

10964

MAY 1986 No. 81

PALISADES FREE LIBRARY

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.

HORNE TOOKE ROAD - PART II

Apropos of Eileen Larkin's article on who named Horne Tooke Road (10964, April '86), the name was selected by secret ballot of members of the Rockleigh Woods Cooperative. My recollection is that the vote took place in the Shanks Village apartment of Ray and Nora Calt in 1953 and that our choice was between Horne Tooke and Giuseppe Garibaldi.

The Rockleigh Woods Coop was formed around 1952 for the purpose of acquiring land, subdividing and developing homes for its members. The nucleus of our 11 members were WW II G.I.'s then living in the converted army barracks of Camp Shanks that were being used by Columbia University as temporary housing for married students. We were aware of other cooperative developments - in particular, the Hickory Hill group of Tappan - also spawned from Shanks Village.

After incorporating as the Rockleigh Woods Coop, we purchased our 16 acres in Palisades for the staggering sum of \$6,400. One of our members, George Kay, was a student in the Columbia University School of Architecture. He drew a subdivision plan dated 7/6/53 which showed 11 one-acre lots for our members and 4 one-half acre lots to be sold to non-members. The map also showed a proposed private road (now Indian Hill Lane) and a proposed public road (now Horne Tooke Road). The Orangetown Planning Board had required that we extend the "public" road to the perimeter of our land so that the wooded land to the north that was subsequently developed as Palisades Gardens, would not be land-locked. We therefore had the opportunity to name two streets in Palisades.

Conversations with some members of our original group remind me that other names suggested at the time (some in jest), included Wisteria Lane, Albion Volk Memorial Highway, Easy Street and Queer Street. Our vote, however, was for Horne Tooke in preference to Giuseppe Garibaldi, and Indian Hill Lane in preference to West Running Road. The real credit for suggesting Horne Tooke belongs to Ray Calt who at the time had been reading a book written by Horne Tooke entitled "The Diversions of Purley."

GENE LANDRIAU

PALISADES CALENDAR - MAY

- SAT. MAY 10 Spring Plant Sale (Pal. Free Library, 10-2 p.m.)
- SAT. MAY 10 Palisades Cemetary Plot Owners, Annual Meeting (Pal. Presby. Church, 1:30 p.m.)
- SUN. MAY 11 MOTHER'S DAY
- SAT. MAY 17 Spring Bargain Sale for benefit of church restoration fund. (Pal. Presby. Church lawn, begins at 10 a.m.)
- SUN. MAY 25 Palisades Swim Club, Open House for members. Non-members invited. (Pal. Swim Club, 2-4 p.m.; Rain date: May 26, 2-4 p.m.)
- MON. MAY 26 MEMORIAL DAY PARADE, approx. 9 a.m. (Swan St. to flag pole on Rte. 9W)
- MON. MAY 26 Annual Pancake Breakfast, 8-10:30 a.m. (Pal. Presby. Church)
- SAT. MAY 31 "Bring Down The House to Raise The Roof." Variety show with local talent. (Pal. Presby. Church, 8 p.m.)



Palisades party at Forest Grove, c.1900. Back row center: Archer Stansbury. Others are relatives of Archer's (also of Mildred Rippey, his first cousin). Woman second from left, first row, is John Garrison's grandmother. Photo: Courtesy of Helene Stansbury.

BOATING ON THE HUDSON, c.1900

On pleasant summer weekends a hundred and more years ago, the Hudson River was alive with excursion boats carrying thousands of passengers to near-by picnic groves. Forest Grove, a mile or two below Snedens Landing, was one of the more popular ones, in connection with which the late Archer Stansbury has described a special treat for the young people of Palisades:

"My father...at one time...was captain of the excursion boats of Starin and Son, and would often bring a big crowd from the city to Forest View Grove on the steamboat Richmond or The Glen. He would come up to opposite Snedens Landing, give them three long whistle

blasts, indicating that he was turning around, and to let the folks know that he was headed for the Grove, and to invite them to come down to enjoy the dancing and good time - all free to them. Sometimes I would borrow one of Uncle Zeb Garrison's row boats and row a group of our friends down there and back."

Since the steamboats on the river were apt to explode or catch fire, often with hundreds of casualties, church groups, fraternal societies, or social clubs sometimes chartered "safety barges." These were elegant boats with large cabins and several wide promenade decks, but no engines. They were towed or pushed by smaller steamboats.

On the Hastings-Yonkers line across the river from Forest Grove was Dudley's Grove, which was also immensely popular.

In the Hastings Historical Society News Letter for January, 1982, Mary Allison described Dudley's Grove and repeated some of the items from the account book of Orville Dewey Dudley for the years 1868-1871. These bring to life an amazing picture of the river of the last century.

"Aug. 4, 1870. Hiram Lodge. "J.C. Sands Myers" & "Sleepy Hollow." Landed at 1 and left at 4. Plenty of money and very free with it. 3500 people easy. 20 minits after they landed it rained very hard and drove them on the boats. Had to close the bar on account of the wind and rain. Dining 113, Bar 182.

"July 22, 1872. Thistle Bond Charles Thread factory of Newark. Mite be rough enough if they all turned out. Only half came on the "Sleepy Hollow." All Orange men and Scotch men - the meanest people in the world. No decent looking ladies.

"August 14, 1872. The largest Escursion that ever left New York. Fulley 4500 People left NY at 11 o'ck and landed in the Grove at 3 o'ck. Left the Grove at 5. Very oderly and liberal Party of Gentlemen and Ladies."

ALICE MUNRO HAAGENSEN

[Mrs. Haagensen has been preparing a book on our local history which is to be published in the coming year.]

FROM THE EDITORIAL STAFF

Palisadians appreciate the beauty and unique quality of life in their community. The natural woodlands, abundant wildlife, gentleness of small roads, and quiet atmosphere may be a holdover from earlier times, but they continue to foster diverse intellectual, artistic, and social endeavors, and provide a place where one feels at home.

Changes do occur as people move, properties are subdivided, houses built or redesigned, yards planted and fences erected. New neighbors appear along with one large neighbor to the North, IBM.

The question of further change, should Palisades incorporate as a village, is before us. Can we find our individual answers as to how we should vote in June and accord our neighbor the same opportunity with dignity, respect, and consideration? Can we maintain cordial relations as we meet at the Post Office or pass one another going about our daily affairs? The Staff of 10964 believes that we can.

BOYCE LENI

ROCKLAND CENTER FOR THE ARTS:
May Calendar

3 & 10 Japanese Flower Arrangement Workshop, conducted by Judy Hata of Palisades. Mrs. Hata is master teacher and director of The Sogestu School of Ikebana; she has created arrangements for The UN and The Emperor of Japan. 10-12 noon. \$40 both sessions.

6 Ballet classes, led by Jacalyn Walker. Children, adults, seniors. Cost to be announced.

10 & 17 Writing workshops, led by Barbara Unger. 9-4:30. \$20 each session.

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WHY A VILLAGE?

TO PRESERVE PALISADES

"The advantage of incorporating as a village is that it provides the community with direct control of land development, land use, enforcement and road maintenance. This is accomplished through zoning regulations, road repair responsibility and local justice court officers.

"If a new village provides the same level of services as the town, the cost to village taxpayers should be no more than before the village was incorporated. In 1985, New Hempstead's tax rate was slightly lower than the Town of Ramapo's unincorporated area tax, which it replaced. The 1986 village tax rate is slightly lower than last year's. Village taxpayers now have better services at a somewhat lower cost."

Stanley Teich, Mayor
Village of New Hempstead
Incorporated 1982

Have your questions answered by people experienced in village government. Come to the:

PUBLIC MEETING

sponsored by

THE PALISADES CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Committee on Incorporation


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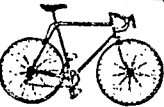
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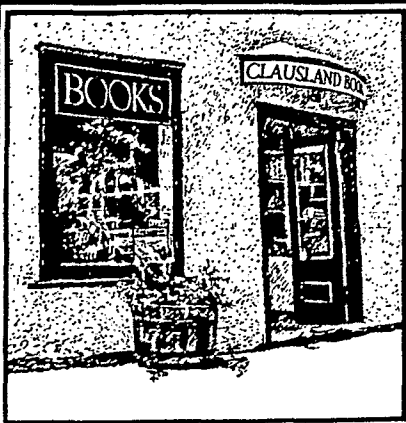
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SCHOOL CALENDAR - MAY

- 2 Annual So. Orangetown Music Assoc. Wine & Cheese Party. Entertainment. (7:30 p.m. at T.Z. High School, Orangeburg.)
- 16 "Revolution River," So. Orangetown
- 17 District Community Musical. (8 p.m.
- 18 on 5/16 & 5/17; 2 p.m. on 5/18, at Middle School, Blauvelt.)
- 21 SCHOOL BUDGET AND TRUSTEE VOTE (Sparkill Fire Station, 7:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.)
- 21 Tappan Zee High School Spring Concert, choral & instrumental. (8 p.m. at TZ High School.)
- 22 So. Orangetown Middle School Spring Concert, choral & instrumental. (8 p.m. at the Middle School.)

"REVOLUTION RIVER"/ A Musical

SHOWBIZ RECIPE

TAKE: 1 professionally trained and talented director with infinite patience, JEAN BROCK ("Peter Pan," "Robin Hood" and many more, as well as numerous Shakespeare miracles with junior casts)...

ADD -- 1 professional actress turned writer, NANCY PONDER (worked with Mike Nichols and Elaine May, Jerry Stiller and Ann Meara)...

Add -- 1 professional composer, DAVE KAMIEN (ex-Musical Director, Cologne Opera House, Germany)...

Add -- 1 professional choreographer, TED FORLOW (member of the original "Man of La Mancha" company and still tours with the show)...

Add -- 1 professional actress-cum-stepmother, EDEN JELLINEK (coach for "Robin Hood," "Bye Bye Birdie" at SOMS, coaching from behind the footlights and also in a starring role)...

TOP OFF WITH -- A locale with a rich history that includes Palisades ...

AND SPRINKLE about 100 eager actors and theater techs from South Orangetown -- including Palisadians JON ANDERSON, ILENA ELEVITCH, KATIE ELEVITCH, KATIE HOOKER, CLAIRE JELLINEK, MARK JELLINEK (Lighting Director), FIONA LAWRENCE, JENNIFER LEWY, MARY ANN LUCKMAN, and RAY O'PREY.

MIX WELL for 8 weeks and you have a brand new musical, "REVOLUTION RIVER," a musical slice-of-life of this area during the American Revolution. DON'T MISS IT! The perfect celebration of Orangetown's Tricentennial. May 16 (Friday) and 17 (Saturday) at 8 p.m. May 18 (Sunday) at 2 p.m. at South Orangetown Middle School, Blauvelt.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Attention TZHS Alumni, Class of 1961 (the first graduating class): A 25th anniversary reunion is being organized. Call Ms. Carole DiMeglia (359-9404).

The Elmwood Theater in Nyack begins performances of the musical comedy "Wonderful Town," on Friday, May 9th, continuing through June 7. Friday and Saturday at 8:30 p.m.; Sunday Matinee on 2nd & 3rd Sundays at 2:30 p.m.

A special Friday night service for Jewish singles, ages 35-55, will be held once a month, on a rotating basis, in participating Conservative and Reform Temples in Rockland County. Non-members are welcome. Next service is Friday, May 30, 9 p.m. at Pomona Jewish Center in Pomona. Call Rabbi Daniel Pernick (735-5858) for further information.

A new bulletin board has been presented to the Palisades Post Office by 10964. It is to be used for posting notices of interest to the community. Postmaster Laura Ebmeyer expressed her thanks for the gift on April 20.

IS INCORPORATION THE ANSWER?

Palisades prides itself on its diversity—rich and poor, recent immigrants and descendants of the early settlers, Jews, Christians, other faiths and no faiths—people living side by side in peace and harmony.

For many years, whenever a problem arose, Palisades citizens have joined together to find a solution. For example:

We negotiated for and subsequently obtained the original Elementary School on Oak Tree Road and turned it into the Community Center. (1970)

We purchased land on Route 9W and built a private Swim Club. (1965)

We raised money to buy "the Triangle" (land running from the Post Office to Route 9W), then—with substantial money from Orangetown—were able to preserve it for our own use. (about 1979)

We defeated the plan to connect Route 9W in Palisades as a link to the New York State Thruway. The plan would have taken very many homes and properties east and west of Route 9W in Palisades. (about 1961)

In 1984 a small group of citizens formed the Palisades Civic Association. This group has worked on a number of issues for the community, and has done so successfully. But, it is inaccurate for them to claim credit for solving issues that were dealt with before their group was formed.

In May 1985, a majority of those present at a PCA meeting (39 out of 70) voted to circulate petitions to bring about a referendum regarding whether or not to incorporate Palisades as a village. They obtained 159 valid signatures (out of approx. 807 registered voters) which enables the referendum to be held, probably in June.

Our group, "The Committee to Preserve Palisades" was organized in 1985 by a group of concerned citizens who are opposed to incorporating as a village.

Some of us hold membership in the Civic Association; we have donated our dollars to them (during their 2 years of existence)—just as you may have—to support their stands on certain issues and problems.

BUT WE DO NOT SUPPORT THEIR PROPOSAL TO INCORPORATE PALISADES AS A VILLAGE.

Many other people in Palisades—possibly you, or some of your neighbors and friends—have been active in the community, and will continue to take an active role, without belonging to PCA.

Many residents chose Palisades for their home because of its beauty, tranquillity, accessibility to work, quality education for their children, the spirit and unique qualities of its citizens.

Our group, The Committee to Preserve Palisades, believes that we can work together as we have done in the past—by continuing our relationship with Orangetown, by keeping informed of what's going on, and by attending community meetings. When the need arises, we will join together in cooperative effort for the betterment of our community.

We urge you to carefully consider both sides of the question before you vote.

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A few want to control your destiny for you—why do you need them to speak for you?

A few will try to convince you that a village means lower taxes, improved services, and responsible public officials.

DON'T BE FOOLED!

THE COMMITTEE TO PRESERVE PALISADES

Concerned Citizens who are opposed to incorporating as a village

P.O. Box 1. Palisades, NY 10964

"One of our members will be in touch with you soon."

PALISADES FREE LIBRARY

COME ONE COME ALL. The Palisades Free Library plant sale is scheduled for Saturday, May 10 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bulbs, mums and shrubs will be featured.

Co-chairpersons Patricia Lindgren and George Zipparo invite one and all to this annual spring event outdoors at the library. In case of rain, it will be held in the red brick school on Oak Tree Road.

As in the past, the plants will be of superior quality and packaged well. Prices will be good and all who purchase will get their money's worth. Markets in both Rockland and Bergen counties have been carefully researched to assure the best quality and prices.

Other attractions include a book table managed by Barbara Eberle, who every year finds good titles at good discounts. Bill Eberle and John Fawcett will host the refreshment table which offers hamburgers, hot dogs and soft drinks. There will also be a food table with home-baked items, a raffle and children's prizes.

COME ONE COME ALL

* * * *

SUMMER SOLSTICE DANCE

The Friends of the Palisades Free Library are pleased to announce that the 1986 LIBRARY DANCE to benefit the Library will be held at Lamont Hall on Saturday, June 21st.

The style this year will be CALYPSO, the time, 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.

PALISADES COMMUNITY CENTER

We have succeeded in maintaining the Community Center building throughout the past year for the residents of Palisades (scout's programs, senior citizens, and special meetings, such as with IBM representatives). One special goal

attained was the repair and replacement of the old school bell which was made possible by your membership fees. Next year's goals are to replace the flooring in some parts of the building and to improve the lighting.

To help raise funds for the center, we are holding our annual flea market on June 7, starting at 10 a.m. Please call Nina Prusinowski (4580) if you wish to rent a table. The \$15 rental cost goes to the center and all sales proceeds go to you. We will have a table for the center and we welcome donations for it.

This year's membership drive is now underway and we hope you will help us keep this historical building in repair and available for use, by mailing your enrollment to P.O. Box 222, Palisades (\$5. individual, \$3. senior citizen, \$10. family).

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OUR SCHOOL BELL - LONG MAY IT RING
by Mildred Post Rippey

[Written upon the re-installation of the bell at the Community Center after many months.] April 13, 1986

O Happy Day! O Shining Hour!
The bell is back in the belfry tower.
Long, long ago when I was young
There were reasons for it to be rung,
Calling children to school each day,
Interrupting their recess and play.
Sometimes it was rung as a fire bell,
And all the folks would run pell-mell.
They rang it for weddings with great
jubilation,

For meetings and historical celebrations
Like Memorial Day or Fourth of July
When all the flags were flying high.
Now that it's had a long, long rest,
Let's some day put it to the test,
And ring it out with all its power,
To let the world know that from this
hour
Our bell is back in the belfry tower!

And So It Is!

10964 DEADLINE

The deadline for copy for the June issue will be the 15th of May, and you will receive 10964 during the first week of June. That will be our last issue until September.

10964 STAFF

Co-Editors: Carol Elevitch, Nancy Hall.
Asst. Editor: Karen Jefferies. Treasurer: Boyce Leni. Consultant: Maryann Sahadi. Staff: Joan Bracken, Blythe Finke, Leslie Price Hayes.

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