

PIERMONT NEWSLETTER

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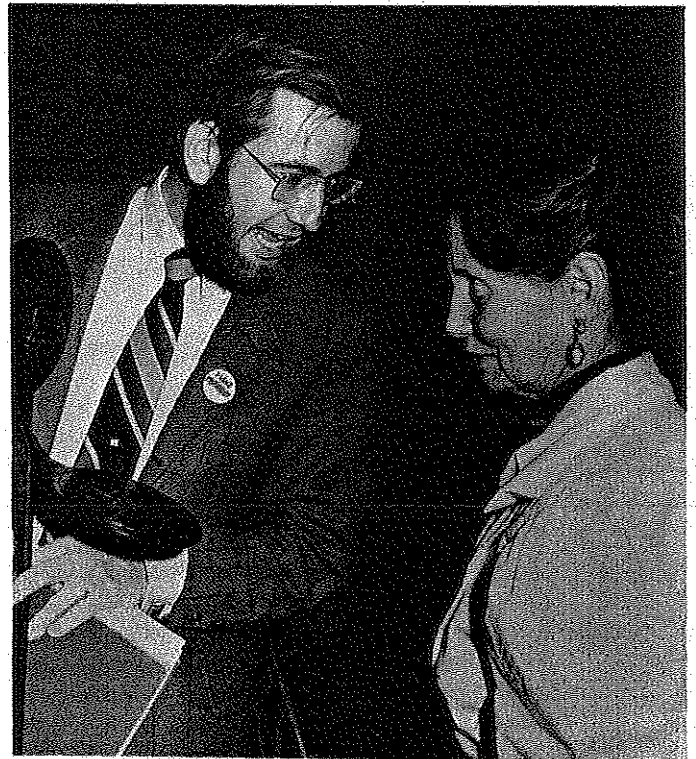
PIERMONT SCORES A FIRST

For the past three months, Piermont has been the scene of a unique re-cycling project. On the first Saturday of the month, the Citizens for Environmental Action (otherwise known as Herb Schlobohm, Stan Jacobs, and John Goddard) have gone through the village collecting all paper trash put out at the curb. Unlike the usual paper drive which collects and re-sells only newspaper, the CEA effort takes in every type of paper product that clutters up the average home - magazines, cardboard, junk mail, phone books, tab cards, wrappings, ditto sheets, and Friday bulletins alike. The collection is then sold directly to Federal Paper Co. instead of to one of their suppliers, as in the past. Ecologists in the know assure the CEA that this comprehensive collection of all paper products by a community for re-sale to a re-cycling plant is being done nowhere else in the country.

The CEA is really engaged in an experiment - to see if such a program would be feasible for the village crew to take on, much as they now collect refuse once a month. So far it has been a success. Response has been good, and getting better each month, both in total tons collected and in the numbers of households that put out their papers. 3.5 tons were collected in January and 4.5 tons in February. (March figures are not yet available.) In spite of the natural obstacles to getting the paper out before 10AM on a Saturday, about 25% of the households are participating. The CEA feels that more residents will get the habit as the collections become routine.

It now takes 8 volunteers in 2 trucks about three hours to cover the village,

including the 9W apartments. They hope to try the route using the village dump truck in April before turning the project over to the village completely. Some points still must be ironed out but the Village Board has expressed interest in trying it out.



'At the annual dinner, PCA "paperman" Herb Schlobohm talks to Daisy Spencer.

The paper collection carries a number of very practical benefits in addition to ecological gains. The sale of the paper has brought in about \$150 since January, which the CEA has distributed to the Clausland Mountain Fund, Sparkill Creek Watershed Protection Association, Hudson River Fishermen's Association, and the Piermont Library. Since the Federal Paper Co. pays

\$9 a ton for newspaper and \$4-5 a ton for other paper waste, (IBM cards bring \$75 a ton) village-wide collection could bring in a tidy sum to the village treasury - money that otherwise gets burned up or buried on the dump. Stan Jacobs sees the benefits to the village in saved space on the dump as greater even than the re-sale value of the paper. Given the limited area of the dump, the extremely high cost of any alternative facilities, and the expense of buying earth to cover the trash, every ton of paper re-cycled instead of dumped saves Piermont a lot of money. In the long range, it also cuts down on leaching and pollution of the salt marsh, and may save a few trees from lumbering as well. It seems to be a pretty good return on the effort invested.

The next collection will be April 1st. Because they bring more than other paper trash, the CEA asks that newspapers be bundled separately.

With the paper drive fairly well-established, the CEA will begin to investigate the re-cycling of bottles and cans. The CEA can also take credit for getting the Tallman Mountain Park open dump covered up with clean fill, after an exchange of letters with Nash Castro of the Palisades Interstate Park Commission, proving once again that faith can move mountains.



Committeewoman Mildred Burck serves "hosts" Mr. & Mrs. Kurt Gerhardt.

P.C.A. DINNER MAKES MONEY FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Over 100 Piermonters recently attacked what ad men call the "groaning board" for their pleasure and the NEWSLETTER's profit. The source of both the cash and the calo-

ries was the sixth Annual PCA Dinner which, for the first time, was designed specifically to raise funds as well as to provide good fellowship.

It succeeded; unofficial tallies place the gross at nearly \$600. As soon as the Dinner Committee (Mildred Burck, Cynthia Crippen and Margaret Holihan) regains its collective strength, it promises to compute the exact net profit which is estimated at over \$450. The expenses were low because all the dishes served had been cooked and donated by PCA members and friends.

The dinner, which was held on February 18th at the Parish Hall of the Reformed Church on Ferdon Avenue, provided an extensive international buffet. There was chicken -- Spanish, Mexican, French and Sweet and Pungent. There was beef -- potted, roasted, in balls, curry, and tomato sauce. There was Russian Salmon Pie, Puerto Rican Rice and Cuttle Fish, and Greek Moussaka. Salads varied from tossed green to bulghar, and the richer the dessert the faster it went.

Some of the most unusual offerings were donated by a fledgling catering business, Party in a Pot, run by Piermonters Ann Welborn and Sally Ford (with Barbara Mora). They provided an international menu ranging from soup --Mandarin-- to dessert --Blackberry Bavarian.



Bo's back -- and off and running.

The \$3.50 admission fee gave enterprising gourmets (rapidly turning gourmand) not only a selection of food but a large choice of wine to wash it down. All the wine was donated by Wine Imports of America Ltd., through its representative Bob Celander, who lives on Hudson Terrace.

An adjunct to the Dinner's fund raising was a bar manned by volunteers Charlie Grutzner, Eddy McPherson and Brad Bradbury. A cookbook, selling for \$1.00, which features many of the recipes used at the dinner plus some bonuses, is also netting funds for the NEWSLETTER. It continues to be on sale at the Community Market and at the Thrift Shop.

In handing out thanks, the Dinner Committee cited the five Teen Center members who cleared, washed and dried what seemed to be an endless line of dishes, glasses and silverware; and the dinner guests who pitched in to help clean up.

The Committee also thanks the consistency and the Rev. Donald R. Veltman for the use of the fine kitchen and the Parish Hall of the First Reformed Church. It is particularly grateful for the assistance of parishioner Mrs. Kurt Gerhardt -- who not only understood and coped with the intricacies of the coffeemaker and assuaged pre- and post-dinner panic in the kitchen, but came through with two casseroles of the smoothest macaroni and cheese imaginable.

In a summation for the NEWSLETTER, the Ms. Burck, Crippen and Holihan agree that they are well pleased with the dinner's success, that they have a plethora of what-not-to-do advice for future PCA Dinner Committees, and that they each went home the night of the 18th ravenous.



With Bob Cone's help, winner Grace Meyer opens her door prize...not won, but provided by Gerry Ikelheimer.

GRANT TO THE PLANNING COMMISSION

The Piermont Planning Commission has been successful in obtaining a grant of \$1500.00 to begin its work on a master plan for the village. The assistance will be in the form of services from the State Office of Planning Services and the Rockland County Planning Board.

On February 29th the Planning Commission held a meeting with representatives of these two organizations and Mr. Richard May the professional planner working with the Commission, to discuss the work to be accomplished with the grant. Among the services planned were the updating and re-printing of several large scale maps of the village, and a re-evaluation by the County Planning Board of the draft master plan it prepared for Piermont before the Village Planning Commission came into existence.

Although this initial grant is quite small, it will permit the Planning Commission to assemble some of the tools it needs for future work. Meanwhile, plans are being made to obtain the larger funds which are necessary for meaningful planning.

The Village Board has appointed two new members to the Planning Commission, Mrs. Ann Rothschild and Mr. Ralph Berechid. They will replace Mr. Richard Bruno and Mr. James Francis, whose terms expired in February.

At the meeting of the Village Board on February 28th the trustees paid tribute to the Planning Commission and particularly to the two members whose terms had expired. Mayor DiFrancesca presented bronze and marble paperweights to the "Founding Members" of the Commission, and an inscribed gavel to Miss Kathryn Smith, who has served for two years as chairman.

Other members who will continue in office for the next year are Mrs. Eloise Bizzari, Robert Bradbury, Sal Conigliaro and Kurt Gerhardt.

BOARD REJECTS 9W SCHOOL PROPERTY PROPOSAL

Because of strong criticism of the design by the Village Board, an application to construct an apartment housing project on the old Sparkill school property on 9W was recently withdrawn. This was the second development of the property proposed by the owners.

The first plan, never officially submitted to the Board, was for a 12-story, 120 apartment building. Informal discussions with the Village Board and the Planning Commission had produced a very negative reaction, so that plan was dropped.

The recently (February) submitted plans were for 124 apartments located in two buildings, one of 3 stories and one of 4 stories. One building would have utilized the foundations of the present L-shaped school structure, and the second would have also been in the shape of an L, forming a rectangular courtyard between the two buildings. The apartments on the lowest floor of each building were designated for professional use. Most of the property outside the rectangle of the buildings was used for driveways and parking.

The Board found the application to be unacceptable for a number of reasons, among which was the large number of apartments for the 2-acre site, inadequate open space, and inadequate parking facilities. Another reason was that the apartments were not permitted in a Business B zone; it was felt that the provision of professional apartments on the first floor did not permit the buildings to qualify as "dwelling units over commercial uses" as specified in the zoning ordinance. Finally, the buildings exceeded the height requirements for the zoning district.

The Village Board expressed its continuing interest in finding a tax producing use for the property, but felt at the same time that it must continue to uphold the zoning law.

MAIN STREET

After many years during which little happened to change the face of its main

street, Piermont seems to be experiencing a turn of tide which will bring changes in ownership and condition to at least two Main Street buildings.

Leonard Sullivan has purchased the brick buildings at the northwest corner of Main and Ash Streets from Harry Hillburgh. Work is beginning at No. 516 to improve the interior, providing apartments on two floors over store space below.

Mr. Sullivan, in purchasing the building, acted in behalf of a number of associates who form a corporation. He told the NEWSLETTER that he considered the venture "a safe investment for our money and also a chance to improve the immediate area by making attractive apartments and by bringing commercial tenants into the two stores on the street".

The building which housed the Piermont Pharmacy for many years has been sold by George Walter, pending a variance from the Village to allow for renovation of the apartments and construction of an addition in the rear.

Plans for the additional building have been drawn up, indicating five apartments on each of three floors over a basement for utilities and laundry.

Sieben Ltd., prospective owners of the building, plan to sandblast the brick exterior, clean up trim and paint the cornices. They are making provision for off-street parking for the proposed 21-unit complex. It is their intention to find commercial tenants for the street level stores.

In the event that a variance is granted by the Village, the work of renovation on the existing building and construction of the addition will begin this Spring.

As some of Main Street's brick buildings are being extensively repaired and renovated, another frame house has been demolished by time and lack of care.

Between the Village Coffee Shop and Sal Conigliaro's, the house which belonged to Ricci & Avedekian has been torn down at the direction of the Piermont Village Board. Demolition was at the expense

of the owners, and the Village has erected a fence along the street at the demolition site. The brick building housing the Coffee Shop and the lot immediately to the north are still owned by the Ricci-Avedekian Corp.

POLICE CHIEF APPOINTED

Timothy O'Shea will be Piermont's new Chief of Police. A 6-year veteran on the Nyack Police Force, O'Shea is a native of Piermont -- the son of Mr. and Mrs. Timothy O'Shea who live on Tate Avenue.

Chief O'Shea is a graduate of Rockland Community College and is presently continuing his education at the Dominican College and St. Thomas Aquinas. He ranked highest in the recent Civil Service exam for Police Chiefs and Investigators.

When he assumes his duties in Piermont by April 1st, Chief O'Shea will have the following full-time officers working with him: Charles Edwards, Obediah Hampton and Gilbert Rusterucci.

MAYOR TO RUN FOR STATE SENATE

At a press conference at Ripples of Rockland on Saturday, March 11th, Mayor Bo DiFrancesca announced that he is going to run on the Democratic ticket for the State Senate. He will seek to represent the new 38th District, which encompasses Rockland County, part of Orange County, part of the city of Yonkers and the town of Greensburg in Westchester.

It's great to have our Mayor back on the active list -- apparently more energetic than ever!

NEW CENTER WILL CO-ORDINATE HUDSON RIVER "WATER WATCH"

"Not another save-the-Hudson group!", complained a visitor to the N.Y. Boat Show who was suddenly confronted by the display of The Hudson River Center, Inc. But indeed it did turn out to be a new save-the-river organization, as enthusiastic and ambitious as the founders of the Hudson River Preservation or the Hudson River Sloop Committees.

The Hudson River Center may well turn out to be something our river with its polluted reputation can really use. The Center hopes to become the clearing house for helping all the other local and specialized organizations that have blossomed in the effort to help the river in the last ten or twenty years.

It intends to offer a river-wide reference service for organizations that need information about Hudson River projects. And this summer, it plans to begin to collect massive amounts of data on water and vegetation conditions on the Hudson and its tributaries.

Its efforts won't end with just a pollution watch; it is also planning programs to help businesses, particularly smaller ones that lack technical know-how, to find economical and perhaps even profitable ways of disposing of pollutants. Thus the Center will help support the Hudson River Fishermen's Association in its successful "Bag a Polluter" program (which has bagged and shared in the reward for convicting such polluters as Anaconda Copper), but it won't stop there. It will then offer a hand to the convicted polluter to help him solve the serious and difficult problems he may face as a result of the order to clean up.

Perhaps of greatest interest to Piermont residents and businesses is the Center's plan to set up an organized water sampling program. Run by existing local organizations and by volunteers who will be supplied with water sampling kits, water watch stations will have two major jobs: to take regular water samples for chemical analysis, and to respond to emergency calls to gather evidence in case of accidental or deliberate pollution of the river or its tributaries. Such "emergencies" might be a tanker that pumps its bilges, a plant that dumps a tank of poisonous waste, or even an individual that throws trash in the river.

One of the big reasons that the river gets polluted is that nobody watches it very carefully. The Center hopes to correct that by helping cooperating organizations set up effective programs of data gathering and reporting, and to provide them with legal guidance, and access to proper technical analysis. It will be

looking for a group to set up a watch station in Piermont.

Headquarters of the Hudson River Center will be, appropriately, on the river itself. Its offices will be on the top deck of a reclaimed ferry boat moored in Edgewater, N.J., the rest of which is being converted into a large restaurant. Currently, the group's headquarters is in the home of its president, Irwin Brooks, a retired businessman. The address is 258 Booth Avenue, Englewood, N.J.

The Center's legal counsel is a man well known to all Hudson River fans -- John Burns. Burns is somewhat of a hero in these parts for the pressure he put on General Motors Tarrytown plant to cease polluting while he was US Attorney under Whitney North Seymour.

Many organizations have begun cooperating with the Center already, including the Hudson River Sloop Restoration group (the sloop Clearwater is a roving water sampling station), Boyce Thompson Institute (which brings experience from the Chesapeake and is currently studying the Hudson estuary), the Hudson River Fishermen's Association, the Hackensack Meadowlands Group, and several others. Technical and scientific help is coming from Dr. Harry Gregor at Columbia University. The Center has established a modest fellowship at Columbia for ecological study of the Hudson Estuary, and plans to help area high schools and colleges set up ecological projects in their science curriculum.

Although the Center will not have regional offices or groups -- it hopes to work through existing organizations such as the PCA and the Brookside Field and Game Club -- it will be recruiting individual members in the near future to ensure financial support from a broad population base. The Center may be just another save-the-Hudson group right now, but it could turn out to be just the kind of operation we've needed for a long time to coordinate efforts to put the river back in shape again.

THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

The question of the future of Sparkill Creek continues to be of paramount importance to residents of Orangetown in general

and to citizens of Piermont in particular. Since our December meeting, when this question was discussed, proponents of channelization have been moving quietly toward their goal. As the plans evolve the engineering details change but the ultimate goal remains the same: to pave the way for massive urbanization and industrialization of the Sparkill Creek watershed. The engineering study recently submitted to the Rockland County Drainage Agency is based on the premise that the natural ponding areas within the watershed will inevitably be filled and commercially developed. On ponding the report says:

"One of the most effective methods of reducing peak flows is the use of storage basins to accumulate peak flows until precipitation has diminished, after which the stored water is released to the natural waterway. In many basins this is accomplished naturally by ponding in swampy areas or lakes.

"Unfortunately, almost all of the practical ponding areas in Sparkill Creek basin have been developed or are in the planning stages of such development.

"It is therefore our opinion that ponding is not a practical solution for storm flow reduction in the Sparkill Creek basin."

With this premise for a starting point the report proceeds to describe the channelization, diking, concreting and other modifications required for artificial control of storm flow in this watershed.

As individuals we may not be qualified to evaluate the engineering details, but as residents of this area we have the right and the responsibility to pass judgement on the ultimate goal. Indeed, whether we are discussing a concrete creek, a new high-rise apartment, or an expanding industrial complex, we ultimately face the same problem: Is rapid urban and industrial growth desirable? Is it an economic necessity? Is it inevitable? The Rockland County Drainage Agency would seem to think so.

On the other hand the Rockland County Planning Board tells a different story. In their study of present and future parks and open space which is dated November 1971 (a

month later than the date of the engineering report), they say this about Orangetown:

"The town wishes to maintain its attractive appearance which features expanses of woodland, old tree-lined streets and picturesque stone walls. The preservation of natural features and streams is a major factor in the town's 1965 plan."

The 1971 study also discusses the importance of ponding areas for flood control and notes that the Sparkill Creek watershed has six such areas totaling 285 acres.

It seems to me that there is a striking discrepancy here which must be resolved immediately before any irrevocable modifications are made to the Sparkill Creek. The projects carried out by the Drainage Agency should be consistent with the overall plans of the Planning Board, which in turn should reflect the wishes of the people who live here.

George Bryan
President

HIGHER ASSESSMENTS WILL BOOST TAXES FOR RESIDENTS

Tax valuations on Piermont homes and residential properties have been increased as a result of the action by the Board of Trustees in adopting the Orangetown assessment rolls for the Village. The overdue reassessment will bring an increase in most taxes private citizens pay, but will reduce the taxes paid by Continental Can Co. and Federal Paper Board by as much as \$18,000 a year.

This is a blow for Piermont taxpayers, but one residents will simply have to live with as a result of a series of developments dating back 20 years or more. There are two parts to the story.

First, Piermont has not had a tax reassessment since 1943. Says Mayor DiFrancesca, "Over the period of nearly thirty years, without a general revaluation of Village properties for local tax purposes, some glaring inequities developed. Older properties were taxed year after year on

the basis of the 1943 valuations, without regard to the fact that real property values were rising steadily, here as elsewhere. But a home that was built in Piermont 10 years ago, or 5 years, or 2 years ago was put on the tax roll on the basis of the escalated real estate values of 1961, 1966 or 1969 as the case might be.

"As a result, purchasers or builders of new homes have been carrying a disproportionate share of the Village tax burden, while owners of older properties were enjoying the benefits of lower 1943 valuations. By adopting the valuations set by Orangetown in 1968 we are putting all taxpayers on a more equitable basis."

The second part of the tax story concerns the tax valuation reduction of the industrial property on the Pier. Unfortunately, it is a typical example of the way large corporations with absentee ownership whipsaw local communities, using powerful corporation lawyers, conscienceless real estate experts and a knowledge of how to exploit political animosities. Says one New York corporate lawyer, somewhat sadly, "Big companies hire the best men in the business, they know every trick in the book -- a small town just doesn't have a chance."

Here is how it worked here, as far as the NEWSLETTER has been able to track it down:

When Continental Can Co. bought Robert Gair Co. the Piermont plant was a small part of a bigger deal that involved a lot of Gair timberland in the southern states. Con Can was seriously considering shutting the Piermont plant down and selling the property, but for some reason decided not to and built the new power plant and new box factory. Before building, by using the very real threat of closing the old plant, it finagled a deal with Orangetown to give it an extremely low tax assessment on the new buildings -- virtually no new tax at all, although the new plant cost millions of dollars.

The Piermont Village Board balked and refused to go along with the Orangetown give away. Con Can turned its lawyers on the Village and brought court action to lower the Village's assessment to the level of the new Orangetown assessment. For

years, the Village fought the action the only way it could -- by getting postponements, arguing, and making partial reductions. Against Con Can Co., Orangetown, and New York State (which would not back the Village in admitting that the Orangetown assessment of the industrial property was a result of a combination of politics and pressure), Piermont didn't stand a chance. Weakening Piermont's case was the Village's 1943 tax roll with all its inequities. Legal opinion estimated the cost of extended court action against Con Can at tens of thousands of dollars with very poor odds that the Village would win anything at all in the end.

So Piermont -- like many, many other small towns -- has been exploited by large companies that care more about their profits than their neighbors. It has also been zapped by Orangetown and New York State, which apparently care more about industry than protecting the rights of ordinary residents.

The \$18,000 Village tax reduction on the Pier property and buildings will have to be made up by homeowners. The full impact won't hit this year, because Con Can bought a \$9,000 option to purchase the Village dump property, and that money will go to the Village treasury to make up some of the deficit.

Despite the massive reduction, officials of both Continental Can and Federal Paper Board protested on Grievance Day (February 14th) that their properties were still grossly overassessed and demanded substantially bigger cuts. Peter P. Wotjel, vice-president of Con Can Co., alleged that the industrial property was being assessed at more than double its fair share of the tax burden. The company contended that the assessed valuation of \$667,150 meant a market value of \$2,223,835 which they claimed was more than twice the actual market value.

Similarly, the Federal Paper Board Co. contended, in a brief signed by Quentin J. Kennedy, its vice-president and secretary, that the assessed valuation on its property of \$677,850 represented a market value of \$2,259,500 but that the true value of the property was no more than \$1,300,700.

Owners of five other properties ap-

peared before the Village Board to ask for reductions. One of the protests was lodged by Theodore Merrill and Robert Cone, joint owners of waterfront property formerly the Methodist Church of Piermont, now used as studios and a research laboratory and for boat storage. Mr. Merrill contended that the vacant portion of the property, near that of Federal, was assessed at about six times the value per square foot placed on the paper mill parking lot. Mr. Fasano questioned Mr. Merrill's figure and claimed that "industrially zoned property has a lower value."

Leo Landau, principal owner of the Lawrence Park I and II -- who had unsuccessfully challenged the assessed valuations on each of the last three years -- renewed his claim for a reduction. Other property owners seeking reductions were Mrs. Gertrude Guglielmello, Mr. and Mrs. Ron Appelbe, and Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Burck. The Board, who conducted the hearing with the aid of Village Tax Assessor Charles Fasano (who is also the assessor for Orangetown) reviewed the cases.

"All municipalities must accept the fact that properties should be revalued every 10 or 15 years to prevent widening of the tax gap between older and newer residents," the Mayor said. "Piermont delayed making such adjustments because growth in the Village has been slow. But three decades is much too long. Things had reached a critical stage. Continuation of the inequities could lead to taxpayer suits and result in court orders compelling us to reassess. We didn't want to have to do it under compulsion."

The Village officials conceded that adoption of the Orangetown valuations set in 1968 was not a complete solution to Piermont's assessment problem, but said that the alternative would have been to hire an appraisal firm to revalue each parcel in the Village. Such an appraisal would have cost at least \$30,000, which would have to be borne by the taxpayers and would not necessarily have satisfied the local homeowners. Mayor DiFrancesca also said that there was a possibility that a countywide revaluation of all properties might be made in the next few years.

LIBRARY ACTIVITIES

An informative display on "Channelization" prepared by Barbara Porta, Chairman of the "Save the Sparkill Creek Association" is currently on exhibit in the Hall Gallery of the Piermont Public Library, (see the President's column in this issue). April's display will be "Easter Eggs from Around the World" and how they are made.

Pre-school story hours continue on Wednesday mornings at 10:30 a.m., with story tellers Michelle White, Berta Miller, Judith Brainard, Rena Berger and Paula Scholz. Coffee is provided for mothers. Wednesday afternoons at 4:00 p.m. are reserved for films and stories for the elementary school age group -- Geraldine Celandier is the new story teller. Friday evening, March 24 at 8:30 p.m. there will be a film for Adults and Young Adults, Down to the Sea in Ships narrated by Burgess Meredith.

The Library has received large numbers of new children's books, and a rack of paperbacks for exchange has been placed in the upstairs adult section.

The recent fund raising drive netted over \$1,000.00 for the Library's operating fund and support through the Thrift Shop has continued to be good. The NEWSLETTER has been asked to express the thanks of the Library Board to the community for its welcome support.

COMMUNITY CENTER PROGRAMS -- DRIVE FOR TEEN CENTER A SUCCESS

Thanks to the fund drive, which netted \$1,540.17, the Teen Center re-opened over a month ago. Sam Wilson has returned as director. The Center is open on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights from 7-9 p.m. and at other times by permit, which may be obtained through the police. Girls will be interested to know that Mrs. Eloise Bizzari is teaching a new class in sewing on Wednesday nights.

Other groups regularly using the Community Center include a Boy Scout Troop, three Girl Scout Troops, FLOC, and the Community Playschool--which marked its annual fund drive with an Open House at the Center

on Thursday, March 16th from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. Plans are already underway for the Summer Recreational Program at the Center, with emphasis on a greatly expanded swimming program.

MAYOR URGES VOTES FOR TRUSTEE CANDIDATES

Piermont's Democratic Party will field an uncontested pair of candidates in the next Village election, to be held Tuesday March 21st at the Village Hall (noon to 9:00 p.m.). The candidates are Mimi Bryan, the incumbent Deputy Mayor of Piermont, and Joseph Masucci.

Mayor Bo DiFrancesca urged villagers to vote for the candidates, though unopposed. "Mimi has been a tremendous asset to the Village," he said, "while the election of Joe Masucci will be a step to strengthen Village government."

Mrs. Bryan, who is also the Village Youth Commissioner, was elected in 1971 to fill an unexpired term. She has long been active in volunteer work and teaching locally. Mr. Masucci, a life-long resident of the area, teaches Social Studies at the Tappan Zee High School and lives on Route 9W.

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

It is regrettable that there is no opposition in this year's Village election. Challenge is always a good thing: it stimulates thought and instigates action. However, maybe in Piermont this year there is enough left-over challenge to get by on.

There is little to complain of, unless it is how long some things seem to take. The incumbent Board has done well on special projects (the Youth Recreation Program and the Community Center to name two) and handled emergencies competently (one thinks of last Fall's floods and the state aid the Board got for needed repairs). The Planning Board is really beginning to function, and is to be congratulated on getting a preliminary grant -- no easy task.

The Village's zoning seems to be holding up under the pressures of time; deteriorated buildings have been torn down and the inappropriate new rejected, while -- at

the same time -- there seems to be a mood to encourage the improvement of existing buildings. Hopefully, we will even see an innovative approach to the collection of waste paper for re-cycling. (If we do, most of the credit must go to the persistent efforts of the CEA.)

The Village Board has, in the past year, demonstrated both a realistic and an innovative approach to the problems which

have confronted it. Phil DeLorenzo was a member of that Board. In the last election he led the opposition in what was an often bitter contest, but when it was over he acted as a "loyal minority" on the Board -- continuing to participate and vote in the best interests of the Village. His term on the Board, and his long service as building inspector for the Village will not be forgotten. We hope he will continue to serve Piermont.

NOTICES

Staff will be needed for Piermont's Summer Recreation Program. Interested applicants should contact the Village Clerk at the Village Hall for information.

Gene Burks, formerly of Piermont and a N.Y. City travel agent, is now associated with the Viajes Linemar Travel Agency, General Pardinás, 95, Madrid, Spain. If you are planning a trip to Portugal, Spain, or anywhere in Europe, Gene can be of tremendous service to you. He can get you the best accommodations at the lowest price, and is always glad to see old neighbors.

Needed: A circulation manager for the staff of the NEWSLETTER. The new Village mailing list will help, but we still need someone to oversee the operation.

The UNICEF collection in Piermont by the youth of the Reformed Church netted \$136.68. Thanks to all who contributed.

HOTLINE, a joint project of the Narcotics Guidance Councils of Rockland County, is in need of staff personnel - both youth and adult. HOTLINE is a telephone answering service to youth with problems. For information contact the Rev. Veltman of the Piermont Reformed Church or call HOTLINE at 634-3676.

ORGANIC CO-OP starting in Piermont. A group of people obtaining organically grown foods at supermarket prices would like to be joined by other interested parties. Vegetables, fruits, bread, meat, poultry and dairy products will be available on a weekly basis. For more information call Carol Sue or Dick at 359-5928 after 4 p.m. The group would also like to learn of any land available locally for a co-operative organic garden.

PCA DUES are due. Send to: Gerald Ikelheimer, Castle Road, Piermont. Dues for 1972 January - December are \$5.00. An additional contribution to the Teen Center, the Newsletter, or the general fund would be welcome. Have you thought of a membership as a gift to an ex-Piermonter? It would assure him of receipt of the NEWSLETTER to keep up with Piermont activities.

THIS ISSUE was produced by the Newsletter Committee of the Piermont Civic Association: Robert Bradbury, Rosemary and Bob Cone, Cynthia Crippen, Charles Grutzner, Margaret Holihan, Ted and Lisa Merrill. Sally Savage took the pictures and Lisa Merrill was the editor. The committee always welcomes new members or special feature writers. Please contact any of the above people if you want to join.

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

