

A NEW HISTORY OF PALISADES
BY ALICE HAAGENSEN

Palisades and Snedens Landing, from the Beginning of History to the Turn of the Twentieth Century, by Alice Munro Haagensen, Pilgrimage Press, Tarrytown, New York.

Few tiny hamlets have as interesting and well-documented a history as Palisades. Some forty years ago Alice Haagensen discovered in the Palisades Library a remarkable collection of manuscripts, photographs, maps, deeds, and letters collected by Winthrop S. Gilman, who lived here from 1861 till his death in 1923. Since then she has been examining the material and talking to people who were children during his lifetime. She has also spent many hours in libraries in and around New York, obtained copies of source material from national, state, and county records, and consulted specialists in many fields.

The first part of the book is a narrative of the history, from the geological formation of the Palisades to the turn of the twentieth century. At every stage there are accounts of individuals, who bring life to the story.

The fifty-three appendices contain the fascinating and unwieldy material which was left over: a number of personal narratives, a list of the items in Mr. Gilman's collection, important documents verbatim, a history of the Palisades cemetery, new facts about artists with local connections, Robert Knox Sneden and John Quidor, old roads, bone factories, picnic groves, genealogies of local families, etc. There are about 135 illustrations, some of them rare, lent by neighbors.

[Taken from the dust jacket of
Alice Haagensen's book.]

DAISY, an anecdote
by Bentz Plagemann

Some years ago, while we still lived in the old house next door, a friend of ours gave us twin white cats. They were mature, but they seemed more like kittens. They were beautiful and we loved them. My wife, Kitty, said that since we lived in a Victorian house they should be given Victorian names, and so she named them Sarah and Daisy.

Another friend, seeing them, told us that white cats, albino cats, were quite often sterile. Sarah seemed to know this from the beginning. She sat for hours on end, in the bay window, her tail curled demurely around her, immobile. She might have been a china cat.

But apparently no one told Daisy that there was a possibility that she was sterile, so she went outside and kicked up her heels, and before long she had a boyfriend, a big, fierce looking black tomcat.

I worried about this.

"You treat them as if they were your daughters," Kitty said.

"They are," I said. "And if only Tom would present himself at the front door like a proper young gentleman, I might be able to accept it."

But no, Tom would appear on the other side of 9-W from our house, with his fatal allure, and call, and Daisy would skip over to him, for a love tryst in the woods. Tom was nothing if not romantic. I thought he was nothing.

And then the inevitable happened. One Sunday afternoon, returning from an assignation in the woods with Tom, Daisy was hit by a car.

The circumstances of the accident were so dramatic that for a while we even forgot about Daisy's fate. For the

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Con't. from P.1

driver of the car who had hit her was a cat lover. He pulled over to the side of the road. I had seen the accident from the house and I went out to the car. I thought the driver was having a heart attack. He was ashen and shaking. Beads of sweat stood out on his forehead. "Oh, my God, what have I done?" he said.

I helped him into the house and settled him in an easy chair. Kitty went for a cup of coffee, and I poured him a brandy.

"I wouldn't have hit her for anything," the man said, after he had downed the brandy and some color had returned to his face. "She didn't look where she was going," he said. "She seemed to be in a daze."

"Have another brandy," I said, reaching for his glass. "It will help to quiet your nerves."

We had, spending the weekend with us, a young actor friend. David always said that after a weekend with us in the country he had to go back to the city to rest up.

He had been napping. He came down the stairs, rubbing his eyes. "What is it this time?" he asked.

I began to explain what had happened and I was just finished when there was a soft noise at the door, and Kitty went to open it, and in walked Daisy. She was tousled and dusty and ruffled, but apparently unhurt. Kitty gathered her up in her arms. The man who hit Daisy with his car had another brandy.

David was undergoing analysis and he tended to speak in psychoanalytical terms. "Is Tom Daisy's first lover?" he asked.

"Yes," I said.

"Think what this will do to her psyche!" David said. "She will wake up in the morning and say 'My, it was wonderful, but why does my head ache so?'"

In due course it was apparent that Daisy was going to have kittens. We were all very happy about that. It was beautiful fall weather, and we prepared

a nest for her of old, soft blankets in the summer kitchen. We would all be present at the lying-in, Kitty and I and Brent, who was about twelve. We thought it would be a wonderful opportunity for him to witness the miracle of life.

But Daisy, accustomed to doing things her own way, without too much thought of the convenience of others, decided to have her kittens on the morning of a school day. She went into labor at breakfast time, and the first kitten was born just after Brent had dashed out of the back door, and run across the field to school.

I decided to call Mr. Soutar, school principal, teacher, coach, near-divinity.

"Al," I said to him on the telephone. "Our cat is having kittens, and we wanted Brent to witness the miracle of life. Could he come home for that?"

There was a considerable period of silence at the other end of the wire. Mr. Soutar was a deliberate man. Finally he spoke. "We consider algebra to be important, too," he said.

And that was that.

Daisy didn't care. Brent would just have to go out and find out about the miracle of life on his own, as she had done.

[Bentz Plagemann, our first guest author, is best known for his 4 books about the Wallace family which were based on his personal experiences raising a young son here in Palisades. He has also contributed articles and short stories to such magazines as Atlantic Monthly, Harpers and Ladies Home Journal. Bentz has lived in Palisades since the 1940's, and his books are available at the Palisades Library.]

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**INTRODUCING THE MILLERS:
KIM, BILL AND RORY**

The Millers have taken over the white cottage just past Dinny Price's house on Oak Tree Road, the one that has been renovated so charmingly and has a pretty blue door. It was pouring rain when I visited the Millers, and their living room was welcoming and cozy, done in natural-neutral tones. I was greeted warmly by a very pretty Kim and her adorable all-smiles-and-giggles 21-month old son, Rory. Bill, a strapping good looking young man, joined us a few moments later.

Kim has not strayed far from her family home in Demarest where she attended Northern Valley High School, and Bill's family hails from the Jersey shore. They met at East Stroudsburg University in the Poconos, where Bill majored in History, Kim in Spanish. Since leaving school about five years ago Bill has been a salesman for Automation Graphics in Manhattan, selling computer software. Kim is Advertising Coordinator for New York Air and her office is at LaGuardia Airport.

The star of the family, however, is Rory Miller. I mean, no contest! This baby boy must take Charming pills for breakfast each day. It was tough to tear myself away from this delight. And Kim and Bill are expecting their second in December. Double delight!

This new young family in our community is anxious to meet people: Kim would love to know some other young women with babies, and Bill would kill for some tennis connections. (From what I understand, Bill and his parents have a hot tennis rivalry going and he needs to keep in mint condition for their next encounter.) Not having had the opportunity - yet - to see him play, I cannot absolutely vouch for his prowess. But: He LOOKS tough!

Welcome to Palisades, Millers!

LESLIE PRICE HAYES

PALISADES CIVIC ASSOCIATION

The PCA is alive and well and looking forward to a busy fall. We are preparing for our Annual meeting and look forward to members and non-members attending; but keep in mind only members can vote at this meeting. Membership fees are \$5 per person.

We have been following up on the master plan which has not yet been presented to the Town at a public meeting. There have been no further developments in our lawsuit against the condominium zone changes. Oak Tree Road has a new look and our suggestion that the tree stump near the curve be removed was accepted by the highway department. Hopefully, the traffic speed will not increase along this part of Oak Tree Road. However, there seems to be an increase of truck traffic along Oak Tree even though the State placed a "no thru trucks" sign on 9W. Dossi Thayer is working on getting Oak Tree designated as a "scenic road."

Congratulations to Reg Thayer on his retirement and a sad goodbye to Barbara Olson who is moving to Blauvelt this fall. Barbara has served the PTA's in our schools, the scouts, the Palisades Community Center and the Palisades Civic Assoc. for many years. She will be missed by all of us and we wish her and her family much happiness in their new home.

Bill McDonald is recovering from an operation and so is John Hall. Prayers and good wishes to both these members who are very ill. We wish to extend condolences to member Mr. Irving Alpert, on the death of his wife, Tessie.

EILEEN LARKIN

A contribution was received this month from Mary Beth Hall. Thank you!

PALISADES ARTISTS AND ENTERTAINERS

EDMUND BATTERSBY, the young up and coming and famous pianist has a busy schedule in the next year. On Sunday, Oct. 26, he plays in the Palisades Presbyterian Church as part of a benefit in support of the new church roof. Next May he will perform in the Soviet Union; France in July; with the Pittsburgh Symphony in September among other engagements. In addition, he is making a new record, and "we just had a new baby."

ELLEN BURSTYN is starring in a new comedy sit-com series which began on Saturday, Sept. 20, at 8:30 p.m. on Channel 7.

Famed mystery writer DOROTHY SALISBURY DAVIS, along with Thomas Chastain, Mary Higgins Clark, Lucy Freeman, Joyce Harrington, Warren Murphy, Bernard St. James, and Whitley Streiber, are represented in the recently published Murder in Manhattan, in which "the talents of eight great mystery writers" conspire to create what is described in The N.Y. Times as "a chilling cross-section of citizens up to no good in the world's greatest city."

ALICE GERARD, JANE HEROLD, SYLVIA MARCH and BEATRICE SINCLAIR announce their annual pottery sale, to be held on Sat., Oct. 25, 1-5 p.m. and Sun., Oct. 26, 1-5 p.m. at The Pottery, Grace Knowlton's studio on Ludlow Lane. (To get there, cross 9W, take Washington Spring Rd. to 1st right past the church and follow the signs.) Everyone welcome!

BLYTHE FINKE

Thank you to our local businesses for their support of 10964. They will appreciate your patronage.

PALISADES COMMUNITY CENTER

We are happy to report that the Center has been recommended for membership to the New York State Register of Historic Places and nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. This nomination must be approved by the N.Y. State Historic Preservation Officer and the Keeper of the National Register in Washington, D.C. As most of you know, the Center was built around 1870 as a school, and served as such until the new school was built across the street. It is now used as a community center for Palisades and also may be rented for parties, classes, etc.

We have about \$500 in our checking account which is dangerously low, especially as winter is coming and heating bills are always high. Our insurance bill for the year 1986/87 will be \$668.72. Your help is vital to keeping the building structurally sound and while we have 131 members as of Sept. 1986, if you have not done so, please join us today by mailing a check to PCC, Box 222, Palisades.

Our spring flea market was a success, thanks to Nina and Dale Prusinowski, Glynn and Peter Nixon, and the Fredericks for all the work they did on this fund raiser.

We are repairing a leak in the roof and repainting a wall in the large room which was damaged by the leak. The Center is a charming building and we hope you will send a contribution to ensure its continuance.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

WILBUR STREECH, one of Palisades' most well-known artists, died on August 29, 1986. He was 72. He worked in a studio in Palisades, where he specialized in serigraphy. He was honored also for his film and t.v. work. He is survived by his wife, Marion, and his daughter, Karen, of Pearl River.

SCHOOL NEWS

Katherine McIntyre, of Palisades, has been named a National Merit Scholarship winner. Congratulations to Katherine!

The South Orangetown Continuing Education Program explores Recreation, Business, Computer Science, The Arts, Self Awareness, and Life Skills. 103 varied courses. An additional feature this year is our cooperation with Iona College for credit-bearing courses. For further information: 359-2883.

Palisades Early Childhood Program. The Palisades Early Childhood Program has opened the doors of the red brick school in Palisades to 33 young children under the age of six. The school started its eighth year with more than 30 neighbors from the Oak Tree Play Group, a private program also housed in the school. Together they filled the school with their sixty-plus voices and inquisitive minds. The children travel from all points in Rockland to attend half day and full day sessions.

You might have seen the logo planted on the front lawn of the school. It was drawn by a four year old the first season the program opened. He is a successful fifth grader now but had been designated as a youngster with special education needs when he first arrived in the program.

Children are carefully evaluated by trained professionals in the areas of language, motor, social and perceptual ability. They answer questions. They offer hope for the future based on the charted experience of the past: the earlier developmental delays are recognized, the greater the chance that they can be contained, even reduced. The staff offers parents the assurance that this early boost can break the cycle of potential failure when formal schooling begins.

There are cost-free openings for children for this year and transportation is

provided. If you have concerns about your child's language, intellectual development, social adjustment or coordination, call Mrs. Roberta Boltin, Program Coordinator, at 359-3966, or my office at the South Orangetown School District in Blauvelt, 365-1950. We hold all matters confidential.

Catherine McCue, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, So. Orangetown Central School District

PALISADES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DON'T FORGET THE CAJUN PICNIC LUNCH!

Sunday, Oct. 5, 12:30-3:30 p.m. on the lawn of the Finck home (next to the church on Washington Spring Rd.). Authentic cajun recipes. \$12.50. For reservations: 359-5188, 358-8440.

Edmund Battersby to perform (see article in this issue of 10964).

A reception was held Sunday, Sept. 14 in honor of Verna Boersma, a long-time resident of Palisades, who is moving to California.

LOCAL THEATRE OFFERINGS

Belfrey Repertory Company, Nyack (358-8583). "The Mousetrap," by Agatha Christie: Fri, Oct. 17; Sat., Nov. 1.

Elmwood Theatre, 16 Park St., Nyack (353-1313). "Uncle Vanya," by Anton Chekov: Fri. and Sat., Oct. 10, 11th and Oct. 17, 18 at 8:30 p.m.; Sun. matinee, Oct. 12.

Penguin Repertory Company, Stony Point (947-3741). "Santa Anita '42," Oct. 24-Nov. 16.

GALLERY NEWS

Thorpe Intermedia Gallery, Rte 340, Sparkill (359-6400): "Sari Dienes Retrospective shows 50 years of her work." Oct. 12 thru Nov. 30, Thurs.-Sun., 1-4 p.m. Exhibit includes the entire range of her work from figurative drawings and paintings done in Paris and London in the 1930's to assemblages of found objects that were recently exhibited in Soho.

Blue Hill Cultural Center, Lobby Atrium, Blue Hill Plaza, Pearl River (359-1584): "Exhibition of Ralph Fasanella Paintings and Harvey Weiss Sculpture" Oct. 17, 1986 through Jan. 30, 1987, Mon.- Sat., 8 a.m - 5 p.m. Fasanella Paintings: bold color, multiple perspectives, and detail, depict urban life in the United States from the 40's to the present. Weiss sculpture: whimsical inventions, and architectural structures composed of wood and mixed media.

Historical Society of Rockland County: 20 Zukor Rd., New City. Exhibition of Julian O. Davidson, American Marine Artist from Nyack, Sept. 14 through Nov. 16, Wed.-Fri., 12-4, Sun. 2-5.

OPEN HOUSE AT LAMONT

Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory of Columbia University will hold its annual open house on Saturday, Oct. 18, between the hours of 10 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Among the exhibits will be programs featuring earthquakes in New York State and Russia, as well as verification of Russian and American nuclear testing; rock-making demonstration in the Petrology Lab.; local fall-out testing from the Chernobyl nuclear accident; dinosaur prints found locally and in Newfoundland and, once again, the public is invited to bring water samples to be analyzed for cation content. Films and exhibits on borehole geophysics, climate studies, marine geology and geophysics, geochemistry, physical oceanography, ocean drilling, and two million miles of ocean exploration on Lamont research vessels will also be offered.

Come and enjoy the autumn colors on the beautiful 145-acre campus located off Route 9W in Palisades. There is ample parking and food vendors will be available. For information call 359-2900, Office of the Director.

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THE STAFF AND GOVERNING BOARD OF 10964 WOULD LIKE TO THANK CAROL ELEVITCH AND NANCY HALL FOR THEIR DEVOTED AND EXCELLENT SERVICE TO 10964 DURING THEIR YEAR AS CO-EDITORS, AND LOOK FORWARD TO THEIR CONTINUED INVOLVEMENT WITH OUR JOURNAL.

A NOTE FROM 10964'S NEW EDITOR:
LESLIE PRICE HAYES

I am delighted and excited to be Editor of this very worthwhile newsletter. I hope in the year ahead to get more of you to contribute articles on remembrances, personal anecdotes, how-to's, etc. And don't forget that we would love to hear from kids away at private school or college!

10964 has a 10-year birthday approaching in 1987 and we will be advising you regarding that exciting milestone in the months to come.

We welcome Harriet Hyams to our staff, who will use her artistic eye to keep 10964 looking good; and Blythe Finke, whose job it will be to keep us current on news of artists and entertainers in our community. Karen Jefferies, in her new role as Features Editor, will be happy to have your ideas for regular and special articles you would like to see in 10964. Joan Bracken (our liaison to regular contributors) and Boyce Leni (our Treasurer) will continue their good work again this year.

NEWS FROM ROCKLAND CENTER FOR THE ARTS

FREE TUESDAY CONCERTS FOR SENIORS

An extraordinary group of talented seniors, The Musicmakers, will perform for their fellow seniors in the first of the free concerts for senior citizens and the disabled on Tues., Oct. 21 at 1:30 p.m.

Tuesday's performance, "Girls, Girls, Girls," follows the lives of the fairer

sex from childhood to maturity through popular musical songs. There are over 25 terrific numbers in this entertaining 1 hour show.

Now seven years old, the group - all members of RSVP, the Retired Senior Citizen Volunteer Program - give two days of their time and talent to rehearse and perform. Among the group are retired professional performers from diverse musical backgrounds.

Limited bus transportation is available for groups by calling the Center at least 1 week in advance.

THE ALEXANDER STRING QUARTET APPEARING SATURDAY, OCT. 25. The quartet's first prize victory in Yehudi Menuhin's 1985 International String Quartet Competition in England, is the latest highlight in one of the brightest, most impressive ensemble careers to emerge in the last decade. The Center will present this major young quartet as the second in its series of eight Tappan Zee Concerts.

Tickets are \$9 for general admission, \$8 for Center members, seniors and students. For reservations and information, call 358-0877.

PALISADES FREE LIBRARY

HURRAY! STORY HOURS AGAIN!

Everyone loves a story - and there are so many fun ways to tell one. At our forthcoming Wednesday afternoon story hours for young children, we'll be telling stories in lots of good ways. Tales from our excellent collection of children's books will be augmented by finger games, felt board stories, simple songs and games, and hand puppets. Besides being a pleasant way to hear stories, it's a nice way for little ones to socialize.

If your child is three or over, won't you please call the library at 359-0136 or come in to reserve a place? Story hours start Wednesday, October 2nd through November 19th at 4 p.m., so don't delay! We look forward to welcoming your child.

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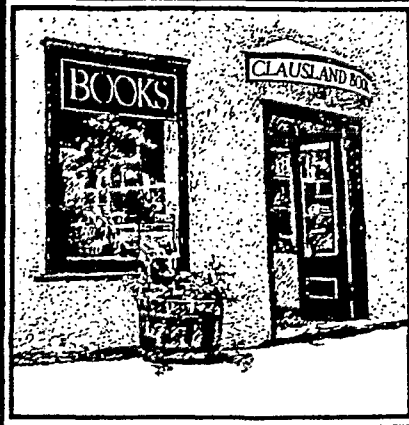
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10964 DEADLINE

The deadline for copy for the November issue of 10964 is October 15. The November issue will appear in your mail as close to the first of November as possible.

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