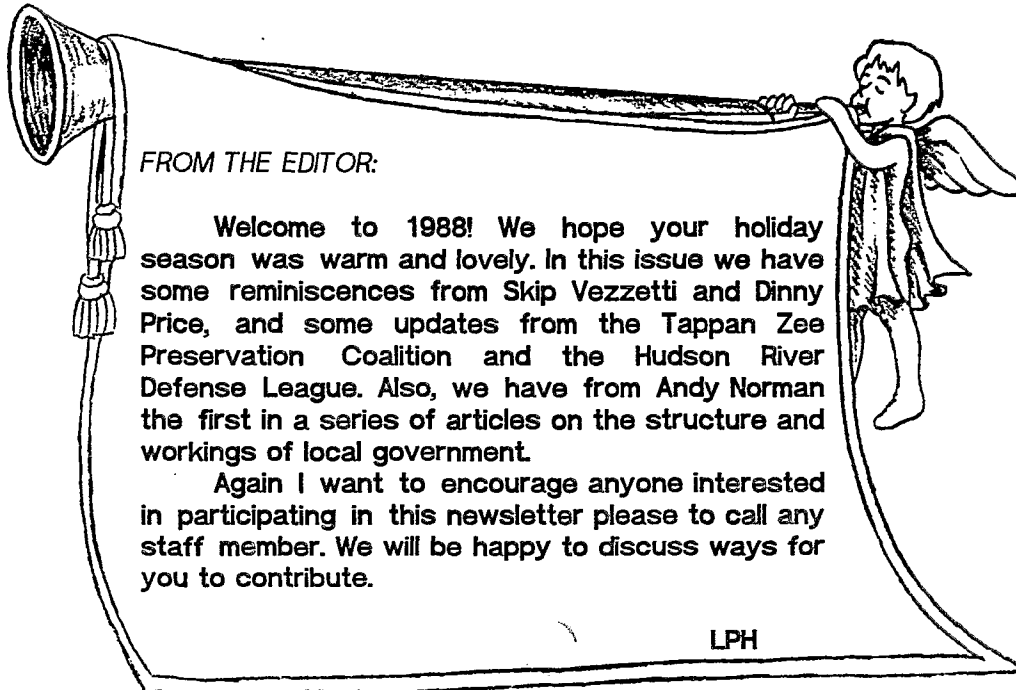


10964

JANUARY 1988

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.



FROM THE EDITOR:

Welcome to 1988! We hope your holiday season was warm and lovely. In this issue we have some reminiscences from Skip Vezzetti and Dinny Price, and some updates from the Tappan Zee Preservation Coalition and the Hudson River Defense League. Also, we have from Andy Norman the first in a series of articles on the structure and workings of local government.

Again I want to encourage anyone interested in participating in this newsletter please to call any staff member. We will be happy to discuss ways for you to contribute.

LPH

REMEMBRANCES OF WINTERS PAST by Skip Vezzetti

Winter time in Palisades has always held great memories for me, as I suppose it would for anyone who grew up here in the late 40s and 50s.

After each snow storm, Closter Road would be covered with hardpacked snow for days which provided one of winter's greatest thrills, sleigh-riding.

Unlike today when the use of salt and calcium chloride renders bare pavement in a rather short period of time, cinders simply provided additional traction on several inches of ice and snow.

Much to our delight as children, my dad had an ancient pick-up truck and those days after a heavy snow storm he would strap on the chains and attach a lengthy piece of 1" hemp rope to the rear bumper. After this procedure was completed, several of us, including Audrey Webb, Michael Harvey, Peter Mann, my sister Ruth and myself, would line up our sleighs and hold on for dear life as we were towed a thunderous 5-10 mph from my house down Closter Road to Rockleigh and back.

Although this great adventure seemed impossible to top at the time, the construction of

the Palisades Interstate Parkway provided the greatest thrill for any kid ever in Palisades past, present or future. For at least two consecutive years during its construction and prior to completion, the P.I.P. served as an icy ribbon from the hill in Alpine to the Oak Tree Road overpass. On appropriate evenings, we as pre-teenagers and teenagers, would walk or be driven to the top of the hill in Alpine and begin a wondrous ride down the icy P.I.P. to the flat area below Oak Tree Road. Any such evening would find Jim Doyle, Harry Ludas, Jim Fitzgerald, Bob Johnson, and dozens of assorted brothers and sisters bundled up against the cold, anticipating a blinding ride down the icy decline. I have no idea how fast we were able to go, but I do remember the incredible sense of speed on those bone chilling evenings as wind, ice and snow blew into our faces at blinding speed.

Presently, there are very few places for local kids to enjoy sleigh-riding, but in those days even Oak Tree Hill and Rockland Country Club provided great thrills which I am sure that neither myself nor classmates will ever forget.

COALITION PROGRESS

Since its organization in the spring of 1987, the Tappan Zee Preservation Coalition has been working to develop a proposal to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation to designate, as a Scenic District, the western shore of the Hudson, from the New Jersey state line to Hook Mountain.

We were fortunate to obtain the professional service of Mr. R. M. Toole, whose firm of landscape architects prepared the documentation for the only officially designated scenic district in New York State which is on the Hudson river in Columbia and Dutchess counties.

In March, after discussions with the State Department of Environmental Conservation, its Scenic Quality Sub-Committee endorsed our plans and advised us on the preparation of the nomination document. In September we reviewed a first draft of the proposal and in December our Board of Directors accepted the document, "Designation and Boundary Proposal for the Tappan Zee Scenic District, Rockland County."

During the past months we have endeavored to keep our town and village officials informed of our plans. Our next step will be to share this proposal with them and seek their endorsement. Preliminary talks with some of the officials lead us to believe that the proposal will have official support.

At the same time, we want to increase our membership because we know that the preservation of the lower Hudson requires an informed and vigilant citizenry right now. And the vigilance will become even more important in the future as we face increasing threats to our environment and to our historic heritage.

If you would like to join us in our efforts, drop me a note c/o Box "A," Palisades, N. Y. 10964, and we will send you an application form.

Lowell Iberg, Treasurer
Tappan Zee Preservation Coalition

NEWS FROM THE HUDSON RIVER DEFENSE LEAGUE

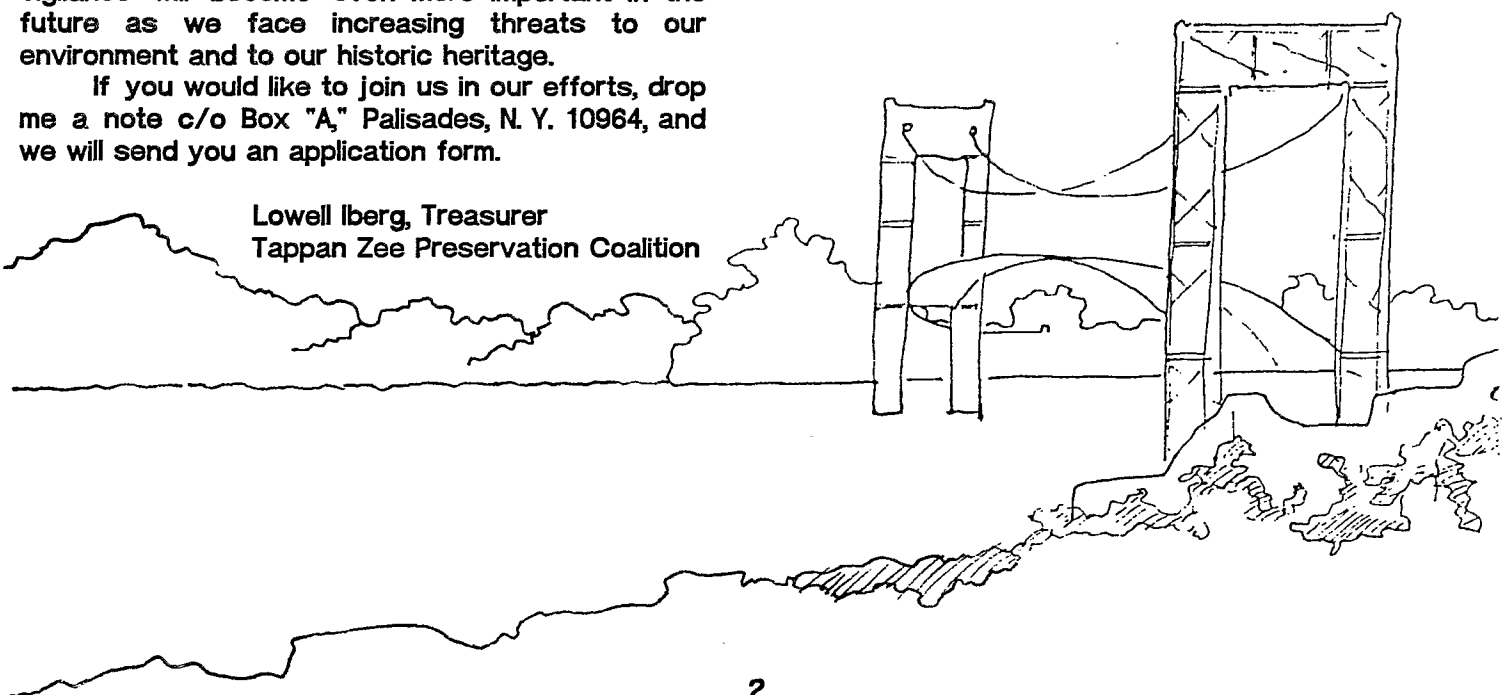
Over one hundred people attended the Hudson River Defense League's 2nd annual meeting on December 8th at the Grand View Village Hall. Planning Chairmen from the river villages discussed the future of the Tappan Zee Villages. They warned of the onslaught of development from Tallman Park to Hook Mountain and stressed the impact of the Piermont Pier development on the environment and fragile road system of the region.

Many people voiced concern about a possible second Tappan Zee Bridge and viewed the increase in traffic fostered by massive commercial development as exacerbating the problem. The panelists unanimously opposed a second bridge crossing.

Many questions were addressed to Margaret Grace, Piermont Village Trustee, as to the justification of segmenting the Piermont Pier Development and proposed 700-slip marina from the Draft Environmental Impact Statement, a possible violation of the State Environmental Quality Review Act regulations. The Village of Piermont wants a separate study.

The Hudson River Defense League will sponsor other forums to continue this dialogue and urges the development of a Master Plan for the riverfront and protection of the river's ecology.

Marlene Kleiner, Deputy Director
Hudson River Defense League



**YES, LOCAL GOVERNMENT IS CONFUSING--
PLENTY OF REASONS, VERY LITTLE RHYME**
by Andrew E. Norman

This is the first of several articles which Andrew Norman is writing for 10964, in which he will attempt the Herculean task of describing, translating, and decoding for us all, the organizational structure and mechanics of the geo-political area in which we all reside.

Local government in New York State is less like a formal garden than like a wild thicket full of brambles with roots at both ends of their canes; less like a carriage drawn by matched horses than like a combination stage coach, dog sled, hay wagon and canal barge hauled by a mule, an ox, a steam engine, a camel, a diesel tractor, a Pekinese and a man on crutches with a whip.

The most immediate and truly local powers of local government reside in the Towns and Villages, as well as in a variety of special-purpose districts (school, fire, library, ambulance and sewer) which will be the subject of a subsequent article.

Structurally, Orangetown's government is standard issue for a suburban town in New York: a Supervisor (who would be called mayor in almost every other state) elected to a two-year term, and four Council members, two elected in each odd year to four-year terms.

The incumbents are Supervisor Joseph Colello of Blauvelt; Councilmen Charles McLiverty and Cornelius O'Sullivan, both of Pearl River; and, as of January 1, Thomas Swift of Blauvelt and Roger Pellegrini of Piermont.

The Town Board appoints the members of the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA), Planning Board, Architectural and Community Appearance Board of Review (ACABOR), and the Historic Areas Board of Review, which has special powers in designated areas of Palisades and Tappan.

The Town Board oversees the operations of the Town Clerk's office headed by Patricia Haugh; collection of all property taxes for the Town, County and special districts by a staff headed by Receiver of Taxes Eileen Bohner; property assessment under an appointed Tax Assessor; an 80-member police force; highway, parks and recreation departments (including the Town-owned Blue Hill golf course in Pearl River, which is managed by an unpaid, appointed committee); the Orangetown Sewer District; and a long list of other functions, some of which cover the entire Town and others only the "Part-Town" or "TOV" (Town Outside Villages).

The Town Board's legislative powers are limited to matters not pre-empted by state legislation and regulation. Thus the Town has no authority over the licensed professions, hospitals or liquor stores, but it does license garbage haulers, bingo games, commercial amusements, junk dealers, peddlers and the storage of explosives.

Once every two or three years the Board adopts, amends or repeals a local law dealing with some miscellaneous issue of permanent or transient importance. Those now in effect forbid unleashed dogs in public places (adopted 1956), unattended businesses (1963), various dangerous or offensive activities in Town parks (1968), drinking in public (1971), unnecessary and disturbing noises (1973), the conduct of any retail business except food and drink on Memorial Day (1975), and the conduct of most retail business, especially food and drink, between 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. (1978).

Cutting or seriously disturbing trees and shrubbery on streets or public property without a permit from the Town Shade Tree Commission has been prohibited since 1964. The Commission is one of a host of unpaid administrative, regulatory and advisory bodies appointed annually by the Town Board. In 1970, "The concentration of large groups" (over 1,000) for musical entertainment lasting over 12 hours was prohibited without a special permit from the Town Board. (Remember "Woodstock"?)

But the Town Board's most important and recurrent legislative tasks involve land use. The revised zoning ordinance of 1968 now runs to almost 200 pages, incorporating frequent and often highly controversial amendments. It is due for a complete overhaul in the months ahead to conform to the new Town master plan prepared over the past two years by the Planning Board, with the assistance of a professional planner and a Citizens Advisory Committee.

Separate ordinances deal with related matters such as demolition, diversion and pollution of watercourses, dumping and trespass, sanitation and sewage, sidewalks, swimming pools and unsafe buildings.

Other areas requiring repeated legislative attention concern the highly detailed building and fire prevention codes and vehicle and traffic regulations, all of which are subject to rigid State review.

The four Villages in Orangetown -- Piermont, Grand View on Hudson, South Nyack and Nyack (a small part of which is in Clarkstown) -- handle

(Cont'd p. 4)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (Cont'd from p. 3)

most of these matters for themselves and pay the taxes for them to their Villages instead of to the Town. Their residents are nevertheless obligated to pay the Town's General Fund tax and are fully entitled to vote for and serve as Town officers.

Under the leadership of Palisades resident Charles "Skip" Vezetti, who is the Highway Commissioner appointed by the Town Board, it has sole charge of maintaining, cleaning and snowplowing more than 125 miles of Town streets. Contracts with the State and County require it to perform some, but not necessarily all, of these tasks on County roads, such as Closter Road, and on State highways, such as Routes 9W, 340 and 303, with the costs reimbursed according to a wide variety of contractual formulae.

Most of the Highway Department's budget is raised by a separate tax rate, which appears on the December tax bill as Highway Item #1 and is levied only on property outside the Villages. Snowplowing equipment, however, for arcane historical reasons, is charged to the Town General Fund. And while three of Orangetown's Villages

have their own highway departments, Grand View does not. Orangetown therefore plows River Road and charges the Village a small fee to cover labor, sand and salt.

All streetlights outside of Villages are the Town's responsibility, including those on State, County and even private roads. In fact, the lights belong to Orange & Rockland Utilities and the Town pays annual rental and power charges based on the type and wattage of each fixture.

Similar principles apply to fire hydrants, which are "rented" from Spring Valley Water, but the costs are allocated to separate Water Districts with their own unique boundaries. Instead of one Town-wide rate, Orangetown's 1986 Water District taxes ranged from 54.66 cents per \$1,000 of assessed valuation in Sparkill to 25.56 cents in Pearl River, with Palisades on the high side with a 43.66 rate.

As might be expected, these Water Districts have absolutely nothing to do with the Fire Districts, even though it is the volunteer fire companies who use the hydrants, inspect them and clear away obstructive plants.

NEWS FROM THE PALISADES FREE LIBRARY

Open House/Election

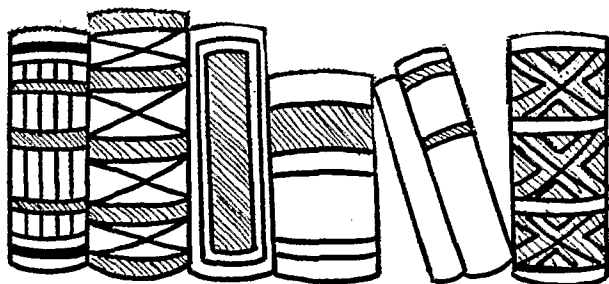
The Palisades Free Library will hold an Open House Sunday, January 31st, 2-4 pm. Guest speaker will be Joan Konnor. If you are a resident of Palisades and over 18 years of age, please come and vote for the election of two trustees. Candidates are: Jack Hoffmeister, Oriel Kriz, Donald Lipkin and Bill McGivney.

Forthcoming Books:

Amiel	Deeds
Cook	Mortal Fear
Deighton	Winter
Drabble	The Radiant Way
Ellmann	Oscar Wilde
Felsenthal	Alice Roosevelt Longworth
Francis	Wolf Winter
Levi	Drowned & the Saved
Slesin	Japanese Style
Somers	Keeping Secrets
Sprigg	Shaker: Life, Work & Art
Tomkins	Coming Back

Storytime News

Storytime will resume on Tuesday, January 5, 1988. Stories for 5 and 6 year olds begin at 4:15 pm and end at 4:45 pm. Stories for 3 and 4 year olds begin at 4:45 pm and end at 5:15 pm.



BEING FISCALLY FRANK
by Geraldine Miras, President
South Orangetown School Board

Introducing: Frank Pawlowski, Asst. Superintendent for Business, South Orangetown Central School District.

Down a short lane off Muroney there lives a man I would like to introduce you to -- Dr. Francis E. Pawlowski (call him Frank). A Palisadian since 1966, Frank's story is about an art major with a love for computers who wound up in education.

If you can encapsulate a life, Frank's history would read as follows: Born in New York City, early education in Brooklyn, a four year stint in the navy where he was introduced to computers, a B.A. from Brooklyn College in 1964 with a major in art, and the business world until 1973, when he joined Rockland County BOCES as Business Assistant thereby beginning a new career combining his two interests of business and education. On the way, he married Lorraine and fathered Patricia, Matthew and Mark.

In 1978 Frank was employed by the South Orangetown Central School District to revamp the business office. He did that job so well, more and more jobs came his way. At present, Frank is in charge of finances, book-keeping, purchasing, payroll, the school lunch program, buildings and grounds and transportation. His biggest job about which most of us are concerned is watching where our tax dollars go. As a watchdog, he has a

ferocious sense of duty.

When a district-wide coordinator for computer-curriculum was needed--yes, the job went to Frank. That entry into the classroom is what Frank loves about his work. He says, "We are all here to support what is going on in the classroom and if we are not doing that, we shouldn't be here."

From experience I have seen that philosophy at work. Walk into a NETWORC classroom at the high school, Frank is there. When the art students put their portfolios together for college admission review, Frank is there to help. He is there at any special event. He is also there when parents need to talk with him. It is just this ability to be flexible and engage in a variety of activities that Frank likes about his position. That must be why he averages sixty hours of work a week.

When asked what fiscal problems we face in the next five years, Frank answered that local economics cannot bear the burden of inadequate state funding. He suggests that we change our method of funding public education from the property tax to a tax system based on income.

If the above description makes Frank sound too good, allow me to divulge to you Frank's vice: He is a vegetarian with an insatiable appetite for junk food.

Junk food, Frank--really!

NEWS FROM ROCKLAND CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Spring Session opens January 25

Spring semester opens January 25 with a full schedule of classes and workshops in a variety of artistic disciplines for all ages. Registration is now underway and a free school catalog may be obtained from the Center. An "early bird" discount of \$10 per course is offered to those who register before January 8.

New courses which have been added to the regular schedule for this spring include Porcelain Wheelthrowing, with master ceramicist Cliff Mendelson; Painting with Acrylic, with naturalist painter Stephen Shachter; Quilting with Pat Dusza; Photo II, with Piermont photographer Sally Savage; Writing for Profit with Michael Ray Taylor; Basketry with Arline Shalan; and Batik with Brenda Westheim.

Intercession mini-courses offered in January for pre-schoolers to seniors

Three short courses start in January 1988. "Fitness Without Frenzy," is not too stressful. It will

begin on January 7 and run for four consecutive Thursdays. The classes run from 11:00 am to noon and the total fee is \$40.

Pre-schoolers will be delighted with the special five-day workshop entitled "Magic Wands and Things," led by Lauren Simon who has specialized in teaching art to this age group. The workshop will run from 1:00 - 2:00 pm daily for the week and will cover painting, collage and the creation playthings and colorful projects. The fee for the week is \$50.

Ceramic artist Rosemary Aiello, will lead a one-day "Hands-on Workshop" for intermediate and advanced students on Sunday, Jan. 24 from 10 am to 4 pm. The workshop features extended wheelthrowing time and will concentrate on throwing cylinders, platters and other popular forms. The fee for this workshop is \$40 and includes clay, glazing and firing.

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While Dinny Price needs no introduction to most of us, we're probably not that familiar with her early life and family history. Dinny has lived in Palisades for forty-eight years and remembers what life was like in a small town.

To learn how her family came to Palisades we have to go back three generations to great-grandfather Lieval in France. According to the family story, Monsieur and Madam Lieval were caring for an elderly lady on their farm. When she died, her children, who'd completely ignored her, appeared and claimed her small estate. Monsieur Lieval protested unsuccessfully in court to get what he thought was his fair share. Declaring "there is no justice in France," he booked first class passage for his two sons to New York to seek new opportunities.

Thus, in 1887, Joseph and Paul Lieval arrived in the city. The family knew Mr. Dalio who had an artificial flower business. Joseph went into partnership with him, and Paul worked for them. For reasons unknown to the present generation, the men found their way to Oak Tree Road and set up a factory behind their new home. (The company remained in business until the late 1960's when a fire in the factory destroyed most of the necessary machinery.)

When Paul announced plans to marry Evelyn Quidor, the girl next-door, their father came over from France for the wedding. Their mother and sister were coming on a later ship. Mrs. Lieval, who was in poor health, died aboard the ship. Their father felt there were no compelling reasons to return to France so he and his daughter stayed in Palisades.

Joseph Lieval married Angeline Hennequin and their children, Constance (Dinny's mother), John and Joseph were born in Palisades. The Lieval family were rapidly taking over Oak Tree Road.

On to the next generation. Constance Lieval was a boarding student at Manhattanville College of The Sacred Heart. While returning from a week end at home via the Westshore train, she met young Harrison Price, an engineer with International General Electric. After their marriage, they moved to Grandview where their first four children were born. When Constance's father died, her mother asked her and her family to move in with her in Palisades. "There's more room here for you and the children," she said.

Thus, three year old Dinny arrived in Palisades in 1938. Three more children were born here. Dinny said when she was growing up, she had twenty-three relatives on Oak Tree Road - grandmother, great aunt, great uncle, cousins and aunts and uncles. It was one big happy family.

Dinny was born with a physiological problem, which was not diagnosed until some years later, of a blockage of the pulmonary artery. (She had one of the first operations to correct this at age 16.) "Nowadays," she said, "this problem would be treated much sooner." As a result, Dinny did not grow as fast as other children.

She entered the first grade (no kindergarten then), weighing all of 28 pounds and standing 28 1/2 inches tall. She still walked up the hill to the Palisades school with her brother and sisters. Her brother, John, would be behind her, carrying a stick. Whenever she started to slow down, he'd flick the stick. "Faster, Dinny, faster."

"I was probably the first jogger on Oak Tree Road," she laughed.

The school was divided into three classes; 1st and 2nd; 3rd, 4th and 5th; 6th, 7th and 8th. There were only about 8 to 10 children in each. There was a state law saying that the children's feet had to reach the floor. Well, Dinny's didn't, so the janitor fashioned a box for her feet to rest on. That box stayed with her through the third grade.

Miss Waldine Zinnel was the school nurse, visiting the school every Thursday morning. She made sure the children were neat and clean and checked for sore throats, head lice, etc. Hot lunches were served across the street at the old school house where Mrs. Price planned the menus and bought the food. Meals were prepared by Adele Sisco and later by Mrs. Grotz. If her mother happened to be around when school closed, she would often plop Dinny in the front basket and bicycle on home. Fellow classmates included Janet and Jo Rippey, Leslie Burcaw and Brent Malcolm (Bill Plageman's stepson).

World War II was on, and Dinny remembers the convoy of jeeps and army trucks coming from Camp Shanks going up Oak Tree Road. Sometimes a soldier would stop his jeep and give the children a ride to school. There was also Mr. Henniger, a farmer who lived near the Palisades/Tappan border.

(Cont'd p. 9)

DINNY PRICE (Cont'd from p. 8)

He drove a one-horse wagon. If he happened to see the children on their way home from school, he'd slow the horse down, they'd hop on. As he neared the Price's home, he'd slow the horse down and off they'd jump. Nary a word would he say.

Those were carefree days of picking wild flowers on the way to school for the teachers, jumping off the stone wall along Oak Tree or playing in the brook alongside the road. "We'd leave early just so we could play on the way to school," said Dinny.

Dinny has fond memories of winter sledding down the hill behind the 9W golf course. "We would bring our sleds to school so we could get there quickly in the afternoon," Dinny recalled. "There were no fences then and the hill was divided by unspoken agreement between the sledders and the skiers." On moonlight nights, the whole Price family - all nine of them - would go sledding.

Upon graduation from elementary school, children from Palisades had a choice of high schools: Nyack, Piermont or Haverstraw. Dinny attended Nyack High School which meant catching the public bus on Route 340 going through Sparkill to pick up more kids. "High school was not a highlight of my life," said Dinny. "We were always

late and had to run up from the bottom of 5th Avenue, the steepest hill in Nyack, where the bus let us off." Dinny by now had reached her full height of 4' 7", but "I still couldn't run up that hill fast enough."

After high school, Dinny moved to Cortland, New York to look after her nieces and nephews. When her sister, Janet, and brother-in-law moved to Hawaii in 1958, Dinny went with them. She loved the big island of Hawaii. It was still unspoiled then, only attaining statehood in 1959. Dinny visited Hawaii again in 1981 and couldn't believe all the changes, the big hotels, the condos, all the people. "I liked it the way it was."

Dinny returned to Palisades in 1980. Her mother and grandmother were living in the family home. (Dinny's father had died just before she went to Hawaii.) After her grandmother's death in 1965, Dinny and her mother moved next door to her present home. (Her mother had bought the house several years ago after her Aunt Evelyn died.)

Once settled in Dinny and Minama began caring for the neighborhood children; Minama did the cooking and dispensed grandmotherly love, and Dinny carefully watched over "her children" as she continues to do today.

ROCKLAND CENTER (Cont'd from p. 7)

Emerson String Quartet

The Emerson String Quartet, perhaps the most distinguished of America's new generation of quartets, will perform Friday, January 15 at 8:30. The program will open with Bach-Mozart 5-Fugues, and continues with Bartok's Quartet No. 2 and Beethoven's Quartet, Opus 130 with Grosse Fugue.

Performing more than 120 concerts annually over the past five seasons, the Emerson has appeared on virtually every major series in North America and abroad from Paris to Tokyo. 1987 marked the Emerson's 5th season as Resident Quartet at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington DC.

The group's repertoire embraces the complete cycles of Beethoven and Bartok, as well as standard and contemporary musical literature. Tickets for the performance are \$12 general admission and \$10 for Center members, students and seniors.

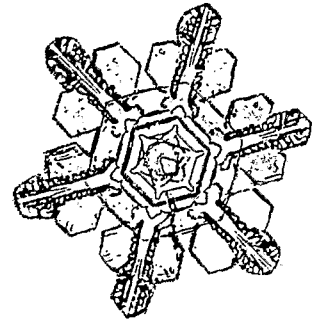
Other News

Stephen B. Oates, who was to lecture on January 29 has cancelled due to illness. For information about ticket refunds, call the Center at 358-0877.

Doris Kearns Goodwin, the author of the best-selling biography, *The Fitzgeralds and the Kennedys*, originally scheduled to appear on January 9 has rescheduled her lecture to February 26. Ms. Kearns is appearing as part of the Center's Writers Roundtable Arts of Biography Series.

Judy Hata of Palisades

For the sixth time in three years, Judy Hata of Palisades, president of the Sogetsu School of New York, will teach her highly regarded workshop in Sogetsu Ikebana, the art of Japanese floral arranging.



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10964 DEADLINE

The deadline for copy for the February issue is January 10. Please send copy to 10964, Box 201, Palisades, N. Y. 10964. The February issue will appear in your mail as close to the first of the month as possible.

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