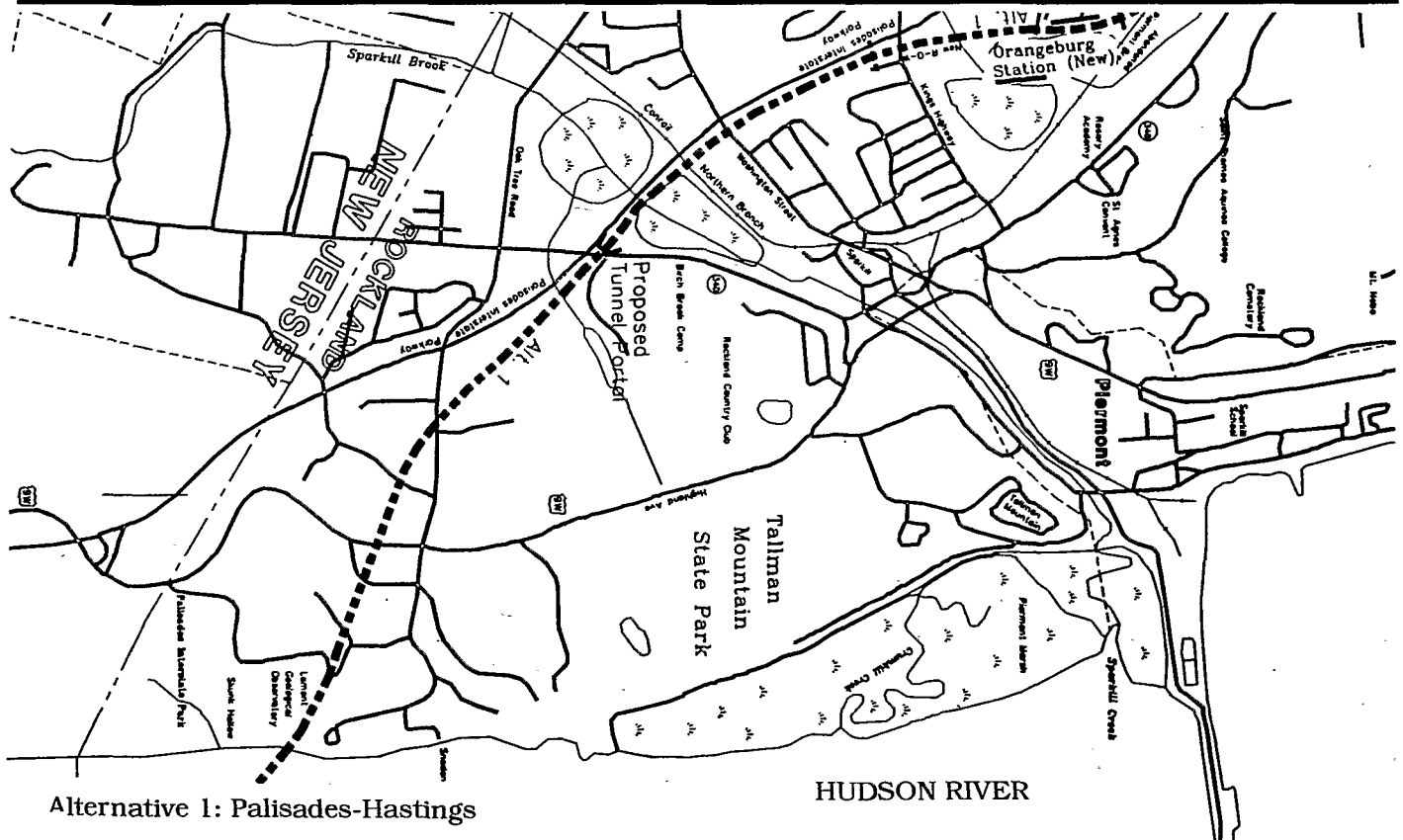


10964

The Palisades Newsletter

April 1995 No. 146



HUDSON RIVER TUNNEL CROSSING AT PALISADES?

Would Palisadians have an interest in taking a train directly to Grand Central Station from Orangeburg? Would a fair price for this convenience be a railroad tunnel running from Hastings underneath the Hudson River and part of Palisades and an above ground rail in other parts of our community? This is one of six proposed routes put forth in a report released by Metro-North in February, 1994. Although the authors state that no one option was preferred at the time of publication, Palisadians should be aware of its general contents, recommendations, and future plans.

Palisades-Hastings Crossing

According to the report, the specific locations of the proposed river crossings are approximate. In conceptual Alternative 1, the Palisades-Hastings connection, both cable-stayed bridges and tunnels were evaluated. However, a bridge was considered unlikely for this site,

due to its visual impact, nearby Lamont Observatory, the number of residences in the area, and other factors. Two types of tunnels are described as feasible: immersed tubes, using twin tunnels which would allow one set of tracks in each direction; and a deep-bored tunnel, using construction similar to the English Channel Tunnel, and requiring ventilation shafts on shore.

The only specific description of the route or alignment the proposed railroad link to Hastings would take in our community (see map above) is the following: From a possible station at the former Orangeburg Drive-in on Route 303, the report depicts an above ground rail line along the existing right-of-way on the east side of the Palisades Interstate Parkway heading south for 1.5 miles, from Kings Highway to the vicinity of Oak Tree Road and Route 340. There a portal would allow the train to go underground into a tunnel for another 1.5 miles before it reaches the Hudson River, and on to link

with Metro-North's Hudson line around Hastings.

In this last section, the underground path in Palisades would cross Oak Tree Road, Closter Road and Route 9W, and enter the Snedens Landing and Lamont Observatory area. The report states "...the territory is occupied by single-family residences along Oak Tree and Closter Roads and a more sparsely developed residential area east of Route 9W on the north side of Palisades Mountain to the river's edge" (p.2.4). In addition, this section "...is one of the few sections of totally new non-transportation right-of-way through a residential community" (p.3.3).

Impact of the Palisades-Hastings Tunnel and Rail on Palisades

The preliminary assessment of impact contained in the study suggests that Palisades should expect some direct and indirect negative consequences from the construction and operation of this public transportation system at the Palisades-Hastings crossing: (1) a tunnel would run underneath or near 13 historic landmark sites in Palisades; (2) underground rail operations would cause any nearby building structures to experience groundborne vibration from the railroad at the foundation in the form of "feelable vibration and/or noise" (p.9.3); (3) the rail line, over its total alignment from its origin in Port Jervis, connecting through Suffern to the Palisades-Hastings crossing, would cross 16 inland water bodies, and would potentially displace 6 residences, 3 park and recreational areas, and 13 commercial/industrial establishments; (4) the new right-of-way requirements for the entire alignment would need 29 acres, of which 5 are currently residential; (5) this, as well as 4 other alternatives proposed in Nyack, might have an impact on the wetland areas and wildlife of the Piermont Marsh, a designated estuarine sanctuary; (6) dredging for an immersed tunnel, if this option is selected, would cause a temporary disturbance to the river bottom, possibly raising problems regarding the disposal of contaminated materials such as PCB's and metals that could be dislodged; and (7) the Palisades crossing would directly affect Lamont Observatory, seriously impacting its seismic monitoring operations. The report further states: "Based on a review of the ... preliminary information and assessment, Lamont Observatory concluded that a river crossing at the location would have serious negative affects (sic) on the facility, which would jeopardize its continued operation." (p.9.4)

The River Crossings

There are five other proposed crossings in addition to Palisades-Hastings. Four of the alternative crossings propose a deep bored or immersed tunnel, or cable-stayed bridge connecting the Nyack area to Tarrytown (Alternatives 2,3,4 and 5); and a final one (Alternative 6) envisions a bridge crossing the Hudson between

Newburgh and Beacon, N.Y. All routes begin at Port Jervis in Orange County and end at Grand Central Station in Manhattan.

All the proposed six crossings are not limited simply to commuter rail traffic. The report recommends a variety of options that might coordinate with their rail mode for further investigation. These shared use or "multimodal opportunities" include rail freight, light rail transit, high speed rail or maglevs (levitated vehicles propelled by electromagnetic forces), and joint rail/car crossings such as an immersed tube rail tunnel that might bear up to eight lanes of cars and two rail tracks. This last option was considered applicable only to the Nyack-Tarrytown crossing, since "... (a)ppropriate vehicular connections do not exist on either end of a Palisades-Hastings crossing" (p.8.9).

The Report

This Phase I study, entitled "*Feasibility and Benefit-Cost Study of Trans-Hudson, Cross-Westchester and Stewart Airport Rail Links Study*", prepared for Metro-North by Parsons Brinckerhoff Quade & Douglas, Inc. and others, has chosen six crossings from 30 possibilities considered initially. The report is lengthy (105 pages plus appendices), complex, and a result of four years of detailed study. Major sections consider the selection and description of alternatives; capital costs and project phasing; estimates of ridership; service plan; operating costs and revenues; opportunities; environmental considerations; cost-benefit analyses; and potential funding mechanisms.

The report envisions potential benefits to the region encompassing both Orange and Rockland counties. These include enhancements in the economic character of the area such as: improvements to regional mobility; linking employment centers with affordable housing; controlling growth and development; possible public transportation access to Stewart Airport; expanding opportunities for new multimodal transportation such as high-speed rail; and specific local benefits such as commercial development at train stations.

Quality of life and environmental improvements might result from reducing current rail and car travel times to Manhattan; diverting autos from existing congested bridges and highways; helping meet requirements of the Clean Air Act; and limiting traffic congestion in local communities. To the extent possible, existing rail lines and right-of-ways, such as those along the Palisades Parkway, would be used to minimize the effect on communities.

The report also states that public-private partnerships might expand the possibilities for funding for this project, whatever configuration is adopted.

The Next Step

Janet M. Mainiero, Assistant Director at Metro-North, confirmed to 10964 that there has been no

determination of a preferred alignment, and that all transportation modes are being examined at this time, including ferries, HOV (High Occupancy Vehicle) Lanes, bus service and rail lines for the region. Selection of a contractor to conduct a Major Investment Study/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (MIS/DEIS) is currently underway. This study will further determine the relative impacts of the proposed alternatives, including a "no build" option. Projected completion of this stage is 1997-1998, followed by a Preliminary Engineering Report and final Environmental Impact Statement in 2000, which will provide an analysis of the identified preferred alternative and will involve public hearings. According to the report, a decision about whether to pursue further development will be made in the year

2000. Final design and construction is estimated for completion by the year 2010.

The proposed river crossings at Palisades and also at Nyack should be a direct and immediate concern for all community residents. A copy of the report along with the abbreviated feasibility study are available at the Palisades Free Library. While this article could only briefly highlight some of the main points, future neighbors of an underground rail tunnel should inform themselves now while these plans are undergoing study and consideration.

--Ellen Chayet Kidd

Editor's Note: Ellen Chayet Kidd holds a doctorate in social policy from the Heller School at Brandeis University.

This Metro-North study was brought to our attention at the Palisades Library Annual Meeting by Councilwoman Eileen Larkin. She writes: "I learned a few months ago that this feasibility study had not been distributed to any of the elected officials of the villages or the town of Orangetown. I have now made sure that the mayors have a copy and will have a copy of the full report at the Palisades Library by the time you read this.

The MTA plans are, to say the least, dramatic - for all of Rockland County - but more so for the river communities. We must make it very clear to our elected officials in Washington, Albany, New City, and on the local level that we do not want our village and the hamlet of Palisades to be devastated by plans to move cars and trucks to New England and westerly toward Orange County in order to develop that area. It is important to mobilize now and make our position clear. Feel free to call me at 359-6589 or write me at 15 Horne Tooke Road."

Two Riverwatch Organizations

The Hudson River Defense League has evaluated Metro-North's Feasibility Study for the Trans-Hudson Crossing and writes: "Over the past several years, the League has developed an open dialog with Metro-North and it is no secret that HRDL is committed to safeguarding the beauty and health of the Hudson River. In protecting the communities along the west bank of the Tappan Zee, the League is vehemently opposed to a crossing of any type in Rockland. It is the opinion of the League that the devastation which would occur to the Palisades and our beautiful riverfront is no compensation for gaining improved mobility to midtown Manhattan (inconveniently indirect at best), and helping to meet the requirements of the Clean Air Act. Creating access to Stewart Airport from the northern suburbs could be better served by a new rail crossing further north in the Newburgh-Beacon area, or indeed by a bus system. The HRDL expects to be involved with the next phase of Metro-North's plans which include a Major Investment Study and Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Trans-Hudson Crossing Project. Your interest, support and/or involvement would be welcomed. Contact the Hudson River Defense League, P.O. Box 606, Nyack, NY 10960 or Deanna Sanderson, Director, 639-1066."

The Hudson Riverkeeper Fund was originally founded in 1983 by Hudson River fishermen who believed that citizens themselves must enforce our environmental laws if the fisheries and waters of the Hudson River estuary are to be protected. They appointed a Hudson Riverkeeper who, with staff and volunteers, patrols the Hudson gathering evidence for the prosecution of polluters and other environmental lawbreakers.

The Hudson Riverkeeper first came to national attention by uncovering and halting the Exxon Company's practice of sending oil tankers up the Hudson to rinse themselves out and remove clean Hudson River water for use in the Exxon refinery in Aruba.

Since then, investigations by Hudson Riverkeeper John Cronin and prosecutions by staff attorney Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. have brought to justice more than forty polluters and abusers of the Hudson River estuary including private industry, county, state and local governments alike.

For more information, call 1-800-21-RIVER, or write the Riverkeeper's office at 39 Broadway, 37th Fl., New York, NY 10006-3068. (Telephone: 212-825-1900)

Remembering Mildred

A lifelong resident of Palisades, Mildred Post Rippey died on the evening of February 22. She had just celebrated her 94th birthday. A memorial service, held on February 25 at the Palisades Presbyterian Church, was attended by family, friends, and neighbors; 10964 reproduces excerpts from spoken tributes given to Mildred by her son-in-law, Robert Chesnut, and neighbor, Dorothy Davis.

Mildred Post Rippey:

An extraordinary woman, a personality of paradox. A sometimes proper, Victorian lady, she taught her astonished grandchildren that a grandmother could go sledding with them in the winter, could ride a motorcycle in the spring, and could spit whenever she chose. She was both fearless and phobic, afraid of no one and nothing except thunderstorms, elevators, and riding buses on 9W.

Mildred was both a localite *par excellence* and a cosmopolitan with a global vision. Deeply rooted in her beloved Palisades and Rockland County for nearly a century, she was matriarch and historian and poet laureate of church and community. World traveler, she accepted and embraced people of all races and religions as brothers and sisters in the one family of God.

She lived a long life in basically good health, even though she was convinced from an early age that she very well might die at any moment. For more decades than we care to count, her family members living at a distance recall that every parting concluded with, "This may be the last time you see me alive."

Mildred was a strong woman, some might even characterize her as a feisty female warrior. She could hold her own with the high and mighty, the rich and famous, though she was also, in many respects, fragile and insecure. She was a single mother long before there were many. She reared three daughters alone though she really didn't know how to cook and hated housekeeping. You might say she had a real respect for historic dust. But then when you're holding two or three jobs simultaneously and parenting three children all alone, who has time for dusting. First things first. She was always clear about her priorities.

A friend of Bill's and Jimmy's and LBJ and JFK and HST and FDR, she was also clear about her political preferences which clearly leaned to the left,

though she also cherished many traditional, conservative, religious values. Her politics were grounded in the fact that she was a woman of passion and compassion who championed the cause of the underdog, the least, the last, the lost.

Growing older was both embraced and resisted. She said she felt like a young person in an old body. Shortly after she turned 86, her doctor asked, "Well, how does it feel to be 86, Mildred?" To which she replied, "How should I know; I've never been 86 before."

Mildred had a real *joie de vivre* and a great sense of humor. The loves of her life were often simple things—sunsets and trees, rocks of the towering palisades, twinkling lights across the Hudson, her house, her cats, and her piles of junk-mail. The piles grew because her boundless and sometimes naive generosity landed her on every sucker list ever compiled.

At the heart of her love, of course, was her family.

She nurtured and encouraged them in the pursuit of education, good books and reading, the life of faith and church. She took pride that each of her three daughters remained married to the same man—

each of them now for thirty-five years or longer. She traveled the country and the world to be there for the important family occasions—births and baptisms, weddings and confirmations, ordinations and graduations. She wrote poems for them all, as well as an occasional letter to set the wayward straight.

A wordsmith, witty and wordy, she loved words...and hated silence. She couldn't stop writing, or talking. She loved reading too, of course, books, her Palisades Library, her Camelot she called it. In later years Mildred delighted in the many visitors who kept her in touch with the outside world. Like the curator of her own personal museum, she offered everyone a tour of each room with its mementos and curios. She found much comfort in her nightly rituals—playing Andrew Lloyd Weber's *Pie Jesu* even after the tape was only barely recognizable, saying a prayer for each family member for each step that she climbed up to her bedroom.

Humble and self-effacing in many respects, she also had a well-developed public persona and loved the limelight, whether it was holding court for family and visitors in her living room or holding forth in Joys and Concerns at church, or being the life of the party wherever she was invited. She loved to

Mildred had a real *joie de vivre* and a great sense of humor. The loves of her life were often simple things...

dance and somehow managed to do so even in a wheelchair.

One last love of her life we haven't mentioned—music. Once Mildred became a young working woman, the first substantial purchase she made with her own money was the piano which still sits in her living room. She often recalled how when her sister Elaine was dying many years ago at a young age, Elaine said, "I hear the most beautiful music. I wish you could come hear it with me." Hard as it is, we can let Mildred go, confident that she is now there with Elaine, enjoying the most beautiful music anyone has ever heard. --Robert A. Chesnut

A Palisadian Remembers...

Happily, Mildred has documented for us much of her life and that of her friends—in her irresistible impulse to write poems. One of the great things about her was that she was always the object of her own dismay. She could be wistful, but never mean-spirited.

Mildred was behind the desk of the Palisades Free Library for 35 years. A lot of books passed through her hands. She read quite a number of them, especially the thin ones. That was one of the many things she had in common with younger readers—and she put it in verse. I sometimes think Mildred liked people better than books. I know she thought they were more important. Her special love was for the children. Which was why she could lock up the library and go with two little boys—when no other adult seemed to care—to see the bald eagle in the oak tree. I remember the eagle myself. I called my husband, Harry, from the library. He came and went on down the back of the schoolyard to see it. It was there for days, every twilight, and the string of pilgrims starting from the library was like a James Thurber event.

Next to children, I think local authors might have been Mildred's favorite patrons. She loved her part in their celebrations—in any celebration for that matter—but library signings, book sales, lectures, benefits, name it, she was there. And many a bristly trustee she cooled and dissuaded from his wrath—including a distinguished doctor. She typed a few manuscripts, some for famous authors—John dos Passos, Marya Zaturenska, and a good part of Edgar Snow's autobiography.

Mildred did not go gently from the work she loved. Why should she? Her life was in everything she did. Perhaps most especially at the Palisades Church. That is where she spoke out against so much of the world's evil, and for so many causes necessary to Christian, to human honor. I venture



to say much of the best in our church today, at our humane and accepting core, owes to Mildred's influence. She sang, laughed, taught and loved among us, and never let up. Nobody who was at the noon Bible class two weeks before she died is likely to forget Mildred's presence that day, the struggle to arrive and the determination to take part.

Mildred was on the church Session years ago, and wrote a lament on being retired. I quote:

All this to me and more is very dear,
And so, although I may shed a tear,
My heart is full of joy that I will be
A humble Elder through Eternity.

Dorothy Davis

Palisades Bulletin Board

If you wish to place news or announcements on the Palisades Bulletin Board, write to **10964** Newsletter at P.O. Box 201 or call any staff member. Deadline for the June issue is May 10.

Toni and Mike Arzoomanian moved to 6 Yadanza Court on October 1st from Queens where they were both raised. They have a daughter **Nicole** who is almost 3 years old. Mike works as a broker on Wall Street and Toni is a hostess at Shea Stadium.

Phillip Bauman has received the *Metropolitan Athletics Congress Sports Medicine Doctor of the Year Award* for the volunteer work he does for numerous track and field events including the New York Games, the Marathon and the National Scholastic Championships.

Janet and Rick Irizarry and their two children, **Danielle**, 8, and **Jeffrey**, who is almost 6, moved to Yadanza Court last November. Rick grew up in Palisades and works for the Cisco Food Corporation. Janet, a restaurant owner, hails from Poughkeepsie, and is always busy at the popular Tony's Lobster and Steak House.

Jawonio Inc. is looking for volunteers who would be interested in working with residents at the Cummings House on Oak Tree Road. The residents, all of whom suffer from severe Cerebral Palsy, enjoy many kinds of activities, such as music, reading, and informal conversation. Please contact Lisa Degroodt at 634-4648 if you would like to help.

Lou and Luann Maresco both grew up in the Bronx and moved from Throgs Neck to 14 Yadanza Court in November. Luann is a dental hygienist and Lou is a Freihoffer distributor. They have two children, **Jenna**, who is 5 and 3 year old **Dayna**.

Palisades Post Office. The hours of our postal employees have been cut as have window service hours. Rumor has it that this is but a first step in closing the Palisades Post Office. If you care about the future of our community's main hang out please

write to Brian FitzPatrick, Westchester Division, U.S. Postal Service, P.O. Box 9996, Mt. Vernon, N.Y. 10551-9996.

New Post Office Hours are:

Retail: Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday, 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

Lobby: Monday-Friday, 7:15 a.m.-5:15 p.m. and Saturday, 7:15 a.m.-1 p.m.

Sixth grader **Stefanie Umlas** appeared in the Rockland Youth Repertory Company (REPCO) presentation of *Peter Pan* in February. She was the understudy for the lead role of Peter Pan, and played Liza, the housekeeper, as well as the crocodile who swallows Captain Hook! Last year, Stefanie played Baby June in REPCO's *Gypsy* and is determined to keep performing in musical theatre. She is hoping to put together a community rendition of *The Sound of Music* this summer. Anyone interested in participating can call her at 359-2150. (Are any adults interested in helping to organize the production?)

Palisades resident **Bob Umlas**, an acknowledged leading world expert on Microsoft Excel, presented a 90-minute session at Microsoft's Tech Ed '95 conference in New Orleans at the end of March. The title of the session was *Maximizing Excel Development Using Array Formulas*. Bob has been asked to repeat the session at Microsoft's conference in Germany in April. As a result of his Excel contributions on CompuServe, he was recently voted Microsoft's "Most Valuable Professional" for the second quarter in a row.

Roger Weisberg's one hour national public television documentary, *Sex, Teens and Public Schools*, airs on May 16 at 10 p.m. on Channel 13. Written and directed by Roger, it is hosted by Walter Cronkite and explores the conditions that have led to escalating rates of teen pregnancy, illustrates the costs and consequences of this national epidemic, and, most importantly, examines the role that public schools can play in stemming the tide of early and unwanted pregnancy.

Neighborhood Crime Watch

A number of residential break-ins have been reported in the Palisades area during the winter months, with forced front door entry occurring just after dark and before people arrive home. Homeowners should make sure that their homes appear occupied, especially after dark, by using lights on timers, and playing radios and televisions. Doors should be locked, outside lights illuminating front and rear entrances. Most importantly, report any suspicious individuals or behaviors to the Orangetown Police, noting license plate numbers on cars that do not belong in your neighborhood, particularly those occupied by individuals who do not appear to have legitimate business there.

10964 Needs Staff Volunteers

Do you have

- * editorial skills?
- * Word 4 or 5 or Pagemaker on your computer?
- * reporting/writing abilities or interest?
- * suggestions/ideas for features?

Please call a staff member and join us.



10964 Needs Graduating Student's Names

We have access to the list of students who will graduate from Tappan Zee High School, but need students and/or parents to let us know about high school and college students who will graduate this spring from other schools.

For Sale: Exercise bicycle, almost new. Brand name, BH Vitoria Espana, made in Spain. Two seat types. Best Offer. Also: Mini ping pong table (folding) with 2 nets, paddles. Best offer. Please call 359-6910.

For Sale: '87 BMW K75 motorcycle, blue, 31k mi., Parabellum ferring & scoop, saddle bags, custom Corbin & original seat, battery charger, \$4200. Call Dave, 359-5035.

Rockland Center For the Arts

April

Bi-Annual Members Exhibit. Opening reception April 2, 1-4 p.m. Paintings, drawings, graphics, mixed media, sculpture, ceramics, photography, glass and jewelry. Exhibit continues through April 30.

Great French Paintings: From Cezanne to Matisse. A day excursion to the Philadelphia Museum of Art on April 8. \$60 includes transportation and meals. Call the Center at 358-0877 for reservations.

Children's Holiday Arts Adventure: "Chasing Rainbows." April 19 and 20; arts, crafts, dance from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. for ages 4-7. Suggested donation \$15 per day for members, \$20 for non-members.

"Two's a Crowd" Jazz Series. April 22; Gene

Bertoncini (Jazz guitar) and Michael Moore (bass); 8 p.m. \$12 seniors, students and members, \$14 non-members.

Workshops: April 2 and 9: Ceramic bead workshop (create jewelry from clay, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.); April 2: Ukrainian Easter Egg decoration, 1-5 p.m.; April 23: Raku workshop, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; April 23: Calligraphy for cash, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; April 23 and 30: Basics of Botanical Drawing, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

May

Pottery Sale. May 5, 6, 7; Exhibit/sale of work by faculty and students.

Student Exhibit. Opening reception May 13, 1-4 p.m. Exhibit continues through June 4.

Palisades Free Library News

Plant Sale

The Spring Plant Sale is set for May 13th. A wonderful selection of annuals and perennials awaits you this year, so please do come by from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and help celebrate the arrival of Spring.

New Members Elected to Library Board

Two new trustees have been elected to serve on the Board of the Palisades Free Library. Mary Viviano and Larry Bucciarelli began their four year terms, effective February 8, 1995. Board President, Dan Martin, welcomed the new members and called upon them to assume an active role in the future growth of the library. The other members of the library's Board of Trustees include Annie Gerard, Mathew Lonberg, Phoebe Rosenwasser and Robert Williams.

New Books

Ashe	<i>Arthur Ashe on Tennis</i>
Ballard	<i>Explorations</i>
Grisham	<i>Rainmaker</i>
Hoffman	<i>Practical Magic</i>
Keneally	<i>River Town</i>
Maxwell	<i>All the Winters That Have Been</i>
Miller	<i>Distinguished Guest</i>
Smiley	<i>Moo</i>
Ward	<i>Closest Companion</i>

Did You Know...?

- The total population of Palisades is 1,294.
- The library has 970 registered borrowers and a circulation of 15.26 per capita.
- Total visits to the library reached 10,732 and children signed up for over 60 programs.
- The library added over 1,144 new volumes to its adult and juvenile collection for a total of 17,209 volumes.
- Total circulation for 1994 was 19,758 which included 6,600 periodicals.
- The complete Annual Report to the State is available at the circulation desk.

Library Hours

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

The library will be closed Easter Sunday, April 16th.

The Board of Trustees and the staff of the Palisades Free Library note with sadness the passing of Mildred Rippey. Mildred was our librarian for many years and retired in 1973. Her book: *Reflections: A Collection of Poetry*, and a video, *Mildred*, will be on display at the desk this month.

SOUTH ORANGETOWN SCHOOL NEWS

Building Utilization Study Committee

The Board of Education approved the report issued by the Building Utilization Study Team on February 13, 1995 concerning recommendations for space for the kindergarten through fifth grade in Academic Year 1995-1996. Actual details of modifications to school buildings will be determined by the Administration, working in conjunction with staff at the individual schools. The Board approved a continuation of the SOCES configuration for the next academic year. This means K-1 remains at Tappan Zee Elementary School, grades 2 and 3 at William O. Schaeffer, and grades 4 and 5 at Cottage Lane Elementary School.

The B.U.S.T team is developing a five-year plan for pre-kindergarten through high school that will be available in early May. Mary Viviano is a member of the team, and she actively seeks your suggestions and comments. Call Mary at 359-1664.

Annual District Elections

Elections to approve the school budget and to elect Board of Education members will be on May 3. Board Member Geraldine Miras, a resident of Palisades, will be seeking another term in this election. A public hearing on the budget will be held on April 10 at Tappan Zee High School library at 7:30 p.m.

Concerts and Shows

South Orangetown Middle School Spring Concert will be held on Wednesday, May 17. Call SOMS at 365-4251 for details and time.

Tappan Zee High School will hold the first of its Spring Concerts on Tuesday, May 23 at 8 p.m. Call TZHS at 365-5501 for details.

The Cottage Lane Spring Concert will be at Tappan Zee High School on Wednesday, May 24. Call Cottage Lane at 365-4230 for details and time.

Palisades Presbyterian Church

Calendar

April 3: If you want to join in the fun of the **Parish House Follies**, as a performer or "backstage", come to the church between 7-9 p.m. and tell us what you'd like to do (or call Cass Ludington, 398-2621, or Karen Jefferies, 359-1146).

SAVE THE DATE - SATURDAY MAY 20 - FOR THE **PARISH HOUSE FOLLIES**: "MORE FUN THAN BROADWAY." 7 p.m. cocktails, hors d'oeuvres. 8 p.m. performance.

April 7 and 8: Nice Goods Sale. Fine furniture, china, designer clothing, etc. On Friday evening, starting at 8 p.m. there will be a silent auction and reception for which there is a suggested donation of \$10; hors d'oeuvres and wine will be served. The sale itself will be held on Saturday, April 8 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. If you would like to donate pieces for the sale, call Jackie Martin (359-1608) or Donna Rubenstone (365-0682).

April 22: "Love Letters" by A.R. Gurney. John and Mary Ann Garland in a dramatic reading; 8 p.m. Suggested contribution \$15 to benefit the church building fund.

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A Good Connection

When a church the size of Palisades Presbyterian can extend its giving even modestly beyond parish and neighborhood to include a corner of Harlem, it suggests the willingness of the community to support such outreach. That was the thought of 10964 in proposing this account of our Harlem mission. The report may be weak on history, but it's strong on love.

It was Christmas time four years ago when a lapsed connection with 127th Street *Youth for Seniors* was renewed. A call from the past put us back on track. No one seemed able to date the "past" but the response to present needs was strong. The "white gifts" (brand new toys wrapped in white tissue) collected at the children's Christmas service went to hospitalized children with sickle cell disease. The practice continues, but we have greatly enlarged our mission since.

The wake-up call came from Ann Thomas who, after years away from Palisades, many out of the country, has remained in touch with 127th Street.

She and David, her husband, now live in Somerville, Mass.; their four children, three of them raised in Palisades, are married and away. Ann, incidentally, was never a member of the Palisades Church. When I asked her when this liaison with Harlem commenced, she said, "Two days after the assassination of Martin Luther King."

Then everything I had heard and half-remembered began to fall in place, starting with the memorial march in Nyack from 9W to the river. The tragedy made everyone with a conscience beautiful. Monsignor Robert Fox was the rallying figure in Rockland in the assault on Harlem poverty. The black community responded with heart and hope. What they wanted most was to clean up the neighborhood. Crews of Rocklanders went there on work assignments. The likes of Peter Grey brought gardens to salvaged lots. The Harlem leader was the legended Essie Davis, an illiterate black woman who made every politician in the city pay attention. Ann Thomas tells of how she sat two hours outside the then Mayor Lindsay's office. When the mayor came out and saw her, he took her in by the arm, saying, "I owe you a cup of coffee for keeping you waiting." "Mr. Mayor," said Essie, "you owe me a full course dinner."

Ann and Miss Essie became lifelong friends. Miss Essie's secretary was Howard Friedman who has carried on since she passed away in 1984. Howie is another legend. An art restorer by training, he practices his craft when he needs to keep a sagging roof over his head where he still lives at 62 West 127th Street. Otherwise, he is working voluntarily for *Youth for Seniors*.

Howie loves to come out to the Palisades Church two or three times a year. He doesn't pitch, he shares, and together we have come up with some pretty good ways to contribute: Thanksgiving food baskets for elderly shut-ins which the youth help distribute, \$12 a piece; a week in August at summer camp in Harriman, \$22 a child (the cost of food); trips to the circus, museums, ball games (once upon a time), the zoo... Clothes seasonally (limited storage); trinkets for flea markets; socks (forever)...

We shall soon be asking for contributions of \$5.50 to send a youngster to the circus. Each gift will be matched by two subway fares and a box lunch by Harlem donors. Anyone wishing to participate should make their check out to Palisades Presbyterian Church and mark it for *Youth for Seniors*.

-- Dorothy Davis

The Secret of Wahbewejah!

Most Palisadians know that the beautiful ice-skating area in the south end of Tallman Mountain Interstate Park has a very strange name. It sounds as though it might be of local Indian origin. It is not.

Fifty years ago, when the Standard Oil Company (now Exxon) had dismantled its shipping facility in Palisades, which it then conveyed to the Park Commission, the territory was a paradise for the local children. In addition to a variety of abandoned buildings, there was a remarkable wooden staircase some 90 feet down to the river and the long pier that had carried the oil pipeline out to water deep enough for tankers.

Among the children who romped and rambled in these woods and ruins in the mid-1940s were the Haagenson sisters, Karen Savage and Alice Gerard, who lived at the north end of Woods Road, almost at the edge of the Standard Oil property. With great strain on her brain, Karen was recently able to recall the playmates who first discovered the joy of skating on the interconnecting marshy ponds and seized the opportunity to name the area after themselves, as follows:

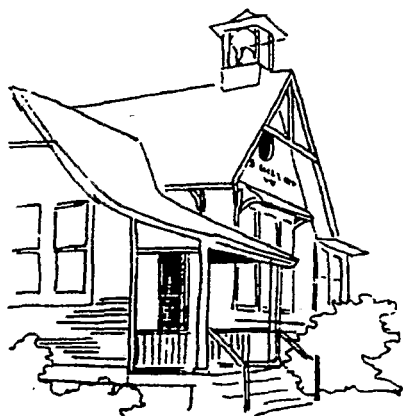
Elizabeth Walden, Hassan Ali, Karen Haagenson, Bob Ballard, Susan Ettinger, Mac Whitney, Tom Ettinger, Lael Jackson, Tom Aldrich and Francois Hyde — **Wahbewejah**.

Karen remembers definite agreement among the 10 children that the H's are silent.

Andrew E. Norman

Coming in the June Issue:

Annie Gerard will be writing an article on the dangers of Lyme disease and the steps you can take to protect your family. Annie's son, Cory, recently had a harrowing brush with this terrible disease and, as a result, the family was given an opportunity to see how supportive this community can be. Annie writes: "I want to thank everyone-- friends, neighbors, classmates and their families-- who called and wrote and visited to offer their support during our hospital stay and after. It was an incredibly scary time, but your thoughts and concern helped us through and gave me a new appreciation for the community we live in."



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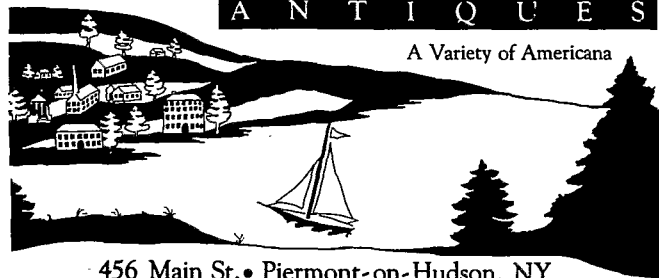
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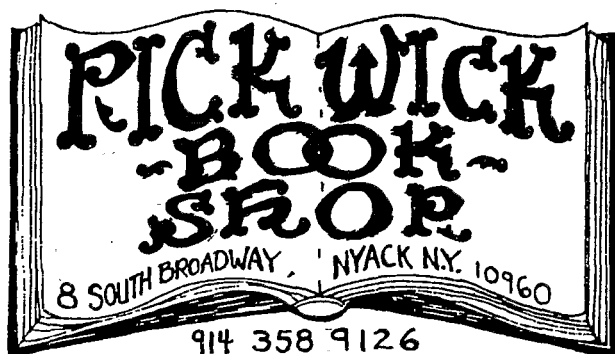
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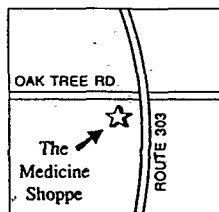
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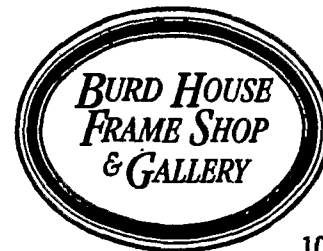


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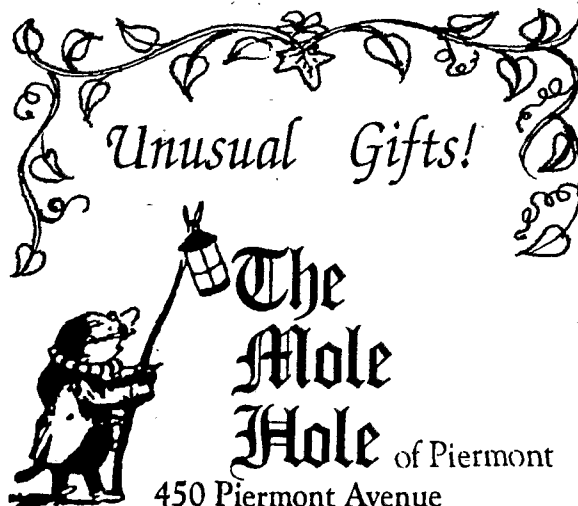
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