

This community newsletter publishes information, events, problems and concerns effecting 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.

## Winter Bonanza!

10964 has been in existence since March 1977 when it was started by several enthusiastic Palisadians. Since that time, we feel the combined voluntary efforts of the newsletter staff in bringing this publication to our neighbors has been appreciated and we have received many positive reactions to it. However, each month's publication has been possible only because of the generous donations of some of our neighbors and a few local businesses.

It is impossible to run 10964 "from hand to mouth" each month, not knowing if we have ample money for printing and postage. As a result, the staff of 10964 is making an all-out effort to raise enough money to keep us in business for at least the next six months. We are sponsoring a Winter Bonanza Raffle which will be drawn at the Community Center's Annual Holiday Party, Sunday, December 18th, 2-5pm at the Palisades School. First prize in the raffle is a weekend in January at the St. Regis Hotel; second prize is two tickets to a popular Broadway play; third prize is two tickets to "Saturday Night Live." In addition, there will be other surprises raffled off. Volunteers will be going around our neighborhood selling tickets at \$1 each. We need all the help we can get in making this appeal a success. This is your newsletter! Please give it your support. Additional volunteers are needed to sell tickets. Anyone interested, please call any member of the staff.

Barbara Hovsepian

## Memories of The Way We Were

I loved my little two-room schoolhouse, now the Palisades Community Center, and I lived so close to it that I could leave home when the last bell started to ring and be there on time! Much to the chagrin of my schoolmates, I won prizes for perfect attendance and for never being late and they said, "But Mildred lives right on top of the school!" In retrospect, my first school day was hilarious, but at the time I was close to tears. My mother took me to school that morning and left before I was assigned a seat. We had what was called "assembly", marching around the room, singing, saluting the flag and then being seated. When assembly was over the teacher, an old man (by my standards), told me to sit up front until he found a seat for me. I sat where I was told, under some geranium plants that were on a shelf above me. They had recently been watered and the water poured down on me, but I did not complain nor move an inch. I was quite wet when I was finally given a seat. After a while we had recess and I, hoping school was over, ran home. My mother hugged me and sent me back to school in dry clothes.

A few feet in back of the school there was a huge pond, formed by a dammed up stream; we could put on our skates at school and walk out on the ice. My father was an accomplished figure skater and liked to draw a crowd around him while he did the Dutch roll and figure eights, backward and forward. The young boys built big bonfires around the edge of the pond but they did not warm me, and very soon I would stumble home and roll on the floor in pain as the blood started to circulate in my poor feet. Grandma insisted that I soak my stiff, frozen feet in COLD water and it certainly helped.

Below the skating pond was an ice pond and all the men in town came to cut the ice. Sometimes they worked on Sunday and then my father took me down to the pond to watch. I am a little vague about just what happened, but I believe I remember horses going out on the ice pulling some sort of cutter that carved squares in the ice. Then

the men sawed through these squares in some fashion (how did they keep from being submerged?), pushed the cakes of ice up on to a moving trestle where they entered the ice-house and were packed in sawdust.

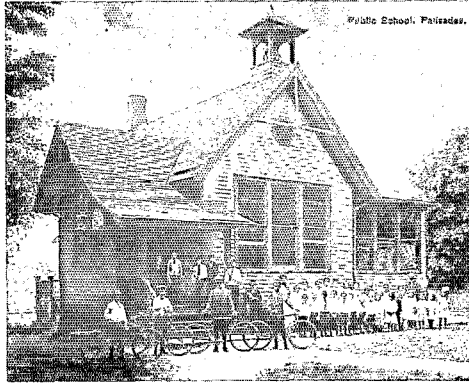
I was not allowed to do many of the exciting things I would have enjoyed, such as "walking out" on Sunday afternoon in summer or sledding down hill in winter. And oh how thrilling that was! Throwing yourself "belly whoppers" on your sled and flying down the hill in the dark, dragging your feet so you wouldn't plunge into the river. I was glad that, thanks to my indulgent mother, I did have several furtive trips.

Sometimes the Hudson River froze over and horses and sleighs could drive across to the other side, since there were no boats keeping the channel open as they do now.

In those long ago days the seasons seemed to be sharply defined—spring, the mud season; summer, swimming and picnics; fall, Halloween and burning leaves (I can still smell 'em), and winter, snow and Christmas. I think I loved winter best with the snow squeaking under our boots and the beautiful Jack Frost designs on the windows. We played fox and geese in the snow at recess in the open field across from the school, and made snow men that lasted for weeks.

There are so many memories "in the corners of my mind" and over the years you have heard most of them. Recently, someone I love said, "What a slender thread is the present moment upon which we balance our lives. A fraction of a second, a twinkling of an eye, and the present has become the past." I'm glad I grew up in those long ago days. As I look back it seems like another world, but a precious one.

Mildred Post Rippey



Picture courtesy of Laura Ebmeyer

## Palisades Free Library

The fall story hour for pre-schoolers and the Thursday movies and crafts for school-aged children have been such a success that the Library is hoping to have more of the same during the late winter or spring. They would appreciate knowing your preference.

"The Diary of Ann Frank" will be shown at 1pm on December 10th in the library. This moving and beautifully acted film is appropriate for young people and adults, but is not suggested for children.

**HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES** - On Saturday, December 10th at 1pm the Library will be sponsoring a program in which children, ages 5 and up, will be making simple Christmas decorations. Please register now as limited space is available.

On Thursday, December 29th at 10:30 children 4 and older are cordially invited to attend a puppet show presented by the Pearl River Players. Plays will include "The Night Before Christmas" and other familiar tales. Please plan to come!

Barbara Hovsepian

## School News

A special input meeting will be held Tuesday, December 13th, 8pm at the Board Room of the Middle School. This meeting will deal with the possible restructuring of grade patterns of children as follows: K-6 at the Elementary level; Grades 7, 8 and 9 at the Middle School level and Grades 10, 11 and 12 at the High School level. All are welcome to attend!

Barbara Hovsepian

**TAPPAN ZEE ELEMENTARY** - A Pot Luck Supper will be held at the TZE School on December 2nd at 6:45 with square dancing to follow with callers Herb and Sheila Bunin. Please bring your own dinner or dessert to share. Contact Miss Crable at TZE for details.

On December 3rd the PTA Scholarship Committee is sponsoring a Sporting Goods Exchange at the Tappan Grammar School at 10am. If you have tennis rackets, basketballs, bowling balls, skate boards, croquet sets, etc. to donate call Kitty Bensusen at 359-8295.

Barbara Olson

## Palisades School Council

Our after school programs on Tuesdays and Thursdays are off to a good start.

We are happy to report that the Youth Recreation Agency has approved our application for funding these programs. Programs will now have an adult supervising the children at all times. We are planning basketball or volleyball in the gym and games in the game room.

**SATURDAY BASKETBALL** - Any parent interested in helping Don Bracken please call him (1765).

**PLEASE DONATE** - If you have any games, folding chairs, plants or drapes which you are no longer using—please bring them to the school Monday-Friday between 8:30-4pm.

Eileen Larkin

## Palisades Youth Commission

Attention! The Palisades Youth Commission has its meetings Mondays at 8pm at the Palisades School. All welcome!

Just a reminder — the school gym is open Fridays from 3-5pm.

Lawrence Weber

## Palisades Community Center

Santa atop a fire engine, fun for the children, socializing for the adults, refreshments for all at the Holiday Party, Sunday, December 18th from 2 to 5pm. That jolly fellow will arrive at approximately 3pm. All residents are invited to the Palisades School for this free event; donations are greatly appreciated. Don't forget to join your neighbors on December 18th.

Lois Rich-McCoy

## Welcome!

10964 welcomes the following to Palisades: Mr. and Mrs. Victor Mercado and their son Dennis John of Horne Tooke Road; Mr. and Mrs. Ejgil Christensen, their sons, Jens and Tomas, and their daughter, Signe, of Route 9W.

## Girl Scouts

Junior Girl Scout Troop no. 37 of Palisades consists of twelve enthusiastic fourth, fifth and sixth grade girls, who meet Wednesday's at 4:00 in the Palisades Presbyterian Church. Ms. Judy Brainard is the troop leader, assisted by Melanie Moran.

The troop has been busy this fall, starting off with a weekend camping trip in October. This was followed by lots of arts and crafts projects, singing, hiking and learning to work together in small groups.

Future plans include winter camping, a possible spring trip to WRKL radio station, a party for younger scouts, a visit to the Postal Distribution Center in Suffern, bowling, skating and lots more. We only hope that we have enough time to do all the things that our energy and enthusiasm have planned for!

Melanie Moran

## Cub Scouts

Cub Scouts got off to a good start at the familiar surroundings of the old Palisades School. The Cubs are having fun this month working on Indian projects and learning about scouting. They enjoyed a hike along the blue trail in Tallman Park and had a great cookout...a good time was had by all. Many trips and fun projects are being planned for the coming months.

Our thanks go to Stephen Sirks for "doing his best" as Cubmaster.

Irene Diehl  
Marjorie Olson

## Piermont Community Playgroup

The annual Bazaar to benefit the Community Playgroup will be held Saturday, December 3 at the Piermont Village Hall. Hours: 10am to 4:00pm.

A wide variety of handcrafted items will be featured as well as make-a-gift tables, design-your-own T-shirt or patch, take a picture of yourself in a funny hat and other fun things for children.

Plan to join us and help support the Playgroup.

Phyllis Brunson

## Health Notes

An up-to-date interview and observation report of health resources with services; costs, etc., available to Palisadians is now in a health folder at the Palisades Library to read or copy on request...if you are a senior citizen interested in activities via Rockland Center at Palisades, please notify V. Barrett (6427)...the advancing cold weather calls for dressing warmer with special attention to head, feet and hands...with the holiday season approaching, excessive eating and drinking can effect general health, increase susceptibility to disease, as well as encouraging habits difficult to control.

Myra Richardson, BSN  
Virginia Barrett, BSN

## Classified

Classified ads are free. Please submit yours to Box 201 or call Jeanne Boose (7154). Last names and phone numbers must appear in the ad. (Donations to 10964 are requested from businesses or non-Palisadians wishing to place ads.)

COMPANION NEEDED for elderly lady so her children can go out occasional evenings or weekend afternoons. Easy money for anyone from 19 to 90. Call Kellogg (3347) after 6pm.

Capable, responsible and experienced woman available after January 1st to care for your children—house—pets, while you are away. Call McCoy (4744) for reference. Stevensen (914-856-7159)

WANTED - Firm, twin mattress; O-gauge model trains and accessories; 35mm SLR camera. McCoy (4744)  
Assorted rocks and stones, all different sizes. Yours free. Boose (7154)

WANTED - Ping pong table for Palisades School, preferably folding with wheels, offering \$25; regulation volley ball net, offering \$5. Boose (7154)

Art Firestone announces: Our own local Record and Tape Store at discount prices—KING ARTHUR'S SOUND SCENE, 6 Tappan Plaza (next to George Kaye). "We may not have everything, but we can get anything within 1 to 3 days."

HOUSE WANTED - Young, responsible business couple looking for small house to rent with possibility of future purchase. Endelman (8333) evenings.

Many thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Knowlton for their very generous contribution. Also thanks to the Livio Daltos, the Louis Fredericks, and our neighbor, Jeanette Kellogg for calling 10964 her "favorite Rockland County Literature".

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Founded by Lois McCoy. Staff: Barbara Hovsepian, Editor; Paula Silverman, Assoc. Editor; Jane Bernick, Treasurer; Johanna Lo, Layout; Jeanne Boose, Classified. 10964 is published monthly. Deadline for next issue is Dec. 15th. Mail copy to Box 201, Palisades, NY 10964.

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