

10964

The Palisades Newsletter

April 1994 • No. 141



APRIL FOOLS AND FISH

Things are not what they seem. The newspaper is a mess, with every other page upside down. Umbrellas won't open, bookbags weigh five times what they should. People see objects that aren't there and don't see those that are. It's April Fools' Day.

April Fools' Day—also known as All Fools' Day—is not a “real” holiday. It has never been officially recognized by schools or by the government. No calendars take note of it. It doesn't warrant an entry in most encyclopedias. But as a “holiday of the mind, not of the state,” it is alive and well.

The basic idea is to put over a hoax on someone and then, when it is clear that the victim has been well and truly taken in, to shout triumphantly “April Fool!” (the shout proclaims success while at the same time explaining that it was all a joke). In the meantime, of course, it's essential to keep a straight face. Generally, April fooling ends at noon; anyone who tries a hoax after that is an April fool himself.

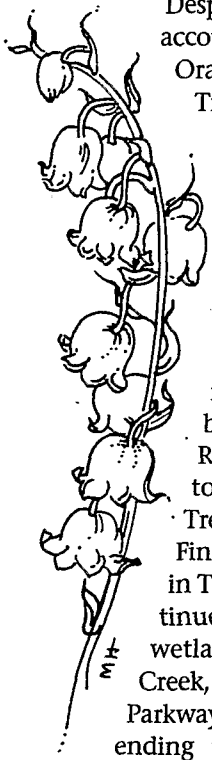
In the repertory of April Fools' tricks, there are many old stand-bys that succeed year after year: small circles of cloth slipped between the breakfast pancakes; imaginary holes in socks, missing buttons; a sign saying “KICK ME” pinned to a classmate's back. Older classic “fools' errands” include sending someone to buy hens' milk, or to find a stick with only one end.

There's also a genuine “folk” feeling about April 1. People think twice about opening a new business or starting a new project on that day—and few would choose it for their wedding.

Theories about the origin of April/All Fools' Day generally look to the distant past. Some scholars maintain that it is a survival of a festival in honor of the fertility goddess Ceres, which was celebrated about the beginning of April in Roman times. Some see in it vestiges of an ancient Celtic springtime ritual. And others suggest that it has the same prehistoric origins as the five-day Hindu festival Holi, originally a fertility rite at the start of spring, on the last day of which unsuspecting people are traditionally sent on fools' errands.

Whatever the remote origins of All Fools' Day, the custom of April fooling as we know it came to America from England or Scotland or

Rails to Trails – Parkland for Palisades and Tappan



Despite recent newspaper accounts to the contrary, Orangetown's Rails to Trails program, which is aimed at converting old railroad right-of-ways into hiking/biking trails, has not been discontinued. This is good news for our community, since one branch of the old Erie RR line passes so close to us, crossing Oak Tree Road down where Finn McCools is located in Tappan. This line continues on through the wetlands along Sparkill Creek, under the Palisades Parkway, through Sparkill, ending up in Piermont. It connects to the bike path in Tallman Park, which has recently

been made a part of the Hudson River Greenways trail system, and which circles back right to the heart of Palisades.

The Rails to Trails program is being carried out under the guidance of Town Parks Department Head Joseph Clarke, with assistance from the Parks Advisory Board; local residents such as Richard Vickerman (who is the local representative to the Parks Advisory Board) have donated substantial amounts of their own time and effort to getting organization and funding for the proposed parkland. It has also been supported in the past by most members of the Town Board, including our local representative, Eileen Larkin.

To maintain momentum for Orangetown's Rails to Trails Park program, community support now seems more important than ever. Recently, a Rails to Trails conversion which is imminent along a section of old right-of-way in Blauvelt met with some unexpected community opposition, which indeed startled many of those who have been

working so hard over the last two years to bring this project to realization.

During a Town Board meeting in late February, a small, well-organized and quite vocal group of Blauvelt homeowners expressed opposition to having a park created along the old tracks behind their houses. Other Orangetown residents who would be in favor of creating the new parkland were not represented at the meeting (never imagining that there would be any opposition), and this created the impression that there was a groundswell of feeling against the project.

Given the level of concern demonstrated at the meeting, the matter was referred by the Town Board back to the Parks Advisory Board who scheduled a meeting on March 23 in order to give the park's opponents a chance to air their concerns. However, it appears that the majority of the park committee members continue to be in favor of the

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A NEW TOWN IN THE MAKING?

Since last November, residents and elected officials of the incorporated villages along the riverfront have been meeting to discuss the possibility of breaking away from Orangetown and forming a new township. One name that has been suggested for the new organization: the Town of Tappan Zee.

The leader in this move toward independence is Nyack's Irving Feiner. His idea is to start out by limiting the new town to the incorporated villages—Upper Nyack, Nyack, South Nyack, Grandview, Piermont—all of which have experience in providing a range of services to their residents. Later, when the new town was up and running, other riverfront communities, such as Palisades, Sparkill and Upper Grandview, might become a part of it—if they wanted to.

The idea of breaking away from Orangetown is not a new one, but it has been given fresh impetus by the steep tax increases proposed in the new

Orangetown budget—for the river villages increases in the double digits. Feiner maintains that tax savings of up to 40 percent would be possible under the new town. He contrasts Stony Point, which provides full services to its 12,800 people on a budget of \$6.2 million, and the river villages which have a population of 14,428 and combined budgets of \$10 million. While Feiner's may be an over-optimistic estimate of the possible savings, the figures clearly suggest that further study be done.

If the river villages go ahead with their idea—and it seems likely that they will—the next formal step will be a referendum in which Orangetown as a whole will vote on the proposal. By law, this referendum can't be brought until the next time that there is an election for supervisor, that is, in 1995. In the meantime, there is a great deal of spadework to be done, so that people have a clear idea of what they might gain or lose. Some of this digging has already

begun—for example, the South Nyack police chief has made an estimate of the costs of police service within the proposed new town boundaries.

But there's more to it than comparative figures, important though these are. The obligations of towns greatly exceed the obligations of villages. Towns are required to keep detailed assessment records; they have to deal with animal control; they are charged with issuing marriage licenses; their courts handle matters that village courts don't have to deal with. And so on, and so on.

If you wish more information, the Piermont Civic Association is holding a meeting on the subject of the Town of Tappan Zee on Monday, April 4 at 8 p.m. in the Piermont Village Hall. The main speaker will be Irving Feiner, the "father" of the movement. Palisadians are welcome.

Caroline Tapley

The National Study of the Changing Workforce

Ellen Galinsky, Project Director of this study and Co-President and Co-Founder of the Families and Work Institute, the organization which conducted it, has given 10964 permission to reprint some of the studies' key findings. "The Institute's purpose," says Ellen, "is to inform decision making. We typically pick issues as they are beginning to crest, about which there is a great deal of debate but little knowledge. We do a nonpartisan study that sheds light on the debate." Formerly with the Bank Street College of Education, Ellen is the author or co-author of thirteen books, including The Six Stages of Parenthood and The Preschool Years, and of more than 75 articles in magazines and academic journals. She and her family (husband Norman, a painter; son Philip, a graduate student in Ethnomusicology at Wesleyan University; daughter Lara, an undergraduate at Wesleyan) have lived in Palisades since 1973.

The Changing Workforce

The National Study of the Changing Workforce provides insight into both the work and the personal/family lives of the U.S. workforce. Five years in the making and based on interviews from close to 3400 workers across the country, this is the first study since 1977 to investigate the situation and attitudes of U.S. workers.

Its backdrop is the work environment in a time of turmoil and change:

- * The average worker spends more than 40 hours per week on the job. Overtime and commuting bring the total to more than 45 hours per week.
- * 42 percent have experienced downsizing, and 28 percent have seen cutbacks in the number of managers in the past year.
- * Close to 1 in 5 fear that they will be fired or laid off. When companies downsize, the work must still be done:
- * 80 percent feel that their jobs require working very hard, and 65 percent that their jobs require working very fast.
- * Many feel they're burned out by their jobs—42 percent often feel "used up" by the end of the workday.

Work Life

Out of this turmoil a different kind of worker may be emerging. Workers' commitment is more to themselves than to their employers. While 57 percent strongly agree with the statement that they always try to do their jobs well, no matter what it takes, only 28 percent strongly agree that they are willing to work harder than they have to to help their employers succeed. When asked what success at work means to them, more than half talk about the personal satisfaction they gain from doing a good job. Workers place high value on the quality of their own work.

The study found that the individuals willing to go an extra mile for their companies are those who:

- * have a say over how to do their jobs;
- * have some control over their job schedules;
- * have positive relationships with coworkers;
- * have supervisors who support them in their work and when they have family needs;
- * work in a culture that doesn't force them to abdicate their families;

- * feel they have an opportunity to advance, whatever their gender or race;
- * have not experienced discrimination.

The Work Environment

Workers concerns aren't just about the quality of their own work, but also about the quality of their work environment. From a list of 20 items, workers gave high ratings to open communications, quality management and quality supervision as the most important in their decision to take their present job—all factors having to do with the quality of the work environment. Salary/wages were of lesser importance.

There have been many recent efforts to improve productivity, among them re-engineering the workplace, empowering workers, and creating high-performance work teams. Findings from the National Study suggest that unless these efforts include a focus on the quality of the work environment itself, on social relationships at work, and on the general culture of the workplace—whether it be the corner drugstore, a factory or an office—they may not achieve their intended effects.

There were some surprises in the findings of this study. By and large, men and women are not seen as different in the way they supervise workers. In addition, young workers are no more comfortable with the notion of working with people who are different from themselves than are older workers.

Discrimination

The perception of discrimination or unequal opportunity in the workplace seems to exact a toll on workers' attitudes and behavior, whether or not the perception has an objective basis: 15 percent claimed to have experienced discrimination at their current place of employment; 27 percent claimed to have been discriminated against at some time during their work lives.

Men and women who believe they have better chances for personal advancement are more committed, more satisfied, and plan to remain longer with their current employers. However, women in management are far more likely to see limited opportunities for career advancement at their current workplace, lending support to the view that there is a "glass ceiling" that prevents women from joining the management elite.

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Income

Despite great variations of household income, 79 percent of workers perceived their family's income to be adequate.

* In 1991-92, the median household income of U.S. wage and salaried workers ages 18-64 was \$42,500; 15 percent lived in households with incomes under \$20,000; 16 percent in households with incomes over \$75,000.

* On average, workers bring in 64 percent of their households' income. Among workers living in dual-wage households, men contributed about \$6 in \$10; women, \$4 in \$10.

Believing that one is "living within one's means" is more important to workers' sense of well-being than the absolute amount of their household income.

Personal and Family Life

Most workers have family responsibilities: 87 percent live with family members and 47 percent care for dependents (children, ill spouses or partners, elderly relatives).

Despite massive changes in women's work outside the home, their household responsibilities have not changed much. This is true even in families where women contribute half or more of the family income, or where workers are young. Women are much more likely than men to have the main responsibility for the most demanding chores—cooking, cleaning, shopping—as well as for child care. As regards child care, the contrast between men's and women's perceptions is striking: 43 percent of men reported that care was shared 50/50, but only 19 percent of women did.

One apparent change in men's and women's roles lies in the care of elderly dependents. Of those providing such care, 44 percent are men. However, women spend about twice as much time (an average of 19.9 hours a week) and provide significantly more personal care (feeding, bathing, etc.).

Life can be difficult for the working parent. Not surprisingly, employees with children are under more stress and believe that they're not coping as well as workers without children. When they do have supports—reliable, satisfactory child care, for example—employed parents feel better about themselves as parents, are less stressed, and cope better. In general, workers who have children feel somewhat more successful in their personal and family lives than those who do not.

Work-Family Programs

By and large, work problems are more likely to spill over into the home than family problems are to encroach upon work life. Some businesses have stepped in to address these problems by offering flexible work schedules and family-related leave, as well as assistance in arranging care for dependents.

However, the study reveals that primary reliance on workplace programs results in an unequal distribution of benefits within society. Higher-income workers and better-educated workers have far more access to health care insurance and pension plans, flexible time and leave programs, and dependent care assistance than their less advantaged counterparts.

A sizable proportion of workers who do not have these programs state that they would be willing to make substantial

trade-offs to get them. Companies, in particular, benefit because workers with greater access to work-family assistance are more committed to doing their jobs well, are more loyal, and take more initiative on the job.

Work-Family Balance

In the end, it comes back to the workplace. The study reveals that workers want to change the equation; that is, they want to devote more time to their families and friends and their own pursuits, and less time to their jobs and careers. Young workers say that they're more willing to make sacrifices in their jobs, careers, and education to ensure the quality of their personal and family lives than they are to sacrifice their personal and family lives for the sake of advancement.

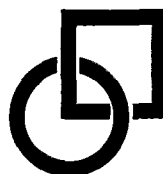
The major predictors of conflict in balancing work and family life concern the quality of the work environment: the workload, autonomy on the job, and relationships at work. The prime consideration of workers when taking a job is, "What effect will this job have on my personal and family life?"

The National Study's findings conclude that workers are very concerned about the quality of their own work, the quality of the work environment, and the quality of their personal relationships at home and at work. These findings suggest that there is an opportunity for aligning workers' needs with workplace goals. What helps workers also seems to help employers be productive.

About the Families and Work Institute:

The Institute was founded in 1989 by Ellen Galinsky and her friend and colleague Dana Friedman, both acknowledged as national experts in the work and family field. A non-profit organization; it serves as a center for policy research and a national clearinghouse for information. An earlier study on parental leave affected the course of the Family and Medical Leave Act and a new study on child care is expected to influence welfare reform. The Institute works with companies to develop new programs and policies and advises the U.S. Department of Labor, the U.S. Department of Education, and other government agencies. Located in New York City, the Institute has a core staff of in-house researchers supplemented by leading experts throughout the country.

The Palisades Library has a copy of the 104-page study, The Changing Workforce; Highlights of the National Study, by Ellen Galinsky, James T. Bond, and Dana E. Friedman.



Families and Work Institute

Palisades Bulletin Board

Who's News and What's Happening

10964 staff begins this new feature so that people may communicate and speak to each other directly. If you wish to participate, please write to 10964 Newsletter at P.O. Box 201 or call any staff member. Deadline for the June issue is May 10.

Margaret and Jim Anderson, who suffered a fire in their home on Rte. 9W in October, report they have moved back into one floor of their house. They expect the extensive renovations that were needed will be completed within the next month.

Anonymous, a resident of Palisades, requests that on recycling days, Palisadians weigh down their papers to prevent them blowing about. It is suggested that the paper bin be put beneath one of the other bins.

Bret Barba, 14, of Highland Ave., is looking for outside and inside work. He also washes and waxes cars. Call him at 359-6636 during the late afternoon.

Virginia Dare and **Joya Frye** announce that the Slow-Down Cafe Eco Coffeehouse—offering music and entertainment—has moved to above the New Age Center at the corner of Main Street and Broadway in Nyack. The Coffeehouse is open at 8 p.m. on the first Saturday of every month. April 2, Virginia Dare & Friends; May 7, Gamelan, Son of Lion, traditional music of Indonesia.

Gordon Eaton, until recently Director of Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, has been nominated by President Clinton to head the U.S. Geological Survey, the government's premier earth science information agency. His appointment was confirmed by the Senate and he left early in March for his new position as the twelfth director of the 114-year-old USGS. Dr. Eaton and his wife **Virginia** came to Lamont in November, 1990. Their new home is in Reston, Virginia, where the headquarters of the Geological Survey is located.

Diana Green joins fellow Palisadians Lynsey Lonberg and Norman Galinsky on the Board of Directors of the Rockland Center for the Arts. Included in the Board's duties is the planning of activities and events and they welcome suggestions.

Samantha Hahn, a freshman at Tappan Zee High School and the only girl on the school's wrestling team, participated in her first match recently. She pinned her opponent, Yorktown's Andy Pavonne, in 1:13 of their 126 pound junior varsity bout.

Chinu and Kishori Jani, and their two sons **Yagnesh**, age 16, and **Samir**, age 18, moved to Lauren Road in early

December from Middletown, New Jersey. Chinu is director of operations for Lifechem Labs in Northvale and Kishori is a homemaker. Yagnesh attends grade 11 at Tappan Zee High School, while Samir is a freshman at Kean College.

Jack Jefferies has been named representative of the International Hotel Association (IHA) to the United Nations and specialized agencies. IHA, located in Paris, represents 100,000 hotels in 143 countries. Tourism, the largest service industry in the world—\$3.4 billion annually, 230 million employees (1994-95)—shares interest with the UN in issues of the environment, international labor agreements, discrimination, women's rights, high school education, crime and security. Jack, a lawyer with a doctorate in International Law, also represents the American Hotel and Motel Association. He has written books and articles and lectured extensively on the laws affecting hotels and the travel industry.

Patricia Potter Katz is back in Dessau, Germany, where she is guest-starring as Marguerite in the opera *Faust*, opening April 28, and as Violetta in *La Traviata*, opening June 4.

Ned Kelly, manager of the Freelance Wine Bar and Xaviar's Restaurant in Piermont, has moved into the Petrina house on Washington Spring Road. Ned appeared in the film *Philadelphia*, and also sings cabaret on occasion.

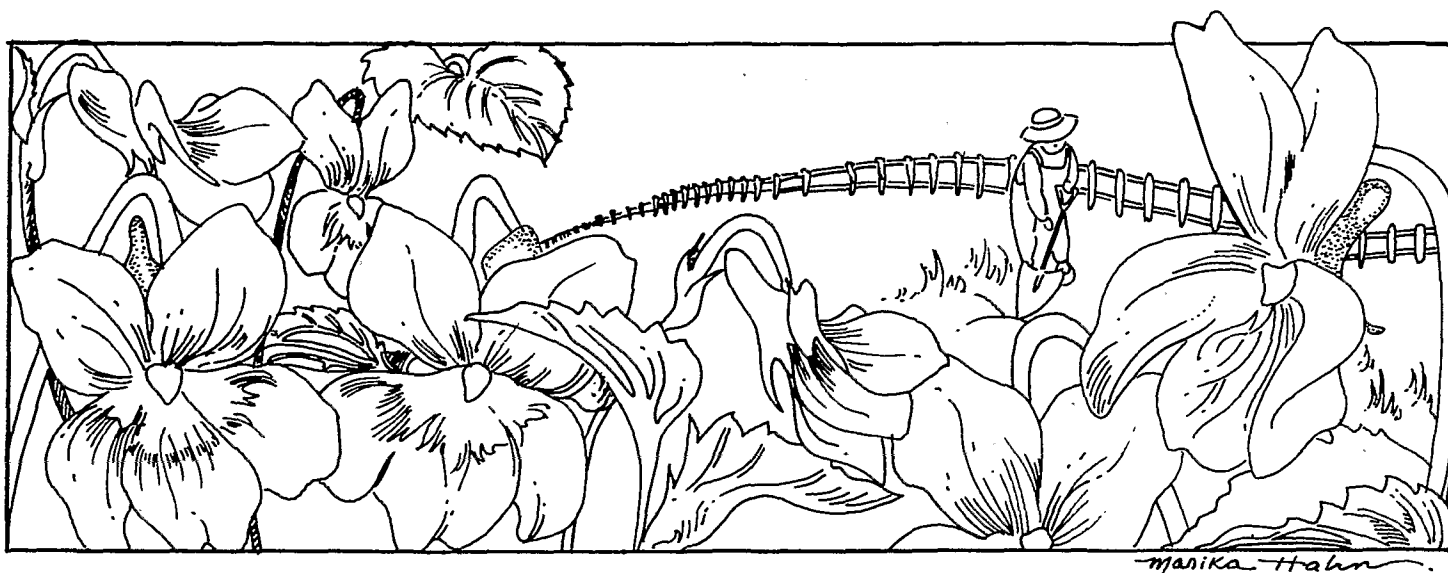
Joan Konner and **Alvin Perlmutter** were married in New York City on Feb. 6, attended by their five children and three grandchildren. Joan is Dean of Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism and Alvin is an independent television producer.

Fiona Lawrence, who graduated from Bard College in May, 1992, is now living in Baltimore and working as Assistant to the Art Director of the *Baltimore Jewish Times*. Fiona's concentrations at Bard were Woman's Studies and Journalism. She will present a paper at a symposium on Women's History in Madison, Wisconsin, in June.

Sylvia March teaches pottery classes to children and adults in her studio on Rte. 9W in Palisades—hand building as well as throwing on the wheel. Children are welcome as young as age four. 359-3767.

Geraldine Miras, Board of Education member from Palisades, wishes to contact parents new to the area who have children four years old. Would you like to learn about the South Orangetown School system? Have a tour of Tappan Zee Elementary School? Do you have any questions or special needs? Call Gerry at 359-1720.

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YOU CAN'T ALWAYS BELIEVE A GROUNDHOG

Those few 60-degree February days following what seemed like months of snow brought out the eternal optimist in all of us. Maybe the snow was finished. Maybe spring really would come. Maybe there is no greenhouse effect. Maybe the groundhog was wrong. When the snow melted from beside my chimney, and there, poking up by the flagstones, were not only crocuses but daffodils as well, it was enough to put me in a gardening frame of mind.

This winter may have been a commuter's nightmare, but it was good news for gardeners. Snow makes great mulch, and for two months it protected our gardens from the sun and wind that do so much damage in a normal winter. After it melted, it gave a good root watering that counteracted the dehydration that kills many otherwise winter-hardy plants.

Looking around, you may think I am being unduly cheerful. It's true that the usually evergreen forms of euonymus, the bamboos, and some of the ilex still look dead, and that the large "native" rhododendrons (native to North Carolina, that is, not to Rockland County) used by so many landscapers look brown and pathetic.

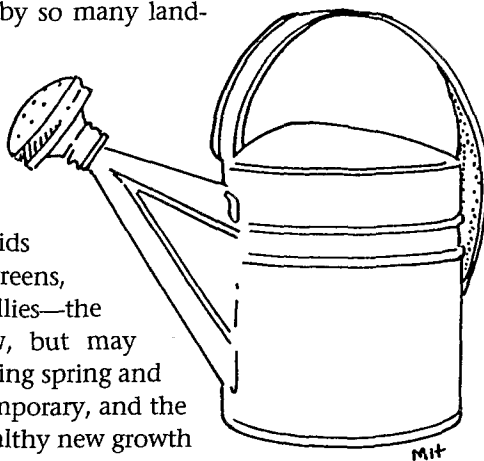
(They are pathetic. Next time you're planting rhododendrons, leave these ones in the South where they are happy and instead use one of the many beautiful, hardy, and adaptive hybrids that are available.) Some other evergreens, such as English and American hollies—the red-berried kinds—look fine now, but may brown off and drop their leaves during spring and summer. Most of this damage is temporary, and the plants will put out vigorous and healthy new growth during the next few months.

It's too late to do much to help broadleaved evergreens (rhododendrons, hollies, azaleas and laurels) now. In November, you can guard against more damage by spraying their leaves with Wilt-Pruf or any dormant oil on a day when the temperature is above 40 degrees and rain isn't expected. This will prevent drying out of their leaves. Horticultural oils are non-toxic, but you should avoid getting any on perennials or needled evergreens. For now, you should feed all your plants - shrubs and perennials - with a good organic fertilizer, following the instructions on the package. If you have access to composted manure, put a thin layer of it on your perennial beds to stimulate growth.

Surely you've already ordered seed, whether you will ever get around to planting it or not—but if not, treat yourself to Shepherd's catalog (203-482-3638). I guarantee you won't be able to resist ordering some even if you know it's still going to be sitting in the package next October. Thompson and Morgan (908-363-2225) has wonderful annuals that you'll never see in a store. Bluestone Perennials (216-428-7535) sells six packs of perennials very cheaply, and has a good selection. The plants look truly pathetic when they arrive, but I have found them very strong and fast-growing. For about \$1.25 each they are a terrific buy.

The tulips I had intended to plant during the mythical "January thaw" are sprouting in their plastic bags. I'm going to throw them in the trash tomorrow and not feel guilty. Other procrastinators should do the same.

Ann Brooke



SCHOOL DAYS IN PALISADES

— FIFTY YEARS AGO —



When we first came to Palisades fifty years ago, almost every child in Palisades went to school right here. There were no buses, and so far as I remember, they all walked to school. (One day two little ninnies, Elizabeth Walden and Mackie Whitney, got down on their hands and knees and crawled across Route 9W, causing a great traffic tie-up.)

Kindergarten was in the Old School (now the Community Center) and the eight grades were in the New School, which had two classrooms, with four grades in each, an office for the principal, Mr. Soutar, and one for the school nurse, Miss Zinnel.

The school was controlled by a school board composed mostly of parents elected at the "May Meeting," where nearly everyone packed the big room in the Old School and had a say about everything that went on in the school.

There was a certain amount of benevolent politicking going on before the meetings. Interested parents would discuss who would be good and willing to serve, planning scrupulously to have representatives from every part of the village.

The meetings certainly were not so violent as those in the 1830's when Nicholas Gesner described bitter fights which caused him to exclaim "Toi loi" ("Dear, dear") in his diary, nor in the 1860's when Mr. Gilman and Dr. Agnew advocated a new school building in the hope that it would end some of the acrimony. There was plenty of argument, however. At my first May Meeting, in 1942, a group of mothers, including Chrissie Ratcliff, Connie Price, Jo Walden and Helen Nichols, brought up the suggestion of hot lunches for the children, and there were plenty of people who said they had managed perfectly well in their day, going home for lunch or bringing sandwiches. But the "hot mothers" as someone called them, were well-organized and won the day.

One mother planned the menus according to Federal guidelines, and did the shopping as well as applying for and using government surplus foods, cheese and canned vegetables, as I remember. The rest of us helped the one paid worker, first Adele Sisco, and then Mrs. Grotz, on a regular schedule. It was a great success. Some children, including my own, didn't like all the lunches but they ate them or went hungry, and what they did eat was good for them.

Mr. Soutar, the principal and teacher of the upper four grades, was a fine teacher and very popular, while the lower

room was taught by a series of pleasant young people. Miss Zinnel, the school nurse, didn't go in for popularity, but she was a very good nurse. She was the one who discovered that my daughter Karen needed an eye operation.

My children had been in private schools in Englewood, but they liked the Palisades School and seemed to learn just as well here, and they loved the freedom of walking to school and to all their friends' houses, and indeed all over the neighborhood. At one point my daughter Alice found herself alone in seventh grade, so Mr. Soutar suggested that she join the eighth grade and cover both curriculums; it worked very well.

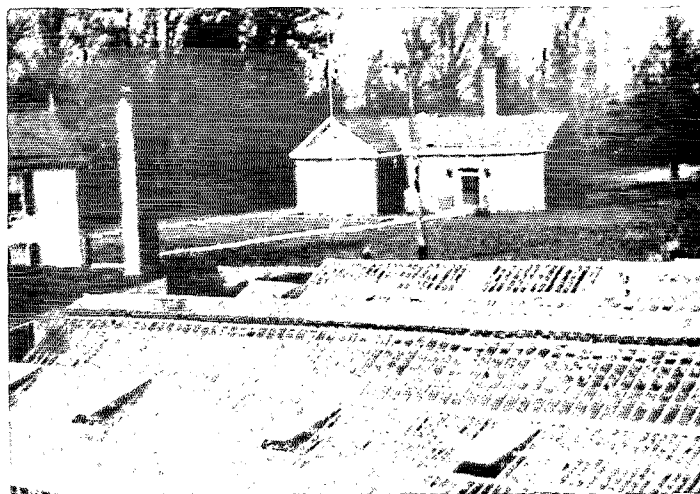
Still living in Palisades and still interested in the school was Robert Bruere who, as a member of the school board in 1930, was responsible for a most important innovation in education, the Board of Cooperative Educational Services, or BOCES. He was an internationally known economist and writer, and when he was elected to the Palisades School Board he got a copy of the New York State education laws and read it through. He discovered that the state supplied many services to larger schools which were never heard of in Palisades.

With his many connections in government and education, he was able to arrange for smaller schools to share, first, vocational programs and then many other services, including health education, psychological services, and help for the handicapped. This set a pattern not only in Rockland County and the State of New York, but throughout the whole country.

He was an unconventional, genial man, who with his wife Martha, a writer and artist, built the house which the Jellineks owned until recently. I remember him in front of his house, looking like Saint Francis with chickadees flying all around him, lighting on his shoulder and eating from his hand.

Alice Haagensen

Looking north across Oak Tree Road toward the New School. Foreground: Brown and Jordan's greenhouses.

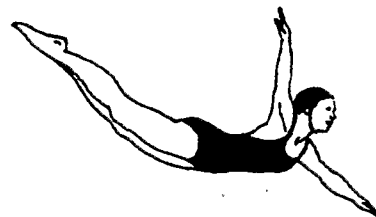
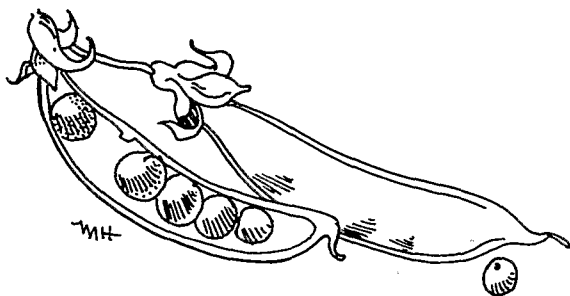


Ramon and **Hilda Papon** moved to Lauren Road in January. Ramon, a bus operator for New York City, and Hilda, an assistant store manager, have two grown children living with them, **Mary** and **Ramon**. The Papons formerly lived in Spring Valley.

Steven and **Sheryl Pilavin** took up residence on Lauren Road on December 11. On December 12 their first child, **Spencer**, was born. The Pilavins moved to Palisades from Manhattan. Sheryl was an underwriter and Steven is in business.

David Sanders and **Bill McGivney** have moved from Washington Spring Road to River Road in Grand View. David was recently awarded the Certified Residential Specialist (CRS) designation by the Residential Sales Council of the Realtors National Marketing Institute, an affiliate of the National Association of Realtors.

Stefanie Umlas, 10, starred as Baby June in the musical *Gypsy* produced by the Youth Repertory Company of the YM-YWHA of Rockland in February. Her rendition of "Let Me Entertain You," complete with cartwheels, kicks and high-pitched resonance, brought down the packed house. Said Director Steve Kiss, "Stefanie did an excellent job! She really captured the spirit of the part and I look forward to working with her again in the fall, when we do either Annie, Oliver or Peter Pan."



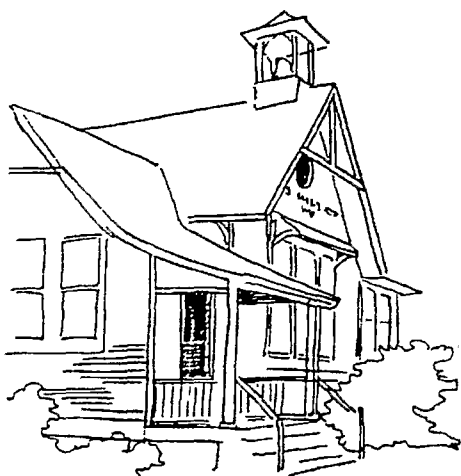
PALISADES SWIM CLUB

Are you making plans for this summer? Spend June, July and August right here at home with us at the Palisades Swim Club. We're a family-oriented small club of just under 200 families from Palisades and its surrounding areas. In addition to our kiddie pool, pool, swim lessons, and a competitive swim team, there are tennis courts and tennis lessons for all to enjoy. For more information about joining the club this summer, call Barbara Loweree at 359-3935 or write to the Palisades Swim Club, P.O. Box 192, Palisades, NY 10964.

ROCKLAND CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Paper in art, fashion and design will fill the exhibition gallery at the Center when "The Paper Chase" opens on Sunday, April 10. An array of fascinating artwork and objects from professional artists, architects, fashion and furniture designers, display uncommon uses for this common material.

The exhibit continues through May 22; gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and weekends from 1 to 4 p.m. Admission is free or by suggested donation.



Palisades Community Center

**Your Community Center is Available
For Parties, Meetings
Classes or Whatever**

To Reserve the Center or for More Information Contact Janis Cavanagh at 359-1026

PALISADES LIBRARY NEWS

SPRING PLANT SALE

Harking back to the origins of this event, this year the Plant Sale organizers are asking everyone to get involved by contributing trees, seedlings, cuttings, perennials or other plants from their own gardens (get your kids to start herb or vegetable seeds!). Ask advice from library board members Ann Brooke (365-1375) or Phoebe Rosenwasser (365-2441) for this exciting endeavor—a great way to add variety and meaning to the usual fine selection of spring flowers, plants and bulbs!

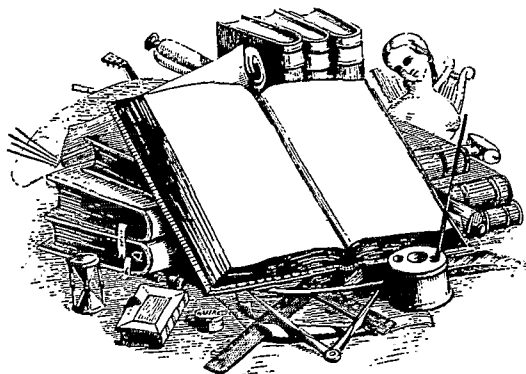
The Spring Plant Sale will be held at the library on Saturday, May 14, from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m., rain or shine. Besides a special selection of plants, there will also be a barbecue, bakery treats, books for sale, the perennial RAFFLE—with more high tech and low tech prizes than ever before!—and additional surprises. Raffle tickets are \$2.00 a piece and can be purchased at the library in advance. Don't forget—all proceeds go to benefit your library.

SPRING CHILDREN'S PROGRAM UPDATE

Two exciting children's programs are planned for April. Space is limited for both, so be sure to reserve your place by pre-registering.

"They Wore Masks"—to be held on Tuesday, April 19 at 4:15 p.m. This program is based on the masks of the Leni Lenape Indians who originally lived throughout our area. Barbara Wegren, "The Lenape Lady," returns for this event. Her program includes Indian songs, the presentation of Indian masks, the opportunity for children to create their own masks, and Indian stories. "They Wore Masks" is ideal for children K through 2nd Grade.

"The Tale of Peter Rabbit"—scheduled for Wednesday, April 20 at 4:15 p.m. This program bases an afternoon on the book by Beatrix Potter. Children, ages 3 through 5, will hear the famous story, make their own bunny ears, try to squeeze under the gate and search for lettuce, French beans, radishes, and parsley. The program will conclude with, of course, carrot cake!



DID YOU KNOW...?

In 1993 the Palisades Free Library served more patrons with more services than ever before. In fact, out of a total population of 1294, the library achieved a per-capita circulation of 16.29 last year—a new record! Other interesting facts include:

- * The library added over 1030 new volumes to its adult and juvenile book stock, bringing the total to 17,416 titles.
- * Total circulation for the year hit 21,079, with the audio-visual portion of the circulation growing to 2247.
- * Total visits to the library reached 12,470!
- * New additions to the library include a fax machine and a Microform reader/printer.
- * The Children's Program offered more afternoon programs revolving around a single theme—and more children signed up for them—than ever before.

Library Hours: Monday-Wednesday: 3-9 p.m.,
Thursday: 10 a.m.-12 noon and 3-9 p.m., Friday: 3-5 p.m.,
Saturday: 2-5 p.m., Sunday: 2-4 p.m.

The library will be closed Easter Sunday, April 3rd.

NEW ADULT FICTION & NON-FICTION

Abel.....	Bait
Auchincloss.....	Tales of Yesteryear
Barr	Superior Death
Bellow.....	It All Adds Up
Cleary	Bleak Spring
Dorris.....	Paper Trail
Du Plessis.....	GrayRage and Fire
Franck.....	Separation
Gaines.....	Obsession
Katz.....	Family Stalker
Laker	Sugar Pavilion
Littell.....	Visiting Professor
Lutz.....	Torch
McCarthy	The Crossing
Mack	Abduction
Martin.....	Great Divorce
Mowat	Born Naked
Piercy	Longings of Women
Plaidy.....	Rose Without a Thorn

SUMMER DAY CAMPS FOR CHILDREN

Here is a listing of some of the popular day camps in the area. Not all the information parents will need was available at this writing, so we've given the most basic of the basics: who, where, when, how much. In many cases, preregistration for the summer is already in full swing, so it would be good to act NOW! If at all possible, both the parent and the camper should visit the facility before making a decision.

Cosmos Soccer Camp, Mahwah, N.J.: Ages 5-18. Six one-week sessions, starting July 1. 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. or 8:30 a.m.-8:30 p.m. Shorter day, \$180 per session. 365-1624.

Lindgren Nursery School, Closter, N.J.: Ages 3-9. Two four-week sessions, the first starting June 27. Monday-Thursday 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., or 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Half day \$375, full day \$750 per session. (201) 768-3550.

Nature Place Day Camp, At the Green Meadow/Waldorf School, Spring Valley: Ages 4-14. One four-week and one six-week session, starting July 5. 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. After-camp available. Six-week session, \$1760. Transportation (additional fee). 356-6477.

Oak Tree Playgroup, Palisades School, Palisades: Ages 2 1/2-5. Starting July 5. Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-noon. \$9 per morning. 359-6472.

Palisades Schoolhouse, Palisades Community Center, Palisades: Ages 2 years 9 months to 5. July and August sessions, 1/2 day from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. and full day 8 a.m.-5:15 p.m. Craig Werner, 365-6705.

Piermont Play Group, Piermont: Ages 3-5. Three two-week sessions starting July 11. Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-noon. \$150 per session. 359-9174.

Ramaquois Day Camp, Pomona: Ages 3-15. One eight-week session, starting June 29. 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. for younger children; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. for older ones. Rates not available for publication. Transportation. 354-1600.

Rockland Center For The Arts, West Nyack: Ages 5-13. Two four-week sessions, starting June 28. Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, 9:45 a.m.-4 p.m. Center members, \$440 per session: non-members, \$460. 358-0877.

Silver Rock Stables, Orangeburg: Ages 7 and up. Nine weekly sessions starting July 5. Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. \$150 per week. 735-2042.

Town and Country Day Camp, Old Tappan, N.J.: Ages 3-15. Four, six, eight or nine-week sessions. July 1 to August 26. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. \$2435 for the nine-week session. Transportation. (201) 768-4553.

Town of Orangetown, Tappan, German Masonic grounds: Ages 5-12. Three two-week sessions, the first starting July 5, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Approximately \$150 per session. Transportation. 359-5100, ext. 233.

YMCA, Nyack: Ages 4-12. Four two-week sessions, the first starting June 27, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. \$300 per session. 358-0245.

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS

PALISADES COMMUNITY CENTER

John Converse (President), Tony Gerard (Vice President), Jocelyn DeCrescenzo (Secretary), Linda Jouas (Treasurer), Madhu Aluwalia, Janis Cavanagh, Andrew Norman, Caroline Tapley, Mitchell Warner.

PALISADES CIVIC ASSOCIATION

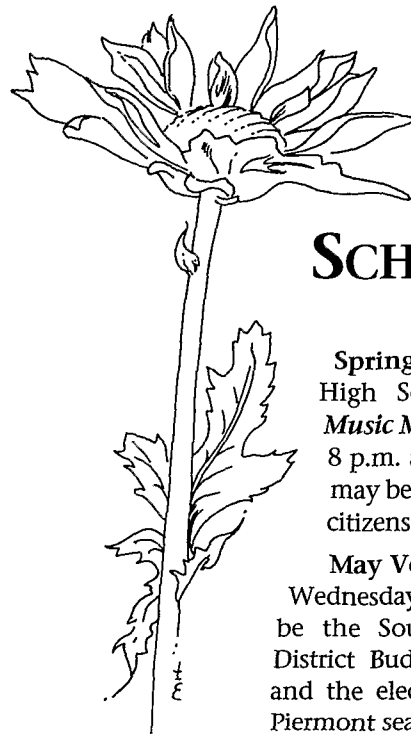
Andrew Norman (President), John Converse (Vice President, Corresponding Secretary), Virginia McCauley (Recording Secretary), Louis Leonard (Treasurer), Larry Bucciarelli, Janis Cavanagh, Phillip Murphy, Thomas O'Connell, Paul Prisco.

PALISADES FREE LIBRARY

Daniel Martin (President, Board of Trustees), Ann Brooke, Ronnie Estadella, Annie Gerard, Robert Griffin, Mathew Lonberg, Phoebe Rosenwasser, Robert Williams.

HISTORIC AREAS BOARD OF REVIEW

Dan Toan (Chairman, Tappan), Kathe Chipman (Tappan), Thano Schoppel (Tappan), Donald Tapley (Palisades), Bill Walther (Palisades), Bob Williams (Palisades). William Beatty (Palisades) has resigned and his position has yet to be filled by the Town Board.



SCHOOL NEWS

Spring Musical: Tappan Zee High School will present *The Music Man*, on April 15, 16, 17, at 8 p.m. at the high school. Tickets may be bought at the door; senior citizens free.

May Vote: Remember to vote on Wednesday, May 4. On the ballot will be the South Orangetown School District Budget for the coming year and the election of a trustee for the Piermont seat. Look for a mailing from the School District before the vote.

UPDATE ON (No) SCHOOL REORGANIZATION

The planned reorganization of South Orangetown's elementary schools for academic year 1994-95 is "on hold." The assignment of grades to schools will be unchanged from the current practice: Kindergarten and First Grade will remain at Tappan Zee Elementary School, Grades 2 and 3 will continue at the William O. Schaefer School, and students in Grades 4 and 5 will attend the Cottage Lane School.

The reorganization was suspended after school officials realized that enrollments had increased faster than anticipated. The South Orangetown Board of Education is now taking steps to plan for expected school populations. At their March 7 meeting, the Board considered commissioning a formal demographic study of the South Orangetown Central School District. This study would measure factors expected to affect

the size and composition of the school-aged population—such as birth rate over the last five years, housing turnovers from older people to younger families with children, and the existence of vacant land that could possibly be used in order to plan the distribution of grades among various elementary schools.

On related school notes, April dates for registration for kindergarten are April 12, 13, and 14 at Tappan Zee Elementary School from 7 to 9 p.m. and on April 19 by appointment from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Call the school at 365-4280 if you have any questions. Finally, findings from a study of school aftercare are not yet available. We plan to report on this study in the June issue of 10964.

Ellen Chayet Kidd

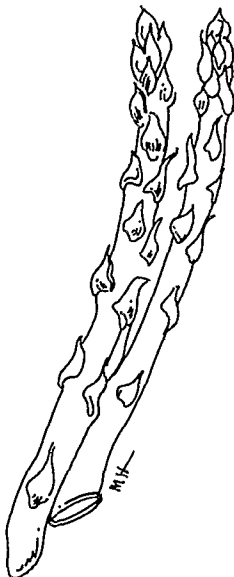
Rails . . . Continued from page 2

conversion, and it is hoped that the project will still be able to move forward, since it has already been fully funded and no other blocks stand in its way.

Palisadians who support the idea of the creation of a hiking and biking path on the old railroad bed in our own neighborhood might take these events to heart. As more and more trucks come crashing through on our local roads, alternative routes for walking, strolling small children, riding bikes, etc. will become ever more precious.

It might be a good idea to show support for the program by writing to Eileen Larkin, our Town Board representative. Support for the Rails to Trails program will benefit all of us, and it is crucial right now, while the opportunity to create this network of parklands throughout our community is still open. In another few years, these lands may be sold for other uses, and all the happy times and common public benefits that these parklands represent could be lost forever.

Greta Nettleton



April . . . Continued from page 1

France in the Middle Ages, New Year's celebrations began on March 25 and lasted for eight days. On the last day of the "octave of the New Year" (April 1) people visited back and forth and exchanged gifts. Then, in 1564, the French king Charles IX decreed that the new year would henceforth begin on January 1. But news traveled slowly and it was quite some time before the change really took hold. During those intervening years, Frenchmen who hadn't accepted the change, or hadn't heard of it, were ridiculed on April 1 with burlesque ceremonies and mock gifts. From this, the classic "fool's errand" is only a short, stumbling step away.

In France today, the hoax is called un poisson d'Avril (an April fish). Chocolate fish appear in confectioners' windows just before April 1 and friends send one another humorous postcards with pictures of fish on them. In America, where hardly a holiday has escaped Hallmark's notice, April Fools' Day remains remarkably free of commercialization. In light of the potential for profit in April Fools' cards and candies and prepackaged practical jokes, this is astonishing—but long may it continue.

Caroline Tapley

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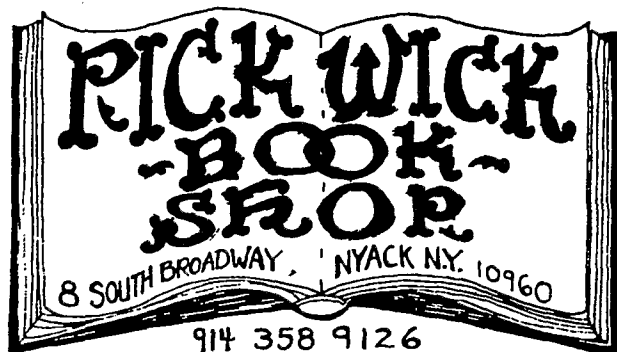


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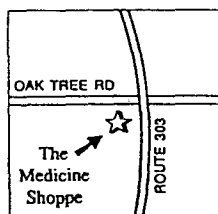
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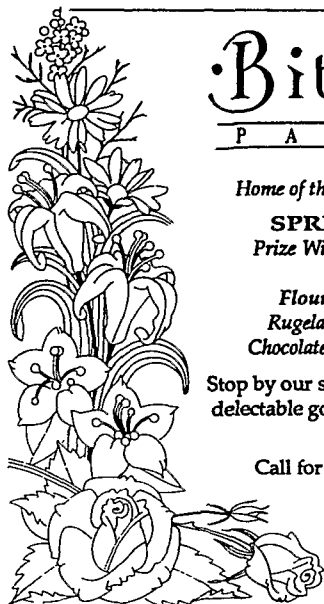


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ABOUT 10964

This community newsletter publishes news and information of interest to the people of Palisades. 10964 needs your moral and financial support. Please send a contribution to 10964, Post Office Box 201, Palisades, New York 10964. With your help we'll be able to put 10964 in your mailbox six times a year.

The following staff members
worked on this issue:

Jocelyn DeCrescenzo, Carol Elevitch,
Alice Gerard, Diana Green, Ellen
Chayet Kidd, Boyce Leni, Milbry Polk,
Caroline Tapley, Gina Vermandel

Drawings by Marika Hahn

Contributions: We are most grateful
to Donald and Helen Fischer for their
generous contribution to 10964.

10964 would like to receive submissions of artwork or poetry or anything appropriate for this page from any children in Palisades. We hope to have this as a regular feature and hope that it will encourage our children in their creative endeavors.

KID'S CORNER

A Day With Snow

a poem

by Elisabeth Polk-Bauman, age 7

Snow snow
how you
Glow its
so Bright
its a sight
it captures
The Light

On the rooftops
On my hair
in my dreams
i'll beware

i will brush
away the snow
everywhere
i go.

Birds pecking
Through the
snow they
get covered
and i don't
know where
they go

Snow snow
covers
the trees
comes up to
My knees
When you
come down
you are
all around.

Snow snow
What a sight
What a
DELIGHT!