

Thank you to: Dossi and Reg Thayer, Coneo and Margaret Raso, Sheila Converse, Anne Gugler, Martin and Barbara Gotton, Percy W. Hill and Grace J. Hill, Wilbur and Marion Streech, and Elizabeth Moody.

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A MYSTERY PROFILE

by Marilyn Pitney Solimine

The greatest happiness one could ask for is to work at something one loves to do and get paid for it as well. Lois and Floyd McCoy of Palisades, N.Y. are two such people.

Floyd, a scientist at Lamont Geological Observatory and Lois, a best selling author, have teamed their talents and written a new series of six books, "The Bytes Brothers"- solve-it-yourself computer mysteries. The series is aimed for youngsters ages 10 and up but some adults are reading and enjoying them as well. "It is an easy way to understand programming," says Lois.

The main characters are Brent and Barry Bytes and their next-door neighbor Elana. The trio live in the fictional town of "Lamont Landing." They have a home computer named Nibble and generate programs on "Nibble" that help solve the mysteries occurring in their town. Five separate mysteries are presented and solved in each book.

The reader can be part of this sleuthing by feeding the information provided into their own computer and doing just what the Bytes do, to solve the mystery. Choosing not to do this, the story which has a lot of computerese in it, can be read for the information or read without the computer, just for fun.

After each computer program there is a section called the "debugging section," which is an explanation of the computer program. "It is really the first computer literature" and that is a quote from Nancy Pines of Bantam Books, publisher of the series.

Children have been enjoying the use of computers in the form of computer games. However, they soon tire of these games because they are so limited and lack real challenge. The really fun part of

(continued on page 3)

ARTS AND LETTERS

The Thorpe Intermedia Gallery opens a new and unusual exhibit on Sunday, May 20th, between 1 and 4 PM. Called Spannings, it features 12 artists who work in a wide variety of media. The unusual aspect of the show is that works covering a span of time in each artist's career are shown, from early days to the present.

According to Sister Adele Myers, director of Thorpe Intermedia Gallery, most people are familiar with an artist's latest output of work, but they rarely have the opportunity to see what this same artist was doing 10, 20, or more years ago. Spannings attempts to show the changes that occur in an artist's works over a number of years.

In some cases there is a change in medium. Jacqueline Shatz, for example, started as a painter and is now a sculptor. Other artists evidence a change in subject matter, size, or style. The interesting thing to note is the thread of similarity that persists throughout the changes.

Artists represented in the exhibit, which was organized by Adele Myers and David Weinrib, are Richard Pousette-Dart, Robert Dell, Stephen Greene, Paul Hultberg, Kiyomi Iwata, and Hugh Mesibov. Included also are John P. Murphy, Juan Nickford, Irving Seidenberg, Jacqueline Shatz, Frank Lincoln Viner, and Michael Zansky.

The public is invited to the opening reception on Sunday, May 20th, between 1 and 4 PM. Refreshments will be served. Spannings runs through June 24th and is open to the public Thursdays through Sundays, 1 to 4 PM, or by appointment. Call 914-359-6400. Admission is free.

Thorpe Intermedia Gallery is located in Rockland County, N.Y. on Route 340, near Exit 5N of the Palisades Parkway. By car the gallery is only 25 minutes north of the George Washington Bridge, and 10 minutes south of the Tappan Zee Bridge.

Spannings is the eighth event in the gallery's current season of exhibitions featuring contemporary art and artists.

Uncial Variations Calligraphy Workshop

Teacher and graphic designer Ursula Suess will teach a Uncial Variation Workshop for all levels of calligraphers on Sunday, May 20th, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM at Rockland Center for the Arts.

This useful alphabet will be studied in its basic

historical form as well as with inventive modern adaptations. Blackboard demonstrations, sample sheets, and display of applied examples will be included.

The price of the workshop is \$25 for the general public, and \$23 for members, students, and senior citizens. For reservations and further information, contact the Center at 914-358-0877. The Center is located at 27 South Greenbush Road, West Nyack.

Returning to Writing Workshop

Author and editor Janet Sternburg will lead a one-day Returning to Writing Workshop at the Rockland Center for the Arts on Sunday, June 3, from 12:00 until 4:00 PM.

Returning to Writing is based on the premise that each time anyone writes, it is a return, whether days or years have gone by. The goal of this workshop is to examine participants' poems and prose with an eye to sharpening both the work and practice of writing.

Janet Sternburg is a widely published poet and essayist and the editor of the acclaimed The Writer On Her Work. She has also made several films for national public television, including her award-winning Virginia Woolf: The Moment Whole. A former director of the Writers in Performance Series at the Manhattan Theatre Club, she is currently with the New York State Council for the Humanities and is on the graduate media studies faculty at the New School. She is presently at work on a novel and a book of poems.

The price of the workshop is \$10. Participants are requested to bring samples of their work. For registration and further information, call the Center at 914-358-0877. The Center is located at 27 South Greenbush Road, West Nyack

Layout and Design Weekend for Calligraphers

Internationally acclaimed British scribe and lecturer Peter Thornton will teach a layout and design weekend for intermediate and advanced calligraphy students on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, June 1st, 2nd, and 3rd, at Rockland Center for the Arts.

Elements of layout will be explored in a series of design projects such as business cards, poems, menus, scrolls and book covers. Projects will be both for reproduction and fine art calligraphy. Along with usual calligraphic tools, students should bring along scissors, glue, a ruler, and penholders with six different nib sizes. The weekend will begin with a Friday evening slide show and exhibit.

(continued on next page)

Workshop hours will be Friday, June 1st, from 7:00 to 10:00 PM, and Saturday and Sunday, June 2nd and 3rd, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The price is \$60 for the general public and \$55 for members, students, and senior citizens. For reservations and further information, contact the Center at 914-358-0877. The Center is located at 27 South Greenbush Road, West Nyack.

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#### Raku Firing on June 1st

Learn the exciting art of raku firing at an intensive one-day workshop at the Rockland Center for the Arts on Friday, June 1st, from 9:00 AM until 5:00 PM. Led by Rockland County's leading raku specialist Rosemary Aiello, participants will glaze and fire three to five bisqued items made from raku clay and delight in the creative possibilities outdoor raku firing provides. The cost of the workshop is \$25.

Other special June workshops include Combining Nylon with Clay with Dorothy Greenwald on June 7th and 8th from 10:30 AM until 4:00 PM, and two one-week Wheel Throwing Workshops from June 11th through the 15th and June 18th through the 22nd.

For further information about summer workshops and classes, contact the Center at 914-358-0877. The Center is located at 27 South Greenbush Road, West Nyack.

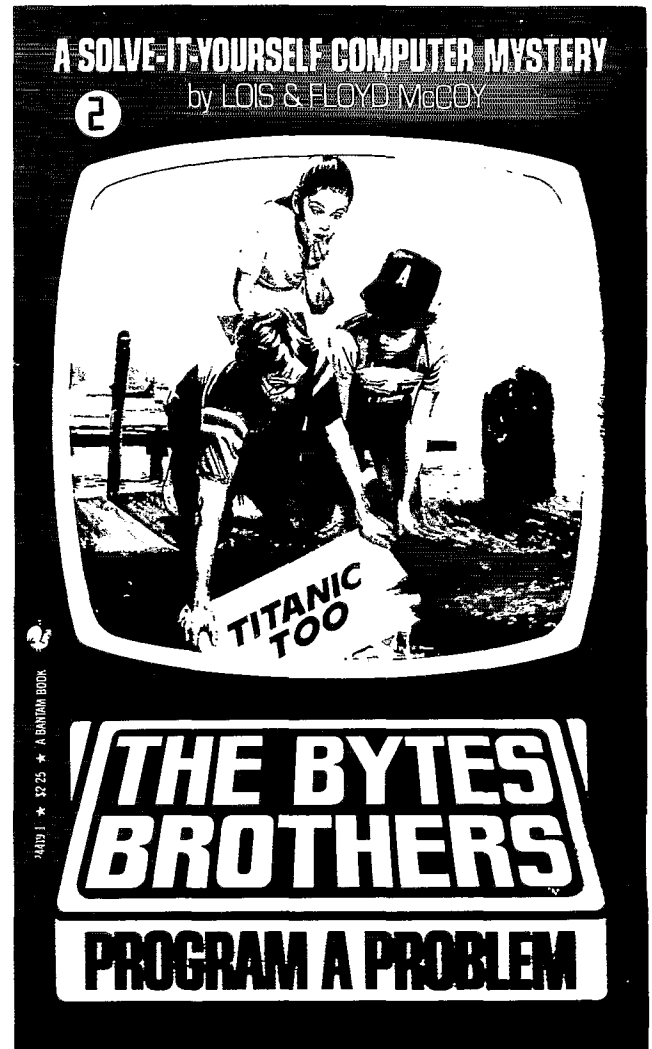
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A MYSTERY PROFILE - continued

computers is programming. "It's exciting," says Lois, "once you know how to program, you are controlling the machine." These books are stories, real literature and very readable. They have already been published in England, U.K., Australia and New Zealand. Negotiations are underway for publication in France and Italy, as well as with a Spanish publisher.

The young characters in these books also travel and solve mysteries in areas outside their own town. As we would expect, science plays a great part in the stories and there are 14 different scientific disciplines explored in the Bytes Brothers books. Marine biology, archaeology, oceanography, computer sciences and mathematics, to name just a few.

Collins & Sons, publisher of the Bytes Brothers mysteries in England, is advertising them as the



Hardy Boys of the Computer Age. The books are fully illustrated with diagrams and drawings as well as the computer readouts. Bantam, who publishes "Encyclopedia Brown," a mystery series that our older children had read with joy, are predicting that the Bytes Brothers are the "Encyclopedia Brown" of the computer age and will be every bit as successful.

When asked how they manage to get all these mystery ideas and their solutions, Lois answered, "Thinking up mysteries is an interesting exercise." This is mainly Floyd's half of the job. It is complicated because it must be able to be solved with the use of the computer. "It must be valid, we don't put together anything that does not have some strength to it," says Lois. There is even a code breaking story in one book. Floyd not only comes up with the mysteries but supplies the clues and the tie-ins with the programs. Lois does the writing. It has been a successful togetherness project. (continued on next page)

The programs used range from very simple to quite complex, so kids of all ages and levels of computer literacy can utilize them. I read the first two books, *INPUT IN INVESTIGATION* and *PROGRAM A PROBLEM*, which should be on the bookshelves by the middle of May. I found that the book opens with the simpler problem and becomes more advanced towards the end of the book, making it possible for one of little computer knowledge to understand it.

The McCoy's plan to continue writing the series, as well as pursuing other endeavors. They are also working on a series for younger children called *HACKER HOUND* (Note, a Hacker is someone who is a computer freak). This series is going to be for beginning readers and will have a 3-line computer program to teach beginning readers how to program. As with their other books, it will be combining literature with the computer. Lois feels this is a good combination. She and Floyd negate the belief that computers will prevent children from reading. Actually, they will read more because of computers, their minds will be broadened. "They'll think in many different ways. Compared to watching television, a computer is a miracle machine, something to interact with," claims Lois.

They tend to become very involved with their characters. Lois describes *Hacker Hound* as a delightful pup with huge paws. He is obviously a fun character to work with. He lives in a house with three puppies. In one of the stories "Six Bones - 3 Dogs," Hacker writes a program to solve the distribution of the bones equally among the pups. While he is busy, the mischievous pups run around pulling out the computer plug and making the program disappear. In another story, "Mrs. Bassett At The Doggy Day Care Center," Mrs. Bassett is upset because the pups can't spell, not even their own names. They don't know their alphabet. Hacker comes to the rescue by designing a program which is a 3-line list of instructions for the pups. This generates the alphabet for them. The pre-schooler can type in these three lines and have the alphabet come out. Another story does the same with numbers, addition and subtraction. The youngsters are learning to program without even knowing it. It teaches them to be a logical thinker, to follow instructions and to do it in a systematic order. This is a very valuable asset to developing a mature adult.

The books look something like Dr. Seuss and Eastman books and are illustrated by Ted Aenith, published by Doubleday. The series is being sold in the U.K. by four children's book clubs, two in the U.K., one in Australia and one in New Zealand, including the prestigious Scholastic Book Club. The McCoy's are understandably delighted with this turn of events.

Not to leave the older youngsters out, Lois and Floyd are doing an adventure series called *COUSINS CHRISTOPHER*. This centers on two

boys ages 18 & 17, who travel around the world in a 22-meter Ketch, called *KETCH 22*. It is a science oriented adventure series for the teenage group.

Lois is also working on another series project with Susan Lukas of Grandview, called *YOU BE THE JUDGE*. It is aimed for the junior high age group and up. It is the presentation of a case that actually took place in a courtroom. Both sides are presented with all extenuating circumstances and at the end, it says "You be the judge. What would you do?" Then turn the page and find out what the judge really said. These are, in reality, legal mysteries of actual court cases. Lois says that they have been spending a great deal of time in the Law Library doing their research for this series.

She has aspirations of broadening the field to include a special series for the younger child, as well as one for adults, based on the appropriate court cases for each age group. It has tremendous possibilities. They have chosen a title *TORTS FOR TOTS* for the pre-school series.

With so much going on at one time, I wondered how they managed to keep them separate. Lois said they become involved with the characters and everything falls into place. While waiting for one book to be published, they send out their proposal on another and continue work on the third. It gets complicated, but Lois finds it very exhilarating and most creative to bounce from one thing to another. There is no time for boredom or for a writer's block to take place.

Creating and writing the mysteries is only the beginning of the package. Selling and publicizing is also a very important part of a successful book. The Bantam publishers have planned an extensive tour for Lois in the Fall of this year to many U.S. cities to publicize the series. There is also a prospect of a tour of the U.K. for the British version of the books.

Obviously this couple, after years of hard work, have hit on a very workable relationship. The happiness it has brought shows in their faces and the joy of their creations. They are exhilarated to move on and experiment with new ideas and new places.

It is Palisades' loss that they have chosen to move to Bermuda and expand their imaginative abilities on a sailboat in the blue waters of the Atlantic. Floyd will be affiliated with the Scientific Station in Bermuda, as well as continuing his affiliation with Lamont. He will be writing up some of the research that he has been wanting to do. He hopes to write an autobiography of the earth. The working title will be "The Earth - An Autobiography" -- the earth telling its own story through geology.

A busy schedule and success agree with Lois and Floyd McCoy and we wish them well in their new endeavors, researching and writing aboard their Bermuda-based sailboat. I hope to receive a
(continued on next page)

computer message from them in the not too distant future as follows:

TO: MPS

FROM: McCOYS

SUBJECT: Message for Marilyn

- 1) Working hard, book almost ready.
Come on down to do a new profile.

SEND? YES

Msg posted April 6 3 PM EST

Msg 31 McCoys 19376592

COMMAND: BYE

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## RESTAURANT REVIEWS

by Marilyn Solimine

It has been suggested that we update some of the reviews of restaurants that had been done in previous issues, since the menus as well as the proprietors change from time to time. We decided to take this suggestion this month. We actually have three reviews for you. A dinner and a lunch at the CONFETTI Restaurant in Norwood, N.J. and a lunch at MOBY DICK'S Restaurant in West Nyack, N.Y.

We'll talk about the CONFETTI CAFE RISTORANTE first. This is a small family-owned restaurant; Arthur and Steven Lepore (they are twins) and their father Sam handle the whole operation, with Arthur and Sam running the kitchen and Steven handling the job of maitre d'. Steve was the former manager of Tom Swifts in Fort Lee; Artie was the chef at the Opera and La Petit Auberge. They decided to pool their knowledge and experience and open their own restaurant. It is small, which makes it easier to service. There is a greenhouse area in the front with tables for two - a very pleasant place to sit, if available.

There is a large round bar where you can have a drink and wait for a table, with bowls of cheese and crackers to ward off hunger. I'd go easy on them though because the food to follow is too delicious not to be hungry. The tables are covered in beautiful white cloths with flowered appliques on them and covered with clear glass tops. A small vase of fresh flowers adorns each table. Their wine list is good with wines from Italy, six white, seven red, three from France, one from Germany, and two from Portugal, as well as four choices of champagne. The prices range from \$7.50 for a full bottle to \$18. The house wines are imported from Italy and California and can be purchased by the glass (\$1.75), half carafe (\$4.00), or full carafe (\$7.50).

Now on to the food! Their menu includes a wide variety of appetizers, homemade pasta, vegetables, fish, broiled steaks, and entrees of veal, chicken and beef - all prepared to order and in a very special way. There are desserts for the sweet

toothers as well as International coffees. There are specialties of the day written on blackboards placed in convenient to read places in the restaurant. We chose from the blackboard that night.

We split an order of Spiedina alla Romana for our appetizer. It is lightly breaded mozzarella and just slightly crisp (a pleasure, as some restaurants drown it with sauce till it's mushy). This was covered with a small amount of anchovy sauce, but not enough to be salty. We split an order of Capelli D'Angelo alla Confetti, which is prosciutto, anchovies, salmon, shallots, and butter served over angel hair pasta made fresh there. It was fabulous and a bargain at \$5.95. I had a hard time deciding on my entree. I wanted to sample everything, but finally settled on the Salmon en Croute. This was a great choice. It was fresh salmon steak surrounded with mousse of salmon and folded into puff pastry and baked.

Vinnie ordered the Stuffed Veal Chop, which was a large rib chop about 1-1/2" thick stuffed with mozzarella cheese, dipped in flour and egg, and sauted with shallots, mushrooms and butter. It was served with an aluminum "panty" decorating its long bone. It looked delicious and Vinnie pronounced it tender and succulent to the last forkful.

The salad was chilled pieces of three different greens. We chose oil and vinegar as our dressing. The meal had been rich enough without adding a heavy dressing. For those dessert lovers, I'm afraid you'll have to try them yourselves as we could not manage to devour any more food. We ended our feast with espresso coffee served with lemon peel, the way I like it. The whole meal was perfect, the service was efficient and pleasant -- worth the wait of 40 minutes at the bar. Reservations are only taken for three or more people.

The restaurant is open daily for luncheon as well as dinner so we thought we'd try it and see if they handled midday as well as evening repast. There were three of us for luncheon and we forgot we could have made a reservation. As it turned out we thought we should have done so, due to the fact it was Secretary's Day. The place was as crowded as at dinnertime.

(continued on next page)

They managed to find us a table for four, not the best. It was near the kitchen and serving table, but good for observation of the desserts and the dishes brought out for other tables. The waiter and waitress in our section seemed very harried. They were obviously not used to this tremendous crowd at 1:00 PM.

We ordered the Hot Antipasto (\$4.95) and expected to split it three ways. However, our waiter told us it would not be large enough and we should order two, which we did. It was good, but not the best we've tasted. The clam was not whole but cut, and contained too much breading. The whole butterfly shrimp was fresh, but small. The eggplant baked with ricotta cheese was very good. The stuffed red pepper was good, if you like peppers. My mother ordered the Asparagus Omelet, one of the specials of the day. It was light and fluffy, the asparagus was cooked al dente and was in abundance. With it they served a mixed green salad. My mother chose Blue Cheese dressing which was good - not mayonnaisey - and contained pieces of real blue cheese.

My daughter and I ordered Scallops broiled with mushrooms, shallots and white wine, served with parsley and toast triangles. This was not one of the specials but my daughter had spotted the magnificent dish being served to another table and enlisted the help of our waiter in changing our order to include this dish. It was a good choice. Janet and I had the house dressing on our mixed green salad. It was light, faintly garlicky, and our salad was not drowned in it.

**DESSERT LOVERS TAKE NOTE!!!** We ordered the Pecan Pie for dessert. One slice for my mother and Janet and I each had a forkful. The consensus of opinion was that it was sweet but not sugary, the pecans on top were fresh and crisp, and the crust flaky.

With our luncheon we had a glass of house wine. It was Soave, Italian, an excellent dry white wine, especially for a house wine. Janet and I ordered a demitasse pot for two and found the coffee a little milder than my homemade, but good nonetheless.

While the service at lunch was not as good as at dinnertime, we attributed it to the extra patrons due to Secretary's Day. There was one table of 16 or more. We definitely feel that this restaurant has a great deal to offer in the way of fine cuisine. Try it and let us know what you think.

**CONFETTI CAFE RISTORANTE**  
430 Tappan Road  
Norwood, New Jersey  
For reservations or information - 201-767-3010.

Lunch at **MOBY DICK's Restaurant**, Route 303 & Route 59, West Nyack.

The atmosphere is dark when one first enters from the bright sunlight. A lighted fish tank with trout swimming around faces you. I know this is supposed to assure you that the fish is fresh, but it reminds me of the supermarket fish counters. The hostess points us towards a pleasant booth for two, but it is still in the dark room and we ask to go into the outer room with natural light. There is a very small piano there and a very large bar. I assume there is music in the evening as their advertisements say there is entertainment. This room is fitted with booths along a long row of windows which looks like a prefab diner. So much for the ambiance. The food, which is after all what we are there for, my husband assures me is good.

The luncheon menu is quite large and covers even those who prefer meat, steaks, etc. to seafood. We both chose a cup of New England clam chowder, reasonably priced at \$1.25. It was hot, creamy, with fresh sliced clams and carrots in it. It was not the best I've had. (That was *lis* Cape May, N.J.'s claim to fame.) However, it is good and fresh.

Vinnie ordered Broiled Seafood Platter, consisting of a large piece of flounder, several good size shrimps, a large portion of scallops, mixed fresh vegetables, and a choice of baked potato, french fries or rice. I decided to test my former allergy to Alaskan King Crab and ordered the Lemon Sole stuffed with the King Crab and served with Menaire sauce. The sole was thin and cooked too dry - especially on the ends. There also could have been just a little more sauce. The vegetables were fresh but not steamed. They were water cooked and had lost their crunchiness. The green salad was served with the house dressing (we were not given a choice). It was very good, if a little too garlicky, and tasted like a Caesar-type dressing.

There were quite a few people eating there for a Thursday lunchtime. The service was good but the food was not anything special, I'm sorry to say.

**MOBY DICK RESTAURANT**  
Routes 303 & 59  
West Nyack, New York Tel. 358-2340

[Ed. note: I hope you enjoyed my reviews as much as I enjoyed doing them. Next month Karen Jefferies will be back with her reviews of new and interesting eateries. If you have one that you think should be reviewed, please let us know.]

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