10964

NOVEMBER 1986 No. 85

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.

JOURNEYS BY JELLINEK

SKUNK HOLLOW

VIA BILL EBERLE

When we in Palisades look for something exotic to see and do, we look mainly to the City. But there are unusual and often overlooked attractions available in other directions, and reasonably close at hand. This is the first in an occasional 10964 series of suggested expeditions. Contributions to the series by other Palisadians are welcome.

One day last spring we took the exhaustive guided tour of the Van Cortland Manor in Croton-on-Hudson. The 18th century manor is a fine three-story house with formal gardens and other historic features and buildings, fastidiously maintained by Tarrytown's Sleepy Hollow Restorations. We had brought a picnic with us, but the facilities there were not inviting (probably by design).

It occurred to me that I had always meant to visit the New Croton Dam -- though I could not remember why. We asked directions, and a few minutes later and some three miles up the Croton River valley, we found ourselves at a discrete entrance to a park. A heavily wooded drive wound down to a bridge, and we were startled by the loose boards rumbling under the tires.

We looked up and met a spectacular sight. New Croton Dam is the highest masonry dam in the United States. The first impression is of enormous mass, a great and ancient wall of huge granite blocks rising 167 feet in a majestic curve from a meadow, tapering to a string of corbeled arches and then flaring out in a cornice at the top. The wall is reinforced by a set of mighty buttresses and stretches almost a quarter of a mile to the right, cutting the Croton River Valley. At the left, under a wooded cliff, it is breached by a gorge and a dramatic stepped spillway, which curves up

Anyone interested in spending an afternoon walking, while at the same time making a brief study of local history and archaeology, should consider a trip to "the mountain." For nearly 100 years a black ex-slaves, some possibly community of intermarried with Indians, existed on the Palisades in New Jersey near the New York border. Called Skunk Hollow, for reasons sometimes attributed to lush stands of skunk cabbage near there in the early spring, the community boasted a church and as many as 20 structures, including dwellings and barns.

Frances Sisco Pierson can remember walking home to "the mountain" in the 1920's after working at the Dumkin Blacksmith Tea Shop (now a residence just east of the Post Office). It might be safer these days to start your walk with a short drive. Cellar holes, stone walls and other evidence of the settlement's existence can be found within a short walk of the parking area on Route 9W, adjacent to the state line and the Lamont-Doherty guard shack. Head south on "old" 9W (no longer used for cars) for about 1500 ft, take the first trail at the right, and leave the trail to the right after about another 500 ft. Look for the stone walls that at one time kept cattle within their pasture.

For background, I suggest a trip to our Palisades Library and a review of Joan H. Geismar's book entitled The Archaeology of Social Disintegration in Skunk Hollow, Academic Press, 1982. A pretty good map is shown on page 82. I also recommend that you consult Alice Munro Haagensen's new book Palisades and Snedens Landing on the subject; see pages 71-74 and 179-183.

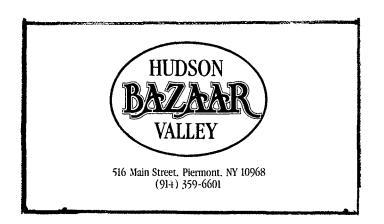
Late fall and early spring are probably the best times to explore. The rocks are home to a variety of snakes, including the Con't. from P.1

and back to a 1000-foot lip of the tranquil reservoir. The gorge is spanned by a dramatic twin-arched steel bridge that carries a roadway across to the top of the dam. The water makes a fine show of splashes and sprays down the spillway before flowing away in a shallow stream bed under the cliff.

The wall, the spillway, the play of water and massive stone make a vast romantic sculpture, finely detailed with classical forms. The old and unkempt park in which it is set adds to the sense of a ruin belonging to some forgotten civilization. A great place for a picnic, and well worth exploring.

New Croton Dam was designed as part of the New York City water system. It was built between 1892 and 1906 to replace an earlier dam built in 1842, which was inundated by the higher level of water behind the new dam. One can drive around the circuitous periphery of the reservoir on a pleasant dirt road that passes under a number of unusual steel bridges.

Croton-on-Hudson is on the east shore of the Hudson, roughly opposite Haverstraw. One gets there via the Tappan Zee Bridge and then north out of Tarrytown on Route 9.





Con't. from P.1

copperhead, and cooler weather sends them underground. The old walls are more easily seen when the leaves are off the trees. But be wary of handling any vines: poison ivy is rampant, hard to spot without its characteristic leaves, and is effective even without them.

I visited the site many years ago with Jay Crum, who thought it might shed some light on the location of an earlier Dutch settlement called Vriessendael (it didn't), and later with Norman Baron. Joan Geismar was actively working at the site at the time. A copy of her map would make your trip more interesting, but please note that the site of the church is on the west side of the Palisades Parkway, which cannot be crossed by foot.

If you can't find "Turkey Ridge," give me a call, and we'll go together.

PALISADES IN THE PRIMARY --A LITTLE HELP FOR THE WINNERS

Palisades Democrats set the pattern for the Congressional District and the state by doing other things on September 8 instead of voting in the primary election. The civic-minded 59 who did come out also set the pattern by voting for Eleanor Burlingham over Gregory Julian for Congress and for Mark Green over James Dyson for U.S. Senate.

The scanty results were:

Congress:	Burlingham		Julian
Palisades	36	(63.2%)	21
Orangetown	640	(65.5%)	337
Rock1and	2,962	(51.4%)	2,708
District	4,897	(53.5%)	4,252

U.S. Senate	: Green	Dyson
Palisades	42 (72.4%)	16
Orangetown	644 (62.2%)	392
Rock1and	3,418 (56.3%)	2,654
State	259,855 (53.5%)	226,120

ANDREW NORMAN

COLLEGE KIDS CORNER

Three 1986 high school graduates from Palisades are featured in this issue of 10964: Denise Hurban, Don Douglas, and Kim Long. Next month we hope to highlight more. 10964 would appreciate your submitting information, announcements, articles and anecdotes, on college kids in your family. Better yet: We would love to have the kids themselves send us something from school. The 10964 community would be happy to hear from them I am sure!

Kim Long attends Pace University at its Briarcliff location across the river. Although it is a commutable distance, Kim chose to live on campus. She has three roommates, all from the New York-New Jersey area. Her career goal is to become a CPA and Kim is now concentrating on accounting courses. At Pace, Kim has an interesting arrangement whereby she can go for an MBA while working towards her undergraduate degree. Kim is enjoying school very much and is very motivated by the courses she is taking.

Denise Hurban and Don "Donny" Douglas both attend Oneonta State University, and it was interesting that they both expressed the same feeling about the school: that the students at Oneonta are so unusually friendly and warm and make one feel immediately part of the school. This made a very strong impression on them both because it was the first thing each of them mentioned when they were interviewed. Denise. who has one roommate from Oswego, is studying nutrition. She is going out for diving. She also lifeguards at Oneonta's indoor pool as a part-time job. Denise is particularly impressed with her teachers who she says are great, very accessible and inspiring.

Don, a rock musician since his good old days at TZ High School, is already forming a band on the Oneonta campus. And he pitches for an intramural softball team. He says he is very happy at Oneonta. Quote: "I didn't even want to come home this week-end! But I missed my mom... actually I missed my cats — all five of them!"

STRAIGHT FROM PARIS Pommes a 1'Eve Gourmande



[Louise Schraa donated this recipe to 10964 in time for Thanksgiving. She has recently returned from Paris where she spent 2 years studying at the Cordon Bleu and received a Grand Diplome.]

INGREDIENTS:

12 apples, powdered sugar (for sprinkling cookie sheet and apples), 1 1emon, 1 cup sugar, 1 cup walnuts, 1 cup creme fraiche (or sour cream), 4 egg yolks, 1 cup wine, calvados (optional).

PROCEDURE:

- Core, peel and quarter the apples.
 Rub them with lemon.
- Sprinkle powdered sugar on cookie sheet, arrange apples on sheet and sprinkle them with powdered sugar.
- 3. Place in 375 degree oven for 20 min.
- 4. When apples are cooked, cover with powdered sugar again.
- 5. Place in broiler to brown (2-3 min.)

Dry Caramel Sauce

- 6. In sauce pan, place few drops of lemon juice and 1/2 cup sugar, heat on low temperature and mix continuously with wooden spoon until sugar turns to caramel.
- 7. When sugar caramelizes add walnuts and creme fraiche, mix gently not to break the walnuts.
- 8. Place most of the apples on serving dish, cover with caramel mixture, place remaining apples on top in center.

Sabayon Sauce

- 9. Mix egg yolks, remaining 1/2 cup sugar, wine and Calvados in sauce pan till it thickens. Mix constantly in a ribbon like fashion.
- 10. Pour lightly over apples and caramel. Pour extra sabayon in serving sauce dish.

RED OAK / WHITE OAK

INTERVIEWS WITH TWO NEW PALISADES FAMILIES:

WHITE OAK'S LORI AND RALPH DI GIACOMO

Lori and Ralph DiGiacomo were concerned that they were not dressed appropriately for their big 10964 interview, as Ralph was doing yard work and Lori was, er, supervising. But when I showed up in torn jeans and a sweatshirt, "not to worry" looks appeared on their faces.

Lori and Ralph would be yuppies if they lived in the city. But as they live in Palisades now. Ι cal1 them subyups: suburban young professionals. They interesting, well-educated. They are both product testers but each one's job is very different from the other. Ralph is a microbiologist for the General Foods Corporation, doing technical research at the company's Tarrytown headquarters. studies the stability, preservability, methodology and processing of a project. researches gamma radiation alternative to heat in pasteurizing sterilizing.

Lori, whose title is Program Leader in the Make-up Category, works for Avon in their Suffern laboratories. She, too, tests products in their research and development division. Before the products go on the market, they must pass the scrutiny of Lori DiGiacomo and the people who work for her, because the company must be able to back up its claims. At its Sensory Perception Center, Lori schedules tests, designs studies, interprets results, and does statistical analyses of data.

The DiGiacomos own a Cockapoo named Jasmin, a real scene stealer. They let him out to meet "the guest" as he had been kept inside while we three were sitting on the porch. He charged out and promptly did a double somersault off the front steps and did not seem to feel a thing. That Cockapoo bounced like a Spalding, and although Lori and Ralph rushed screaming to Jasmin's aid, it was obvious that this doggie was totally unimpressed with the terror he almost caused by his own feet, er, feat.

Welcome to Palisades, Lori and Ralph ... and Jasmin.

INTRODUCING: THE WARNERS OF RED OAK

Mary, Mitchell, and their children Brian, 14; Kim, 12; Denise, 9; Lori, 5; and cat, Missy, live in a 5-bedroom house. All the children attend parochial school: the girls attend Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, in Tappan; and Brian is a freshman at St. Joseph's Regional in Montvale, New Jersey. The Warners are particularly interesting because they are born-and-bred Rocklanders and their family trees read like a Who's Who of Rockland County: The Frohlings of the Ehrhardts of Pear1 River Nanuet, (Ehrhardt Road was named after Mitch's grandmother), and the Lawrences of Palisades. These are Mary and Mitch's relatives and many streets in our county have been The Palisades Cemetery named after them. on Closter Road behind the Thayers, has several graves bearing Mitchell's relatives. For example, his grandmother's great grandfather, George Lawrence, been buried there since his death in 1872. as has been his wife, Jeniette. Warners think that George and Jeniette Lawrence may have lived in the building that is now our Palisades Free Library but they are not sure. Now that the Warners have moved to Palisades they are most anxious to further explore their Palisades genealogy. I told them how interested the 10964 community is in information like this and the Warners will report back to us their findings.

Mitchell Warner is the Eastern Regional Manager of Lord and Burnham, builders and sellers of greenhouses, solariums and skylights for industry as well as private homes. They have designed the Bronx and Brooklyn Botanical Gardens' greenhouses and conservatories as well as some Wendy's restaurants. And Mitch has built a wonderful enclosed patio which his family makes great use of during the nice weather.

Mary, his wife, is active in school and church activities, and according to daughter Kim, makes great Italian sauces.

Welcome to Palisades, Warners!

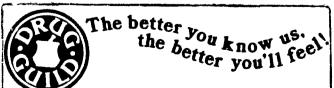
GOESTA WOLLIN WRITING NOVEL WITH PALISADES SETTING

[Goesta Wollin, a resident of Palisades since 1947, and a scientist at Lamont-Doherty, is writing a novel based on his first year's experiences in Sneden's Below is an excerpt from this Landing. work in progress.]

Snedens Landing is entered by a road that turns sharply from the highway to fork beyond the spired church and feels its way windingly down the wooded hills between broken rows of stairstepped old houses and gardens to the Hudson River. The glow over New York can be seen by night and the Atlantic is near enough to leave its tidemark on the piers. There is stillness in the surrounding woodland beyond the sound of horn or truck, where pheasants, rattlers and a few deer cross the shadowed paths. It is a good place to get away to for a year or a lifetime -- to paint, compose, write a play or recover from the failure of one, to bring up a brace of children in roomy clean air and traditioned liberalism, to grow old thoughtfully, to test or season love or live in unembarrassed lovelessness

Janet and Goesta Wollin wish to say goodbye to their friends in Palisades. They will be moving to North Carolina in December.





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NEWS FROM THORPE INTERMEDIA GALLERY

During the month of November several exciting events will take place in conjunction with the Sari Dienes Retrospective currently being shown. On November 2 at 2:30, "Glass, Bottles and Bones," Martha Edelheit's 30 minute film. will screened. Admission is free.

Also on Nov. 2, at 3:15 p.m., a concert of new music inspired by the art of Sari Dienes will be presented. Composers Peter Griggs and Barbara Benary will use instruments from around the world as well electronics and found objects in their performance. The suggested donation for this concert, which is sponsored in part by Meet the Composer, is \$4; seniors, students and gallery members, \$2.

On Sunday, Nov. 9 at 3 p.m., there will be a Meet the Artist Gallery Talk with Sari Dienes and curators Bill Hochhausen and David Weinrib. Admission is free.



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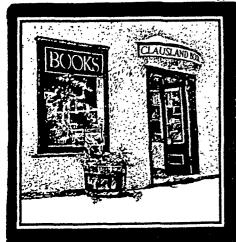
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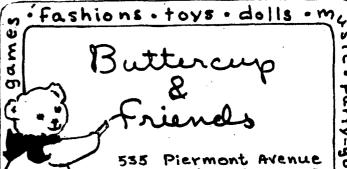
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BUS STOP FINANCE COMMITTEE

Some time around 1950, a group of community minded citizens including Walker Field. John Hutchins, Gertrude Macy and Bob Stewart, were instrumental in designing and erecting the bus stops at the intersection of 9W and Oak Tree Rd. Your committee now consists of the undersigned and Albon Man The Committee's bank of Closter Road. account shows a balance of about \$250; last time we asked for funds was 1974. We have no current need for additional funds.

The purpose of this note is merely to remind the community of our existence, and to determine whether there is any need to improve the bus stops or their current level of maintenance. From time to time we have wondered whether responsibility for the bus stops should be transferred to some other more broadly based community entity. such as the Palisades Civic Association. suggestions or comments by readers would be of interest, and may be addressed to either of the current committee members.

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PALISADES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH NEWS

For everyone who helped make it come true, on November 9 at noon, after services, there is a special coffee hour to celebrate the completion of the new roof!

On November 23, our congregation will be celebrating the annual Agape observance.

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NEWS FROM ROCKLAND CENTER FOR THE ARTS

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP EXHIBIT

The Rockland Center for the Arts has always attracted to its membership people who are not only interested in the arts but those who are talented in a particular art form as well. In recognition of this, the Center's Emerson Gallery showcases the art work of its members in an exhibit which opened October 26 and which continues through November 21.

OPEN STUDIO TIME AVAILABLE

The Rockland Center School for the Arts has made available Open Studio Time to artists. The studio is available on a first come first served basis on Wednesday mornings, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., through December 17. There will be no instructor or model.

Cost for the time is \$3 for students, senior citizens and members of the Center. For the general public, the cost is \$4.

SIX-WEEK MINI-COURSES

"Getting Started, Beginning Art for the Adult," is one of the over 25 six-week mini-courses and workshops available at the Rockland Center for the Arts beginning the first week of November. Others are: Theatre Improvisation, Theatre Games, Water Color Painting, Photography, Jewelry and Cloisonne, and Creative Music for children, 3 and 4 years old.

DRAWING ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE BRAIN

A workshop for Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain will be conducted on Sunday, Nov. 9 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Center. The all-day session, taught by Colombe Hearth, is designed for people who want to develop their drawing potential and realize their personal creativity. All are welcome. Cost: \$25.

JUDY HATA OF PALISADES TEACHING THE ART OF SOGETSU IKEBANA: JAPANESE FLOWER ARRANGEMENT

The Center offers a two-weekend workshop in Sogestu Ikebana, the art of Japanese flower arrangement, on two Saturdays. Nov. 15 and 22, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. The fee is \$45 and includes flowers.

Judy Hata, master teacher and director of the Sogestu School of Ikebana, and a longtime resident of Palisades, has created arrangements for the United Nations and the Emperor of Japan. She will conduct the workshop to be held at the Center. Advance reservations are required.

ONE-DAY MONOTYPE WORKSHOP

A one-day Monotype Workshop is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 15 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monotype combines the freedom of painting with the excitement of print making. In this form of printmaking, the artist inks or paints an image on a hard surface such as metal, plastic or wood and either hand rubs or press prints it onto paper. Impressions of natural objects such as leaves, flowers and ferns will form the basis of the unique print designs. Cost: \$25, plus \$12 materials fee. Participants may wish to bring a bag lunch.

GENE POWELL TO LEAD WOODGRAINING WORKSHOP

Gene Powell, Valley Cottage resident and master scenic artist, will lead a two-part workshop on Faux Art, "woodgraining," at the Center, Sundays, Nov. 16 and 23, from 1 to 4 p.m.

The first session on Nov. 16 will focus on required tools, materials and media, as well as how surfaces must be prepared and the technique applied. The second session on Nov. 23 will provide participants with an opportunity to practice woodgraining.

Thanks to Andrea Williams for illustrating our November issue.



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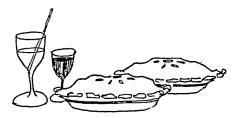
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10964 DEADLINE

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

A contribution was received this month from Donald J. and Helen J. Fischer. Thank you!

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