

PIERMONT NEWSLETTER

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LANDMARK BURNS



Firemen battle the persistent flames and smoke in the tower from the roof of the Fort Comfort Inn

On Saturday, April 6, with numerous Piermont residents in respectful attendance, five companies of firemen celebrated the last rites of Piermont's Fort Comfort Inn. In a four-hour midday drama, fire, smoke, and water reduced one of Piermont's major landmarks to a gutted shell. Apparently starting in the basement and traveling

up through the walls, fire had even cut off the Inn's telephones before it was discovered. The distress call had to be put through from a nearby residence. Two diners, unaware of the developing drama, paid their bill and left, while two others escaped without injury but with a half-finished lunch. We talked with the present property

owners, Roger and Natalie Maffei of Tappan, who indicated future plans were indefinite pending insurance settlement. They want to rebuild the restaurant, and have been greatly encouraged by the support of former patrons and employees. An architect has already done some work on plans for the new structure. The Maffeis also operate the Fort Comfort Yacht Basin and have recently received the necessary approvals and permits required to enlarge the marina.

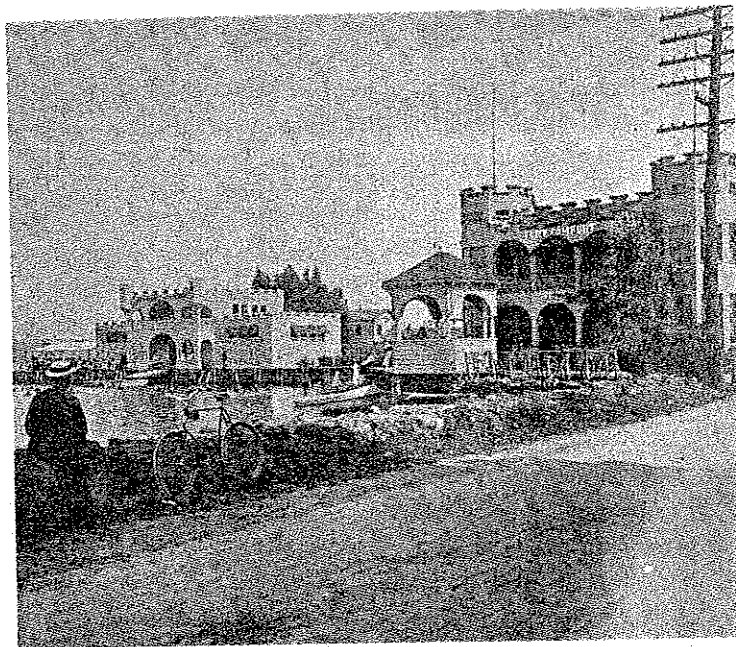
This was not the first time that fire has temporarily halted operations at the Fort Comfort Inn site. A firm by the name of Fort Comfort Inn & Realty Company, under George E. DeGroat, started the business as a hotel and restaurant in the former Fallon mansion on the west side of River Road. There was a boat landing and eventually a large addition of three stories extending to the north. This annex was destroyed by fire in 1912, and later fires consumed a separate addition and the Fallon house itself.

A recreational complex had been started in 1903 southeast of the hotel between the road and river. It advertised a clean fine-sand bathing beach, with a large assortment of "fine suits" for hire, electric lighting for night bathing, about one hundred large booths with shower and foot baths, shady porches, ice cream, soda water, cigars, confectionary, and a casino outfitted with billiard room, bowling alleys, and a music room.

William Thompson took over the business in 1912, introducing a merry-go-round, shooting gallery, dance hall, swings and boating at 10¢-a-ride. Ice cream was supplied by the Schmidt Co. of Nyack. At one time the upstairs rooms were used by the Piermont Public Library. Gasoline tanks were installed on the river roadside.

The bath houses and pavilion were

destroyed by fire in the 1920's. The remaining ice cream parlor and gas station were purchased by Petros V. Nichols in 1936 and he operated a tavern there until Anthony and Frank Sbordone acquired the property in 1950. They enlarged and renovated the building, carried on the old name for their restaurant and added the Fort Comfort Yacht Basin.



A view of Fort Comfort from a photograph taken in 1904.

BICENTENNIAL SCHEDULE SHAPES UP

With the Bicentennial Year drawing ever closer, Piermont's plans are still moving more slowly than the Committee would like. A year-long calendar of events, planned and conducted by the various community organizations, still has some big gaps. The Committee is looking to its September meeting, after a summer hiatus, to spark the detailed planning that will be needed to get a full program of events in swing for 1976.

Meanwhile, one part of the plan is going on full-steam-ahead—the window displays on Main Street. For several

months, old photographs have been displayed in the window of Community Market, drawing much comment, according to committee co-chairman Ruth Brawner. They have been augmented by the various displays planned by Lucille Lowry and Marty MacQueen for other windows along the street. Exhibits of historical items—antique tools, quilts, household articles—have been set up in the Clucas, Canigliaro, and Montesano storefronts. The Fire Department is setting up a display in the barbershop, and Tappan Zee Elementary School had an exhibit of Piermont as a railroad town.

The Bicentennial Commission will meet again in September. Then, firm plans will be worked out for the many activities that are now only in the planning stage—a parade, a dance, a strawberry festival—and the major activity of the Bicentennial Commission, the book on Piermont history.

VILLAGE DUMP CLOSES

Since late March of this year, the garbage you place at the curb for Monday and Friday collection has been carted to the Clarkstown landfill. Prior to that time, as some were more painfully aware than others, Piermont couldn't bear to part with its waste, and so stored it next to the ballfield on the Pier road. Over the years, the landfill operation grew into a small hill, visible from distant points, and a haven for gulls, pickers, and occasional Health Department inspectors.

Keenly aware of the limited life of the Village dump, Piermont officials were quick to take advantage of a recent agreement between Orangetown and Clarkstown whereby Orangetown and the incorporated villages will use the Clarkstown landfill in return for supplying the material needed for cover there. The cover is in lieu of a \$250,000 dumping fee per year that would otherwise have been levied on Orangetown.

In spite of the longer time required for the four weekly round trips to the Clarkstown landfill, Piermont stands to realize certain savings from the new arrangement. The Village no longer has to buy fill (dirt) to cover its own dump, nor does it have to pay someone to drive a rented bulldozer several hours each week. It gains several acres of land for alternate use and the Sparkill Creek and Hudson River are spared the leachate and runoff from the dump.

Piermonters who need to dispose of their own trash and garbage may do so Monday through Saturday at the Clarkstown facility by first obtaining a free sticker for their car or station wagon at the Orangetown Hall. There is a small charge for use of the site by pick-up trucks.

Shortly after the Village dump closing, the Piermont Conservation Advisory Commission sponsored a cleanup of the entire pier, with about 35 people participating. The chain fence and gate near the pier's entrance have since been renewed, and the dump site has been graded and covered. Additional fill and grass seed will be added before year's end. Suggestions as to possible uses for the land would be welcomed by the Village Board.

The concentration of most of Rockland County's solid waste at a few locations should facilitate the next steps in solving the disposal problems. Some of the more promising techniques, already in pilot-plant stage elsewhere, involve automatic separation of resalable items (bundled newspaper, aluminum, glass, and ferrous metals) and the reduction of the remaining residue to a solid, liquid, or gaseous fuel. The plants must have access to large amounts of waste to become economically feasible.

VILLAGE NEWS

The Village Board has received notification of the county's agreement to include the restoration of the Kane Park Dock in the Stream Restoration Program of the County Drainage Agency. The work is intended to restore the cribbing and walkway that lines the Sparkill Creek edge of Kane Park. Currently, the bank is crumbling and dirt from the park is falling into the creek. The restoration will prevent the park from disappearing, clear up the creek, and make the walkway safe for walking, sitting, even fishing. Old sidewalks from Hudson Terrace were saved and will be used to fill in behind the cribbing.

New sidewalks were installed along Hudson Terrace last month. Straightening the curb line resulted in a widening of the street for 6-17 inches in the process—which caused a mild furor among some residents one weekend in June. Hedges and other landscaping that had been allowed to grow out over the sidewalk were cut back, too, to permit full use of the new 3½-ft wide pavement.

The Village has received funds under the Highway Signing and Road Safety Grant to offset the cost of new traffic lines and speed limit signs. A public hearing was held on June 30 as part of the process of reducing the Village speed limit from 30 to 25 mph.

The Summer Program for Village youngsters from grade 1 through age 13 will open again on July 7 and run until August 8. Brian Sullivan will be director this year, with Honey Dickson and Diane Goswick supervising Arts and Crafts, and Sports, respectively. Returning as counselors this year are Mike Burd (swimming), Elise deLisser, Ben Goldstein, Rosie Pellegrino, and Kathy Zahn, joined by Diane DeLoatch.

GIRLS COME TO T-SHIRT LEAGUE

FIRSTBASEPERSON??!!?? A new era hit baseball this spring when, for the first time, girls were permitted to sign up for the T-Shirt League. The word went out very quietly early this year that the Piermont T-Shirt League would not wait for the battles that marred many Little Leagues last season, but would open its ranks to anyone who wanted to play, regardless of sex, as long as they made the age limits. As a result, each of the six teams has at least one girl on its roster—although with the teams in full uniform this year and so many long-haired boys, you can't always tell which one is the girl.

We sent a junior reporter, herself a rookie outfielder, to interview some of the pioneers and some of the old-timers, too, on their reaction to the big breakthrough. The girls, it seems signed up not out of devotion to the cause of Women's Lib, but just because they like to play baseball. They have brothers in the league, and often played pick-up games with them or helped practice their plays. It has been whispered that some of the girls are at least a match for their brothers, but no one has reported any increase in sibling rivalry. They were a little scared at first, especially when some of the boys loudly proclaimed their distaste for girls on their teams, but that seems to have been all talk. None of the girls reports any trouble or teasing from the boys. In fact, the boys try to help them out, teaching them tricks at practice and cheering them on at games. As Julie Celander says, "The boys don't tease me when I miss a catch because I hardly ever miss a ball that's coming to me!" And she's right. Julie opened the season as the first girl up and went 5 for 6.

All the girls say their coaches

treat them "just like the boys" with no special favors or problems, even when ballet lessons make them late for practice. Of course, having Dee Krummack and Mary Miggins in the coaching box helps too.

Although there were reports of boys crossing their names off the roster when a girl signed up, the more usual reactions range from an indifferent shrug to real support. As one young third baseman put it, "Girls are okay, especially if they hit good." And some of them certainly do. Tara Donn has a rooting gallery of fans who know that her swings usually connect for extra bases, and Jeannie Carley of the Yankees sparked a miracle rally with a perfect ninth-inning bunt down the first-base line.

When even the fans of the opposing team will cheer a girl on with "Get a hit, Jenny"—"Look 'em over, Brenda," or "Slide, Katie, slide!" it looks as though the girls will be back next year.

The big change that brought trauma to teams across the country has come to Piermont T-Shirt League without a blink. Hooray for Piermont and "Batter up!"

NEW BUSINESSES IN PIERMONT

New businesses on Main Street and at the newly-completed Diplomat Gardens complex are bringing more needed and varied services to Piermonters.

An exciting new plant store, Tomdia's Garden, has sprouted on Main Street. The plant boutique is owned and managed by Piermonter Diana Davis. Open Tuesday through Sunday from 12 to 7 pm, the shop offers plant enthusiasts a wide variety of house plants, from small succulents to large hanging and table plants. Tomdia's Garden also features a full range of planting supplies, including various soil mixtures, ornamental stones, pots, and hanging baskets, too. Diana hopes to carry

large exotic plants in the near future and plans a full stock of bulbs for fall planting.

Also on Main Street is the new Giovanni's Pizza. The delicious pizza and hot hero sandwiches are served up by owner John Colandra. John, who lives in Congers, has been making pizzas in Rockland for 15 years. Open Tuesday through Sunday, 4 to 11 pm, and Saturday from 12 to 12, the restaurant has several tables and comfortable surroundings.

Up at Diplomat Gardens, its swimming all-year-round at the Diplomat Health Spa. The Health Spa features a large heated pool, exercise room, sauna, card and game room, and outside sun-deck. Membership can be arranged yearly or for the summer season.

For those who like delicious farm-fresh fruits and vegetables, gourmet cheeses, and delicatessen, the Piermont Country Store is the place. The store is stocked with a wide range of groceries, appetizers, fresh meats and home-made hot dishes and can make a sandwich to your specification, hot or cold. Catering, too. Open Monday through Saturday from 9 to 9 and Sunday from 7 am to 9 pm, owner-manager John Masella is waiting to serve you.

Cards, magazines, books, cigarette newspapers, toys, school supplies, and gift items make up just some of the items sold at the Diplomat Stationery Store. Owned and managed by Doris Thomas of Tappan and Harriette Gennes, the shop is open seven days a week from 9 am to 7:30 pm (Sundays til 4 pm).

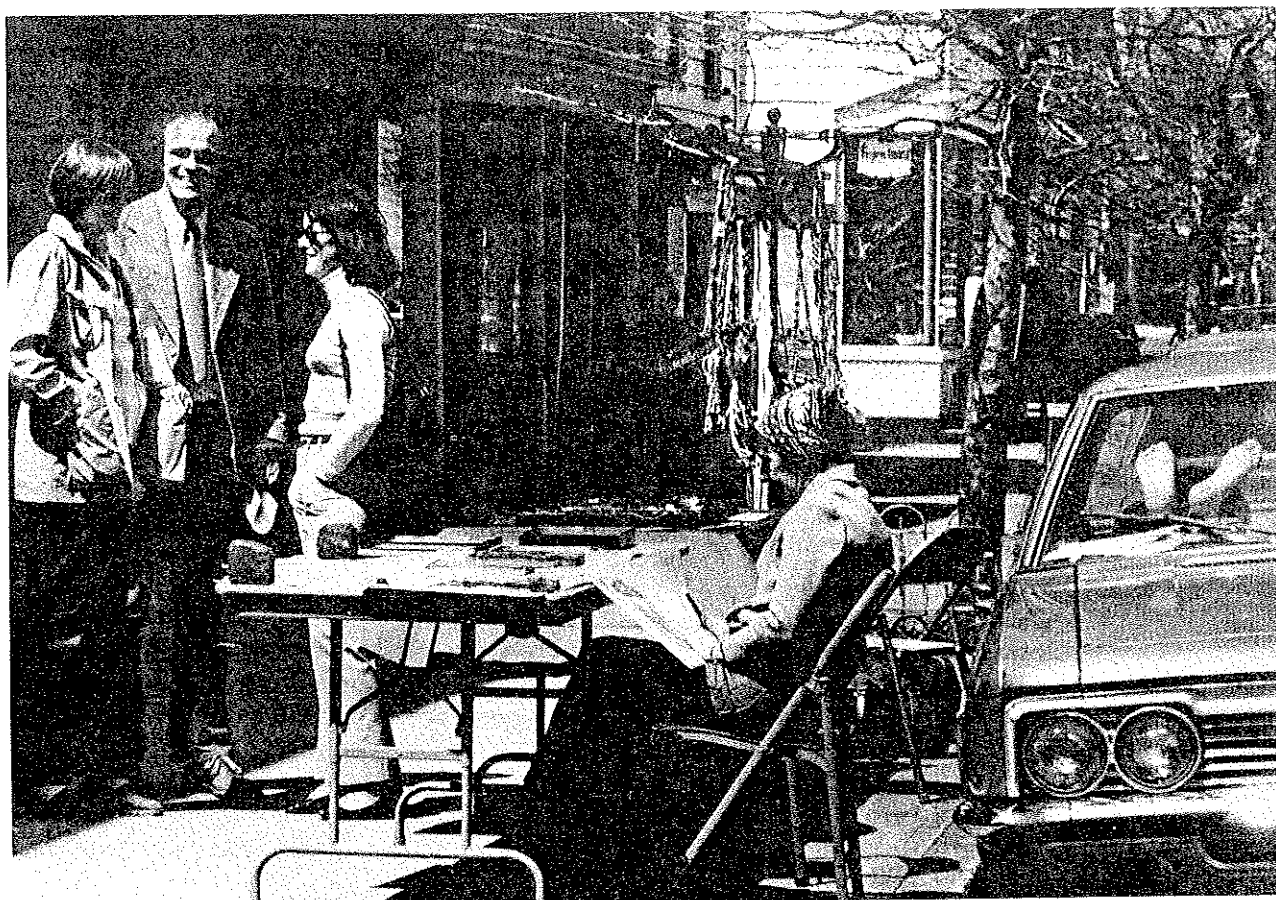
Dominic's Pizza at Diplomat Gardens features regular and Sicilian pizzas, and a variety of hot wedge sandwiches, including baked ziti, which was highly recommended by one of Dominic's regular customers. Mr. Dominic Loia of Yonkers is happy to

serve you Tuesday through Sunday, 11 am to 10 pm; Friday and Saturday until midnight.

ANTIQUÉ FAIR SET FOR SEPTEMBER

Piermont's Main Street will take on the look of the old-time Market Day on Sunday, September 21. The outdoor antique fair, familiar to county dwellers who flocked to Yankee Peddler Day and Nyack's recent Portobello Day, will be sponsored by Heirlooms, International. This firm organizes the fair, renting space to

various antique dealers, and handling publicity. The village will get a percentage, which will cover any costs to village services. The real boon will be to local businesses from the many new people who are drawn by such a fair, and to local organizations. The Bicentennial Commission has been contacted about organizing bake or craft sales throughout the fair. The local organizations which have Bicentennial Committees may set up tables to raise money for Bicentennial projects. A meeting later this month will involve village officials and local groups in final plans.



PCA'ers Carole Novick, Vic Platas, and June Griesbach talk over the Earth Week program conducted on Saturday, April 26, by the Environmental Commission.

ALL WELCOME

PIERMONT DEMOCRATIC CLUB

SUMMER SUPPER

JULY 26, 1975

7:30 P.M. TO ?

PIERMONT COMMUNITY CENTER

HUDSON TERRACE

PIERMONT, NEW YORK

BRING YOUR BATHING SUIT

B. Y. O. B.

REFRESHMENTS, SET-UPS, SODA

\$3.50 PER PERSON

NO CHILDREN

9W MAIL IS DELIVERED DESPITE MISSING NUMBERS

Nor rain nor sleet nor lack of house numbers keeps Piermonters living along 9W from getting their letters delivered into their mailboxes.

This improvement on the centuries-old proud boast of the Persian deliverers of messages is due to the diligence of Ken Rowell, veteran mailman for Route 9W which is within the Nyack postal district even though much of it lies geographically in Piermont.

Mr. Rowell has called Newsletter's attention to a misstatement in its March issue to the effect that mail addressed "Route 9W" may not be delivered because the Nyack Post Office requires house numbers.

"While postal regulations require house numbers on mail except where addressed to a postal box number, we do not withhold delivery of letters lacking such numbers," Mr. Rowell explained. Many 9W residents, like those elsewhere, do not know their own house numbers or otherwise neglect to supply complete addresses to correspondents, he said. Many mailboxes are without number markings.

"Of course this makes for extra work sorting the incoming mail and putting the unnumbered letters in proper sequence for the delivery route," Mr. Rowell declared. "We'd like to see everyone write complete addresses, including zip codes as well as house numbers, on all mail they send."

Meanwhile, his years of delivering mail along 9W have made Mailman Rowell so familiar with names along his route that he slips an unnumbered letter into its proper place almost automatically. Sometimes, when a home has been sold, it takes a little while to place the new name, but no letters are returned to senders just because they lack a

house number.

The anomaly of Piermont residents getting their mail from Nyack goes back many years. At a time when Piermont had no home delivery, residents had to go to the village post office to pick up their mail. For residents on 9W it was a hardship to climb down the hill and up again every day, so the 9W area was put into the Orangeburg postal district which had rural delivery. Some years later for jurisdictional reasons, the postal system shifted it to the Nyack district.

The system still leaves much to be desired. Friends, businessmen and others wishing to communicate with 9W residents find them listed in the Piermont telephone directory and consequently address their mail to Piermont. Arrived at the Piermont post office, letters are rerouted to Nyack with loss of at least a day in delivery. There is another complication. When 9W Piermonters make purchases in out-of-town stores for delivery, they must give the Nyack address if the delivery is to be made by mail, and the Piermont address if by United Parcel Service or the store's own trucker.

The confusion and mix-ups could be eliminated, now that Piermont has its own mail delivery, if all of the village including the 9W area were consolidated in the Piermont postal district. A petition addressed to the U.S. Postal Service might accomplish such a change.

DIPLomat FOLLOW-UP

Our last issue contained an account of the travails of the tenants of the Diplomat Gardens apartment complex, and we thought an updating might be in order.

(Continued on p. 10)

MEMORIAL DAY BLUE GRASS PICNIC...



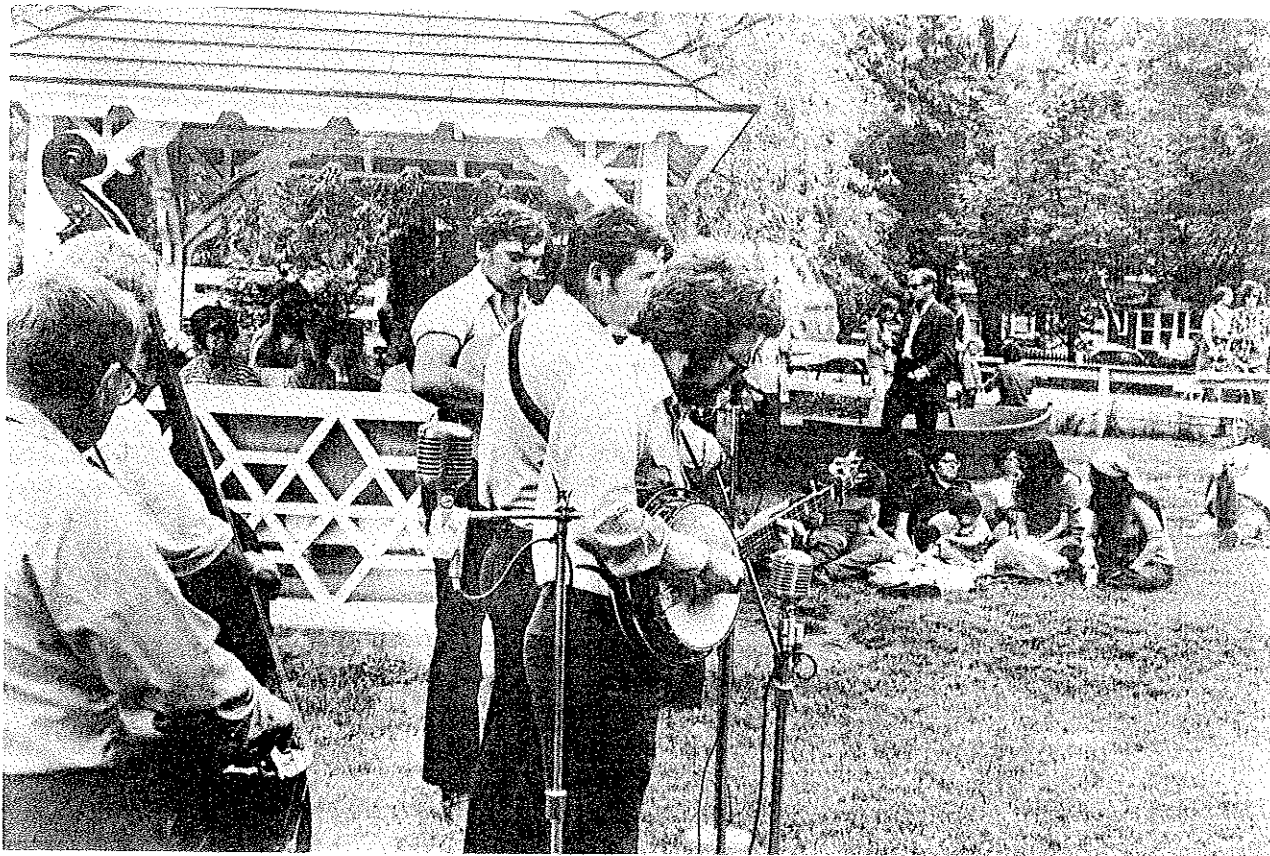
The PCA Blue Grass Picnic was a widely acclaimed success this Memorial Day at Kane Park. Sparked by good weather and a lively five-piece blue grass band from Garfield, NJ Piermonters and visitors turned out in the hundreds to enjoy the free fire engine rides (courtesy of the Empire Hose Co) and the wide variety of food and wares for sale.



The ladies of the PCA generously donated food from quiche lorraine to fried chicken and carrot cake, which was sold at the PCA food table. The library sold plant cuttings, donated to support the library. Home made bread & croissants were sold along with antique memo

rabilia and a variety of house plants.

Children were gayly playing on the swings at Kane Park, parents were contentedly talking to friends and neighbors. Young and old were relaxing and enjoying Piermont. It was a good beginning for a new tradition.



A PCA Junion Committee formed itself to help with the fair, and worked very hard. From left to right: Kristin Ordahl, Kate Savage, Molly and Anne Watkins and

Maggie Cone wrap the Pocket Lady's surprises. They made signs and distributed flyers in Nyack, Piermont and Sparkill. Andrea Hamilton and Lori Douglas also helped and we think this is the start of a great thing.

So let's hear from you teen-agers, on help for future projects or new ideas you can contribute!



(...from p. 7)

Talks with some tenants seem to indicate an improvement in the situation, and Village Clerk's office reports better cooperation from the management with Village officials. Fire Inspector Ray Holmes toured the complex and found only minor violations, which were quickly corrected. He reported that the manager seems responsive to suggestions for changes and asked that any corrections be immediately communicated to him.

A resident who moved in this May reported she was very satisfied with her new home. She knew nothing of prior complaints and found that she had experienced none of the problems that drove tenants last winter to file complaints with the State Attorney General. She described the buildings and grounds as clean and well-maintained; and the maintenance service as reasonably prompt. The pool and sauna facilities, in particular, were singled out for compliments.

Many of the concerns expressed last February by angry tenants seem to have been ameliorated by improvements in maintenance. The overflowing garbage cans, unfinished walks and stair-railings, the unlighted service areas, seem to have been corrected, and a man is employed to keep the grounds picked-up. Many of the stores have not been rented, though, and there has been talk of turning some of them into studio apartments, which would require a zoning change. There has been no official request, but the owners have asked for an informal meeting with the Village Board. No date has been set as of this writing, and Village officials can only speculate on the reason for the meeting.

Owners of Diplomat Gardens have put up the necessary signs and filed the required letter with the Village to allow Piermont police to include the property on their regular patrol route. The sight of the Piermont car making its routine swing through the complex

was mentioned as "very comforting" by one tenant.

Another, now satisfied with the place, remarked that many of the problems stemmed from "settling in" too soon. Many tenants had moved in before the final touches had been put on the place, frequently because occupancy dates promised at rental could not be met. Squeezed between having no place to go and moving into barely completed apartments, tenants pressured the Village Board to grant Certificates of Occupancy as soon as possible. He also suggested that it took a while for the builders to realize that the Village Board meant what it said about meeting standards and would not let them get away with short-cuts—even if it held up moving-in day.

Now that they've got the message, conditions would seem to be much improved. However, the empty stores and the talk of a zoning change would seem to warrant continued vigilance by local watchdogs.

SUMMERTIME & THE LIBRARY

Registration is now underway (16-27 June) for the Beachcomber Reading Club at the Library this summer. Paula Scholz, children's librarian, has planned an expanded program with weekly special events. The reading club is open to all children who can read—there is no upper age limit. When he enrolls, each member receives a booklet in which he records the titles of the books he reads each week. Members meet on Friday afternoons (3-5) with Mrs. Scholz to report on their books and to choose "beachcombings." In addition, there will be special programs each Friday at 3:30 pm, July 11 - August 15, for members of the club. The final meeting on August 15 (for reading club members only) will be a Picnic Party when certificates and final

shells will be awarded.

Pre-school story hours will continue during the summer on Tuesday mornings at 10:30. On August 12, the last story hour of the summer, there will be a "Teddy Bear Picnic." Tuesday afternoon programs at 3:00 pm will alternate with Tuesday evening family movies at 7:30 pm. The schedule is:

July 8, 7:30 pm

I Heard the Owl Call My Name

July 15, 3:00 pm

Puppet Show: *Rumpelstiltskin*

July 22, 7:30 pm

Autobiography of Miss Jane Pitman

July 29, 3:00 pm

Flint-napping (making arrowheads)

August 5, 7:30 pm

Brian's Song

August 12, 3:00 pm

Draw-a-Cartoon demonstration

The Library has benefitted by two fund-raising events recently—the table at the Memorial Day Blue Grass Fair and a wine-tasting party at the Grandview Village Hall on Sunday, June 8th. Both were festive occasions and netted the Library a little over \$200.

There are no Saturday hours during the summer, but the expanded daily hours (Monday through Friday) allow ample time for even the most avid readers to get in for a supply of books and records. Mornings from 10 am until noon, afternoons from 3 to 5 pm, and evenings from 7 to 10 pm. The McNaughton shelves have been replenished and many new books have been added, so stock up on your summertime reading and listening supplies. And don't forget, when the weather gets hot, the children's room at the Library is still one of the coolest places in town on a summer evening, and it's open for all ages!

VILLAGE COURT

The cases that come before Police Justice Thomas A. Ciganik, who holds court on Wednesday evenings in Piermont Village Hall, hardly ever make the pages of the daily newspapers. But on a local scale they provide human drama and throw light on changes taking place in the sociological and criminal patterns of suburbia.

An 18-year-old charged with possession of a car stolen from a Piermont woman, a motorist accused of fleeing the scene of an accident in the Clevepak parking lot, a pair of ice-cream vendors picked up for hawking their wares in the Lawrence Park development without a license, a young woman who had allegedly violated the speed limit and filed a false report on an accident, and one suspected member of a trio which had ripped off Piermont's leading restaurant for \$60 by running out without paying for dinner and drinks, were among the defendants whose cases were called at one recent session.

Among other cases on the docket that evening were drunken driving, illegal overnight parking, owners of dogs-running-loose, disorderly conduct, and, in the only civil case sandwiched among the misdemeanor and felony charges, a judgment against a Diplomat Gardens' couple for non-payment of rent.

Court opened with Deputy Village Clerk Pauline McCullough passing folders to Justice Ciganik, soft-spoken and slim in his black judicial gown. As cases were called, defendants—some with their lawyers or the Public Defender—came to the "bench" (an extended folding table) to enter pleas and offer explanations or seek postponements.

Steven LaFrancois, arrested on a charge of driving under the influence of alcohol, won a reduction to a charge of reckless driving on the

recommendation of Assistant District Attorney Paul Demcio. He pleaded guilty to the lesser charge and got a fine of \$100 and a lecture.

"I hope you realize," Justice Ciganik told the young man, "that a vast number of traffic deaths are caused by drunken driving. Unfortunately, there are many such drivers in our area."

Mr. LaFrancois asked time in which to pay the fine. He was given two weeks to pay or else spend 30 days in the county jail.

Eighteen-year-old Armando Morales was brought from the county jail where he had been held for lack of \$1,000 bail and also on a Grand Jury felony indictment for possession of a gun unrelated to the Piermont felony charge of possession of a stolen car. He was represented by Public Defender Barnet Selman who, with a recommendation from the District Attorney's office, won a reduction of the charge to a misdemeanor, to which Morales pleaded guilty. Mr. Selman then asked the court to adjudge the 18-year-old a youthful offender. Justice Ciganik ordered a probation report and reserved decision until July 16.

Because of the wretched acoustics of the Village Hall auditorium and the low voices in which judge and lawyers discussed matters at the "bench" it was impossible for spectators, even those in the front row, to hear how justice was being administered. Justice Ciganik told this reporter later that a microphone would be used at future sessions to remedy that defect.

"When we have a trial," he said, "witnesses take the stand and all testimony and arguments must be clearly audible. As it happened, tonight there were only pleadings, postponements and such at the bench. The jury trial that was scheduled didn't take place because the District Attorney

found he did not have a case he could prove at this time."

The aborted jury trial had been scheduled for Lawrence Ciarello of Pearl River on a charge of "theft of services" from Cornetta's Restaurant where three diners fled the premises last August without paying their \$60 bill.

Fourteen citizens, called for jury service, were in court waiting for selection of six of them as jurors, when Assistant District Attorney Demcio asked for a postponement. Mr. Demcio said that two witnesses could not make positive identification of Ciarello but he believed that a third witness, not immediately available, might do so. Mr. Selman protested any further delay, saying the defense was ready for trial. Justice Ciganik called Joseph Cornetta, owner of the restaurant and complainant, to the "bench" and asked if he could identify the defendant as one of the rip-off trio. Mr. Cornetta said he could not be positive, whereupon the case was dismissed, and Justice Ciganik, turning to the 14 talesmen and women, said:

"We are not going to have a trial this evening. I thank you for coming here to do your duty as citizens, but the matter has been resolved, and not to the entire satisfaction of this court."

One talesman, Charles Adams Baker of Snedens Landing, a theatrical agent, complained that he had been called for jury duty in local, State and Federal courts several times in the last few years. He said none of the cases had gone to jury trial. Justice Ciganik explained that anyone called for jury duty did not have to serve again for the next two years. Mr. Baker, who had not been aware of this, seemed pleased.

The father-and-son ice-cream hawkers, William V. and William J.

Grippe, paid fines of \$20 each for having, on separate occasions, peddled illegally at Lawrence Park. The court issued a warrant for the arrest of Walter Stanton, who failed to appear on a drunken driving charge and whose \$500 bail check had bounced. It was disclosed also that his New Jersey driver's license had been revoked. An arrent warrant was signed also against Edward Goswick, a fugitive from charges of unauthorized use of a vehicle, driving without a license and leaving the scene of an accident.

Twenty-year-old Robert L. Rawner, for whose arrest a warrant had been out following his non-appearance in 1973 to answer a charge of doing 48 mph in a 30-mph zone, came to court voluntarily though belatedly. Noting that the speeding violation had taken place on River Road outside the Stevenson Funeral Home, Justice Ciganik told the youth: "That's an appropriate location because if you keep on speeding that's where you or someone else will wind up.

"I'm puzzled," the judge went on, why it took you almost two years to give yourself up after I signed a warrant for your arrest."

"I was just out of high school when I got the ticket," Rawner replied. "I couldn't get a job here so I took a construction job in Washington, I guess I forgot about the summons. I've just returned to Piermont and found the ticket in my belongings so I came in." He was fined \$50.

In the only civil case, a suite for non-payment of three-months rent, Justice Ciganik found for the Diplomat Gardens realty company when the respondents failed to appear. Setting judgment at \$895 for the owed rent plus \$100 legal costs, he was ready to sign a warrant of attachment, but the realty company's attorney said he believed the tenants

would pay up the next day.

The cases of Angelo Caputo and Reynold Ojeda, charged with leaving the scene in separate accidents, were slated for trial July 2. Deborah Breen, accused of speeding and filing a false report, had her trial set for August 13 when her lawyer, Jerome Trachtenberg, said he'd be away on a trip in July.

Justice Ciganik, who had been holding court on alternate Wednesdays, disclosed in an interview that he will sit every Wednesday as long as there are jury trial cases on his calendar.

"One Wednesday will be for arraignments and pleadings, and the next for trials," he told this reporter. "This will obviate situations like tonight's when 14 prospective jurors sat through a long calendar of cases waiting for a trial that failed to go on."

Justice Ciganik, 37 years old, a graduate of New York Law School, was admitted to the bar in 1965. He was Piermont Village Attorney from 1970 until early last year when the Village Board appointed him successor to the resigned Justice John McKenna Jr. Justice Ciganik was elected in March to a full term without opposition. He finds relaxation by hunting in the fall, sailing on Barnegat Bay in the summer, trout fishing in the spring, and deep-sea fishing for variety.

Running his finger down the recent night's court schedule, Justice Ciganik remarked: "The kind of offenses against the law that we find week after week has been changing just as the pattern of suburban life has been altered. There was a time when local courts had to decide cases involving pigs at large, cows invading a neighbor's garden, saloon brawls and barn burnings. Today, the majority of our cases involve the automobile in one way or another. Lack of adequate parking space is a problem in this

Village. I sympathize with the motorist who isn't allowed to park in front of his home, but our police and the court must enforce the law without favoritism."

Criminal activity in the drug area, a serious and increasing problem in Piermont, is not reflected in the police court. Most of the cases of drug pushing and possession, being violations of Federal law, go directly to Federal Court. The Piermont police, working closely with Federal agents, have helped break several major drug cases.



VOLUNTEERS UNTRASH THE PIER

To help transform Piermont's Pier from a garbage dump to a garden spot, a volunteer crew rounded up on an April weekend by Piermont's Environmental Advisory Commission collected and bagged an enormous amount of trash scattered between the T-Shirt League field and the Lamont dock at the end of the point.

Bossed by Vic Platas, Grace Meyer, Len Hunt and Dick Janda, the crew filled over 200 large plastic garbage bags with discarded beer cans—Budweiser ranked as the favorite brew of litter bugs by a 10-1 margin—plus a wild assortment of other cast-offs, ranging from headless dolls to truck tires. The haul was so big that Piermont's Sanitation Department put in an extra day's work trucking it all to the Clarkstown dump. Most of the volunteers spent the next week trying not to scratch poison ivy blisters (the leaves were not out yet, but the sap was heavy in the vines and thoroughly virulent).

The stimulus for the clean-up was the closing and burial of the Village Dump, which had become a noisome eyesore that threatened to rival Mount Nebo as a local landmark and to match the County Sewage Disposal Plant as a source of stink. Piermont's trash is now being hauled over the Palisades to help fill the low spots between the Hudson and Delaware valleys.

John, Charles and Chris Zahn pitching in at the Pier Clean-up in April

While the Budweiser cans and other assorted beer and soft-drink containers formed the bulk of the litter on the Pier, the shoreline is suffering other indignities and insults. Plastic bags are an ever more serious menace. They don't rot, so they drift up on the shore, then blow into the reeds and bushes, decorating them like giant's spittle. But for its top YECCCH! rating, the pick-up crew nominated a new ecological horror of the throw-away age: Pampers and Kimbies. Think about it. Plastic disposable diapers that float. What a grand idea from Mr. Proctor and Mr. Gamble. They'll surely have another new floater for us soon, so if you'd like to be among the first to discover it, sign up with EAC secretary June Griesbach as a volunteer for the next Pier Clean-up. For inspiration, take a stroll out to the end of the Pier and catch a summer sunset. It is a beautiful place, this Village.

FISHING LORE

...a collection of advice given by, and scientific observations made by, the old-timers along the banks of the lower Hudson River.

...Compiled, edited, and exaggerated by Dick Janda

1—WHEN TO FISH: According to most fishermen you might meet along the river, the month and time of day are of great import in determining your fishing success. In addition, you must consider the phase of the moon. Choose any combination to include a moon phase, month, and time of day and you have an expert prediction of "good fishing" by at least someone. My opinion is that the best time to fish is whenever you have a chance. Providing, of course, that you kill a sacred toad during an eclipse by strangling it with 6-pound test leader material and simultaneously murmur the secret chant.

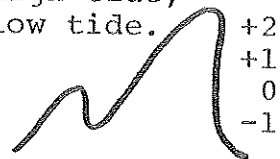
2—FISHING TIDEWATER: According to those who know, there are only

four tidal conditions during which fish are likely to be caught. Each condition is suggested as the only good time to fish by its proponents:

- A. Fish only the incoming tide;
- B. Fish only the outgoing tide;
- C. Fish only at high tide;
- D. Fish only at low tide.

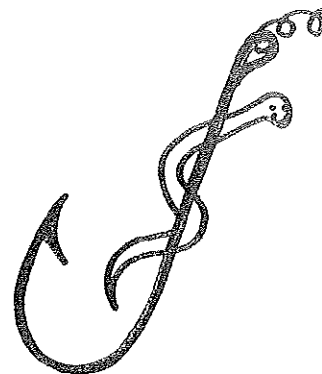
A fifth suggestion comes from a local Piermonter:

Never fish tidewater—EVER!



3—HOW TO FISH BAIT: If you must use bait associated with luring fish to the hook, follow these two gems of advice given by those who claim expertise in such things:

- A. Drift the bait, always keep it moving;
- B. Cast the bait out and let it sit—that's the only way the fish can smell it and "home in on it"—don't move it around.



4—WHAT TO FISH WITH: This sort of information is most difficult to extract from fishermen who are otherwise most helpful. A little psychology is useful in getting the answers you need. For instance, you will often see a fellow using a lure who tells you that bait is best for the day; he will invariably tell you that if he sees that you're only carrying a fly rod. Enough of that. I'm giving away too much secret stuff.

5—THE WATER COLOR: Now pay strict attention, because this is real important! The old-timers tell me that the color of the water must be just right to catch fish. The following are things which I've been told walking back from fruitless hours on the river; these are then the water conditions under which I caught NO fish:

- A. The water's too brown;
- B. The water's too dirty;
- C. The water's too clear;
- D. The water's too green;
- E. The water's not green;
- F. The water's tea-colored;
- G. The water's too blue;
- H. The water's not brown enough.

It should be simple to eliminate the above poor conditions and find the perfect situation somewhere in between.

6—WEATHER CONDITIONS: This factor, of course, has dramatic effects upon Nos. 5 and 1 and the information from these areas should be correlated accordingly. Also, such conditions as rain will change the level of the water and the velocity of the current which will certainly have a bearing on Nos. 2,3,4. Nonetheless, it is wise to know that according to some:

- A. Rain causes a feeding frenzy in fish;
- B. Rain stops all feeding activities in fish;
- C. When water rises, fish migrate and don't feed;
- D. During low water, fish hole-up and don't feed;
- E. We've had too much rain;
- F. We need some more rain.

There's a lot more to this but I'm going fishing—conditions are PERFECT!

LOST ! Kodak Instamatic Camera with film cartridge at Kane Park on Wednesday morning, May 21. The cartridge contains photographs of the Community Playschool children. If anyone found it, or knows of its whereabouts, please contact Mrs. Burd, at the Playschool (EL9-9833).

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