

10964

PALISADES FREE LIBRARY

October 15, 1984

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.

*During the weekend of Sept. 30-Oct. 1, *
*many of you may have received a flier *
*from 10964 concerning the school vote. *
The staff of 10964 would like to stress
*that the flier was printed without our *
*authorization or endorsement. *

RESIDENTS OPPOSE TANDEM

Public officials joined residents in solid opposition to Consolidated Freightways' application to use Oak Tree Road and Route 303 for tandem trucks, as nearly 200 people turned out for a hearing held by the state Department of Transportation on Thursday, Oct. 4, at the Tappan Zee High School.

Michael Mignona, regional safety engineer who chaired the hearing, explained that he would prepare a recommendation and report for the regional director in Poughkeepsie, who would then prepare a report and recommendation for the state director, and the director and the Commissioner of Transportation would make the decision, probably in not less than two months.

Despite the remoteness of the hearing from the actual decision, feelings ran high. The hearing opened with a presentation by Patrick Brady, executive in charge of the giant corporation's small depot on Oak Tree Road. After stating that Consolidated is a "Fortune 500" company with annual revenues in the billion-dollar range, Brady turned on a slide projector. The presentation, which showed tandem-trailer rigs on major highways, emphasized their success in the U. S. Supreme Court over states that tried to ban them. The presentation drew sharp criticism from subsequent speakers for its lack of relevance to the issue at hand.

Assemblyman Eugene Levy (currently running for State Senator) was invited as highest-ranking public official present to lead off the public response. He discussed the size and character of Oak Tree Road and its unsuitability for 95-foot-long trucks, safety factors, and the united opposition of residents and government officials at all local levels and of both parties.

(continued on page 3)

[Readers of 10964 will remember vividly Mildred Post Rippey's evocations of an earlier Palisades. After some 35 years' association with the Palisades Free Library, ill health obliged her to retire last year. This was a great blow to all of us, for the library without Mildred is unimaginable. For Mildred herself the library was always far more than a job; she was hostess not only to thousands of paper authors but to a great many live ones, too. On the last afternoon in September she told this story in her inimitable style to a packed house at the library.]

MY VIEW FROM THE DESK

Park I

Now that I have my treasured watercolor of the library hanging in my parlor, the time seems to have arrived for reflecting on my 35 years in the library. There is much to remember--all the interesting and famous people who stopped at the desk--the funny and sad and happy incidents that occurred. I find myself writing down these reminiscences, and now I will share them with you.

I have fond recollections of many library patrons in the 1950s and 1960s. Edgar Snow, writer and reporter, author of Red Star Over China and his splended autobiography Journey to the Beginning, much of which I typed for him. I was a fan of his. He liked to tease me and said that Joe McCarthy would label me a "parlor pink," but that didn't worry me a bit. When Ed knew he was critically ill, he made a farewell trip to China to say goodbye to his friend Chou Enlai. He died soon after, and his ashes are buried in Peking and on a hillside in Palisades overlooking the Hudson. I recall Peter Grey's moving tribute at the commital service.

John Dos Passos, author of The Three Soldiers, Manhattan Transfer, U.S.A. and others, came into the library one rainy day and asked if I would type a very important paper for him. I was pleased and proud when he came to my house, and we walked back to the library together under my umbrella. Last Sunday I read in THE

(continued on page 2)

RIPPEY - continued from page 1

NEW YORK TIMES that Virginia Spencer Carr has written a biography of Dos Passos. After reading the review I wondered just what important paper I had typed for him on that rainy day! He was not in his Barry Goldwater period, that's for sure. The reviewer went on to say, and I quote, "Against all odds this mild-mannered man masked torturing memories behind a wonderfully attractive smile." I think it was that smile that captivated me.

Aaron Copland, known to us all as a great musician, lived in Palisades for a time in the Ding Dong house, the first library. I wish I could say more about him. He was such a refined, soft-spoken gentleman that I could hardly hear anything he said to me! Jerome Robbins, the choreographer, rarely appeared in the library. When he did, he was wafted in on a cloud of heavenly cologne.

Kenneth Koch, tall and slim and young, was just setting forth on what would be his brilliant career as a poet. In the 1950s he was at the New York School of Poetry where he inspired many young poets and then in Manhattan elementary schools. Now he has extended his approach to the elderly, helping many in nursing homes to express their feelings.

I often think of Jo and Richard Brooks, friends of the Snows, who had worked for Red China with Agnes Smedley, author of the Battle Hymn of Asia. Richard was very interested in the library and in his own way helped put together our present building. My daughter, Elaine, loved the Snows and the Brooks and baby-sat for the Snows many times. Brooksie gave her one of Agnes Smedley's battle hats which is still in my house, although my daughter is now living in Kuwait.

I remember with love, Geddes Smith, associated with the Commonwealth Funds. He interviewed me for my library job all those years ago and made my heart beat faster. He and his wife, Ruth, and daughter Joan became my close friends. Geddes conducted a meeting with such class--he was truly a man of distinction, and his death left a gap in our inner circle.

On the north side of Oak Tree Road in Heyhoe Woods lived Dr. Robert MacIver, that whimsical Scotsman, Professor of Sociology at Columbia University and later Chancellor of the New School for Research. When he became President of our library board, I had a feeling that he enjoyed conversations with

women--pretty women, young women--over and above his library job!

Another house in Heyhoe Woods was owned by Dr. Jean Cooley. His wife, Dr. Edith Cooley, was our librarian for several years, after Miss Quidor and Ruth Salmon. She retired when her husband, who had worked on the Manhattan Project, suffered a severe depression as a result of his association with the atom bomb and committed suicide.

Lewis Nichols, drama critic for THE NEW YORK TIMES, a big, bear-like man, very witty and full of quiet fun, served on the library board in the 50s. One day, late in the afternoon when I was alone in the library shelving books, I felt something softly pushing against my legs. I looked down and saw a huge dog with long floppy ears staring sadly at me. I looked further, and there stood Nick smiling his mischievous smile. He said, "I got this bloodhound to hunt for my lost girl-friends." She really was a bloodhound, named Deborah. Nick tried to keep her, but she wanted freedom and raced all over the village digging up gardens, chasing chickens and cats, and being a general nuisance. Finally, she was given to a friend in the midwest. Another time Nick found me alone in the library and said, "Mildred, it's so dull in here, let's go down to the Rainbow Inn and have a drink." We closed the library and went!

(Continued next month)

SWIM CLUB NEWS

The Palisades Swim Club has just completed its 19th season.

The swim team for young people, eight to 18, coached by Kathy Nowell, participated once again in the Rockland County Summer League.

The pool was open late every Friday for "Family Night." Other special evenings throughout the summer were planned for adults and/or teenagers. Tennis was enjoyed by many of the members on the two Club courts, and the season closed with a tournament.

The first major maintenance work to the facilities included sandblasting the pool itself.

Generally, there is about a ten percent turnover in membership each summer, with about 15 families leaving and 15 new ones joining. For more information telephone the Swim Club secretary, Marie Firestone, at 359-0599.

NANCY HALL

TANDEMS - continued from page 1

County Legislator Samuel Colman from Ramapo, who is a candidate for the Assembly seat being vacated by Levy, presented a 1982 resolution of the County Legislature opposing state imposition of tandem access over local opposition, and warned DOT that Rockland's legislators would keep up the pressure and carry on the fight regardless of election results. (Colman is a Democrat, Levy a Republican.)

Orangetown Supervisor Joseph Colello stressed the safety issue and the unanimous vote of the Town Board in opposition to tandems on Oak Tree Road and Route 303. He urged Consolidated Freightways to find a location near the Thruway. Brady, however, answered that the company had looked hard for a better site in the past year, had not found one, and had just signed a new 10-year lease on the Oak Tree Road facility.

Eileen Larkin, president of the Palisades Civic Association, detailed the function of Oak Tree Road as "main street" to residents of Palisades, Sparkill, and Tappan--school and commuter buses, daily trips for shopping and work, bicycles, and pedestrians, including both children and residents of Palisades Gardens. She noted that the August 14 demonstration of a tandem on Oak Tree Road, despite ideal conditions in terms of weather, time of day, and season, had proven that they could not exit from the terminal without blocking both lanes long enough to create serious hazards.

Larkin quoted from an editorial in the September issue of "New York Motorist," published by the Automobile Club of New York, reporting on the August 14 demonstration in Palisades and citing the mechanical unfitness of tandems for narrow roads, their braking problems, "their abysmal accident records," their tendency to encroach on adjacent lanes, and "their propensity for jackknifing." She cited a report prepared for the federal highway administration which found that tandems have accident rates up to four times greater than single-tractor rigs, and noted that Oak Tree Road already has an intolerably high accident record involving trucks.

Larkin also reminded the DOT that more than 400 residents had signed a petition against the tandems that was submitted to the department in early July.

Some 25 more residents of Palisades, Tappan, and Sparkill spoke against Consolidated's request. The only speaker in favor was Ray Jeffery, who said he had been driving trucks in and out of the Palisades de-

pot for 19 years, first for Westcon and then for Consolidated, without an accident. He said he and his fellow drivers were deeply concerned with safety and felt the tandems were as safe as, or safer than, single rigs.

In response to questioning, Brady said Consolidated expected to bring no more than five tandems each night to Palisades from the company's eastern Pennsylvania depot and hoped to see that rate double over the next decade. He said the two trailers would then often be used separately for local deliveries in place of longer single trailers.

Larkin and others questioned whether Consolidated's night-time operation in Palisades conformed to local regulations, but Brady and Jeffery said the facility has operated on a 24-hour basis since it started.

Andrew Norman of Palisades urged Consolidated to withdraw its request, and if it wanted to use tandems from Pennsylvania to Palisades, split them before or immediately after they left the Thruway and bring them to Palisades singly.

Mignona closed the three and one half hour hearing by informing residents they could still write Albert E. Dickson, Regional Director, State Department of Transportation, 4 Burnett Blvd., Poughkeepsie NY 12603, with further information or options.

Whether Dickson's decision awaits full consideration of the hearing and local opinion was thrown into question by a letter he wrote July 6 to Assemblyman Levy in which he said, "We do not agree that allowing the newer sized vehicles on Oak Tree Road to the existing terminal would reflect a change in the character of Oak Tree Road. Since the terminal is already in existence and has been for some time, the use of Oak Tree Road by tractor trailers is a commonplace occurrence (sic). The requested change to the new size vehicles does not, in our opinion, represent an increase in the amount of traffic traveling this section of road."

ANDREW NORMAN

GIRL SCOUTS MEET

Junior Girl Scout Troup 57 (girls in Grades 4, 5, and 6) began meeting October 5th at the Palisades Community Center under leader Carol McGann.

Meetings will be held every other Friday at the Community Center. Anyone interested in joining should call Ms. McGann at 359-8509.

LIBRARY DANCE

The Palisades Free Library will present its annual Dance on Saturday, Nov. 17th, 8 p.m. to 1 a.m., at Lamont Hall. There will be live music by Leslie Price and her band and the Shapiros at the discs. A buffet supper will be served.

Tickets are \$30 per person. Checks should be made payable to Friends of the Palisades Free Library and mailed by Nov. 10th to Roger Jellinek, Box 245, Washington Spring Road.

ROCKLAND CENTER FOR THE ARTS

*What better time to use shadow puppets than Halloween? Participants in the Halloween Shadow Puppet Workshop on Sunday, Oct. 28th, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. will make their own shadow puppets from various materials. They will then embark on a creative journey into the mysterious world of ghosts, witches, and goblins by producing short plays performed on shadow screens. Parents and guests are invited to view the performance at the end of the workshop.

The workshop will be conducted by Mary Freericks of the Ariel Puppet Troupe and is for children 7 to 10. The cost is \$10 with all materials included.

*A Raku Workshop, focusing on the ancient Japanese art of firing, will be led by Rosemary Aiello on Sunday, Nov. 11th, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Students should bring three to five pieces of bisqued ware and a lunch to the workshop. Long pants and kerchiefs for long hair are advised. Cost of the workshop is \$25 with all glazing and firing provided. Call for registration.

*RCA's Emerson Gallery is now available for recitals. Call for details.

THORPE INTERMEDIA GALLERY

An exhibition of contemporary gold illuminated books titled GOLD ILLUMINATORS--1984, can be seen at The Thomas J. Watson Library, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City, from Oct. 30th to Nov. 30th. The exhibit, which is co-sponsored by the Thorpe Intermedia Gallery of Sparkill and The New Jersey State Council on the Arts, features eight artists whose works show a time-honored technique in a new light.

SENIOR CITIZENS TAKE TRIPS

The Palisades Seniors take this opportunity to bring their pleasures and sorrows up to date. Since our last report we have lost some of our members. This saddens us. For the members who are temporarily away from home because of illness, we pray that they will soon return to good health.

Now for the good news!! We have made some trips on steamlined cruisers, commonly known as buses. Pickup time is usually 9 a.m. at the Community Center. We board the bus, and from there on in it's group singing. Sometimes we have a solo performance and music by a squeeze box. That's what we call the accordian. The buses are advertized as being fully equipped with air conditioning and the works. Sure, they are air conditioned; but whoever said they work? In all fairness, they usually work in the cold weather, and then we scream to have heat. "Where's the heat?!" It boils down to, "Ya pays yer money, and ya takes yer chances."

We usually frequent places in South Jersey--that's where the action is. One favorite is EVELYN'S, a delightful seafood house for a delightful lunch, and then on to one of the beaches or the ocean to take advantage of the boardwalk in nice weather. We have gone to a few dinner theaters and enjoyed a fine meal and a good performance. The performances vary; sometimes it's serious drama or comedy or musicals. On most occasions we have been pleased with the presentation, but on one or two occasions they have been bummers. We enjoyed an all-day picnic, from danish through lunch and dinner. This was a good day, the weather fine, and the activities, made available by the PLATZL BRAHAUS, just perfect.

Our next trip will be to LOVEY'S in South Jersey. We have been there before and enjoyed it so much we can't stay away. LOVEY'S serves a continental meal and have a troupe of performers who entertain during lunch and afterwards, singing selections from Broadway shows.

Organizing our meetings has become difficult. Our good friend Edith Ryan is no longer able to set up and take down for us. We need someone to set up the tables and chairs and then remove them after the meeting. If anyone would like to volunteer, please call 359-2399 after 6 p.m.

LAURA EBMEYER

Donations were received this month from Dorothea Jaeger, newcomers Alvin & Sherryll Kraizer, and anonymously.

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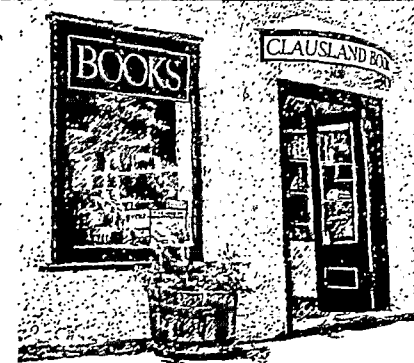
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COPPERHEADS!

Copperheads! How I hate them. From spring to fall I am on the alert. I tread carefully, venturing forth in woody, weedy areas, shod in heavy boots with shovel in hand, leaving vast parts of my garden untended and unsightly. Fear has won. I know they are out there somewhere; I have seen them before.

This summer we had another snake scare. While visiting our dog, a neighbor's dog was bitten by a very large copperhead. The dog was saved, but the copperhead got away.

Of course, I was now hysterical. Where did that venomous pit viper go? Would it return? If so, when and where? This called for serious action. What I needed was a snakebuster! I couldn't spend the rest of the summer afraid to have anyone go outside.

I called the police. They referred me to Lifeline for Wildlife (354-7601). I talked to a very nice young man who said he would come right over. Did I know where the snake was? I didn't know where it was at that precise moment; I just knew where it had been. Since there was an initial hourly fee of \$50 plus \$25 additional charges added hourly, I said I would call back the instant I saw it.

He went on to suggest I get a black snake or king snake, natural enemies of copperheads. I said we had a resident black snake who must have been asleep on the job or moved. He recommended that I call some of the local pet stores. I called around and found two king snakes: one three feet long for \$65 and one four feet long for \$80. Fine, but how do I get this snake home? Very simple. They would put it in a cloth sack, tie it up, and off I would go! With visions of the snake escaping and slithering around my car or worse, I gulped and asked if there was any guarantee that the snake would love his new home. No. It was perfectly capable of wandering off and neglecting its responsibilities. I said I'd think about it and get back to them.

The copperhead was not seen again although others were sighted in the neighborhood. To make me even more paranoid, I heard that a neighbor had encountered a timber rattlesnake in his backyard. Lifeline for Wildlife said they had not heard of rattlers down Palisades way; they have been spotted in Sloatsburg, Tuxedo Park, and Bear Mountain, however.

I decided to prepare for the worst and called Nyack Hospital's Poison Control (358-6200) for an update on snake bites. The

copperhead venom is not considered fatal to an adult. However, there are many variables to consider: Had the snake just eaten, using its venom to kill its victim; would it waste venom on something it instinctively knew it couldn't eat? Questions difficult to ask a copperhead.

If bitten, one should check to see if the skin is broken. The afflicted part will swell, turn purple, and be very painful. You should not run around hysterically, giving the poison a chance to run through your system. You can apply a band above the wound. It should fit snugly but be loose enough for you to slip your finger under it. For rattlesnake bites, one article suggested wrapping an Ace bandage around the wound to contain the venom. Place the bitten part of the victim's body at a level below that of the heart. Get to the Emergency Room at Nyack Hospital as fast as possible. They have the antivenin there, but make sure you know what type of snake bit you. Young children will be fine if treated promptly.

Copperheads are quite docile and not prone to attack unless you bump into them. They return to their den site, usually a rock outcrop on a hillside, in the fall after the first frost and stick their little heads out in the spring ready to go forth. (Rattlers and copperheads are known to actually co-habitate the same den site.) Babies are born live from August to early October. Milksnakes are sometimes mistaken for baby copperheads. According to the Audubon Guide, baby copperheads have yellow tails, but Lifeline for Wildlife said they were green. Green or yellow, beware. Milksnakes have checkered undersides but not colored tails.

Copperheads and rattlers are partial to stone walls, rotting logs, and rocks. For preventive measures, a good yard cleaning was recommended, raking especially in areas where the leaves meet rocks, one of their favorite spots. I shall do that way after the first frost, secure in the knowledge that, at the very least, I won't have to worry about copperheads and now timber rattlesnakes until next spring.

KAREN JEFFERIES

POTTERY SHOW & SALE

Three local artists, Sylvia March, Alice Gerard, and Beatrice Sinclair, have announced plans for their Seventh Annual Pottery Show & Sale to be held on Sat., Nov. 10th (rain date, Sun., Nov. 11th), from 1 to 5 p.m. at Sylvia March's studio on Route 9W.

TRIANGLE FUND SEEKS HELP

One block in from 9W on Washington Spring Road is a historic, grassy Triangle that provides a dramatic entrance to the Snedens Landing area.

In 1965 through voluntary contributions of some 60 residents and with the approval of the town government, old tree stumps were removed, holes filled in with top soil, two trees planted, and the area seeded. Subsequent periodic fund-raising made it possible to maintain the area and plant additional trees and shrubs.

In 1976 a white pine was planted on the Triangle honoring the Bicentennial and symbolically replacing the centennial pine planted in 1876 on a spot now part of 9W.

It is also of historic interest to note that the original road from the Hudson River at Snedens Landing to Tappan led along the north side of the Triangle, past the Big House, and then past Yonderhill. An 1874 map shows the Triangle as it is today. A 1745 map shows no road and only 12 houses and a grist mill.

"To assure that this Triangle presents the best possible impression at all times requires a certain support from all residents of Palisades," said Mark Morris, Chairman of the Little Triangle Fund.

"Currently, it takes an estimated \$250 a year to maintain the Triangle. If we all delved deep down in our pockets and made a contribution, we would be assured that this historic Triangle stays beautiful and will remain a distinctive part of our town."

Donations may be sent to: Little Triangle Fund, Snedens Landing, Palisades, NY 10964, Attn: Mark Morris.

10964
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POST OFFICE NOTES

*October is National Stamp Collecting Month. Stop at the post office for more details.

*Postal rules and regulations forbid placing anything in a rural or post office box without postage applied.

CLASSIFIED

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Deadline for all material is the 3rd of each month. Issues will be in your mailbox on the 15th of each month.

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