

10964

APRIL 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:

PALISADES FREE LIBRARY

I'm excited about this issue. There is so much in it! For example, this month we are highlighting architects in Palisades. We have asked Joe Tonetti, Bill Brinnier, Wally Heath, and Bernard Albin to contribute articles on any subject of architecture or their work, and I know you will find these pieces fascinating. In addition, we have another installment from Marina Harrison's book on great walks; a book review by Roger Jellinek on the geologic and historic aspects of our area; an article on AIDS by Marge Fenn who is a Palisades nurse specializing in this subject; position papers from both sides of the village incorporation issue; Part Two of Andy Norman's exploration of local districts which service our area; Eden-Lee Jellinek's Theatre Calendar for April; and our cover story on yet another crisis on the horizon at the corner of Rte. 340 and Oak Tree Road. Plus much more!

The Palisades Swim Club held their annual meeting in March and elected officers for the coming year. In our next issue I hope to have a report from the board on that meeting as well as a look at what if any repairs and new equipment were seen to over the winter, and what the summer has in store--who the lifeguards and other workers will be, etc.

Speaking of the coming summer, if you or your children are planning trips, activities or jobs that you think 10964 readers might find interesting or fun, please submit your articles or announcements. If we get enough submissions to make a highlight, we will publish it in our June issue. Remember, our deadline is the 15th of the month preceding each issue. Thanks!

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NOT ANOTHER CORPORATION IN OUR QUIET HAMLET!

by Holly Whitstock Seeger

There is a new proposal in the works regarding the site at the intersection of Route 340 and Oak Tree Road. Every concerned Palisadian recalls attending the many meetings held by the town planning board and the zoning board when the issue was the Oakwood Condominiums. Fortunately for us, this plan was overturned. Unfortunately for us, we must now begin our vigil again.

The owners of this property have come up with a new plan. As before, this new scheme poses a threat to the appearance and serenity of our picturesque little village. Unlike before, the plan does not represent a residential venture but rather a commercial venture, specifically a scientific laboratory affiliated with Multi-Medical Center in Manhattan. In an apparent effort to retain the rural quality of the area, the plan calls for minimal clearing and grading of the property nearest the road. The buildings themselves will be set back on the lot and supposedly will not be able to be seen through the trees. All in all, their intentions seem to be to remain discreet architecturally. However, it is the nature of their research which deserves a closer look in terms of its potential hazard to our health and homes.

Apparently, they have selected this particular

location because of its rural environment and its proximity to NYC. The scientific experiment at hand involves the use of 1500 rats, imported from the city. The thought of this alone is enough to send one scurrying up the footstool, skirts securely gathered about one's knees. Unfortunately, this is not the only unpleasant aspect of the new proposal. Concerned Palisadians are advised to reopen the past traffic study because, once again, that issue is sure to be a crucial one.

Ironically, the goal of this scientific project is to study the effects of stress. The anticipation is that local stress levels will certainly be running rampant once the focal point of this study is revealed. This study intends to observe the condition of stress strictly in terms of its relationship to the commuter; and so the idea is to have vehicles transporting each and every one of these rodents to and from the city every weekday at the height of rush hour. Not only is this concept absolutely appalling in itself, one can only imagine the hysteria that would ensue should there be a traffic accident involving one of the transport vehicles. The proponents of this plan will attempt to assure the public that in the event of such an

(Cont'd p. 3)

UPDATE ON VILLAGE INCORPORATION ISSUE

Palisadians for Incorporation

On Feb. 23, representatives of Palisadians for Incorporation presented Orangetown Supervisor Joseph Colello with a petition containing more than three times the necessary signatures for a vote to incorporate part of Palisades as a village.

Within the area bounded by the state line, the Erie Railroad tracks, the Rockland Country Club, a line through Tallman Mountain Park, and the Hudson, the proposed village would include the undeveloped areas on Route 9W and Oak Tree Road and about 650 residents. A cluster of homes on and south of Oak Tree Road, between Closter Road and Red Oak Drive, would remain the unincorporated hamlet of Palisades.

The petition's signers represent all areas of Palisades and have two main goals: that residents (1) have control over how land is developed in the future and (2) be able to deal from a strong official position with town, county and state authorities regarding truck traffic through Palisades and other problems which may arise (a new Hudson River bridge, the pressures arising from the IBM training center and the new condominium project in Piermont, etc.). The existing villages of Nyack, South Nyack, Grand View and Piermont have this power, and Palisadians for Incorporation feel strongly that we can no longer afford to be the only unincorporated area on the river between New Jersey and Hook Mountain.

The next official step is the April 7 formal hearing on the legal sufficiency of the petition, at which Supervisor Colello is charged with receiving written legal objections. Approximately two months after the petition is ruled valid, either by the supervisor or by the State Supreme Court, the referendum would take place. If it favors incorporation, the village's first mayor and four trustees would be elected a few weeks later, and would begin preparing for the village to become a full legal entity on June 1, 1989.

Palisadians for Incorporation feel all Palisadians are aware of the main points: (1) The village will replace the town as the sole local authority over planning and zoning. (2) All services now performed by the Town of Orangetown will continue unchanged except road maintenance, which the village may contract for with the town, following the precedent of many villages throughout the state, or with private contractors. Property in the village will pay a village tax instead of the town's Highway Item #1 and Part-Town taxes. (3) Police, fire, ambulance, library, school, sewer and hydrant (Water District) taxes and services will not be altered in any respect. □

The Committee to Preserve Palisades

The Committee to Preserve Palisades strongly opposed the current movement to incorporate Palisades as a village. Several attempts to incorporate have been made in the past and have been defeated. In 1972 and in 1986 the residents voted not to incorporate, each time by a majority vote. In 1987 the Orangetown Supervisor rejected the petition to incorporate, and no vote was taken.

We opposed the 1988 proposal because we believe the territory has been gerrymandered and manipulated to insure passage. Those within the boundaries will be afforded the privilege of voting. Residents who are not within the boundaries--in most cases those known to oppose incorporation--will be denied a vote.

Our Committee has prepared a large map of the proposed village (showing the parts of Sparkill, Tappan, and Tallman Park that are slated for seizure). The map can be studied at the Post Office or the Library.

A public hearing to discuss the legal sufficiency of the incorporation proposal will be held on Thurs., April 7, 8 p.m., at the Palisades Elementary School on Oak Tree Road. We urge you to attend. Any objections must be in writing, and may be delivered at the meeting.

The CPP plans to obtain legal counsel in order to defeat this proposal. We would appreciate your financial contribution to support this very important endeavor. Kindly make out your check to either Laura E. Ebmeyer or Robert G. Stevens. Mail to The Committee to Preserve Palisades, P.O. Box 1, Palisades, NY 10964. □

Public Hearing on Incorporation:

When: Thurs., April 7, 8 p.m.

**Where: Palisades Elementary School,
Oak Tree Road.**

APRIL FOOL!

**ARCHITECTURE FROM THE INSIDE OUT:
LIFE AS A CORPORATE ARCHITECT**
by William Brinnier

When we think of architecture we tend to think of the glamour of the skyscraper in the midst of an urban cluster, the gaiety of a shopping mall as the suburban nucleus, or perhaps the serenity of a very private residence tucked away in a quiet cove on some rural lakeside. In today's complex technological setting, clients seek the talents of the architect for reasons of aesthetics, function, code compliance, cost effectiveness and efficiency. For the corporate client, the latter sometimes becomes the driving force. Efficiency with regard to both the use of the space available and the time elapsed from inception to completion becomes the core to which the project clings.

This is what my workaday world of architecture is all about. I work as a facilities senior project manager for a major Fortune 500 corporation. Acquisitions, expansion and growth are key elements in the list of corporate objectives. This expansion is what keeps my department as busy as the editorial department of a major daily newspaper. We call the headquarters building in suburban Essex County, New Jersey, our home, but we spend a great deal of our time in the field all over the country working closely with our "clients," who run the various groups, divisions and regions which make up the company.

The goal is always the same: to use space as efficiently as possible while contributing to productivity by surrounding employees with a pleasant, healthful workplace. Some buildings are owned and others are leased. Some are existing and still others must be built from the ground up. We are presently completing a 150,000-square-foot addition to our corporate headquarters building in Essex County. This project is something of a showpiece and has provided the department the opportunity to indulge itself in some showmanship, as it were. There is an open atrium in the center as a focal point which lies between the existing

building and the new addition. Needless to say, the space is spectacular and provides the entire building with a tranquil area into which one can escape from the rigors of the workday for an occasional moment of rejuvenation. Other projects across the country range in size from 5,000 square feet to several hundred thousand square feet.

We are constantly adjusting our departmental philosophy to keep pace with an ever-changing business environment. Presently, we are moving toward a mode of standardization in furniture systems, the largest single element in our vocabulary, as well as in basic interior construction. Purchasing these elements in large quantities obviously allows the company great savings. On the other hand, we are severely limited with respect to design choice in type, shape, configuration, texture, color and size. The idea is also to work toward standard office and workstation layouts and configurations that will allow the movement of people. The aim is greater flexibility, more productivity, less stress and lower costs as the space is adjusted to suit changes in the structure of business.

The fact that our "clients" are our fellow associates leads to a tangled web in terms of loyalties and professional ethics. We find ourselves juggling the roles of designers, builders and politicians. In every building project everyone involved has his or her own ideas as to how the space should look and work. There is also the element of dominance and ownership of the work environment that exists between different groups and divisions sharing the same space. Perhaps the most difficult task we face is convincing end users that we are all in this together as a team and that the end result is only as good as the team is strong.

Depending on the size and scope of the project and the departmental work load at any given time, we will design and build a project completely in-house or employ an outside consultant architectural firm. In the latter case the challenge is to educate the consultant to carry out our philosophy of work.

The final challenge is to evaluate our work. In a P.O.E., or post-occupancy evaluation, we send a department team which was not involved in the project to measure our successes and failures. We can then decide what we will continue to do and where we will seek alternative solutions. When the department gathers for a P.O.E., we are transported back to design school and the critiques that boosted our egos or crushed our sense of self-worth. In the end, we evolve as professionals, each time a bit more educated and better prepared for the next task at hand. □

THE AIDS REALITY

by Marge Fenn, R.N.

Marge Fenn of Palisades is a Clinical Specialist in AIDS. We have asked Marge to write a few articles for 10964 on the subject of AIDS. This month's piece is an overview; next month she will get into specifics.

AIDS is a four letter word and has become one of the most emotionally charged words in our language. Despite this and because of this, it is important that we use the word in our homes and discuss it with our children.

As the nurse clinician for the AIDS Consultation Service at Bronx Municipal Hospital (a.k.a. Jacobi/Van Etten Hospitals), I have spent part of the last two years talking to groups of adults and students about the facts and fiction surrounding this pandemic. Some of our teen-agers have expressed concern that this disease is going to wipe out their generation and others have flatly stated that the epidemic has nothing to do with them. The truth probably lies somewhere between these two ends of the spectrum.

No place outside Africa has suffered more from AIDS than New York City, home to almost one-third of the cases in the United States. It is true that many victims are addicted to intravenous drugs; many are homosexuals, heterosexual partners, and children of people who practice high-risk behavior. It is also true that they are lawyers, doctors, chefs, butchers, teachers, nurses and just kids. Many of them were only briefly involved in high-risk behavior and some have no easily identifiable risk. I have seen infants who struggle for each breath they take and I have looked into the eyes of a young newlywed whose husband was victimized by an incestuous uncle. Whatever the circumstances, they are all in the clutches of one of the most horrendous killers ever witnessed. The battle is daily and often death is a relief.

Medical science has rallied around this disease with a degree of unity seldom before seen. Progress is slow and despite all efforts the virus is elusive. We have become so sophisticated about antibiotics that it is hard to understand how such a tiny virus could baffle the finest scientific minds in the world. A cure will surely be found but not in the foreseeable future.

Meanwhile, we have only prevention, and prevention begins with education. Education about AIDS, as with all education, must begin in the home. The state has mandated AIDS education in the schools but that is just a small part of what needs to be done. Every man, woman and child in our community needs to understand the ramifications of this disease. □

PALISADES HOMES

by Wallace W. Heath, Architect

As is true of most American villages, both Palisades and the section of the village east of Rte. 9W known as Snedens Landing are made up of a variety of architectural styles or periods, each reflecting the tastes of succeeding generations. Although there has been considerable building on both sides of 9W, especially after the completion of the George Washington Bridge, both parts of the village have managed to retain a great deal of bucolic charm. As a matter of fact, views of the village taken around the turn of the century show remarkably little difference in snapshots taken of the same views today.

The Snedens Landing section is especially rich in pre-Revolutionary and post-Revolutionary stone houses, usually referred to as "Dutch Colonial" architecture. This style proved to be so compatible to the Hudson Valley that it continued, with hardly any basic differences, well into the 19th century. Palisades, along the village square and Oak Tree Road, has no old stone houses but is almost completely unspoiled with its white frame Colonial and Victorian houses.

Both parts of the village have always had a strong attraction for architects. In the 1920s, William Lawrence Bottomley, Tom Ellet, and later Eric Gugler, all distinguished New York City architects, lived and did work in the Landing. It was as a young architect in the office of Larry Bottomley that I was introduced to his friends, Mrs. Mary Tonetti and her daughter, Chrissie, and first heard of Snedens Landing.

It was through Chrissie and her husband, Jack Ratcliff, that I designed my first house on Woods Road. The Woods Road house was to be a vacation home for the summer, week-ends, and holidays for a young couple who had agreed to take a long lease on it when it was completed. Eventually, they began to live in the house the year round, and in time they bought it, and I made several additions and alterations. The house is of local stone and slate and is indigenous to the countryside. It is now the property of Pinchas Zuckerman, the well-known musician.

Almost adjacent and to the north of the first house on Woods Road, is another house on the Ratcliff property a few years later. It also is of local stone and slate and follows the local idiom in style. After leasing it for a number of years, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Norris bought it.

After World War II, shortly after I returned from the Pacific area, my wife and I spent a weekend with the Ratcliffs at "Cliffside," the large Lawrence house that they had recently bought from Chrissie's family. It was then that Jack told me that he had sold the great stone barn on the property

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to a mutual friend, Charles Wertenbaker and his wife, Lael. The Wertenbakers had spent the war years in London with *Time-Life* and were back in the States waiting for a reassignment to Paris. When it was eventually bought by Norman and Ellen Galinsky, I did a very comprehensive redesigning of the living room, dining room, master bedroom and bath, with its own fireplace and Jacuzzi, and a large studio on the lower floor for Norman.

In the meantime, the large house, "Cliffside," had gone through several owners, the last being Ellen Burstyn, for whom I designed a "Meditation Room" on the top floor. When she sold the property a few months ago, she bought a smaller house just a few feet south on Lawrence Lane. I had designed this house for Gert Macy on property adjacent to her own house. Built of masonry, it was contemporary in style and partly cantilevered over the cliff. After some time, Miss Macy sold it to her tenants, the Sharkey sisters, who in turn, sold it to Ms. Burstyn.

To revert to the 1950s, when taste in architecture was leaning heavily towards the Contemporary or "Modern" style. Mac Whitney, the son of Charles and Jean Whitney, had married and the young couple asked me to design a house for them on Woods Road, just west of the parents' home. It was designed in the Modern style, of local stone and redwood siding. There is a giant stone fireplace in the living room with its thirty-foot high cathedral ceiling of wood and an oversize studio type window at the gable end. After the Whitneys moved from the Landing, the house was bought by Jon Voight and his wife, Marcelline, and their children. When she went back to California to live, the house was sold to Joe Piscopo.

Marina and Jim Harrison's house is just to the north of the Piscopo house on Wood's Road. It is also designed in the Modern style with natural-finish cedar siding, a living room ceiling of the "cathedral" type, and lots of glass. I like to feel that the house, like the others mentioned, blends in very harmoniously with its surrounding landscape.

Some years after the second Whitney house was completed, Hugh and Erica Knowlton bought the property just south of it on Woods Road. The house that I designed for them was a combination of masonry and frame in construction and again in the Modern style with a fairly open plan and lots of glass. Some time after Hugh's death, Erica sold the place to William Hurt.

Before finishing with this part of the Landing, I would like to mention a long rambling house, still under construction on property just off the northern end of Woods Road that I designed for Pat

and Howard Farber. It is built of stone and slate and is of a more traditional style than the last three houses mentioned.

Over the years, there have been only a few houses on Washington Spring Road that I haven't added to or renovated, including the Palisades Presbyterian Church. On one small house, now owned by William McGivney and Dave Sanders, I was twice engaged as the architect. It had originally been a barn on the property of Howard and Joe Walden. When the present owners bought it several years ago, I again worked on it and today it is quite an outstanding place.

Almost directly across the road from "The Barn" is a rambling stucco house with a wood shingle roof that I designed for Chrissie Ratcliff when she was alone. The house was an interesting challenge to me for the property, on first sight, seemed almost unbuildable. This house is a free interpretation of the traditional style with a slight flavor of the Caribbean.

I have been fortunate in the past for doing a fair amount of work in the main part of Palisades, west of Route 9W. One of the most satisfying jobs for me was the alterations and additions to the Palisades Library. Also around that time were the alterations and additions made to the Sanderson Rockefeller home on Oak Tree Road and to both the Standish Thayer and Reginald Thayer houses. I designed another house on the triangle for the daughter of Robert and Lois Burcaw and her husband. The house is now owned by the Gundlachs and is where an extensive collection of Bob's artwork is shown to great advantage.

Also on Oak Tree Road is the weekend and vacation cottage of Margaret Stillman. It had been the charming home of Bubbles and Pierre Lalire before Margaret bought it and asked me to make some alterations and renovations.

Once, while spending another weekend with the Ratcliffs, there was a telephone call for me from Bentz Plagemann. Bentz advised that they were selling the old house but retaining a portion of the property on which they wanted me to design a house to their specifications, to wit: that it should be all on one level, that it should be Pompeian in plan, with all the rooms built around a central interior courtyard. Bentz, the writer, wanted a study and bath of his own, and Kitty, the author of books on cooking, wanted a commodious kitchen and greenhouse. The house is of masonry and stucco and the central court, or atrium, is entirely covered with a large skylight. It is especially pleasant to visit there in the dead of winter, when the surrounding

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FOR WHOM THE BELL TOLLS

by Bernard J. Albin

For many years Palisades residents have been insulated from the effects of the rapid growth of Rockland County because our hamlet had an established community, and existing undeveloped parcels were smaller and more difficult sites for construction. The rapid increase in the value of real estate has made development on individual lots economically attractive, and we can expect the rapid infilling of all vacant land in Orangetown.

At the present time the tidal wave of new coming development in the town has not created a great impact on our lifestyle in Palisades. A great change is inevitable, not only for residents who live on or close to roads such as Oak Tree, Rt. 340, Rt. 9W, etc., but also for those who believe that the more isolated location of Snedens Landing affords protection from the burgeoning development of the county.

Beyond the most obvious changes of small natural woodlots being replaced by new homes and manicured landscaping, we can all expect traffic delays at local signalled intersections; parking shortages near shopping; long lines at supermarket check-outs--in short, the typical life style of typical suburban areas. One-on-one relationships in all local commercial contacts will soon be a thing of the past. We can expect to show proof of identity every time we go to our local bank and expect to see the replacement of a large portion of the small individually owned service facilities by larger franchised operations with absentee management.

The most influential development impacting our life style may be beyond the borders of Orangetown and largely outside our control. Construction of a new Hudson River crossing, a new regional shopping center (perhaps in Orangetown) and a regional solid waste disposal plant are all part of the future.

It is more useful to evaluate coming development within the town of Orangetown and it's potential impact on our life style in Palisades. The Hilton Hotel in Pearl River across from the Blue Hill Office Park: The full utilization of Blue Hill has not occurred and the Hilton Hotel will add an increment in traffic which will be more obvious during evening hours. Perhaps the most significant new construction presently under way in Orangetown is the expansion of Lederle Laboratories. The first building under way at the present time is 67 feet high, 375 feet wide and 240 feet long. Numerous other new buildings are planned, including buildings for biological products with a scale similar to that of the building now under construction. Areas now available for major projects in Orangetown include the very large site of the former Orangeburg Pipe Company on Route 303 near the intersection with

the Palisades Interstate Parkway. These are merely examples of a few of the larger projects under construction or planned for the near future.

Projects which we will have little control over include the proposed development of the Piermont Pier by Carlyle Inc. for 227 units in condominium apartments and townhouses with a proposed marina estimated at this time for up to 700 slips; and the proposal to build an additional bridge near the present Throughway bridge. The Palisades area and adjacent New Jersey locations have been studied for bridge location.

The present complacency about the I.B.M. project in Palisades derives in part from the hidden quality of most of this development. When this facility is fully active with parking for close to 1000 cars, numerous additional vehicular service trips, including trucks, will all put a very visible strain on local streets. Since this is operated very much like a hotel we can expect typical tourist sightseeing on week-ends with the river front as a prime objective.

The Architecture and Community Appearance Board of Review of The Town of Orangetown has done much to ameliorate the aesthetic impact of new development. I am pleased to have been able, as chairman of ACABOR for many years, to assist in preserving our precious environment. Everyone must realize that change is inevitable and the quality of these changes can only be controlled if we have active and dedicated citizen participation in every level of local government.

John Donne declared 400 years ago that no man was an island--we are all part of the main. No statement could more accurately describe the condition of every man and woman in Palisades. □

Wallace Heath/Continued from p. 5

orchard is covered with snow, to see a bougainvillea tree in full bloom and hear a fountain trickling in the sun-filled and glass-covered courtyard.

That just about concludes the Palisades/Snedens Landing Saga, but doesn't finish it. At this time, I am working on plans for a house for Holly and David Seeger, hoping to have them ready for construction estimates this spring. Also, we hope to have the new additions to the Palisades Presbyterian Church become a reality, along with the daffodils. □

NEW NEIGHBOR

by Joseph Tonetti

Palisades has a new neighbor. Let us welcome the IBM Corporation! From all appearances this newcomer will be unobtrusive in its setting.

The complex lies at the end of an "S" curved driveway behind a formidable berm. The structures are concealed from Route 9W, with service access from Route 340. Parking places are carefully distributed about the site and landscaped in order to break up the massive scale. The view from 9W is discreet, with only a geometric gate house and some formal landscaping visible.

Upon entering the site, one enjoys an element of surprise as the project unfolds. The complex's four main components are arranged in a campus-like fashion and focus on a man-made lake. This setting lends a bucolic feeling to the environment. Romanticism is reinforced by a connecting bridge over a brook and walkway linking the reception, dining, educational and residential wing with the fitness center, administration offices and conference building. The buildings are low-profile and undulate with the rolling landscape. The tallest building is the three-story 200-bed residential wing.

The architects, Mitchell Guirgola, have succeeded in integrating these buildings into the suburban community. The formal gardens and softly textured materials help to accomplish this. The combination of teak windows, terne-coated roofs and stone copings over rose-colored brick reinforce this warm and pleasant atmosphere. The brick is undercut to allow a masonry join equal in width to the face brick itself. In simple terms the texture is soft and welcoming.

IBM's "pleasant-place-to-be" concept is consistent within the buildings, which include an indoor olympic-sized swimming pool, weight room and handball courts. Jogging paths and nature trails are woven into the landscape. This low-key elegance is compatible with the community and inviting to its visitors as well. Visitors will be executives training in state of the art computer facilities.

Why Palisades? This particular site was selected because it is one of the very few 100-acre wooded sites central to three major airports and in close proximity to New York City. An added benefit is its neighbor, Palisades Interstate Park at Tallman Mountain. But to those Palisadians who fought hard for controlling their destiny this means not only a healthy ratable but the establishment of a level of quality which will have to be met by all newcomers. □

BLUE ROCK SCHOOL EXPANDS

Since we last heard from The Blue Rock School their enrollment has increased. Also, their afternoon program for grades 1-3, which includes pottery at Sylvia March's and music with Josephine Thatcher, has recently added two new subjects: French with a young Frenchman, Haldor Enard, and gymnastics with Eden-Lee Jellinek.

There is a music class on Thursday afternoons for kindergarten children which is available to community children not enrolled in the school. The class meets from 1 to 1:45. There is a small fee. Mrs. Thatcher says one or two places are still open. You may call the school office at 365-2644 if you are interested.

An advisory board of Palisades residents is being formed. Present members are Karen Freedman, Judy Platt, Lew and Josephine Thatcher, and Roger Weisberg.

Next fall grade 4 will be added. The school is now accepting applications for grades K-4 for the 1988-89 school year.

Boyce Leni

THORPE INTERMEDIA GALLERY

Thorpe Intermedia Gallery announces the addition of a second artist to its artist-in-residence program. Multimedia artist Sally Agee of Nyack has joined fresco painter Barbara Meise in using a section of the gallery's large space as a working studio.

Agee combines paper, paint, found materials, and much more, with a vivid imagination to create visually rich, "one-of-a-kind" books, popularly known in the art world as "artists' books." During her stay at Thorpe Intermedia Gallery she will work on a book that is larger in size than any of her previous works in this genre.

The first and third Sundays of each month from 1 to 4 p.m. are open studio days at Thorpe Intermedia Gallery. Visitors are encouraged to drop in, visit with, talk to, or just watch artists Sally Agee and Barbara Meise as they work. Admission is free. □

OUR LOCAL DISTRICTS, PART II

by Andrew E. Norman

Last month, we chopped away at the "thicket of districts" which serve Palisadians -- the school and fire districts, both governed by directly elected boards, and the library district, which no longer has a board of its own (contrary to information in last month's article: instead, the four libraries now transmit their joint budget request directly to the Town Board).

Our youngest district was, like the library district, born of citizen initiative and innovation. The South Orangetown Ambulance Corps (SOAC) had met all its expenses by mail appeals and fund-raising events for its first 25 years, but by 1982 the rising cost of training and equipment threatened the all-volunteer group's survival unless tax support could be found.

Two ambulance districts on Long Island provided instructive models. Both had been created by special state legislation, however, and that route not only promised delay but bore the threat of intervention by Albany experts with their own ideological agenda -- the curse of the library district's early years. The SOAC's leaders came up with a brilliantly simple solution: a standard "improvement district" with the Town Board as commissioners. This form is normally used to pay off bonds issued to finance a local capital improvement, such as a lateral sewer line, but can be used to finance the provision of an ongoing public service to a specified area.

Now operating under its fifth annual contract with the South Orangetown Ambulance District (for \$150,000), the Corps maintains its own building on Independence Avenue, Tappan, and answers an average of five or six calls a day with its two ambulances and some 30 volunteer drivers and trained emergency medical technicians. In addition to emergency service, the Corps provides ambulance transportation to and from any hospital within 50 miles for residents of the district, which includes Palisades, Sparkill, Tappan, Orangeburg and Blauvelt.

The biggest of our districts is the Orangetown Sewer District, which now takes in the whole town, including the four villages, with one exception: the unsewered area of Palisades east of 9W. Also using the Orangetown sewer system under contract are Upper Nyack in Clarkstown, the Borough of Rockleigh and a cluster of homes in Old Tappan, New Jersey.

Orangetown's sewers evolved from the system built by the U.S. Army for Camp Shanks, which covered much of Tappan, Orangeburg and

Blauvelt and finished its career as veteran-student housing after World War II. Its outfall--the huge pipe carrying treated water from Orangeburg through Sparkill and Piermont and out into the Hudson--was acquired by the town as part of the complex closing arrangement. The town gradually extended sewer lines in all directions, finally reaching Palisades in the early 1970s. The fact that the Palisades sewer was designed by town officials and experts without community input and control may explain why it terminates under the traffic light in the middle of Route 9W instead of continuing across to pick up another dozen houses whose natural groundwater drainage toward the west is blocked by 9W and whose septic tanks therefore cannot function properly during rainy seasons.

The smallest and simplest of our tax districts is a pure piece of accounting to allocate the cost of fire hydrants. The hydrants belong to the Spring Valley Water Company, and the annual rental charge is set by the State Public Service Commission. The total rent in each water district is divided by the total tax assessment in the district to produce the district's tax rate. In Orangetown this year, the rates range from 12.83 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value in Pearl River to 25.56 cents in Sparkill. The Palisades Water District falls right in the middle at 18.98 cents per \$1,000.

Election districts are another matter altogether, since they are not taxable entities and their boundaries are periodically changed to reflect changes in population, state law and local political conditions. No ED may have more than 950 registered voters; with 800 to 950, it must have two machines.

Palisades voters were divided into two EDs in the mid-1960s, with #12 east of the Palisades Interstate Parkway and #50 to its west. The boundaries remained static until last year, when the state required all election districts to conform to the specifications for census tracts. It must be possible to walk completely around a district's perimeter; thus every border except a municipal boundary must be the center-line of a public road.

Palisadians interested in the current issue of village incorporation should be aware that incorporation would not alter the status, boundaries or taxes of any of these districts--school, fire, library, ambulance, sewer or water. Nor would it affect the existing election district boundaries with regard to non-village elections.

Next month, *Deo volente*, the county. □

THE WILD PALISADES OF THE HUDSON

A book review by Roger Jellinek

I've always considered myself quite well informed about my surroundings in Palisades. Looking through a pile of guidebooks, I realized how little I knew, and I found the standard New York guidebooks are necessarily quite generalized. But I was lucky enough to come upon a fine exception, *The Wild Palisades of the Hudson*, by John Serrao.

Serrao, who has a degree in environmental education from Cornell, is director of Greenbrook Sanctuary, which lies in Tenaflly and Alpine, and is part of the Palisades Interstate Park. The book, published in 1986, is well-illustrated (with some striking color). It gives an excellent and easy introduction to the history of the Palisades, and a practical guide to their outstanding features and natural history.

Item: The Palisades cliffs you live on stretch from Staten Island to Mount Ivy. These cliffs are composed of volcanic rock that surged up and forced its way laterally as a 1,000-foot-thick "sill" between layers of sandstone some 100 million years ago. The thousands of feet of mountains above eroded away, laying bare an edge of the sill---the cliffs we see today.

Item: There are at least 136 fish species in the Hudson, ranging from striped anchovies to sea horses to sturgeon. There are some 65 species of butterflies, a few hundred species of spiders, 400 species of wildflowers, 35 species of mammals (including coyotes), and about 15 species of turtles and snakes (copperheads are rare and very shy). The number of different bird species is conservatively estimated at 275, with a particularly special diverse population of freshwater and saltwater birds in Piermont marsh. From Hook Mountain birders can count up to 25,000 migrating hawks between September and November.

Item: There were some 6,000 Indians of the Lenni Lenape, or Delawares, living in this area; by 1700 they had been finally driven out by the Dutch settlers. A community of former slaves lived in Skunk Hollow, in what is now the Lamont Sanctuary, for most of the 19th century.

Item: The Hudson River School of painters did much to romanticize the image of the Palisades, prompting the building of great riverside estates and country homes from Fort Lee to Nyack by wealthy New Yorkers. Appreciation for the beauty and wilderness of the Palisades prompted the purchase of the quarries, and between 1900 and 1965, with funds contributed largely by philanthropists such as the Rockefellers, Perkinses, Harrimans, and Twombleys, the Interstate Park

Commission created an almost continuous Palisades Interstate Park, from Fort Lee to Haverstraw, and comprising 62,000 acres (in addition to the 75,000 acres of Harriman and Bear Mountain). Some of the few gaps have been purchased by the Rockland County Park commission. (Palisades resident Nash Castro is currently the Superintendent of the PIP.)

Item: One of the first great environmental battles in the United States was fought between Hudson conservationist-fishermen and Con Edison, on the issue of the impact of power plants on fish and the river. A landmark "Hudson River Peace Treaty" was signed in 1980 after 18 years of controversy and litigation.

These are a handful of the facts and themes gleaned from John Serrao's book. He also presents the natural history of the Palisades habitat by habitat, and for the conservationists there is a clear and quietly expert discussion of the impact of natural as well as man-made changes on the ecology of the Palisades.

Half the book is a guide to three dozen specific features of the Palisades--from nature centers to boat basins and smaller parks from Fort Lee to Mount Ivy. And for 10964 readers there are descriptions of the nearby and easily accessible Lamont Sanctuary, Tallman Mountain State Park, Piermont Marsh, and parks along the Palisades where they move inland at Clausland Mountain, Tackamack, Blauvelt and Buttermilk Falls. Each has its own simple map, and each is given a brief description of its history, facilities, and natural highlights.

There is a good bibliography and a list of additional sources of information, centers and relevant organizations. The book is available at the Library, and at local bookstores. (*The Wild Palisades of the Hudson*. By John Serrao. 169 pp. Illustrated. Lind Publications. Westwood, N.J. \$29.95.) □

EXTRA COPIES

People wanting extra copies of our newsletter may call the Editor.

MORE FROM MARINA HARRISON'S GUIDE FOR WALKERS

AN OLD IRON MINE TRAIL Harriman State Park, N.Y.

How to get there: George Washington Bridge to Palisades Parkway north. Toward the end, follow signs for Route 6 west. Almost immediately you will come to a circle. Go around the circle about 3/4 of the way and take the Seven Lakes Drive. After about 4 miles you will come to two lakes on either side of the road. The parking area you want is to your right, next to Lake Skannatati.

This 3-mile circular hike combines an interesting bit of history with a beautiful natural setting. Harriman State Park in the Ramapo Hills is filled with historic sites, among them a great many 19th-century iron mines. In this region iron mining, which began in the mid-18th century, had become an important industry by the time of the Revolutionary War, when about fourteen percent of the entire world's supply of iron ore was produced here. By the mid-nineteenth century mines and blast furnaces for smelting iron ore proliferated, including the Arden Furnace, now called Clove Iron Furnace (see below). The work was arduous, winters were rugged, and disease rampant. Many died of malaria or black fly disease spread by mosquitoes from nearby swamps. And the land became ravaged: masses of trees were cut down and burned for charcoal, and mines were blasted continuously. It's hard to imagine that what is now a truly peaceful oasis of forests and lakes was, only one hundred years ago, a wasteland, smoldering and denuded.

The mines in the region were abandoned in the late 1880s, when iron mining proved more profitable and efficient near the anthracite coal beds of Pennsylvania. The Harriman family bought many thousands of acres in the Ramapo region at auction, and gradually—from the early 1900s on—gave up large parcels to be used for public parkland.

The excursion we recommend includes only some of the numerous iron mines, but enough to give you an idea of what they were like. Some are huge, others so small you do not even notice them. Some are like caves that you can actually enter. This hike is one that will appeal to families with children, as well as to fit walkers. Children will love the adventuresome aspect of discovering the mines as they go along. However, they should be cautioned to be careful, as the mines are not sealed for the most part. Because the terrain is hilly with some fairly strenuous climbing and uneven footing, the walk is recommended for those who are

used to rougher hikes. It might be fun to bring along a magnet to test the rocks next to the mines for iron ore content. This method was one of several used to determine where to locate mines. (Another way to test iron ore content was to look for rocks that appeared rusty.)

The Walk

Leave your car at the parking area for boating and fishing next to Lake Skannatati (Lake Askoti is on your left). You will begin a somewhat strenuous climb up Pine Swamp Mountain; at the summit are some spectacular glacial boulders. You will come to a lovely lookout point to view serene Lake Skannatati below. You will reach what used to be a wood road for transporting wood from the forest. Go left on this flat, somewhat wide path, which is part of the same Arden-Surebridge Trail. Now you should begin to look for iron mines. Cross a stream and bear left onto a new trail, the Dunning Trail. To your left you see the peaceful-looking Pine Swamp, which was a breeding ground for the mosquito plagues the miners had to endure. If you are willing to abandon the trail momentarily in order to locate one of the more spectacular cave-like mines, go up the slope on your right (which was a tailing pile from mining times), until you come to a forty- or-so foot rocky cliff surrounded by a large hole, now filled with water and debris, and a dramatic cave to the left. If you look inside the cave (which the more intrepid might wish to climb), you will see on your left drill marks from mining days.

After the Walk

You might be interested in visiting a restored blast furnace from the heyday of the iron mining era, the Clove Furnace Historic Site, once called Greenwood Furnace, then Arden Furnace. This furnace began operation in 1854, to make the necessary iron to manufacture cannons for the Civil War. It thrived until 1885 when it was converted to a dairy farm. This picturesque site includes a number of buildings from its various lives. Among them: the impressive furnace itself, two stone silos from its farm days, a quaint but run-down farm building which was once a milk bottling factory, and the turbine building which provided power to operate the furnace. The Furnace is open Monday-Friday, from 9-5. For further information call the Orange County Historical Society, at 914-351-4696.

A Walker's Guidebook: Serendipitous Outings Near New York City. Michael Kesend Pub., Ltd. □

THEATRE CALENDAR FOR APRIL
by Eden-Lee Jellinek

In Rockland:

ANTRIM PLAYERS

Spook Rock Rd., Suffern. 354-9503

"I Never Sang For My Father." Robert Anderson's moving, insightful drama dealing with the disquieting alienation between an adult son and his aging, irascible father.

April 15,16,22,23,29,30

BELFRY REPERTORY

S. Broadway, Nyack. 358-8583

"Handy Dandy." A lively 2-character play about the confrontations between a liberal nun and the conservative curmudgeon of a judge she keeps running into as a result of her radical activism.

April 15,16,17,21,22,23,24,29,30

"You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown." Musical delight featuring the lovable world and characters of Charles Schultz.

Beginning April 30 for a two-week run.

ELMWOOD PLAYHOUSE

Park St., Nyack. 358-4445

"The Lady's Not for Burning." Christopher Frye's scathing and delightful romantic comedy about witch hunts in 15th-Century England.

April 8,9,10,15,16,17

PENGUIN REPERTORY

Crickettown Rd., Stony Point. 786-2873

"The Immigrant." Mark Harelik's poignant and funny new play is based upon the playwright's Yiddish grandfather's adventures as he fled the pogroms in Russia to become the first Jew to settle in Texas under the Galveston Plan.

April 8 - May 1: Thurs. and Fri. 8:30; Sat. 6:00 and 9:00 p.m.; Sun. 2:30. (Don't forget the tie-in Sunday Brunch at the Bouldenburg Manor.)

April's special note:

While not "theatre" per se, the Downstairs at the Turning Point in Piermont offers an exciting music menu for the month of April, featuring the likes of Brewer & Shipley, Jesse Colin Young, Livingston Taylor, Tom Chapin, Holly Near, John Hammons and more. The Crown Players will present "The We Nobody Knows" on April 10,17 and 24 at 8 p.m. Wednesday, April 27 is "Open Mike Night" - come and be surprised to find a friend or neighbor performing, or perform yourself! (Katie Elevitch has sung there twice already!) For further information on dates, times and reservations, call: 359-1089.

In New Jersey:

BERGEN COUNTY PLAYERS

298 Kinderkamack Rd., Oradell. 201-261-4200

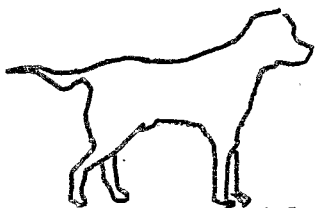
"The Oldest Living Graduate." Funny and touching comedy by Preston Jones.
Running in April.



ABOUT BANDIT

Bandit, the Ludington's golden retriever, died on Valentine's Day at age eleven. She was much loved by all who knew her. When Cass and Nick moved to Cyprus, Ellen Burstyn adopted Bandit. Ellen's son, Jeff, was home alone when Bandit died. He called his mother in Berlin. She wrote the Ludingtons in Cyprus. Cass then called me here in the States to commiserate. We all mourned Bandit's passing. Cass has sent 10964 the following prayer in memory of Bandit.

Karen Jefferies



A Prayer of Thanksgiving by Cass Ludington

Lord, we thank You tonight for the privilege of having known Bandit.

She was indeed a great and generous being and we are so grateful for the joy she brought us and the love she caused in us all as a response to all that love she gave.

She loved as You do - everyone, without exception, putting us mortals to shame.

She hid hamsters under her when they escaped and nursed baby kittens at her bosom. She loved us when we were most unlovable.

She was Yours from nose to tail.

Thank You for sending her to us.

May we never forget her.

Amen.

THE PALISADES FREE LIBRARY

All residents of Palisades and Sparkill are invited to join the Library. Registering is a simple matter. Identification and proof of residence are needed (a driver's license, telephone bill or check with your current address; P.O. box number is not sufficient). So do come and browse.

After filling out your registration card, you may start borrowing books and other materials immediately.

Some Forthcoming Books

Non-Fiction

Callow	Charles Laughton
Davidson	Spencer Tracy
Fairbanks	Salad Days
Grossman	Yellow Wind
Mitgang	Dangerous Dossiers
Rollyson	Lillian Hellman
Sheehy	Character
Zion	Autobiography of Roy Cohn

Fiction

Auchincloss	Golden Calves
Berger	The Houseguest
Garcia Marquez	Love in the Time of Cholera
Gold	Dreaming
Plante	The Native
Willeford	Way We Die Now

Note: The 1988 editions of the Edmond price guides to new, used and foreign cars are now available.

Library Plant Sale Set for May 7th

The Annual Spring Plant Sale to benefit the Palisades Free Library will be held on Saturday, May 7. Ronnie Estadella and Bill McGivney, aided by David Sanders, are in charge of flowers, vegetables, herbaceous borders, and all things photosynthetic. They gently solicit "growing" contributions (call Ronnie, 359-5037), which should be exhumed and potted a week before the sale so they will look invitingly fresh on May 7.

Lynn Diamond will preside over the event's always popular bakery and gourmet table. She would appreciate your contributions of local culinary masterpieces (call Lynn, 359-7546).

Bibliophiles and browsers will be attracted to the used books display organized by Barbara Eberle, who is always looking for contributions of old books (call Barbara, 359-2915). The other talented Eberle, Bill, assisted by John Fawcett and Don Lipkin, will cater the traditional fare from the grill. Bring hearty appetites on the 7th! While engulfing one of their grill items remember to put your raffle tickets in the box. Raffle tickets can be bought from the library desk, the trustees, and the irresistible raffle-waifs unleashed upon an expectant community. Dinny Price and Nina Prusinowski head up the raffle.

Do come, meet our mascot, the Book Worm. We guarantee you will find excitement. □

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Palisades Artists

On April 3 will be the opening of an art exhibit at the Thompson Gallery, Main Street, Tappan, featuring the following Palisades artists: Julia M. Breer (daughter of Frances and Bob Breer); Jocelyn Drechsler-DeCrescenzo (daughter of Paula and Lee Drechsler); James DeCrescenzo, and Jane Herold. The opening, catered by Joe Hyde and with music by Jacquelyn Drechsler, will be from 1-5 p.m. The show will run for one month.

Welcome to the World Allison

Kevin and Diane O'Connor of Horne Tooke Road became the proud parents of Allison Caitlin on February 19, 1988.

Deidre Allen Opens New Office

Deidre Allen of Red Oak Drive in Palisades, is a speech-language pathologist, and has just announced the opening of her new office for the evaluation and treatment of communication disorders in infants, children and adults. She deals with the areas of voice, stuttering, tongue thrust, articulation, sign language, and hearing impairment. Good luck, Deidre!

Young Don Bracken on CBS Radio

Don Bracken, Jr. recently made his radio debut on CBS Radio's "News 88." During the month of February, Don gave the traffic report on Saturday afternoons and evenings, reporting twice each hour. A junior and a communications major at Manhattan College in Riverdale, Don's "sitting in" stemmed from an internship program arranged for him by the college.

ROCKLAND CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Briton to Teach Calligraphy

Peter Thornton, noted British scribe, will teach a series of calligraphy workshops in April to advanced calligraphy students. Workshop dates and fees are as follows:

First session Wed. - Fri., April 6,7,8: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fee, \$75.

Second session Fri., April 8: 7 to 9 p.m.; and Sat. and Sun., April 9,10: 10 to 4 p.m. Fee, \$60.

The fee: \$100 for both sessions.

Jazz Benefit

Jazz buffs will hear the rich sounds of Tom Artin and Eddie Condon's Band at a benefit Sunday, April 10, from 5 to 8 p.m. Proceeds will support the Paul Y. Keating Photographic Competition which honors the memory of the late, young *Time* magazine photographer from Suffern. The ticket price of \$25 per person includes the live band, dancing, hot hors d'oeuvres served buffet style and beverages.

Silk and Dried Flower Arranging

Lori Eastwich, a Rockland County floral designer, will conduct a workshop on Sunday, April 17, from 1 to 4 p.m. It will include a lecture/demonstration on basic concepts of style, line and technique, and students will have an opportunity to create their own arrangements. The fee is \$25 plus a materials charge of \$15.

Ceramicist Explores Potter's Art

"Making Ceramic Mugs" will be taught by Don Bradford on three Sunday afternoons, April 10 and 24, and May 15, from 1 to 4 p.m. Fee for the three sessions is \$75 and includes all materials and firing fees.

Flower Power: A Watercolor Workshop

Carolyn Pedersen, Rockland County watercolor artist, will lead four sessions scheduled for Wed., April 20, 27: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; and May 4,11. The fee for all four sessions is \$85.

Ceramics Workshop

A workshop on using the potter's wheel for "Throwing Big Pieces" will be offered on Sunday, May 1, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Recommended for intermediate to advanced level ceramics students.

Penmanship Workshop

The art of ornamental penmanship will be the focus of a workshop on Sun., May 1, 1 - 4 p.m. Irene Calendo of Rochester, a Master Penman, will teach Spencerian script, a graceful handwriting style popular during the 19th and early 20th centuries. The emphasis will be on decorative initials.

For reservations and information, call (914) 358-0877. The Center is located at 27 South Greenbush, West Nyack.



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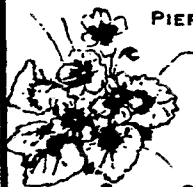
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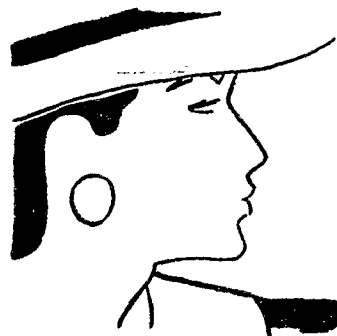


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CLASSIFIED

For Sale: Snedens Landing redwood and fieldstone contemporary on 2 acres; 5 bedrooms, den, 3-1/2 plus baths, designer Italian tile; 2 stone fireplaces; gourmet kitchen; much, much more--Call for appointment 359-2476. Marilyn and Vinnie Solimine.

For Sale: '78 LTD Landau Sedan V-8. Full power options, good condition, hi miles. Excellent family, commuter, or second car. Runs great! Asking: \$975. Call eves: 359-7392.

10964 DEADLINE

The deadline for copy for the May issue is April 15. Please send copy to 10964, Box 201, Palisades, N. Y. 10964. The May issue will appear in your mail as close to the first of the month as possible.

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