

HOLIDAY GREETINGS FROM THE PCA

Along with this issue of the Newsletter comes a special present: The Piermont Directory. Published as a community service by the PCA, the booklet is a handy reference for Piermont phone numbers and also features a buyer's guide of area businesses, a map of Piermont and a listing of community events.

The Directory was financed through paid advertising and we hope that you will support these advertisers with your patronage.

Maggie Voorhees ably organized the project. She was helped by Lori Joseph, Louise Windisch, Ann Hatfield, Carole Novick, Tony Komornick, Jean Berechid and Sylvia Hamburg. Special thanks goes to the printer, John McCullough, who donated his services.

Additional copies of the directory will be on sale at the Clausland Book Shop, Piermont Exchange and the Piermont Library.



THE NEW CHURCH ON THE CORNER

A June 30, 1976 target date is set for completion of the colonial style new home for Piermont's Macedonia Baptist Church, now under construction on the corner of Piermont and Paradise Avenues. The congregation, which recently celebrated its 51st year, previously met in a smaller building on the same site, which they acquired from the Odd Fellows in 1943.

According to the church's minister, Reverend George Harvin, a public ceremony to which all Town and Village officials will be invited will mark the building's dedication.

The new church is a long-held dream of the Reverend Harvin, who

called to Piermont in October 1961 from the First Corinthian Baptist Church in New York City. He established a building fund drive in 1964, and the congregation purchased the additional property necessary for the new structure in 1972. Among the current 125-member congregation is Mrs. Catherine Tuck, a long-time Piermont resident and one of the original seven who joined the Reverend and Mrs. W.I. Ingram on September 21, 1924 to establish a Baptist mission in Piermont.

The church's official history describes the first service held in a "family dwelling" with a few invited friends from New Jersey participating. Reverend Ingram's sermon was based on the theme, "Prepare to Meet Thy God" (4th Chapter, 12th Verse, Amos). The family dwelling

in which the small congregation worshipped, incidentally, is the house across the street from the Piermont Fire Department on Piermont Avenue.

FROM HIBALLING TO HIKING

The Village Board's action to turn the old Erie RR right-of-way into a strip park is one of those rarities of political process that costs the taxpayer virtually nothing but has a great long-term effect on the quality of life of a community. The strip park (most residents will probably continue to call it "the right-of-way" for years) stretches almost unbroken from the road intersection under the 9W viaduct to Grandview. From there it continues along the Palisades through South Nyack. It is open to the public for walking, bicycling, and (to the Grandview border) horseback riding. No motorized vehicles are permitted on the pathway except for emergencies and by special permit.

The right-of-way was once an active passenger and freight route to the Erie RR main line. By the early 1960's traffic was down to three commuter trains from Nyack to Jersey City and back, and two or three one-car freights a week. Since it took about an hour and a half to get to New York City on the Erie, many Piermont commuters used the trains more as alarm clocks than as a means of transportation. The second morning train whistled long and loud at intersections, at which it stopped to look for oncoming automobiles in a reversal of the usual procedure, so it was possible to wake up in the morning when it passed, have a leisurely shower and breakfast, yet still beat the train to the city by road. The near-bankrupt Erie couldn't wait for a return to mass transit, so it closed the spur and sold the tracks for scrap. The property reverted to the villages.

Later, the Town of Orangetown

needed the right-of-way for a sewer line. In return for its use, Piermont was able to strike a bargain to have the roadbed graded and covered with the fine crushed stone that now makes such a good walking surface.

According to Mayor Mimi Bryan, the Village plans to make no changes in the right-of-way as a result of its action declaring it a park. "It is really just a way of preserving the status quo," says the Mayor, "But it might be nice if there were a few benches at some of the cuts with a particularly good river view." That's a thought for some of our volunteer organizations looking for a useful spring project.

EARS ON 9W: TRUCKS EXCEED FEDERAL NOISE STANDARDS

From September to mid-October, the Orangetown Public Health Department ran spot-checks of traffic noise levels at several locations along Route 9W for verification of resident's complaints about excessive racket. The results show that the complaints are indeed valid.

The tests found that truck noise, on the average, exceeded the federal standard, which is not particularly strict, by a small amount; but that quite a few trucks were grossly louder than the federal limit. For the technically inclined, the average truck noise was 74 decibels (measured fifty feet from the highway), while the federal standard for residential areas is 70 dB's. Quite a few trucks jugged the meter needles past 90 dB's, which is about as much louder than the standard maximum as a full band over a string quartet.

The difference between 70 and 74 dB's is not really loud enough to make a good legal case, but it is plainly annoying enough to make it clear that a search to find relief is certainly in order. The complaints, the sound-level meters show, are

legitimate. The solution will be political—a reduction in speed limit, a maximum truck size limit, or a diversion of traffic. If Piermonters make enough noise, they may convince the Orangetown Board and the Department of Transportation to take action.

PCA HEARS SPEAKERS ON TRAFFIC AND MARSHES

1,600 Trucks a Day on Route 9W

Walter Butler, chairman of the West Hudson Environmental Association, spoke at our September 4th meeting. He addressed concerned PCA members about the problems of increased trucking on Route 9W. Recent surveys have shown that 1,600 trucks a day pass through our community on 9W, four times the number the road was planned to accommodate safely. This high volume of truck traffic is hazardous to local drivers and generates noise pollution for residents. Due to the terrain and residential character of the road through Piermont and Grandview, 9W is simply not suitable for this kind of trucking. Four people were injured and two buildings demolished at Yale turn only this July by a runaway truck.

Mr. Butler's organization is currently pressing the state Department of Transportation to establish alternate routes for trucks having three or more axles and those carrying dangerous cargoes. A reduced speed limit is also advocated.

PCA members present at the meeting voted unanimously to support the West Hudson Environmental Association in this fight for community action to bring about a safer, better Route 9W. A letter was sent by the PCA to DOT Commissioner Raymond Schuler with copies to all local and state elected officials. The letter made the following considerations:

1—Synchronization of lights at Yale corner and signs posted well in advance of these lights reducing speeds to 25 miles per hour with the notice that there are two lights ahead.

2—The creation of a school zone in front of Tappan Zee Elementary School with a speed limit of 15 mph. The elimination of the passing zone in front of the school.

3—The overall reduction of speeds to 35 miles per hour for cars, 30 miles per hour for trucks.

4—Installation of flashing yellow lights at the Ash Street, Tweed Boulevard, 9W intersection.

Please add your support by writing to our state representatives:

Assemblyman Eugene Levy
East Place
Suffern, New York 10901

State Senator Linda Winkow
49 South Main Street
Spring Valley, New York 10977

Environmental Protection

At the November 6th PCA meeting the founder of Project "LOST", a Haverstraw high school teacher spoke about ways his environmental group was learning about and trying to preserve Grassy Point marsh.

Project "LOST" has become a model environmental group for the county. High school students are involved in detailed studies of water and air pollution and in an active campaign to have Grassy Point marsh declared as public parkland.

Piermonters interested in our marshland preservation learned about new legislation to help us in preserving the pier and Sparkill marshland. Environmentalists headed by Grace Meyer plan to submit specific recommendations to the PCA and the Village.

BUSINESS NOTES

Two new stores, and a soon-to-arrive third, now brighten Piermont's Main Street. First to come was "Tomdia's Garden," surely one of the most delightful retain interiors anywhere. The white walls are the original embossed metal; a thick layer of gravel crunches underfoot; overhead, fluorescent lights give an intense sunshine glow; and the garden paths are lined with cornucopias of house plants of all shapes and sizes. Owner Diana Davis also sells hard-to-get clay pots and other accessories for the indoor gardener. Heretofore open just on weekends, "Tomdia's Garden" will be open Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays as well. Hours begin at noon on weekdays, 11:00 on weekends.

The results of planning and talent are evident in Marty Allen's "Shop," a no-name but highly personal collection of nice things, many of Marty's own crafting. There are pressed and dried flower arrangements, shadow boxes, antique containers, wonderful glass flowers, and just about everything needed for soil-less gardening. Also, the shop has a sizeable print collection, with emphasis on Allen Saalberg's silk-screens with early American themes.

A few window plants and a curtain camouflage the activity in a store taken by Lenny Hunt, to be used as a studio-workshop. Lenny's sculptures from nature in wood and metal are well-known hereabouts, and will be incorporated into weathervanes in the new place. So Piermont will have one of the few weathervane stores around (maybe the only one).

Go south to the light, turn right and observe the attractiveness of Jim Artrip's Delicatessen since Jimmie gutted and remodelled the old store across from the silk mill. The interior is now spacious

with wood flooring and cedar shakes on the walls—and, yes, the great pot-bellied stove is still there, and working. Jimmie's and Snookie's warmth equals that of the stove, and for plusses, Jimmie knows how to cure and cut a very good steak. Their beer license finally arrived. Open seven days a week, from early morning until 6 or 7.

Odds and ends: Sal's Tailor Shop has a smattering of antiques worth a look.... Rick's Ram Performance car hospital across from the post office is designing an automobile (yes, an automobile).... the venerable silk mill on the creek is now for sale and would make one attractive apartment house.

HOLIDAY SPECIALS AT THE LIBRARY

December is the month of holiday treats, and the Piermont Library will contribute its share. A collection of miniature dolls will be on display in the upstairs gallery, and in the downstairs there will be an exhibit of special children's books that make a perfect lasting gift for Christmas or any time. Many of the books on display will be available for sale at the Clausland Book Shop on Main Street.

The feature film for December is Taste of Honey; it will be shown on Tuesday evening, December 16th at 8:00 p.m.

The Christmas Party, for children "of all ages" will be held on Saturday afternoon, December 20th at 3:00 p.m. Party-goers will decorate cookies for the Library's Christmas Tree.

The January display will be a kickoff for the Bicentennial Year, featuring books on the Revolutionary period. The film program on Tuesday, January 20th, will be Braverman's Condensed Cream of the Beatles and Waves Across the Pacific.

In February, the Tappan Zee High School Photography Club will arrange an exhibit of photographs. The film for the month, on Tuesday, February 17th, will be Things to Come, the classic science fiction film based on H.G. Wells' story.

Pre-school Story Hours are held every Tuesday morning at 10:30 a.m. Paula Scholz, Children's Librarian, tells the children stories in the Children's room while their mothers can enjoy a cup of coffee upstairs. Children's films are shown every Tuesday afternoon at 3:45 p.m. All children are welcome; the schedule is posted on the bulletin boards at the Library, the Post Office, the Thrift Shop and the bank.

This year libraries in the Ramapo Catskill Library System are showing an unusual collection of fine films. These film showings are made possible by support from the New York State Council on the Arts in conjunction with the Ramapo Catskill Library System. The feature films which are scheduled for Piermont are: The Innocents (March 2nd); Grapes of Wrath (March 16th); All About Eve (April 6th); and How Green Was My Valley (April 20th). Take advantage of this rare chance to see such all-time greats and plan now to attend your favorites.

CALENDAR: PIERMONT PLANS BICENTENNIAL ACTIVITIES

To inaugurate the Bicentennial Year, a Village Bicentennial Dinner, featuring an authentic 18th century menu, will be held at the Village Hall in late January. Charlotte Bordwell is doing the culinary research, coupled with the necessary conversions to today's cooking materials and facilities. The Tappan Zee High School Madrigal Singers will provide entertainment for the evening. All reservations will be handled through the Village Clerk's office, 359-1258. Call for information after January 1st.

Ruth and Howard Brawner, co-chairmen of the Bicentennial Committee, report that many social events are already scheduled for 1976. In order to avoid conflicting dates, organization Presidents should contact Margaret Scott, who has offered to keep a Village Calendar to coordinate activities. You can call Margaret at 359-2379 after 3:00 p.m. daily.

In February, the Catholic Daughters will sponsor an Old Timer's Night and the Ladies Auxiliary, Empire Hose Co. #1 will host a 1950's style Sock Hop and Buffet. On three Sunday afternoons in April and May—April 25th, May 2nd and 9th—Piermont's churches will offer special Bicentennial Services at three o'clock. Empire Hose Company No. 1 and the VFW will sponsor the annual Memorial Day Parade and observance, followed by the PCA Picnic at Kane Park.

With the arrival of June and July the calendar really looks crowded. The T-Shirt League plans a Field Day, the New York State Bicentennial Barge is due to arrive, the Rotary is going to celebrate its anniversary, and the Village Board is planning an old-fashioned Strawberry Festival. In July, the Fire Department will hold a better-than-ever 4th of July Carnival and will sponsor visits by several Naval vessels to Piermont.

On August 28th, Empire Hose Co. #1 will stage a spectacular parade to celebrate its 125th anniversary! Other plans, still in the formative stage, include a concert by the West Point Band and a Village Clam Bake.

In the midst of all this partying the Bicentennial Committee is working on its main project—the book of Piermont's history, which is now being compiled. It looks as if Piermont is going to have a very active 1976 to record.

NOTES FROM AROUND THE VILLAGE

Kane Park Dock

The project of rebuilding the Kane Park Dock on Sparkill Creek is complete. The dock required new cribbing and decking, a job made difficult by the tidal flow of the creek. The Village received \$10,000 reimbursement from county maintenance funds for the job. Restoration of grass and the fencing is now underway.

Community Development Grant

The Village has made application for \$91,000 to the Federal Government for a Community Development Grant. The money has been requested to install a new sewer line on Piermont Avenue from the Silk Mill Bridge to the Kane Park traffic light. So far, there has been no commitment, but reports from HUD and favorable comments on the application from reviewing agencies are encouraging.

New Fire Hydrant on Tweed Blvd.

As a result of the efforts of Ralph Berechid, an easement from Richard Voigts, plus judicious use of Federal Revenue Funds and months of negotiation with the Spring Valley Water Company, there will soon be a fire hydrant on Tweed Blvd. The Fire Department has had difficulty controlling fires on the hillside because of the lack of water supply.

Real Property Tax Exemptions

Following a public hearing, the Village has increased the amount of allowable income to \$6,500 per year for residents over 65 eligible for property tax exemption. Persons who have owned their home for at least five years, who are 65 or over, and whose annual income is \$6,500 or less, can pick up application forms at the Village Clerk's office, 359-1258.

Hudson River Drift Removal

The U.S. Corps of Engineers in New York Harbor has undertaken an

eight-year program designed to remove the source of the drift materials which clutter the Hudson River. Drift materials are such things as decaying docks, sunken and rotting barges, and the like. The jurisdiction of the New York Harbor Corps of Engineers runs up-river to the Tappan Zee Bridge, so the Village of Piermont has formally declared its interest in becoming part of the project. Several disintegrating docks have been marked for removal and we may even get rid of our fast-growing island (once a sunken barge) north of the end of the Pier.

Paper Pick-Up

The Ladies Auxiliary of Empire Hose Co. #1 is continuing the house-to-house pick-up of newspapers, cardboard, and clean household paper waste (all that junk mail) on the last Saturday of each month. Papers should be bundled and put out at the curb by 10:00 a.m.

Fire Alarm Whistle

Over the long Thanksgiving weekend there was a lengthy power outage at Clevepak and the usual fire alarm could not be operated. A stand-by group of volunteers from the Fire Department maintained a constant vigil at the Fire House so that men could be called in the case of an emergency. Fortunately, the power shut-off occurred at a time when men were not at work and were available. Once again, the community owes thanks to these volunteers for their dedication. With the shift in job locations, there are not as many men available during the daytime as there once were for volunteer fire-fighting duty. If any residents are interested in joining the volunteer firemen, contact the Chief, Lawrence Goswick, for information.

Spring Blooms

Beginning in early March, Piermonters should start to enjoy the product of many hours of hard work put in by Viola DiFrancesca and

Frances Pierson of the Village Park Commission. They planted a bushel of narcissus bulbs on the slope by the Community Center, and hundreds more crocus, tulip and daffodil bulbs around the trees on Main Street and at other points in the Village. We'll all look forward to Spring '76!

Signs and Markings on Village Roads

New York State has contracted with the Village to erect signs and paint the road markings which will conform to the new standards set by the Department of Transportation. Patrolman Bob Edwards learned of the possibility of receiving state funding for the work and pursued the project to its conclusion, thereby saving the Village taxpayers a substantial sum of money. Grandview and Piermont were the only two villages in the county that applied for state assistance.

Request from the Police

During the week before Thanksgiving, two homes on Piermont Place and Crescent Street were broken into and robbed. Immediate and careful work by the Piermont police resulted in catching the thieves and located the stolen goods within 36 hours. Chief O'Shea says that the police could have caught the burglars even faster if neighbors had noticed unusual action around the houses and reported it. The police would like to be called anytime you notice something unusual in your neighborhood. They are firm supporters of the "ounce of prevention" policy at all times.

The PCA Newsletter is published for all of Piermont and anyone else who belongs to the PCA. This issue was written by members of the Newsletter Committee, Cynthia Crippen, Bob Cone, Carole Novick, and Lisa and Ted Merrill (editors). The committee welcomes new members. The Newsletter is typed by Lynn Amos.

