

PIERMONT NEWSLETTER

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DEMOCRATIC SLATE WINS RE-ELECTION

Election Day, March 20th, produced a relatively small turn-out of voters (403) and victory for the Democratic contenders: Mayor Bo DiFrancesca was re-elected for his fifth term and his two running mates, Leonard DeMaio and Matthew Rotelli, were re-elected for their second terms. Julian D'Antonio, running on the Republican ticket, polled an unusually large percentage but was defeated.



PIERMONT'S PIER -- nearly 140 acres of potential beauty and utility, holds the key to much of Piermont's future. Should the land, no matter how messy it is kept (below), be evaluated for only \$800 an acre while similar adjoining land is valued at \$60,000 or more per acre by tax assessors? That is what Federal Paperboard wants. (See story beginning on page 3.)



The Mayor and the two re-elected Trustees were sworn in to two-year terms of office at the organizational meeting of the Village Board on Monday, April 2nd. Mayor DiFrancesco then made the following appointments:

Deputy Mayor and Administrative
Commissioner -- Mary Bryan
Police Commissioner -- Leonard DeMaio
Fire Commissioner -- Joseph Mazuki
Public Works Commissioner
-- Matthew Rotelli
Village Clerk/Treasurer -- Mary Hardy

The Board elected Thomas Ciganek Village Attorney, John Iurica Village Engineer, William Goswick Fire Safety Inspector, and Albert Lowry Building and Zoning Inspector.

The Board also reappointed Charles Grutzner to a five-year term on the Zoning Board of Appeals, and named George Bryan and Thomas deRaffele to the Planning Commission to replace retiring members Kathryn Smith and Robert Bradbury. Mayor DiFrancesca spoke warmly of his gratitude and pleasure in serving with members of the community who volunteer their time for service to the Village.

PIERMONT DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE NSMES NEW CHAIRMAN

The Piermont Democratic Committee has named Mary Hardy to be its new Chairman. Mrs. Hardy replaces Mrs. Anne Hickey who will remain on the committee as area chairman and our representative on the Orangetown executive committee.

The Newsletter interviewed Mrs. Hardy to ask some questions about the organization and function of the Democratic Committee in Piermont. The number of members of the Committee is proportional and determined by the number of votes received in the national election. At the present time the Committee in Piermont has 4 members from District #1 (North of Ash Street) and 3 members from District #33 (South of Ash Street). The members are: Mary Hardy, Anne Hickey, Thomas deRaffele, George Rankin, Anne Welborn and Alexander Yancy. Howard Brawner has submitted his resignation. The Committee will canvass the area for a registered Democrat who would like to serve in his place; that name will then be presented to the County Convention for approval. The one-year terms of present members expire in June: they will continue in office unless opposed in the primary at that time. Anyone who wants to run for election to the Committee must file a petition with the County Board of Elections. Members are elected at the primary by qualified voters in their districts.

Mrs. Hardy reports that while there is no mandated schedule for meetings of the Democratic Committee, they have recently been meeting once a month because of the elections in March. After the elections the meetings will be determined by the primaries and the November elections. In future elections, the Committee hopes to use the Democratic Club to reach the community and canvass for candidates.

When asked why she thought it important in the Village to have affiliation with a National party, Mrs. Hardy said that she considered it important in order to get County representation and to have a voice outside of Piermont. "The Democratic Committee does much more than just nominate for Village offices -- it attends both town and county conventions and represents us at both levels. Therefore it is vitally important that the Democratic Committee fairly represent the voters of the entire community. I hope to reorganize and revitalize the Democratic Club in Piermont to achieve that goal."

PIERMONT'S POLITICS: MOSTLY ONE PARTY

Julian D'Antonio lost his bid for election this year, but you can't say there

has never been a Republican on the Piermont Village Board, even those who have served are as rare as perfectly flat land in the Village.

Ten years ago, as a gesture towards the two-party system, Piermont Republicans nominated slates for the mayoral election and for trustee slots the following year. "We were not hoping or expecting to win," one of the committee members said recently. They didn't. Also apparently as a gesture, back in 1946 a candidate named William McCartin ran under the American Labor Party label.

More times than not, however, when the Board's solid Democratic composition has been shattered, it has been by individuals, whatever their official party designation, running as independents. Also, more likely than not, those challengers have been enrolled Democrats, splintering off from their party's choice because of specific issues or, as one long-time Piermont political observer put it, "because they got mad at someone." A check over ballots of the last 30 years shows a number of challenges, but few successful ones.

It was in 1957 that Piermont voters had more than a choice; they had a Chinese menu from which to decide. The ballot splintered three ways, and Richard Clucas, a registered Republican-Conservative running under the aegis of the Piermont Citizens party, broke the Democratic hold on the mayoral chair. Candidates for trustee on his ticket were Frederick Stewart and August Sbordone. Sbordone also ran on the Democratic line with George Hickey for Mayor, and John Streppone for trustee. To complicate matters even more, Hickey and Streppone also ran under the Economy Party designation, joined by Americo DiFrancesca. (DiFrancesca contended more successfully as a Democrat in 1959. He was re-elected twice as a trustee and has just been re-elected for his fifth term as Mayor.)

Clucas ran only once. In 1959 an Independent Party slate composed of Sbordone, Mazone and Hogan fell to the Democrats. Looking back, some Piermonters maintain that the issue which restored the Democrats was Clucas' board's unsuccessful proposal to abolish Piermont's police force and hook up with Orangetown. As one observer put it, "Piermont politics are generated by specif

issues and complaints." To show that history does repeat itself, it can be argued that it was the very same village police issue which 12 years later swept the most recent successful challenge to Democratic village control out of office. And in turn, that challenge -- the United Citizens party which in 1970 put in one-time Democrats Philip DeLorenzo, Thomas Boyan and Vito Sorriento on the Board (Frank Kline, a Republican, and Bartlett Rhoades, a Conservative, were later appointed to fill vacancies) -- rode into office on yet another specific issue: urban renewal. It was anxiety roused by incumbent Mayor DiFrancesca's proposal to study urban renewal possibilities which is credited for firing the electorate to break their Democratic habit.

And it is in breaking that habit that dissident candidates face their greatest problem. Why the Village stands out as fiercely loyal to Line B in traditionally Republican Orangetown more likely than not can be explained by its history as a railroad turned factory town. Its original residents, brought in to work for Big Business, hewed to the Democratic Party's reputation as protector of the working man. Continued Democratic loyalty is their legacy. If enough aroused, Piermonters can bring themselves to go the "Citizens" or "independent" route; they appear to balk collectively at getting their arm up to pull the lever at Line A.

When the Republicans ran their 1963 slate of Salvatore DiSanza for Mayor against incumbent Democrat Rocco Memmolo, Robert Perry and Leonard Hunt opposing trustees William Lynch and Americo Di Francescak and Ewan MacQueen for Police Justice against John McKenna, they used slogans like: "Un-er a working two-party system your vote is worth more." But final tallies showed a minority of voters caring to cash in. There were no real issues, and it was not surprise when Memmolo won 547 to DiSanza's 201.

What was surprising the following year was the total racked up by Kathryn Smith who, with Kenneth Clements, opposed Democrats Albert Lowry and George Hickey. Miss Smith polled 211 to Lowry's 363 and Hickey's 361. Clements trailed with 167. Asked nine years later to account for her relative success in that election, Miss Smith, a native Piermonter, says, "Everyone knew me and nobody had anything against me." She elaborated that it is the people who

are in office who are vulnerable. Voters, as a group, are content to leave well enough alone "until something blows up."

Again this year there was no real issue, but Mr. D'Antonio's vote of 154 against the next highest 268 may be some indication that Piermont is ready to consider more than one party.

EDITORIAL

One of the great advantages, and certainly one of the challenges, of living in a small community is the opportunity of participating in the government of that community. It was encouraging to find an "opposition" slate in our recent election, and somewhat discouraging to acknowledge the manner in which the slates were chosen: they both left something to be desired in the way of voter representation. The small turn-out for the vote did nothing much to encourage either party to seek better representation. But both the Republican candidate and the new Democratic Committee Chairman say that they want to get closer to the feelings of the community.

As they Mayor somewhat ruefully observed on the occasion of his swearing-in, the people may not show up to vote for you, or come to regular meetings, but there is no doubt that word gets around quickly in a small town. If something isn't going the way they want it to, people buttonhole you on the street or telephone in the middle of the night.

It's good to know that you can get to the Mayor and the Board, to say nothing of the Democratic and the Republican Committees. But perhaps we should attend their meetings more often -- make our wants known there before we have to make complaints. Our officials are willing to listen -- if only we will let them know we have something to say.

FEDERAL PAPERBOARD PAYS TAXES -- DOWN TO THE LAST NICKEL

As a result of its stubborn and financially foolish attempt to put pressure on the Piermont Village Board to lower its tax assessment, Federal Paperboard Company

paid an extra \$6,500 to the Village last month in tax penalties and costs. In addition, the company drew upon itself and its landlord, the Continental Can Company, news stories in local and New York City newspapers and at least one national magazine (Chemical Week) that detailed the bungled operation to millions of people.

The charade started last June when Federal Paperboard, which is trying to bully the Village into a ridiculous tax reduction, attempted to pay only part of its taxes. Wisely, the Village Board refused to accept the payment, so the taxes went into arrears with a 6% penalty. Federal Paperboard owed \$37,070.38 and Continental Can \$35,563.73. However, Federal, as long-term lessor of the Con Can property, has responsibility for payment of all taxes on both pieces of land.

Unable to make the Federal Paperboard pay up, the Village Board did the next best thing: it advertised the property in its annual public notice of tax delinquency sales. (That does not mean, of course, that the land could be purchased for the taxes owed -- owners in arrears have the right to pay up later and recover their property. But it would mean that the paper company would have to pay 1% interest a month to the holders of the tax notes. And, as Village Clerk Mary Hardy observes, "That is a lot better than you can get from the bank").

The Board also voted to run an extra ad in The Wall Street Journal, a New York financial paper, to make sure that there would be bidders on hand. But, thanks to Piermont resident Charles Grutzner and The New York Times, that turned out to be unnecessary. Charlie, a career Timesman who retired last year, recognized a good man-bites-dog story and alerted The New York Times news desk that the Piermont tax auction notice was running in the Nyack Journal News. The Times sent over a reporter to see what was going on and published a two-column article on Sunday, February 17th.

Spokesmen for Con Can told the Times that they had no intention of letting their property be put up for tax auction and intended to pay the taxes. And, indeed, on Tuesday, February 20th (the first business day after the NY Times, the Journal News and the Bergen Record had

run stories), a lawyer from Continental Can accompanied a Federal Paperboard representative and Federal's local attorney, Orville Mann, Jr., to the Village Hall to pay the tax bill in full, plus penalties.

There was yet a tense moment to come for the corporations. When presented with the check for the taxes and penalties, the Board refused it, pointing out that it was not enough. Someone had added the figures wrong and the check was 5¢ short. One of the attorneys dug in his pocket, produced a nickel, and the Clerk issued a receipt for 5¢ in cash and the check for \$78,879.95. Piermont again was solvent.

SERIOUS PROBLEM

The great tax-withholding caper turned out well for Piermont -- this time. But behind it is a serious emergency for the Village. As the Newsletter has written before, Federal Paperboard has taken the Village to court in an effort to have its taxes reduced by nearly two-thirds. Village residents would have to pick up the difference, which would mean a big boost in Village and town bills. Because the case is in court, Village Attorney Tom Ciganek and Village Trustees are wisely not commenting on the case publicly. But the Newsletter is under no such restriction.

We think that a simple comparison of tax valuations tells the strongest story that can be told of the monstrous inequity that South Orangetown's assessors have imposed on our Village in their estimates of property values.

The Newsletter sampled assessments on the tax rolls for properties on the river front from Cornetta's restaurant to the Con Can parking lot in front of the firehouse and converted them to full market value, per acre. It found valuations ranging from \$43,700 per acre for vacant land to \$60,000 per acre for land with a residence on it. The valuations are for land only, and do not include improvement such as buildings.

By comparison, Federal Paperboard's developed land, on which it has a relatively new factory, is valued at only

\$20,700 per acre. But now hold your hat! Continental Can's property -- 114 acres of it -- is valued at an incredibly low \$2,170 per acre. Yet Federal wants even that reduced by 2/3rds.

The Newsletter feels that something is seriously amiss when the land on Main Street is valued at sixty thousand dollars an acre, while one of the country's largest corporations has nearby land valued at only slightly more than two thousand per acre, or 1/20th as much. Federal Paperboard, a smaller company, has land with new facilities that is valued at 1/3rd as much as hard-pressed residents. It seems the bigger you are, the less your land is worth to assessors.

It's a long shot, but Ralph Nader's group is studying the inequalities of corporate and residential taxation. Piermont resident Arthur Watkins, author of several books on housing, has written the Nader organization asking for an investigator to look us over. We'll see that Nader gets some copies of the Newsletter, too. Perhaps we can provide a mill for his grist.

WORK TO START IN SPRING ON HUDSON TERRACE SCHOOL SITE

Work will start some time this spring on the initial stages of development of the old school site on Hudson Terrace. First to be tackled will be the grading and drainage problems of the level areas. For over a year, the Planning Commission has been meeting with various consultants, interested citizens, and the site-planning committee appointed by the Village Board, to come up with a plan for the property that would fulfill the potential of the site and meet the needs of the Village at a manageable cost.

Several months ago, the Piermont Rotary submitted a detailed plan for the entire site, along with an offer of funding. The Commission has worked with the architect of that plan, Boris Neop of Upper Nyack; Lou Amonson and Larry Bartley of Rotary; and Bruce Howlett, a professional planner, to evolve a general plan that would include keeping the slope at the southern end a "green oasis", blacktopping the area between the two flights of stairs for basketball courts, and swinging the swimming pool

parallel to the river to open up that area to more efficient use as a children's play area. The plan is still not fixed because many practical problems of implementation remain to be settled -- not the least of which is cost.

At this point, the Commission is searching for an expert consultant who can give them the practical advice they now need on such factors as lighting, plumbing, landscaping, etc., who will not only tell them how much it will cost, but also how to go about the actual work. Once such an expert is found, the Commission will go over their ideas with him and work out a final site plan. Although most of the detailed planning so far centers on the part of the property along Hudson Terrace, the final plan will treat the entire site and the slope down to River Road, and the present basketball court down there will be included in the over-all design.

One of the difficulties facing the planners has been the lack of a scale model of the site to work out ideas on. A number of people have undertaken to construct one, but have been stymied by the contours of the slope. No one has yet been able to accurately portray the various slopes from Hudson Terrace to River Road. Kathryn Smith, Commission Chairman until this February, has hopes that the Village engineer, John Iurica, can secure maps that will show the distances and angles of contour and that someone will accept the challenge to construct from them an accurate scale model.

At the February meeting of the Planning Commission, it was suggested that a contest be held for school children to submit their ideas on what they would like to see on the site. Perhaps the new perspective would bring new ideas or solutions to old problems. Perhaps the various local organizations that have been concerned with the development of the school property into a proper community center would be willing to put up a small sum for prizes and some personnel to organize and judge a contest. Whatever the outcome, the Village Board has committed itself to begin work this spring on the long-awaited transformation of the ugly duckling of Hudson Terrace.

PCA ANNUAL DINNER A ROUSING SUCCESS

For the second year in a row, the PCA annual dinner was a delight for gourmet and gourmand alike, and further proof that some of the country's greatest cooks are hidden away in local kitchens. Under the chairmanship of Mimi Bryan, an enlarged committee proeuced a memorable evening for the 140 Piermonters and guests who gathered in St. John's Church Hall on Friday evening, February 23rd.

From the cocktail hors d'ouvres through the riches of the d3ssert table, everything was cooked and served by PCA'ers, and washed down with 5 varieties of wine, courtesy of Bob Celander. The second edition of The Village Cookbook appeared, with recipes from many of the cooks represented at the dinner. This may turn out to be a collector's item, as the last cookbook with a separate section for men. (The Cookbook is now available at the Thrift Shop and at local markets.)

9W SCHOOL BUS ROUTE CHANGED

On February 2, the school bus that had always traveled north from TZES, dropping children off on 9W, then continuing into South Nyack before turning south on River Road to deliver the 60 or more children who live along the river in Grandview and Piermont, turned the other way and local parents breathed a sigh of relief. A year of effort, first by Dr. Rene Brilliant and later by the PTA, had convinced the school district that children who didn't absolutely have to be there should not be bused along 9W. The solution was complicated by the geography of the area and the complexities of state aid formulas, but when it came, it came fast. The PTA was in the midst of a letter-writing campaign when it found the children getting off a different bus. Now they ride through the Mine Hole and north on River Road to their homes. Those who live along 9W still must ride that road, but only strict enforcement of speed and safety lawa up there can improve their situation. Both Dr. Vincent Gillen, assistant superintendent and Eugene Polinsky of the School Board, indicated that they had repeadedly called for the state to upgrade conditions and lower the

speed limits near the school, but had little success in dealing with the Department of Transportation.

9W WIDENING CHALLENGED IN COURT

The West Hudson Environmental Association and the Village of Grandview brought suit against the Department of Transportation to force cancellation of the contract awarded to the Maggiolo Corporation for reconstruction of Routes 9W and 340.

The suit claimed that the D.O.T. let the contract in violation of Section 14a of the N.Y.S. Transportation Law. Section 14a requires that that Commissioner of Transportation consult with the Commissioners of Environmental Conservation, Health, Agriculture and Marketing, and Parks and Recreation when planning road construction. The law also requires continuing review by these officials, and states that this consultative process shall be implemented by memorando of understanding. Suggestions of these commissioners are to be followed to the greatest extent feasible.

The D.O.T. has replied that the current project to reconstruct and widen the two routes is not governed by Section 14a; the Department merely proposes to maintain and repair existing roads within their present rights of way.

After hearing both sides, the court ruled that Section 14a governed only new construction, or construction through parkland. Since the current project was deemed reconstruction, and since the road did not actually pass through Grandview's park, the suit by WHEA and Grandview was dismissed. Thus, Maggiolo Corp. and the State are free to continue the project.

Walter Butler, speaking for WHEA, said that, while naturally disappointed, he understood the reason for the narrower interpretation by the court of initial jurisdiction, but felt that the Appellate Court would read the law more broadly. An appeal is now being prepared.

Piermont Newsletter Spring 1973 Special Report

THE BIRDS OF PIERMONT

by

Anthony F. Amos

How many different species of birds can be found within a mile of Piermont Village Hall? Fifty? One hundred? The answer, to the best of my knowledge, is at least two hundred and ten. I have been observing local birds since 1965, and in 1969 I started keeping notes on the numbers and distribution of birds I have seen in Piermont. I have confined my observations to three main locations: Piermont Pier, Tallman Mountain Park and the Sanctuary on Sparkill Creek, as well as the Hudson River from my house on River Road and the birds that visit my feeder. I think that the list presented here will clearly show the ecological importance of one particular place - the Piermont Pier. At least 155 species have been observed from the Pier - 66 of them have not been seen elsewhere in Piermont; indeed, many could not be seen anywhere else in Rockland County. I say 'at least' because I do not claim the list to be the result of an exhaustive study. It is composed of mostly my own observations, augmented by additions from the second edition of 'Birds of Rockland County' by Bob Deed and others, published in 1959.

Piermont Pier and the marsh that has formed to the south of it give temporary haven to herons, ducks, rails, shorebirds, gulls, warblers and sparrows during migration; provide wintering grounds for many species of ducks; nesting sites for such diverse birds as herons, wrens, blackbirds and warblers and a permanent home for swans, some ducks, sparrows and the ever-present gulls (although they do not breed there). The marsh and Woods along the river edge in Tallman Mountain Park abound with warblers during spring and fall migration, and typical nesting species include Blue Jay, Robin, Thrasher, Veery, Cardinal, Goldfinch and Rose-Breasted Grosbeak. The marsh itself has spectacular numbers of Red-Wing Blackbirds and Grackles, as well as Long-Billed Marsh Wren and an occasional Carolina Wren and Least Bittern nesting there. The Sparkill Creek Sanctuary, at first glance, appears to be populated only by Mallards, Black Duck and domestic ducks, but at this writing (28 Feb.), five Canada Geese, a Green-Winged Teal, Buffle-Head and Goldeneye as well as three Rusty Blackbirds wintering there. The last three ducks are well worth stopping and looking for, although they will not come to be fed like the Mallards - the Buffle-Head and Goldeneye are not surface feeders, and all three are much more wary than the Mallards.

But the Pier remains my favorite place for birding in Piermont. The tidal mudflats, which are gradually becoming more extensive, attract an increasing number and variety of shore birds during migration. It is always a place of surprises: a Short-eared Owl in winter, a Cattle Egret, Grasshopper Sparrow or Snow Bunting during migration, occasional flocks of Water Pipits and Bobolinks; so every time I hear of a scheme to erect high-rise apartments, make it into a recreational park or channelize the Sparkill Creek, I fear for the future of this unique place.

I would like to use this opportunity to air my pet grievance about the Pier: hunting. During early mornings and evenings in October and November the Pier becomes a dangerous place to go bird-watching. I have narrowly escaped being peppered with bird-shot on two occasions. When I complained to the police I was told that hunting was quite legal on the Pier and I should wear brightly colored clothing to avoid being mistaken for a duck. I have seen people on the Pier with high-powered rifles and youngsters who will shoot at anything that flies. I have found blackbirds, gulls and two Mute Swans that were killed by gunshot and just left there. Although the Palisades Interstate Park police have recently posted the marsh itself, this does not seem to affect hunters who are 500 feet from shore in a boat. The Pier is also posted, according to notices on the gate, but this apparently doesn't mean anything. I think that all hunting should be illegal on the Pier and in the marsh - there are really so few ducks there, anyway, and we should preserve them*. One note of amusement re hunting on the Pier: one early morning last fall I found myself making careful notes on six ducks that turned out to be decoys set out by a hunter who had equipped himself with a blind on one of the wrecks off the end of the Pier!

* and me!

BIRDS OBSERVED IN PIERMONT _ 1969 TO PRESENT

SPECIES	P	T	S	SPECIES	P	T	S
COMMON LOON	*	-	-	COMMON GALLINULE	*	-	-
RED-NECKED GREBE	*	-	-	AMERICAN COOT	*	-	*
HORNED GREBE	*	-	-	SEMIPALMATED PLOVER	*	-	-
PIED-BILLED GREBE	*	-	-	n KILLDEER	*	*	-
DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT	*	-	-	BLACK-BELLIED PLOVER	*	-	-
GREAT BLUE HERON	*	*	-	WILSONS SNIPE	*	-	-
GREAT EGRET*	*	-	-	SPOTTED SANDPIPER	R	*	*
SNOWY EGRET	*	-	-	SOLITARY SANDPIPER	*	-	*
CATTLE EGRET**	*	-	-	GREATER YELLOW-LEGS	*	-	-
n GREEN HERON	*	*	*	LESSER YELLOW-LEGS	*	-	-
BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON	*	*	*	PECTORAL SANDPIPER	*	-	-
YELLOW-CROWNED NIGHT HERON*	*	-	*	WHITE-RUMPED SANDPIPER*	*	-	-
AMERICAN BITTERN	*	*	-	LEAST SANDPIPER	*	-	-
n LEAST BITTERN	*	*	-	DUNLIN*	*	-	-
n MUTE SWAN	R	*	-	SHORT-BILLED DOWITCHER*	*	-	-
WHISTLING SWAN*... (1)	*	-	-	SEMIPALMATED SANDPIPER	*	-	-
CANADA GOOSE	*	-	*	SANDERLING*	*	-	-
BRANT	*	-	-	GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL	*	-	-
WHITE-FRONTED GOOSE**... (2) R	-	-	-	HERRING GULL	R	*	*
SNOW GOOSE	*	-	-	RING-BILLED GULL	R	*	*
n MALLARD	*	*	*	LAUGHING GULL	R	*	-
n BLACK DUCK	*	*	*	BONAPARTES GULL	*	-	-
AMERICAN WIDGEON	-	-	*	FORSTERS TERN*	*	-	-
PINTAIL	*	-	-	COMMON TERN	*	-	-
GREEN-WINGED TEAL ... (3)	*	-	*	n MOURNING DOVE	F	*	*
BLUE-WINGED TEAL	*	-	*	n ROCK DOVE	*	*	*
n WOOD DUCK	*	*	*	n YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO	-	*	-
RING-NECKED DUCK	-	*	-	n BLACK-BILLED CUCKOO	-	*	-
CANVAS-BACK	R	*	-	GREAT-HORNED OWL	*	*	-
GREATER SCAUP ... (4)	R	*	-	SHORT-EARED OWL**... (6)	*	-	-
AMERICAN GOLDENEYE	R	*	*	n COMMON NIGHTHAWK	-	*	-
BUFFLE-HEAD	R	*	*	n CHIMNEY SWIFT	*	*	*
AMERICAN SCOTER	*	-	-	RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD	*	*	-
RUDDY DUCK	R	*	*	n BELTED KINGFISHER	*	*	*
HOODED MERGANSER	-	-	*	n YELLOW-SHAFTED FLICKER	*	*	*
AMERICAN MERGANSER	*	-	-	n PILEATED WOODPECKER	-	*	-
RED-BREASTED MERGANSER	*	-	-	RED-BELLIED WOODPECKER*	-	*	-
TURKEY VULTURE	-	*	-	YELLOW BELLIED SAPSUCKER	F	-	*
SHARP-SHINNED HAWK	*	*	-	n HAIRY WOODPECKER	F	*	*
RED-TAILED HAWK	*	*	-	n DOWNEY WOODPECKER	F	*	*
BROAD-WINGED HAWK	-	*	-	n EASTERN KINGBIRD	*	*	*
MARSH HAWK	*	*	-	n GREAT-CRESTED FLYCATCHER	3	*	-
OSPREY	*	*	-	n EASTERN PHOEBE	*	*	*
KESTREL (SPARROW HAWK)	*	*	-	YELLOW-BELLIED FLYCATCHER	-	*	-
n RUFFED GROUSE	-	*	-	n LEAST FLYCATCHER	-	*	-
n RING-NECKED PHEASANT .. (5)	*	-	-	'EMPIDONAX' FLYCATCHER.. (7)	*	*	*
KING RAIL*	*	*	-	n EASTERN WOOD PEWEE	-	*	-
n CLAPPER RAIL*	*	-	-	n TREE SWALLOW	*	*	*
n VIRGINIA RAIL	*	*	-	BANK SWALLOW	*	-	-
SORA	*	-	-	n ROUGH-WINGED SWALLOW	R	*	*

BIRDS OBSERVED IN PIERMONT 1969 TO PRESENT

SPECIES	P	T	S	SPECIES	P	T	S
n BARN SWALLOW	*	*	*	n OVEN-BIRD	*	*	-
CLIFF SWALLOW	*	-	-	NORTHERN WATER-THRUSH	-	-	*
PURPLE MARTIN*	*	-	-	LOUISIANA WATER-THRUSH	-	-	*
n BLUE JAY	F	*	*	n YELLOW-THROAT	*	*	*
n COMMON CROW	*	*	*	YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT	-	*	-
FISH CROW	*	-	-	WILSONS WARBLER	-	*	*
n BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE	F	*	*	CANADA WARBLER	-	*	*
n TUFTED TITMOUSE	F	*	*	AMERICAN REDSTART	*	*	*
n WHITE BREASTED NUTHATCH	F	*	*	n HOUSE SPARROW	F	*	*
RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH	F	-	-	BOBOLINK	*	-	-
BROWN CREEPER	*	*	-	n RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD	F	*	*
n HOUSE WREN	-	*	-	ORCHARD ORIOLE	F	-	-
WINTER WREN	-	*	-	n BALTIMORE ORIOLE	F	*	*
n CAROLINA WREN	-	*	-	RUSTY BLACKBIRD	-	*	*
n LONG-BILLED MARSH WREN	*	*	-	n PURPLE GRACKLE	F	*	*
n MOCKINGBIRD	F	*	*	n BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD	F	*	*
n CATBIRD	*	*	*	n SCARLET TANAGER	-	*	-
n BROWN THRASHER	*	*	-	n CARDINAL	F	*	*
n ROBIN	F	*	*	n ROSE-BREASTED GROSBEAK	*	*	*
n WOOD THRUSH	-	*	-	n INDIGO BUNTING	F	*	-
HERMIT THRUSH	*	*	-	EVENING GROSBEAK	F	-	-
SWAINSONS THRUSH	-	*	-	PURPLE FINCH	-	*	-
GREY-CHEEKED THRUSH	-	*	-	n HOUSE FINCH	F	-	-
n VEERY	*	*	-	PINE GROSBEAK*	F	-	-
BLUE-GREY GNATCATCHER	*	*	-	COMMON REDPOLL	*	-	-
GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET	F	*	-	PINE SISKIN	F	*	-
RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET	F	*	*	n AMERICAN GOLDFINCH	F	*	*
AMERICAN PIPIT	*	-	-	n RUFOUS-SIDED TOWHEE	F	*	*
CEDAR WAXWING	-	*	-	SAVANNAH SPARROW	*	-	-
n STARLING	F	*	*	GRASSHOPPER SPARROW*	*	-	-
WHITE-EYED VIREO	-	*	-	VESPER SPARROW	*	*	-
BLUE-HEADED VIREO	-	*	-	SLATE-COLORED JUNCO	F	*	*
n RED-EYED VIREO	-	*	-	TREE SPARROW	F	*	-
n BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER	-	*	*	n CHIPPING SPARROW	*	*	-
n WORM-EATING WARBLER	RR	-	-	n FIELD SPARROW	*	*	-
n BLUE-WINGED WARBLER	-	*	-	WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW	*	*	-
ORANGE-CROWNED WARBLER*	*	-	-	WHITE-THROATED SPARROW	F	*	*
PARULA WARBLER	-	*	-	FOX SPARROW	*	*	-
n YELLOW WARBLER	*	*	*	LINCOLNS SPARROW*	-	*	-
MAGNOLIA WARBLER	*	*	-	n SWAMP SPARROW	*	*	-
CAPE MAY WARBLER*	-	*	-	n SONG SPARROW	F	*	*
BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER	*	*	-	SNOW BUNTING*	*	-	-
MYRTLE WARBLER	*	*	*				
BLACK-THROATED GREEN WARBLER-	-	*	-	BUDGERIGAR	F	-	-
BLACKBURNIAN WARBLER	-	*	-	RED-EARED WAXBILL..(8)	*	-	-
n CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER	-	*	-	MAGPIE? MANNIKIN..(9)	*	-	-
BAY-BREASTED WARBLER	-	*	-	unidentified exotic finch..(10)			
BLACKPOLL WARBLER	-	*	*				
PINE WARBLER	-	*	-				
PALM WARBLER	*	*	-				

LOCATIONS: P=PIERMONT PIER; T=TALLMAN MTN.PARK(along river edge)
 S=SPARKILL CREEK SANCTUARY; F=FEEDER ON RIVER ROAD
 R=RIVER OR RIVER EDGE; RR=RAILROAD TRACKS

n nesting species; *=rare observation; **=not mentioned in Deed et.al.

(from Deed et.al.,1959)

OTHER BIRD OBSERVATIONS IN PIERMONT

SPECIES	P	T	S	SPECIES	P	T	S
RED-THROATED LOON*	*	-	-	ROYAL TERN*	*	-	-
EUROPEAN CORMORANT*	*	-	-	CASPIAN TERN*	*	-	-
GADWALL	*	-	- n	SCREECH OWL	-	*	-
RUDDY TURNSTONE*	*	-	-	LOGGERHEAD SHRIKE*	*	-	-
WESTERN SANDPIPER*	*	-	-	PHILADELPHIA VIREO	-	*	-
GLAUCOUS GULL*	*	-	- n	SHARP-TAILED SPARROW*. (11)	*	-	-
LEAST TERN*	*	-	- n	SEASIDE SPARROW** (11)	*	-	-

TOTAL NO. OF SPECIES--210

NOTES

- (1) flock of 13 seen (and heard) flying along river (15 Nov, 72)
- (2) group of four including one adult male rested on river ice Feb, 70. Only 9 records in the N.Y. area up to 1964 (all on Long Island). This species is very similar to Old-World species often kept in captivity.
- (3) an adult male is now wintering on the Sparkill Creek Sanctuary. This is the first this bird has been recorded during the Rockland Audubon Society's Christmas Count.
- (4) Lesser Scaup are probably also found, but the two are very difficult to separate in the field.
- (5) two males in my garden on river side of River Road 12 Jan, 73
- (6) on Piermont Pier 17 Jan, 72
- (7) members of the flycatcher genus empidonax are extremely difficult to identify in the field unless one hears them sing (one seldom does).
- * (8) five of these exotic finches seen Aug, 70 on the Pier.
- * (9) one observed in exactly the same place as the above birds 9 Sept, 71, and six more (same place) 6 Oct, 72.
- * (10) an orange, black, brown and white finch stayed several weeks at a feeder near the Post Office during the winter of 1970-1971.
- (11) these two species were known to nest in the marsh in the 1880's.

* these are escapees and not native to North America

TAPPAN ZEE THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Shop reported its biggest January sales in four years, a good indication that, if nothing else, second-hand shops are thriving in our present economy. It's all to the good in Piermont, which received more than 50% of the total distribution (\$1,585.60) for local organizations at the end of the last quarter. Funds were distributed as follows:

Piermont Library	\$ 244.00
Playschool	296.00
Reform Church	138.40
St. John's Church	<u>121.60</u>
Total:	\$ 800.00

It should be noted that the P.C.A. did not receive any of the money this last time. This is because we did not contribute enough time, despite the heroic efforts of a few. As we do have many hours contributed already, and the donation of goods is plentiful in our name, and we can always find good use for the money, it would be most appreciated if a few more volunteers could find some hours to donate to the shop. Help is needed in different areas -- anyone who can work should contact Isabelle Stancliffe at the Thrift Shop.

JUDITH PAGE MILLER

The Piermont Library lost a great friend when Judy Miller died this winter. Many people in the Village knew Judy -- particularly the children who came to the Library where she was Children's Librarian. We asked her old friend, Charlotte Bordwell, to share some personal reminiscences with us.

How do you put a friend into words? Some friends can be described, summed up, expressed in words -- but not Judy. If it is true that a person is the sum of their many parts, there might lie some of the explanation of Judy's multi-faceted, diamond-fine precious self.

Judy's mother came from a Quaker community in Iowa, here father was a Unitarian minister from New England. She had a heritage of intellectual strength, a tradition of personal privacy and an unshakable inner certitude of what was right. She was a graduate of Pomona College in California and was admitted to the Yale Graduate School

in the Department of Anthropology in 1943, long before it was fashionable or easy or politic for women to travel that route. Judy did it because her interest was people; she did her field work in Fidel Castro's home village in Cuba but could never bring herself to write her thesis for an advanced degree because it would have meant discussing the private lives of the villagers she had lived with and who had become her friends. Later she was Business Manager of Dwight MacDonald's magazine Politics. Her excitement with words and learning led her to write poetry, to master languages (Greek, Chinese Sanskrit, Spanish, for starters -- up to about eight in all), and to read and to read and to read.

Paul and I met Judy and Clem about 27 years ago in New York where we all lived. We had known Judy's family in Iowa and looked her up at their suggestion. We became close friends and, several years after we had moved to Piermont, the Millers decided we weren't as crazy as they had first thought to live in the remote country, and they too moved to Piermont.

Judy and Clem were very adventurous and had great wanderlust. They were fol-boat people -- once they went down one of those unspellable Tennessee rivers that is all white water. They tramped and tented all over and learned this area intimately.

Judy was one of the most personally independent individuals I have ever known. She refused to change herself, she refused to change other people but accepted them; she refused to change things to suit her convenience or desire. One of the results of this complete integrity was that she in turn was given total trust from everyone.

The Library is in the process of setting up a special

JUDY MILLER MEMORIAL Collection of children's books. The main core of the Collection will be those books Judy last selected as Children's Librarian, and will continue to be added on to as a token of our never-ending thoughts and memory of Judy.

SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

South Orangetown School Board elections will be held on May 2. The seat traditionally held by Piermont, Sparkill, and Grandview is at stake, and both that tradition and the direction of the current board are at issue. Comments have been solicited from the incumbent, Eugene Polinsky, and from the challenger, Joan Rosenstein. Since candidates are not required to file their petitions until April 18, the list may not be final.

Eugene Polinsky has lived in Grandview for thirteen years, and has represented Piermont-Grandview-Sparkill on the S.O. School Board since 1966. He holds a B.S. in Education from Rutgers, was a navigator in World War II, and is an author and playwright. His writings include "The Hungry Eye", a definitive work on television; off-Broadway plays; and numerous articles for educational journals. He has produced plays both on and off Broadway, and has recently completed recordings with Orson Welles and Yevgeny Yevtushenko.

Mr. Polinsky is a past president of the S.O. PTA, has been Civil Defense Director for Grandview, and has done volunteer work in veterans' hospitals for nineteen years. He represents S.O. on B.O.C.E.S.

Three of the Polinskys' four children have already passed through the S.O. school systems. Their youngest attends Tappan Zee High School.

Q. On what do you base your campaign?

A. I would like to stand on the achievements of the board during the seven years I have worked on it. I want to continue working for our district during the next crucial years. In spite of many obstacles, we have made striking achievements in S.O. I wish I could say things will be easier, but they will not. Better, yes, but only through continued effort, the kind we have been making. Let me list these demonstrable proofs of our successful operation:

1. Individualized learning. We are entering the fourth year of a demonstrably proven program; most of the "bugs" are now worked out, but we still continue to strive to make it better.

2. Improvement in test scores. We have reversed the county and statewide declining trend in test scores.

3. Improvement in athletic and arts programs. Although our stress is still that of participating for the sake of sport, we are undeniably winning more events, creating increased district pride. Our arts programs have also brought increased honors to S.O.

4. Lowest tax rate in the county, the result of superior operations by dedicated administrators and staff. Furthermore, we have the smallest ratio of administrators to size of staff and student body in the county.

5. Whole district transportation at savings to taxpayers. All the students of S.O. are transported, at the lowest per-capita cost in the county.

6. Increased educational services. Where some districts have cut down, S.O. has added specialists in learning disabilities, particularly in an effort to develop early diagnosis and remediation, yet still within the lowest tax rate in the county. Our district calls upon staff specialists in reading, speech, and all the special ed. divisions of B.O.C.E.S.; all our children must have an opportunity to learn.

7. Superior contracts with staff. S.O. had the first three-year teachers contract in this part of N.Y., and the first merit contract for administrators.

8. Federally funded Title III program. This three-year program to develop better use of human resources from the community is one of only thirteen in the entire U.S.A.

9. Increased contact with the public. Your school board has doubled the frequency of its public meetings, added a series of informational meetings, and has increased the flow of informational bulletins and newsletters to district residents; there is more frequent reporting of student progress in the schools.

10. Superior plant. S.O. School building has never lagged behind population growth. We have never gone on double

sessions. We include every kind of facility needed for our children's learning and have anticipated future technical developments in education and construction.

As your local representative to the Board, I have always been responsible to the community. I worked to change the bus routing on 9W for the safety of the children. I worked to obtain the most qualified new principal of T.Z.E.S. when Mr. Tebo retired. I worked to get early installation of the individualized program in T.Z.E.S. because our section of S.O. was ready for it, and I worked for the construction of our award-winning school.

Joan Rosenstein is a resident of Orangeburg and has lived in South Orange-town for the past eight years. She holds a B.A. degree from Hunter College, and has taken graduate studies there and courses at St. Thomas Aquinas College. She is a mathematics teacher at the Jr. High level, has been a Summer School Director, a summer-time instructor at St. Agnes School, Director of S.O.Y.C. at the Schaeffer School, Director of S.O. Adult Education, and now teaches in the remedial program of the Lakeside School in Spring Valley. She has been a Den Mother and Den Leader, is a member of the S.O. Jewish Center, the Title III Advisory Committee, and is S.O. PTA Council President.

Mr. and Mrs. Rosenstein have two children: one in the Schaeffer School, and the other in Blauvelt Middle School.

Q. What are your feelings about the current instructional system?

A. The time has come for a closer scrutiny of not only our entire school system, but of our administration. I believe there is a great need for change in our school district. We need new people on the school board, new ideas to improve the quality of education, new ways to save money and improve efficiency.

We need changes not for the sake of change, but to give some kind of direction to students.

In trying to individualize instruction for the students and motivate their desire to learn, we seem to have eliminated teacher-student contact. As a professional teacher, I can say that there is no substitute for direct contact between teacher and student. Individualization of instruction which ignores this reality needs many changes. Many facets of our system are excellent, but we need help in many areas, especially at the secondary level.

Q. Would you vote for a new board president?

A. I couldn't answer that now.

Q. There has been a "gentlemen's agreement" under which the five original school districts of S.O. have each retained a resident as a member of the board. Do you feel this is outdated? Do you feel that if you win, the Piermont-Sparkill-Grandview area will be adequately represented on the board?

A. As far as the "gentlemen's agreement" goes, the Sparkill area has 20% of the board, with less than that in the school district. But more important: I live in Orangeburg, but have no children in the Orangeburg school; I have a school child in Tappan and one in Blauvelt Middle School. Who represents me and my neighbors: the Tappan Representative or the Blauvelt representative?

2. As to the representation of Piermont anyone who has worked with me during the past two years knows I fought and worked hard for quality education for all children in the S.O. school district. A definite recent example is the fact that the S.O. PTA Council, of which I am president, convinced the administration to remedy the dangerous situation that existed in busing children on Rte. 9W.

THE PCA NEWSLETTER is published for all of Piermont and anyone else who belongs to the PCA.

If you know any new resident who is not on our list, please notify Jean Berechid, Route 9W, Piermont.

N O T I C E S

The C.E.A. Paper Drive is continuing to work at keeping the Piermont dump within bounds, and in the process turning over some handsome gifts to the community. The managers, Stan and Herb, would like to remind all householders to keep their newspapers separate and bundled and to save them for the first Saturday of each month. Other papers (old bills, throw-aways, magazines, etc.) may be packaged and put out for collection also.

Trustee Mimi Bryan reports that plans are already starting for next summer's recreation program and asks that those interested in working as counsellors -- both paid and volunteer -- stop by the Village Clerk's office for job applications. You must be sixteen years old and have working papers to apply for the paid jobs, but remember that this year's volunteers have precedence for next year's paid jobs.

The Village Board holds its regular Open Meeting on the last Monday of each month at 8:30 p.m. at the Village Hall. All residents of the community are welcome to attend, to make comments, ask questions or simply observe.

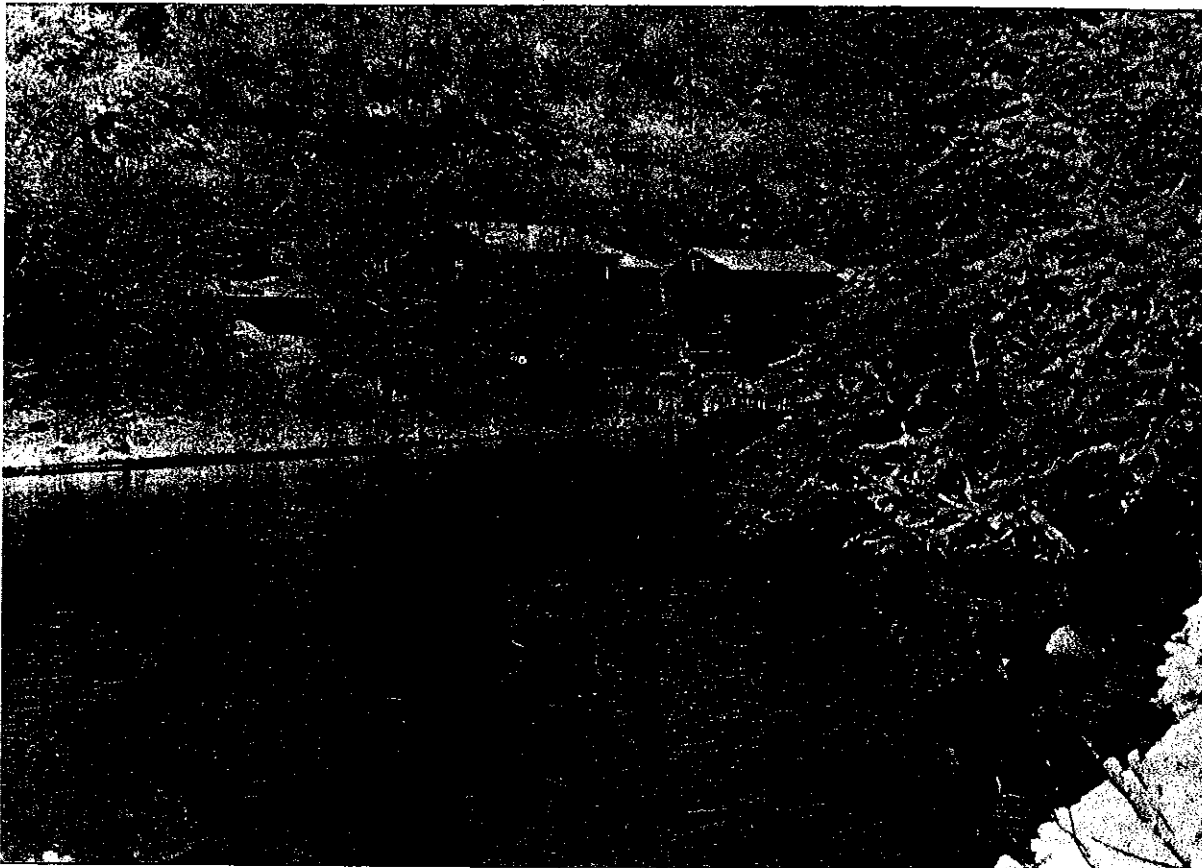
The annual Public Hearing on the Village budget will be held on Monday, April 16th, at 8:30 p.m.

The P.C.A. meets regularly on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 8:30 p.m. at the Community Center on Hudson Terrace. Everyone is welcome to attend the meetings and urged to bring a friend or neighbor.

THIS ISSUE was produced by the Newsletter Committee of the Piermont Civic Association: Charles Berger, Robert Bradbury, Robert Cone, Cynthia Crippen, Charles Grutzner, Margaret Holihan, Stan Jacobs, Ted and Lisa Merrill (editor). The Committee welcomes its new members: Charles Berger (who researched and wrote the School Election story) and Stan Jacobs. Stan recruited Tony Amos to do the special article on Birds. Ted Merrill was the photographer for this issue. The Committee is always glad to have new members or special feature writers. Please contact any of the above people if you want to join.

Occupant
PIERMONT
NEW YORK 10968

Piermont Newsletter
Piermont, N. Y. 10968



NEWS of Piermont ..
... politics
... taxes
... activities

PLUS a
special report
on
Birds
of
Piermont

Ducks and Canada Geese on Sparkill Creek