

# 10964

*The Palisades Newsletter*

November 1989 • No. 115

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## From the Staff:

10964's appearance is evolving. Thanks to John Converse for his interest, time, and expertise and to his computer and software, we are able to experiment with our format. As usual, we appreciate hearing from our readers and will value your comments on this phase of the newsletter.

## Welcome IBM!

by Diana Reif

Our new corporate neighbor, IBM Palisades Advanced Business Institute, is now fully operating in its sprawling woodland setting here on Route 9W. Since late April, IBM customer executives have been attending classes, termed "events," in a learning center which replaces and consolidates similar IBM programs previously located in five other U.S. sites.

Connie Nicolosi, local Communications Administrator, recently invited me for a tour and brief view of the institute on behalf of 10964. "We are happy to be here and look forward to being good corporate neighbors," commented Nicolosi upon welcoming me.

Nicolosi explained that the Institute, with a current staff of about 140 under the direction of

Jack Hammond, was established to "increase our customers' ability to direct and manage their investment in information systems for competitive advantage." In other words, they teach strategies rather than keyboard techniques so that top executives can understand how their computer systems can help them achieve their marketing objectives. IBM customer executives, accompanied by their marketing representatives, are treated to a program of "events" lasting from one to five days. The teachers are business professionals with top academic credentials.

The learning center features the latest advanced technology including computer controlled audio-visual media with student response keyboards at each desk. Examining the com-

plex computer controls for each classroom, I felt as though I were studying the instruments of a space shuttle. The 22 state-of-the-art classrooms range in size from 20 to 94 seats, all with fixed birds-eye maple desks. There are an additional 21 briefing and breakout rooms, as well as strategically located glass enclosed coffee pavilions.

But IBM Palisades is more than just a schoolhouse. It is a full service conference center with about 200 Marriott employees providing first-class hotel and restaurant facilities for IBM. In the windowed dining room overlooking the woods and pond, breakfast and dinner are served formally with silver and linens. I was lucky enough to be an invited guest for a delicious lunch

*Continued on Page 8*

# Forty Years On

## "The Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory"

by Roger Jellinek

*Many residents may have visited the Lamont campus at the annual Open House, or they may have seen Lamont seismologists interviewed and consulted on network news after major earthquakes. But many are still somewhat mystified by the arcane sounding "Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory of Columbia University." We asked Roger Jellinek, who is Editor of the Lamont newsletter, to write a series of articles on the Observatory for 10964.*

I'd probably been living in Palisades a year before I stumbled across Lamont, looking for a way to the Skunk Hollow waterfall. Its deeply wooded setting and formal landscaping atop the Palisades cliffs made the incongruous black-top ribbon connecting a rough mix of vaguely military sheds and some modern concrete campus architecture especially shocking. Embedded in this haphazard 100-acre lunar colony was an older stone mansion with its assortment of fieldstone outbuildings set in the remains of a grand estate (the "weekend cottage" of the Thomas Lamont family, built in 1928 and donated to Columbia University by the Lamont family in 1948). I didn't give much thought to what it was about, and over the years I rarely heard it mentioned by my neighbors.

In fact, many Palisades residents have worked and do work at

Lamont as scientists, technicians and staff. Many Palisades teenagers have worked there in the summer, and quite a few have cruised aboard Lamont ships.

It was quite a few years later, in 1981, that I was introduced to Lamont's new Director, Barry Raleigh, and because of my journalistic and publishing experience, he invited me to produce a brochure about Lamont, and after that a quarterly newsletter that is sent to some 4,000 scientists around the world. I soon found myself in a state of perpetual astonishment—at my ignorance of a world-class institution right on my doorstep, at the range and ambition of its enterprise, and at its unique form of organizational anarchy.

To be fair, Lamont's isolation had been purposeful. Its founder, Maurice ("Doc") Ewing was a driving genius, tremendously energetic and hugely ambitious; three-quarters of the surface of the globe was unexplored, and he aimed to do it all. There simply wasn't time to be sociable. While Lamont was part of Columbia University, he thoroughly enjoyed the independence that distance from the Manhattan campus gave him. In his first annual report in 1950, he wrote, "It is the intention of the entire staff of the Lamont Geological Observatory to make this research unit the world center for geophysical research and study in marine geophysics and geochemis-

try." His perception of the vast possibilities in those fields—they have provided the basic data for understanding both earth history (especially plate tectonics) and most of our current environmental concerns—proved so fruitful that no one institution could now conceivably monopolize them. But Lamont is very much in the forefront.

Ewing was lucky in that he had access to much equipment developed in World War II, and very cheaply. Everyone who went to study at Lamont had to work on gathering data, and Ewing's ships, first the converted yacht Verna, and then the recently retired Robert D. Conrad (operated by Lamont, but owned by the U.S. Navy), ranged literally millions of miles around

*Continued Top of Page 3*

## Why the Rush?

by Patti Katz

I am quite concerned with what seems to me to be the disregard for speed limits in our community. After speaking to other residents who feel likewise, I feel it's time to speak out about the situation.

Now that the school year is well underway, we need to be extra cautious in the posted 15 m.p.h. school zones on Washington Spring Road and Oak Tree Road. Residents who live within these zones say the 15 m.p.h. limit is usually ignored. Please, obey this limit—our children's safety depends on it.

I'm sure we all must admit that at one time or another we may have been in too much of a hurry. But again I ask, why the rush? This is a beautiful community—let's take more time to enjoy it, and avert a possible tragedy.

the globe, gathering an incomparable database. Ewing himself developed a piston corer with which to sample the sediments, and Lamont now has the largest archive of deep-sea sediment cores in the world.

Lamont benefited from the Cold War as well. One of Ewing's many specialties was the study of sound waves underwater—of considerable interest to the Navy for detecting and hiding submarines; sonar waves are one of the principal research tools in geophysics, both in the ocean and the continental crust. The Navy also financed the famous first detailed maps of the ocean floor produced by Marie Tharp and Bruce Heezen. Gravity measurements (variations and anomalies indicate geological features in the Earth's crust—often totally invisible at the surface) are vital for guiding intercontinental ballistic missiles. Lamont's seismology was given a strong boost by nuclear testing in the Aleutians—the Government wanted to know if the blast would set off an

earthquake. One of Lamont's founding seismologists was a student named Frank Press, now President of the American Academy of Sciences. Much of the pioneering work on the use of chemical tracers in the sea to research the long-term movement of ocean waters (essential for understanding climate) exploited the fallout from nuclear test explosions.

However, it is important to note that Lamont has undertaken very little direct military research, and with few exceptions its scientists have been free to publish their data and interpretations as they please. What direct military research there was spun off during the campus turmoil of 1968 in the form of the Palisades Geophysical Institute (based in West Nyack), and has had no relationship to Lamont since.

Today Lamont-Doherty (Doherty was added to the name in 1969, in recognition of a major gift) has a staff of some 600, including 110 Senior (postdoctoral) Scientists, 100 graduate students, and

400 technical and administrative staff. The Observatory is somewhat loosely organized into four Divisions: Marine Geology and Geophysics, Seismology, Geochemistry, and Oceans and Climates (i.e. ancient as well as modern). The range of research is global (as well as the Moon and other planets): from the synergies in the life of ocean bottom-dwelling microscopic beasts to the workings of climate cycles controlled by the sun, from the "mountains" at the center of the earth, to the precise configuration of supercontinents hundreds of millions of years ago, from the modeling of oil and gas migration to the precise measurement of acid rain via the evidence of tree rings, from earthquake prediction to the exact dating of mass extinctions, and from the modeling of the greenhouse gases to tracing the PCBs in the Hudson River.

### *Next Time: Earthquake Prediction At Lamont*

## **MEMORIAL FUND FOR FAY HOLLINGSHEAD ELLISON**

Fay, the first woman in the Presbytery to be called by a congregation to be their sole pastor, was ordained in the Palisades Presbyterian Church on June 15, 1975, and served here as pastor from 1975 to early 1981.

A student at Union Theological Seminary in New York City, she received her Master of Divinity degree in 1974 and was awarded the Maxwell Fellowship, a valedictory prize "For Promise of Excellence in Parish Ministry." Fay also held degrees in Religion and Biblical Studies (Wellesley College), in Theology (MA, the University of

Chicago Divinity School), and had just earned a Master's Degree from the Yale School of Organization and Management when she was stricken with cancer. She lost her fight against this illness just over a year ago, dying on September 15, 1988, three weeks short of her 40th birthday.

Shortly before her death, Fay expressed a wish to those close to her that a scholarship fund in her name be created at Union Theological Seminary where she had studied and served on the Board of Trustees. Union Seminary has agreed to manage and administer the fund which will go to help support women students at Union who are first generation professionals.

If you wish to contribute in Fay's memory, make your check payable to Union Theological Seminary, specifying that it is for The Fay Hollingshead Memorial Schol-

arship. All contributions are tax deductible and should be mailed to: Ms. Phyllis Conley, Development Office, Union Theological Seminary, 3041 Broadway, New York, N. Y. 10027.

### **About 10964**

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.

# Camping Out in the Biblical Wilderness of Palisades

by Chris Iosso,  
Sunday School teacher

Among the forced laborers toiling over the bricks, the entrance of Mr. and Mrs. Pharoah was greeted with even more forced kneeling. The Egyptian overseers had to sit straighter in their reclining chairs, but all was going well, until Moses, his brother, Aaron, and Miriam, the prophetess, showed up. They tried to persuade Mr. and Mrs. Pharoah to free the slaves, but these haughty rulers were as unmoved by the stick that changed into a snake as they were by the groanings of the slaves. So then the infestations and epidemics came, and the groaning was on other lips, and Mr. and Mrs. Pharoah relented—just long enough for the children with red headbands to get up from the brick patio and run almost to the low bridge crossing the little stream in Arnold and Elizabeth Finck's backyard. But then the pursuers in polka-dot sashes were up from their Adirondack chairs and

speeding after the departed, only to go down in the treacherous (and slightly muddy!) waters of the last strip of lawn.

It all happened so fast Moses Barba barely had time to stretch out his hand, and then all were happily plunging into the wilderness of the pasture next to the church, where most had, in fact, explored before. This time, though, there were two campfires and mown (though not flat!) spaces for tents. Johanna Albin, Jake Bell and the other cooks were calling the erstwhile Hebrews up to eat their dinners, and so the scrupulous historic reenactment was temporarily suspended for some stand-up dining and fire worship. Then, while the younger Israelites were taken on a fluorescent manna hunt behind the parish house, the older and wiser group made a golden calf of cardboard, sticks and cloth provided by Jane Sherman. This out-

raged a returning Moses, who pointed to the first pictograph on his modified wooden tablets, a golden calf with a line across it (prepared in last year's Sunday School). Into the fire went the priceless but idolatrous work of art.

Sooner than expected, and with very little murmuring, the wilderness campers settled down, and only quiet adults looked out over the beautiful moonlit field and surrounding woods. In the morning all awoke to find pancakes already made by chef Dale Prusinowski, who gave new meaning to the phrase, "early riser." Suitably fortified, and given New Testament encouragement, the group all went down to the River Hudson on the path behind Lamont, visiting the waterfall and vandalized columns and garden below it. We then staggered back up and down the hill almost by the appointed time, and the Sunday School kick-off camp-out was over. Most of the time our activities are not so dramatic, but they all are designed in some way to help us along a pilgrimage we can share.

## 10964 Deadline

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

## Palisades Free Library

Circle your calendar for Tuesday, December 5, at 4:15 p.m. for a Holiday Craft Program for children ages 5 and up.

The Library will be closed on November 23 and 24.

## New Books

Barry, *The Ambition and the Power*  
Clark, *Anastasia Syndrome & Other Stories*  
Davis, *Miles the Autobiography*  
Deighton, *Spy Line*  
Fairchild, *Chic Savages*  
Francis, *Straight*  
Grimes, *Send Bygraves*  
Holt, *Learning All the Time*  
Spillane, *The Killing Man*  
Tarr, *A Woman of Spirit*

## Palisades Arts Fair

Remember the Arts Fair at the Palisades Presbyterian Church on Saturday, November 4, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. There will be performances by Palisades residents, adults and children, from 12 to 2 p.m. Note that the rain date for this event is Saturday, November 11.

# Palisades Artist in Blue Hill Show

by Maggie Brown Gundlach

Palisades artist Grace Knowlton has for some time been preoccupied, even obsessed, with boulders, rocks, spheres, shards, and more recently, culverts.

Her passion for these artifacts is expansively documented by a selection of her sculptures and drawings on display until January 31 at the Blue Hill Cultural Center. Her work is presented by the Blue Hill Plaza Associates along with paintings by Herbert Aach and Jack Stewart.

"It's almost like a retrospective," the slender artist commented on her work there. Her sculpture is strewn about the complex's garden atrium, other public places and grounds. Several of her boulders sit in close proximity to a pond on which swans swim. These objects, ranging in size from 2 to 6 feet high, embody various materials, including clay, concrete, bronze and steel. There are also wall pieces concocted from such media as calcium-alumina silicate with pigment, as well as culvert drawings combining the artist's photographs with mixed media.

Ms. Knowlton, who holds graduate degrees in art and art history from Smith College and Columbia University Teachers College, has exhibited frequently in New York City and most recently at the Bill Bace gallery in Soho. Locally her work has been shown at Hopper House and the Rockland Center for the Arts. She has also exhibited in various parts of the United States and is represented in the permanent collections of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New-ark Museum, Corcoran Gallery of

Art and the Victoria and Albert Museum in London.

**10964** interviewed the attractive sculptor at the sprawling hilltop brown barn which serves as her studio/home. There on a rain-swept day we were welcomed not only by Ms. Knowlton but also by a pair of handsome poodles. Dispensing tea amidst an intriguing conglomeration of gables, rafters, sheer walls and skylights, Ms. Knowlton explained that after her divorce and the departure of her five children from home, "I just sort of took over all the rooms and made them into a studio, so I don't feel I'm rattling around in a big, empty house. One bedroom became a darkroom; another a matting room." With a laugh she added that she can really boast of having a "drawing room." From her comfortable and eclectically furnished living room the visitor looks out upon fields in which kilns and sculpture punctuate the landscape.

Replying to questions about her work, the sculptor noted that a ball of clay or cement "is a common experience... it is so simple that what you do to it becomes everything: the content is the process and the process is the content."

In making wall pieces, she is drawn to surfaces of rocks she finds on the lawn or elsewhere, from which she takes molds. To these she applies a white plaster-like material which enables her to get a good replica of the rock face. "I then break them," she explains, "and restore them, leaving pieces out in order to fill in as they do in museum restorations." The result is "a sort of double message: rock

history and human history. This breaking and mending adds a whole other element to it... I don't know whether I see it as a metaphor for life, or what."

Her interest in photographs, though more recent than her involvement with sculpture, goes back to the seventies. "I do a process of platinum printing," she explained. And she paints on the negatives as well as the surfaces of the prints. She has been taking photographs all summer in preparation for work in the darkroom during the winter months. At the same time she will continue to work on the wall sculptures and "see where they go." She seems to be drawn these days she adds, to "long, stretched-out white shapes."

She finds that painting is returning to her work. "I keep painting on surfaces and on photographs, and maybe I just have to face the fact that I want to paint." But it isn't that simple, she has found. "The work is flattening out, and it's probably going to be some combination of sculpture and painting." She began as a painter but got diverted into sculpture because she wanted to make three-dimensional canvasses, and in throwing pots onto the wheel became intrigued with their shapes.

The exhibition's hours are Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Blue Hill Plaza is located on Veterans Memorial Highway opposite the Pearl River Hilton.

## Announcement

**Brian Warner** has been named Editor-in-Chief of the St. Joseph Regional High School yearbook, *Aegis*. It is the 25th Anniversary edition of the yearbook, and any alumni wishing to be part of the "Nostalgia Section" should contact Brian in care of **10964**, P.O. Box 201.

# Turkey Carving

## And The Thanksgiving Oyster

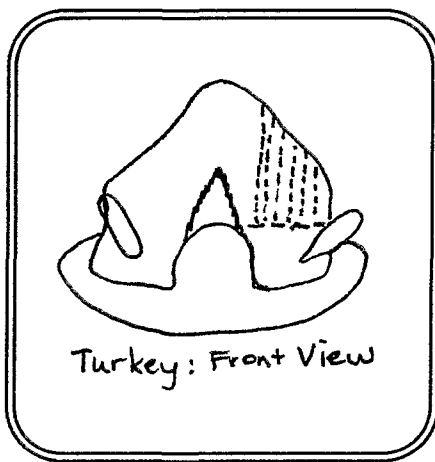
By Greta Nettleton

Since this is the month when even people who hate to cook have to consider the angles on turkey preparation if they can't manage to wrangle any relatives into taking on the burden, **10964** contacted some of Palisades' better known chefs for some Thanksgiving cooking tips. A properly carved turkey is a basic element in a successful dinner, but Joe Hyde warns that dogmatism about details can lead to some etiquette problems. He recalled an incident he knew of in which a Thanksgiving dinner guest took issue with the way that his in-law, the master of the house, was going to carve the turkey, and volunteered his services instead. A heated argument developed, and the carver ended the discussion by throwing the entire bird across the table at the backseat expert. Perhaps this is the kind of scenario which leads some people to carve their turkeys out in the kitchen, where they can really get their hands greasy and dismember the carcass without being self-conscious about it.

Joe suggests using a large platter. Start your carving with removal of the wings and drumsticks using the knife and fork. However, the only easy way to get the second joints off is to tip the turkey on its side, and wrestle them off with your hands. Cutting the breast meat is usually done on the bias, starting from the front, but Joe recommends that a better way is to make vertical cuts, starting from the wing,

and working inwards (see drawing).

Joe also recommends throwing a handful of shucked oysters into your regular bread stuffing to jazz it up, and if you are



really ambitious, add some sliced, cooked chestnuts for texture.

Cooking the turkey properly is another arena for disaster. Simon Gerard recalls that once, when he was rather young, his grandmother hit on a "foolproof" cooking method for turkeys from Adele Davis. The gist of it was, you put your bird in the oven overnight at 180 degrees, and by dinner time the next day, it would be transformed into a golden masterpiece ready for the carving board. The first year she tried it, it worked very well, but the following year, she awoke on Thanksgiving morning to an awful charcoal smell, and found that the turkey had been reduced to a cinder. Twenty guests

were expected, and she had to drive all over Rockland County to find two small replacement birds, which could be cooked in time, using less risky methods.

Simon contributed this recipe for Oysters Casino to be served as a first course:

-Saute as many square pieces of sliced bacon as you have oysters, until some fat is rendered, but the pieces are still soft; remove bacon from the pan and add equal parts of finely diced onion, green pepper, and red pepper (one of each vegetable is probably enough for 3 dozen oysters). Heat gently for a few minutes and remove from burner.

-Open your oysters and arrange them on their half shells on a baking sheet. Put one tablespoon of the vegetable mixture and a square of the softened bacon on top of each oyster (this can be done in advance).

-Just before serving, place your pan of oysters under the broiler, and cook until the oysters are heated and the bacon is crisp.

## Announcement

**Cristina Biaggi** will be exhibiting her work at Ariel Gallery, 470 Broome Street, New York City. The show is entitled "Recent Sculptures: The Nooks and Crannies of the Goddess" and will run from November 25 through December 16. Opening reception will be Tuesday, November 28, from 6 to 8 p.m.

# The Halloween Festival

by Judith W. Umlas

There was a real sense of "community" at the October 28 Halloween Festival hosted by the Palisades Community Center. Everyone—from newborns to senior citizens—seemed to enjoy the relaxing and fun-filled atmosphere. *Everything was free*: no tickets to purchase or lines to wait on, and even the hamburgers, sodas and hot dogs were *given* to the many hungry residents of Palisades who showed up for the event. Most of the children and quite a few



adults dressed in costumes for the occasion, and prizes were given out in such unusual categories as Best Insect (to Jamie Thompson, age 6, who was a beautiful butterfly); Best Boy (coincidentally, her brother, Robert Thompson, age 2 won as Superboy); and Best Grown-Up (Connie Coker won for her great Little Bo Peep costume). Young Ilaina Ferramosca and Allison Goldfarb were judged to be the prettiest, in their stunning organdy dresses and gold crowns.

Children and teens especially loved throwing shaving cream pies at the "ghoul" and lined up in front of the door of a miniature house to hear "Gypsy Fortune Teller" Irene Frederick give her prognostications. "I see

good things for Palisades," she predicted when this reporter asked about our future. As she looked down into her electric crystal ball, her bulbous plastic nose fell off, undoubtedly a sign of the veracity of the prediction.

The pie eating contest was won by Zach Zisman according to the judge, Glyn Frederick Nixon, but all participants got a prize. This reflected the spirit of the day—giving to the residents of Palisades. According to President John Converse, the Community Center has been collecting rent from the Blue Rock School for the past two years and the Board of Directors felt it was time to spend some of this money on something that everyone in Palisades could enjoy. Converse also hoped that the party would remind everyone that the Center remains open for residents' use—that it is available evenings and weekends for meetings, art classes and the like.

Palisades resident Jackie Drechsler and the Palisades Chamber Players Trio added an elegant touch as they performed classical music between events throughout the day.

One of the highlights of the Festival was also the only "damper" put on it. At about six o'clock, as it began to get dark, a lovely bonfire was built in prepa-

ration for some ghostly stories which were to be told by resident Bill Murray. Permits had been secured to make the fire from Rockland County and the Town of Orangetown. But due to an air quality emergency, the Town authorities ordered that the bonfire be put out. The large audience, which was enjoying the warmth and intimacy the fire provided, booed a bit, but these complaining boos were then transformed into ghostly Halloween sounds as Bill Murray stepped forth and began warming the group with his ghoulish humor. He instructed children on how to turn their faces into ghosts' faces by saying the name of the ghost either 47 or 100 times (nothing else would do). He also said that if a white ghost spit on them, it was "curtains"—there would be nothing left but bones. No one looked the slightest bit scared, but all looked extremely delighted to hear him.

It was a great day, and with a bit of gentle nudging the Board of the Palisades Community Center might be persuaded to make it an annual event. Thanks from all the residents of Palisades to John Converse, Tony Gerard, Linda Jouas, Kim Miller, Glyn Frederick Nixon, Andy Norman, and Kevin Weber. All of these great folks worked so hard to make the First Annual Halloween Festival a memorable and fun event. (Was that gentle enough persuasion?) See you all next year!





# IBM

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served elegantly in cafeteria style. Guests can also obtain light snacks and meals in a small lounge.

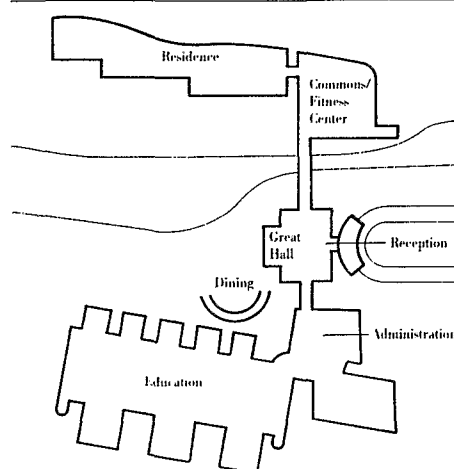
Each of the 206 guest rooms has up-to-date conveniences, including an IBM PS/2 workstation and executive information center. Although there are designated smoking areas, the entire facility is otherwise smoke free, reflecting current health consciousness. A fitness center, featuring a lap pool, racquetball courts, workout machines and jogging tracks, has a professional staff and is operated by Johnson and Johnson Health Management.

My impression of the entire institute was that of understated elegance and comfort for IBM customers. The atmosphere reminded me that, in spite of the many luxuries, the purpose here is clearly business. From the pinkish kerfed brick and teak exterior to the mahogany and maple interiors, architect Mitchell Giurgola's building is beautiful and blends naturally with its wooded environment. Artwork, displays, a library and other amenities add to the comfort and business-like atmosphere of the surroundings. But nature is not forgotten, for the day I was there everyone was admiring a pair of recently acquired trumpeter swans who have joined ducks and fish in the pond flowing under the windowed bridge joining the education and residential wings.

All of the services are without cost to IBM customers. The idea is, presumably, that well-informed, productive IBM customers using IBM's information systems to maximize profits and productivity are good for business and will continue to be so.

As for Palisades, we hardly knew they were here, so quiet and unobtrusive have they been. I was surprised to see their huge filled parking lot, and the quiet hustle and bustle of their operations, all under careful security. Although neither seen nor heard by the community, high-tech and sophisticated learning is taking place in our midst. For those of us in Palisades who cherish the natural beauty and hidden privacy of the hamlet, IBM seems to be the ideal good neighbor.

## Map of the Advanced Business Institute



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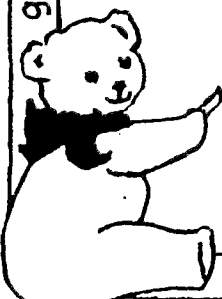
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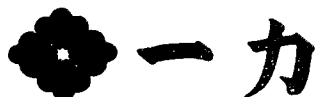
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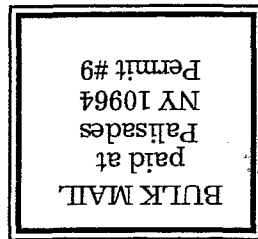
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CONTRIBUTIONS

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Contributions to 10964 were received last month from Marshall and Irine Davidson. Thank you very much.

John Converse  
Lori DiGiacomo  
Carol Elevitch  
Patti Katz  
Boyce Leni  
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