

THE PIERMONT NEWSLETTER

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QUIET STRIKES PIERMONT

The ban of heavy trucks from 9W has brought a quiet and piece-of-mind to local residents and motorists that hasn't been had for years.

Over five years of community protest spearheaded by the West Hudson Environmental Association and the Piermont Civic Association resulted in a thorough documentation of the inordinate use of 9W as a truck route primarily by trucks not doing business in the county, but trying to avoid tolls and traffic on other more suitable routes. State Senator Linda Winikow became our political advocate as we sought to preserve our community's right to survive and not be turned into a gasoline alley. For without some kind of regulation in the growth of truck usage on 9W the question of community survival

and growth must be seriously considered.

There are problems with the ban. Some independent truckers are angry that we dare to threaten their right to take over our community as their truck route. New Jersey is worried they just might see trucks from their industrial parks on their residential streets. Although New Jersey has no real documentation of any major increase in truck traffic. But there are also industries within Orangetown that may be faced with real hardships in transportation

Regional DOT Director, Al Dickson, and Senator Linda Winikow have asked our local Orangetown industries and officials to comply with the ban for

a month, document any major problems it may cause, and then exceptions or modifications to the ban could be made.

We agree with this reasonable attitude. However our Orangetown Supervisor Joseph Colello, an original supporter of the ban, seems to be unable to accept such a reasonable attitude himself, for he is now quoted in the Bergen Record as having said of the ban-

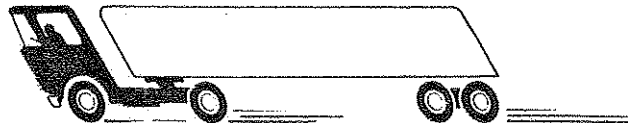
"This is the case of housewives trying to tell experts what to do. A simple reduction of the speed limit would have been more effective than banning heavy trucks. The cost of this stupidity is astronomical."

and he says in the Journal News,-

"The ban only affects a handful of people."

Only Palisades, Piermont, Sparkill, Upper Grand View, Grand View and South Nyack! People he obviously feels don't count in a non-election year

If Mr. Colello's remarks strike you as irresponsible and inappropriate, call or write to him and tell him he is not just the Supervisor of Orangeburg, but for all of Orangetown.



Because of all the one-sided negative statements and publicity being fed to us by local papers, it is easy to lose sight of the real issues, and those are--that we must fight to insure the survival of our community and that the trucks do have alternatives that are not so very outrageous. ■

WHAT PEOPLE LIKE BEST ABOUT PIERMONT

by Doug Ikelheimer, age 12 and Declan Spring, age 12

We called people of all ages and made a survey of what people like best about Piermont. Here are the results.

Bruce Ikelheimer, age 9, on Castle Road said, "Who me? First tell me when this is going to be put out! Well anyway it's peaceful and nice. Is that enough? Is my name going to be in the paper? Oh my gosh!"

Since Bruce's 6 year old friend, Helena DeChappe, was there, we asked her. She said she liked it, "because of the ice and snow."

Next on our list was Linda Sullivan on Hudson Terrace. "My goodness, you caught me not thinking! Well, I like the way all the people know each other. Besides, I've lived here all my life."

We also asked another resident of Hudson Terrace. His name is Ernest Powell. "I like looking out the window and seeing the beautiful Tappan Zee Bridge. I also like not seeing any houses. I like the people."

Alistair McKevit, age 7 said, "Because I have a lot of friends here."

We also asked Julie Jackson of Ash Street. "Well, it reminds me of my hometown because it is built on a hill. I like it's variety of people. I also like it because it's not like a typical suburban community"

Another response was from Kate Savage age 16. "You can see the river and everyone lives together and everyone knows each other. It's good walking distance from everyone and I like the mountain above us."

Harriette Teague on Tweed Boulevard said this, "I can't think! Well, I like the pier with the birds and swan sailing on the river."

Art Watkins of River Road said, "Uh--Gee--several things: nice people, the river, that's the best."

Last, but not least, we asked police officer Lynch. "I like the size. People look out and are very concerned about each other."

And that's it, what people like best about Piermont. ■

ELECTION MARCH 21:
INTERVIEW WITH THE CANDIDATES

On March 21, voters in Piermont will go to the polls to elect two Village Trustees. Piermont incumbents Kathryn Smith and Donald Cocker are running unopposed for the new term. Although an uncontested election may not seem very newsworthy, it does give us an opportunity to review what has been done and to look ahead. And talks with the candidates have pointed out several things that help to explain what is special about Piermont's government and why there is "no contest" in this election.

Asked to discuss their major concerns as Village Trustees, both Ms. Smith and Mr. Cocker replied that the biggest one was in the area of taxes and the effect of inflation on the budget. The cost of every necessity is constantly increasing, and what the homeowner and taxpayer sees in increased insurance rates, utility bills and fuel costs, is magnified on the Village level. The bills must be paid, and as Ms. Smith said, "We can't dicker with the insurance company and Orange and Rockland." Cuts in any of the small discretionary expenses of the Village, in the library, the community center and so forth, would not produce any significant funds, but would make a noticeable dent in the quality of Village life.

Nevertheless, the question of taxes has had to take a priority, and the Board works diligently, in Mr. Cocker's words, "to get the most for our money--to get twenty-five cents worth of merchandise each time we spend a nickel." He feels that in many areas this has been accomplished, as in an agreement with Orangetown that allows the Village to purchase certain goods such as fuel, salt for the roads, and services such as vehicle repairs, at Orangetown's cost. Since Orangetown buys a much greater volume at a lower unit cost, both the Village and Town benefit from the arrangement.

A second and large concern for the Board is the appearance and prosperity of the main street business district. In an attempt to make the "downtown" more attractive and accessible to shoppers and business people, a

vacant lot was acquired, filled and made into a parking lot. Mr. Cocker also felt that the commendable job of snow removal in Piermont added to this effort to facilitate business. In general, the Trustees are anxious to work with businesses to bring new shoppers, and shops in to stay. This concern is also reflected in efforts to rehabilitate the waterfront.

Both candidates are involved in obtaining whatever state and federal assistance is available to small communities like Piermont, and have worked successfully to help secure several grants. Among those so far received are a grant for the reconstruction of the Piermont Avenue sewer line and an environmental study grant (for which most of the credit goes to the Conservation Advisory Commission). In the works now are projects to rebuild a sewer line at Oak and Elm Streets and to replace worn wooden guard rails with a new metal corrugated type, as well as a program which makes Piermont eligible to purchase government surplus goods--"anything from a typewriter to an airplane"--at minimal cost, and a grant for senior citizen rent subsidies. It should be said that the grant-getting procedure is an involved one, entailing mountains of paperwork and attendance at many meetings. The Village Trustees are kept busy to assure that Piermont receives its share of the return on state and federal tax revenues.

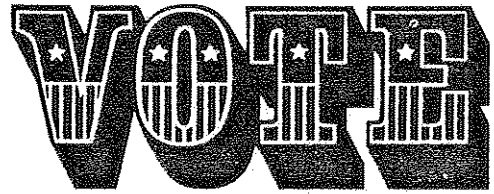
The Board is open to both complaints and suggestions from the taxpayers. Kathryn Smith feels that the Board's composition is very well balanced to bring a wide perspective to bear in Village affairs, with some members working locally and very familiar on a day to day level with the area and its problems, and others working mostly outside Rockland and seeing Piermont from perhaps a different angle and in the context of the larger metropolitan area.

Ms. Smith offered further insight into what is unique about Piermont when she explained that the Village government involved many more of the residents than those serving on the Board. The community is served by a Planning Board, a Board of Appeals and an environmental board, all of which are made up of different people with different ideas

and talents. And in Piermont, it seems, the national political affiliation of an individual is not the main consideration, but rather what he or she is willing and able to work on a local level.

Finally, both Kathryn Smith and Donald Cocker were enthusiastic in their praise of Mayor Bryan's efforts to make the Board representative and responsive to all of its constituents, and Mr. Cocker said that he truly believes it "has never been so open minded."

All of which leads us to the conclusion that March 21 will be a time to offer a vote of confidence to the incumbent trustees, in the process of casting a vote that can make a difference in our daily lives. ■



HARK HARK THE DOGS DO BARK

THE APPRAISERS ARE COMING TO TOWN

Get ready for the tax men. The Town of Orangetown has assigned a team of experts to appraise personally each and every one of the 14,000 odd parcels of real estate within its boundaries. The appraisers started in South Nyack, are working down through Grand View, and should be in Piermont soon. This project, which will take about two years, may puzzle taxpayers who were under the impression that the town's appraisal was going to be completed soon. So it was; but several things have happened to postpone it.

The story begins a few years ago, when several Long Islanders who owned new houses sued their towns, complaining that the assessed valuations and taxes on their new houses were unfairly high compared to those on old houses. The courts agreed, and in 1975 the State Court of Appeals interpreted existing state law to mean that all real property should be assessed at full market value. Ere long, however, the ruling began to backfire. Tax assessors, anxious to keep in good with the electorate, had usually appraised commercial and industrial property much closer to market value than residential property. When the towns began to tax on a full market value basis, store and factory owners often found themselves paying less taxes and home owners found themselves paying more---sometimes a lot more. They began to scream. So did the veterans, who are allowed an exemption of up to \$5000 on the assessment of the houses

they own. Obviously an exemption of, say, \$3000 on a house assessed at \$7000 is a better deal than the same exemption on a house assessed at three or four times as much. There are about 2800 veteran exemptions in Orangetown and they account for only \$5 million of the Town's present \$151 million total assessment. That \$151 million is probably no more than 20 percent of market value.

Last year the State ordered all towns with taxpayers suits on their hands to revalue their real property by June 1978. Since Orangetown had a suit on its hands, Ross Valenza, the town tax assessor, took steps to revalue. In the summer of 1977 he mailed taxpayers a description of their properties as it appeared in the records and asked them to make any necessary corrections. After that his office would begin to reassess the properties. By this time, however, protests were mounting. Albany responded by giving towns involved in suits until the middle of 1981 to reassess at full market value, and allowed them \$10 a parcel to help pay expenses. What will happen in 1981, of course, depends on how the assessments turn out. Commercial and industrial properties account for 35 to 40 percent of Orangetown's current assessment. If their share declined, the home owners share will obviously rise--and the taxes of some residents could rise a lot. If so, the town conceivably might just do nothing and go on taxing on current assessments--provided it isn't hit by a taxpayer's suit. "And it is possible," says Valenza, "that Albany may want to do something to rectify severe imbalances.

Notes Around the Village

There's a pause each evening on a New York TV channel after we hear, "It's 10 o'clock, do you know where your children are?".

In the same spirit, these local observations are made to get you thinking.

It's 7:30...your Parks Commissioners are planning Spring clean-up and planting.

It's 8:30...your Environmental Commissioners are compiling Piermont's natural resource inventory.

It's 9:30...your Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals members are reviewing requests for sub-divisions and variances.

It's 10:30...your Trustees are in the Village Hall hammering out the Budget, or in Nyack trying to get a better deal on Orangetown Sewer service, or in Grand View consulting with other river village trustees concerned with vandalism, or in New City getting information on Federally funded programs to assist the Village, or testifying at Public Service Commission hearings.

It's anytime, including Saturdays and Sundays...a Trustee is driving to Massachusetts to check the progress of your new fire truck...a Trustee's husband is machining a new part for a truck needed to complete snow removal...a Trustee is using his own truck to plow snow that the Village's Road Crew...a Trustee's wife is listening to a resident complaint about a neighbor's lights...your Village Clerk is answering on her home phone a request for information kept at the Village Hall.

It's round-the-clock...during snow storms your volunteer firemen are shoveling out fire hydrants and maintaining a stand-by at the fire-house...year round your ambulance corps is responding to emergency calls.

This is the Village's busiest period. The assessment roll must be completed, the budget must be prepared and adopted, the tax rate set, elections held, appointments made, cash flow painstakingly monitored as the fiscal year draws to a close. Meetings of all boards and commissions are open to the public. Schedules and agendas are posted on the bulletin board outside the Village hall. Local government is a fascinating business, why not attend a meeting and watch it in operation?■

MEMOIRS OF TWO DEAR OLD FRIENDS

Helen Kane

--born in Piermont, daughter of a prominent local businessman, trained as a nurse at St. Vincent's; a live-wire with plenty of beaux; a perfectionist with pride in her beautiful handwriting, in her lovely garden, in her exquisite care of alter linens and vestments; respected and loved for her devotion and kindness to her patients and friends of whom there were many--truly a gentlewoman.

Anna A. Conigliaro

--longtime Piermont resident, died on December 30, 1977. Founder of the Electra Lodge of the Order of the Sons of Italy, she presided as its President for over thirty years. She also served as Secretary for the American Legion Auxiliary and for the Order Lilly and the Eagle. Lifetime helpmate to her husband of 57 years, Salvatore Conigliaro, she is also survived by two sons. Known for her service to the community, her friends will always remember her as "Anna, the great lady."

PIERMONT AND GRAND VIEW NEGOTIATE
NEW FIRE PROTECTION CONTRACT

Piermont provides the Village of Grand View with many of its services: snow removal, for which Grand View pays an hourly work rate and the cost of materials, salt or sand; the Library, for which Piermont levies no tariff, but Grand View gives a yearly donation of \$350, (they give the same to the Nyack Library); and fire protection.

For the past five years Grand View has paid Piermont an annual sum of \$1900 to provide their necessary fire protection. This was an arbitrary amount agreed upon by the two villages. Grand View pays independently of this sum, hydrant rent and insurance for the men of Piermont's department when they work in Grand View.

However, when the Piermont Village Board began to formulate their new budget they saw that Grand View had been getting quite a bargain. \$35,384 is earmarked in the Piermont budget to cover costs of the fire department, \$28,684 for general fund expenditures and \$6,700 for capital equipment amortization (the new truck, the fireboat, etc.). This figure excludes the rent Piermont pays for hydrants and insurance.

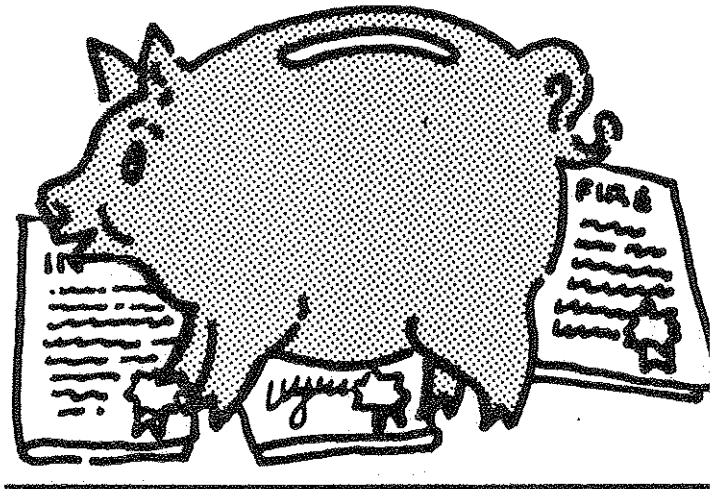
The Board felt that Grand View should pay at the same rate Piermonters pay for fire protection; so by dividing \$35,384 by our total Village assessment of \$6,103,737, a rate of .005797/\$100 of assessed value was established. Applying this rate to Grand View's assessment of \$1,297,898, an annual fee of \$7,523 was arrived at.

Needless to say, when this new figure was presented to Mayor Moscow and Grand View's financial officer William Donn, they were not too happy with the proposed quadrupling of costs. They made a counter offer of \$4,100 and when Piermont rejected that, Grand View asked that the concept of a fire district rate be tried, where the two village assessments would be added together and the rate applied to both, resulting in a fee of \$6,203.

The Village of Piermont has since made a final offer to Grand View using the fire district assessment concept, Piermont would charge Grand View \$6,203, plus a fixed asset (fire house, trucks, etc.) usage charge of \$1,000---a total of \$7,203.

Now, it is up to Grand View to either accept this offer or look for fire protection from somewhere else.

As we go to press there has been no formal agreement between the two villages on this matter. ■



NEW FIRE TRUCK IN SERVICE

Piermont's new 1,000 gallon pumper, the "Golden Eagle," arrived in its new home after being driven by Bill and Lawrence Goswick from Hoppinton, Massachusetts through 27 inches of snow. The truck was welcomed into the Village with a banner on the front of the fire house proclaiming "Welcome, 13-1000-1!" (The serial number assigned to the vehicle.)

The new pride of the Empire Hose Co. cost \$51,800 to purchase. It has a diesel International chassis; the body was built by Continental. For those romantics, expecting the truck to have 5, or 6 gears to negotiate Piermont's terrain, you'll be disappointed to learn its an automatic!

And what is now to become of the outmoded 1951 Peter Perch, the 500 gallon pumper that the "Golden Eagle" replaced--well, its for sale of course. ■



VILLAGE AND PIER
CLEAN-UPS SCHEDULED
FOR APRIL 8.

The Piermont Parks Commission is planning an Anti-Litter Campaign for the Village of Piermont and has set the date of April 8 (rain date 9) for this event.

All school children, scouts, and teen church groups are asked to meet in front of the Piermont Village Hall at 10:00 a.m. to join in this campaign. Please wear gloves to protect your hands. Adult supervision will be provided, and parents are urged to pitch in too. The clean-up will continue until 12:00 noon.

Also scheduled for April 8 is the fourth annual Pier clean-up sponsored by the Piermont Conservation Advisory Commission. Volunteers of all ages are urged to meet at the pier gate entrance at 10:00 a.m. to pick up your litter collecting bag. Clean-up will continue through the afternoon until the job is done.

During the week of April 10 the Village will be picking up rubbish at curbside. You are encouraged to put your trash out early in the week so the trucks can keep to an orderly schedule.

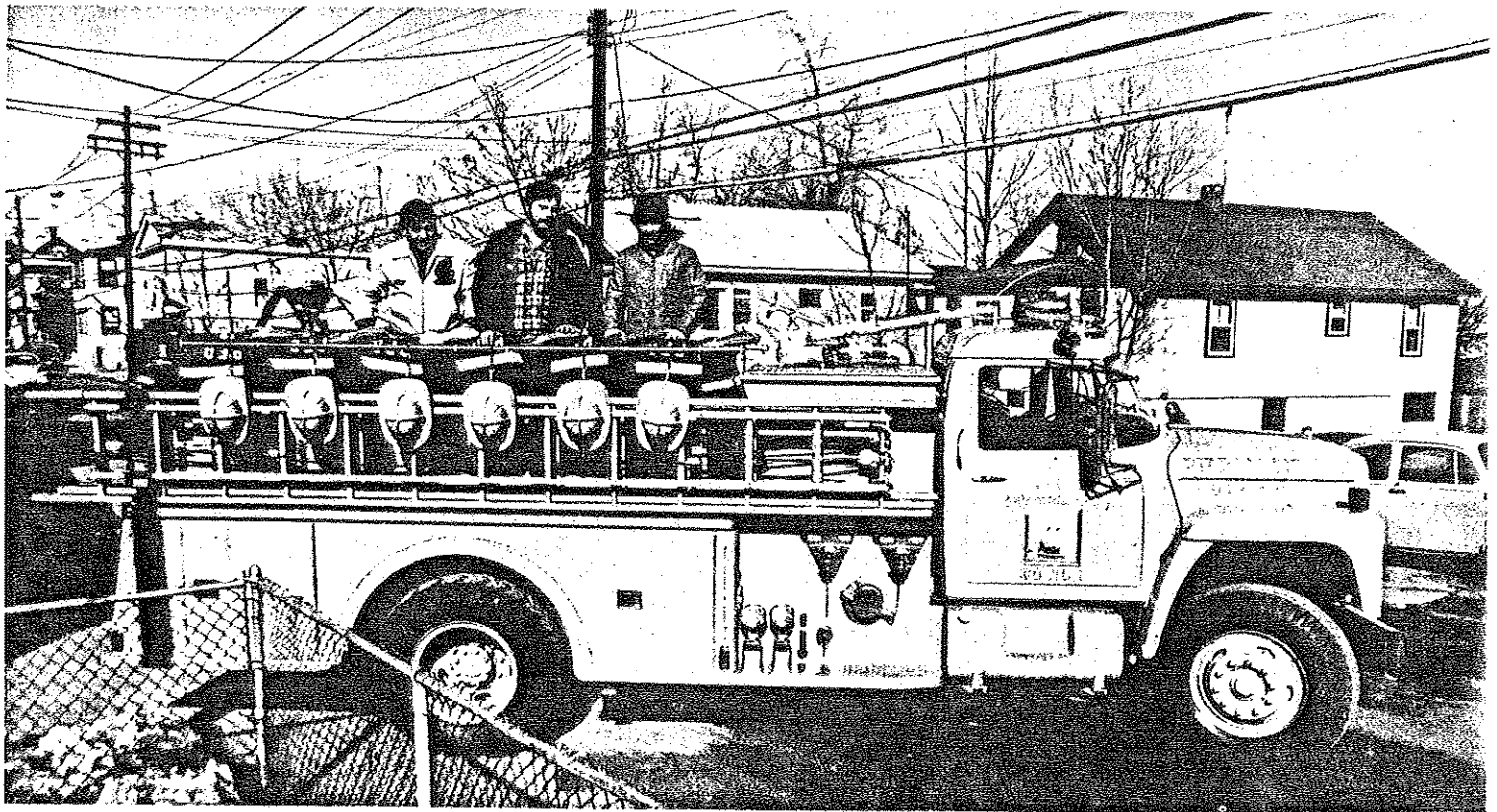
Don't miss this opportunity to give our Village a cleaning and polishing. Help clean-up the Village, the pier and your own back yard. Let's have everyone join in the effort to keep Piermont clean and beautiful.

On April 6 at 2:00 p.m. an Anti-Litter slide presentation will be held at the Tappan Zee Elementary School. T.Z.E.S. students will be making posters which will be ready on March 15. ■

* * * * *

The Parks Commission has ordered from New York State, Autumn Olive, Shrub Dogwood, Multiflora Rose and Bush Honey suckle for Spring planting. At this time our efforts will be centered in three areas:

1. Minehole on Piermont Avenue
2. Railroad bed at Kennedy Park
3. Circle in front of the Annex on Piermont Avenue ■



The "Golden Eagle" manned by members of the Empire Hose Co. No. 1



AT THE LIBRARY

The annual fund drive for the Piermont Library is now in full swing. These funds are used to help defray the rising costs of the active Library program. A letter of appeal has been sent to all area residents explaining that one of the ways the Library currently is able to control costs is through the many valuable hours given by volunteer workers. So if you can't volunteer time, you can help with a contribution to the fund drive.

Another way people are contributing to the Library is by giving funds to set up a memorial to someone who has passed away. The Library has acquired several of these special collections over the years. One of the largest is the garden collection, in memory of Dorothea Thompson, benefactress of the Library for many years. One of the latest was for Judy Miller, our late children's librarian. Special bookplates are in the books designating that they are part of a special collection. If you would like more information about these memorial collections, please call Grace Meyer, Director.

We are going to have an especially interesting display during the month of March. Rikki Samuels and Louise Windisch have put up a display on the art of Calligraphy. They both have studied with Rockland County's expert in the field, Yaraslava Mills, and are beginning a free-lance career of their own. They will conduct a workshop on Saturday, March 18 at 3:00 p.m. for interested adults and children over 10. Pens and paper will be furnished for this mini-lesson. Rikki Samuels has designed a

system of teaching the calligraphic alphabet in a booklet that is available at the Piermont Exchange and Clauslan Bookshop.

April is always "Earth Month" at the Library and the gallery display will focus on our important natural resource in Piermont. Photographs will be on display emphasizing the areas along Sparkill Creek and the Piermont Marsh. The display is a joint project by students from Clarence Branch's science class and William Geist's Photography Club at Tappan Zee High School. Mr. Branch will be focusing much of his classroom work this year on the Sparkill Creek area and some photographs will be from field trips.

The special program of April will also center on the environment in the Piermont area. Curtis Olsen and Bob Trier, Research Scientists in the Geochemistry Department at Lamont-Doher Geological Observatory, have been doing research this past year on the Hudson River. They will present their findings illustrated with both slides and specimens, the evening of April 4, Tuesday at 8:00 p.m. Topics for discussion will be recent research done on PCB sedimentation in the Piermont area, and over-all water quality. Come with questions that have been concerning you about the river. It should be a most interesting evening. ■



shop talk...

The Piermont Exchange, in addition to many soft toys for ages 8 to 80, now has a large selection of unusual stuffed dolls and animals. Beautiful dolls, amusing dolls, Barbi doll clothes and real fun animals, to toss on your beds. Also, be sure to look at Tom Renzi's stylishly hand crafted leather goods. Hand bags, pouches, portfolios, canvas and leather totes and small leather items, all skillfully cut and sewn in softest skins. For the ski slopes, the Exchange has colorful felt and fur Lapp Four Winds Hats from Rovaniemi, Finland. And for bird lovers, find carved wooden birds in natural coloring, mounted on smoothed driftwood bases, created by Edward Magargee, M.D. of Moorsetown, New Jersey. Seasonal Easter toys and gifts are arriving daily.

Mardy Allen has in again that charming book Gnomes, pictured in full color by the noted Dutch artist Rien Poortvliet, written by his scientist friend Wil Huygen. Together they have spent over twenty years observing the life work of the Gnome. For that special Easter present, you will find hand made boudoir pillows in silk and old lace, each one different. Also a collection of Perthshire Paperweights from Crieff, Scotland, the creations of skilled craftsmen of individual abilities, and of course those irresistible silk or dried flowers in bouquets, or individually.

Pizza lovers will be delighted to learn that Mike Manfredi, formerly of Volantes of Orangeburg, has taken over the Pizzeria at Diplomat Gardens on Route 9W. Mike makes a superlative pizza or hero sandwich and will deliver anytime from 5 to 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday and from 5 to midnight Friday and Saturday evenings. Also available are other Italian pastas. Mmmm....good! By the way, the pizzas can be frozen and re-heated, not a bad idea to have one on hand for that

snowy day when you can't get out. Manfredi's opens at 11 a.m. Telephone: 359-7049.

"A healthy body for everybody." That's the opportunity owner/manager Bruce Woolley of the Diplomat Health Spa at Diplomat Gardens, Route 9W, offers local residents. A glimpse inside the well-appointed Club shows just how this is possible. More and more Piermonters are discovering the pleasures of keeping fit, practically in their own back yards. Open for men and women seven days a week, the Club offers a sparkling 50 foot pool, multiple exercise machines for muscle toning and building, dressing rooms, saunas, hourly exercise classes, and a whirlpool bath is planned for installation.

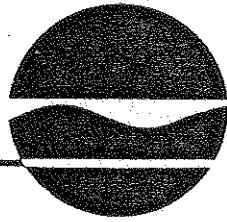
The beauty of this particular spa is the amount of swim time available. The Club is open from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. weekdays and from 10 to 6 p.m. weekends. (Children are allowed only as guests from 1 to 4 p.m. weekends.)

Visit the Diplomat Spa or call Bruce Woolley at 359-2401 for the details of membership.

There is a lot more than meets the eye behind the modest exterior of Pier 9W, located opposite Diplomat Gardens on Route 9W. Owner Frank Hodges presides over actually six shops within a shop offering everything from imported sterling silver jewelry with "the lowest prices in the country," to silk screen printed T-shirts, to old post-cards and prints to assorted antiques and collectibles. Among the latter were seen a 200 year old French wall mirror with beveled glass, a hand tooled brass fire screen, and a French cannon shell from World War I that has been fashioned into a vase.

Frank, who is a steel export manager when he is not in the shop, can rewire your lamp or fix your clock as well. The shop will take good pieces on consignment. It is open from noon to 7 p.m. everyday but Wednesday. ■

The Ecological Perspective



The Pier: What Lies Ahead?

The Piermont Pier was completed in 1839. As the starting point for the New York and Erie Railroad on the west side of the Hudson, it was to be a prominent feature of the line. From a total expenditure of \$300,000 the 4000-foot pier with a transverse 120-foot wharf was constructed on piles and later reinforced by embankments, to the channel in the Hudson. Local population swelled as hundreds of workers, mostly Irish immigrants, joined the effort to move steep banks of earth and stone from the Village to the marsh and waterfront for fill. Ninety acres of new ground were laid. So impressive was the pier that Eleazor Lord, wealthy New York businessman, financier and first president of the New York and Erie Railroad, renamed Tappan Slote and The Landing, Piermont.

Piermont, the busiest railroad terminal in the country, bustled and thrived. The pier and environs were covered with tracks and switches and during busy years more than 250 men were employed transferring cargoes. Prosperous hotels served the early railroad travelers. The 1860 census of 2,426 was greater than Piermont's 1970 figure of 2,386. But the population, which for a time even exceeded that of Nyack, dropped by half when the railroad charter was amended to allow connection with New Jersey railroads and Piermont became merely the end of a branch line. And by January 1862, after a fire in a large roundhouse and other buildings, half of the residents and many buildings were gone.

The pier was not prominent again until World War II when troops and prisoners used it to move between Camp Shanks in Orangeburg and transshipment via the Hudson to and from oceangoing ships in New York City. At that time a road the length of the pier was built on an earlier path which lay atop the abandoned railroad line.

Following the turn of the century the Piermont Paper Company was established on the site of the railroad yards. In 1920 Robert Gair, inventor of the process to produce paper cartons, acquired the mill, built a paper-making machine and before long was heading the largest plant of its kind in the country. Piermont was saved from what early chronicler Frank Bertangué Greig (History of Rockland County, New York, A. S. Barnes & Co., 1886) called a condition, since 1870, of "decrepitude from which there appears to be no relief." To this day paper companies dominate the entire pier area. Continental Can Co., succeeded the Robert Gair Co. until 1971, when they sold much of their holdings to Federal Paperboard. However, they still retain the northwest shore area (approximately an acre), a 3-foot strip along the north shore, the Ferry Road and south of it, and the entire pier. Federal retains the middle area and the south parking lot, and Clevepak is currently buying from Continental Can the land where their factory is located plus the aeration basin.

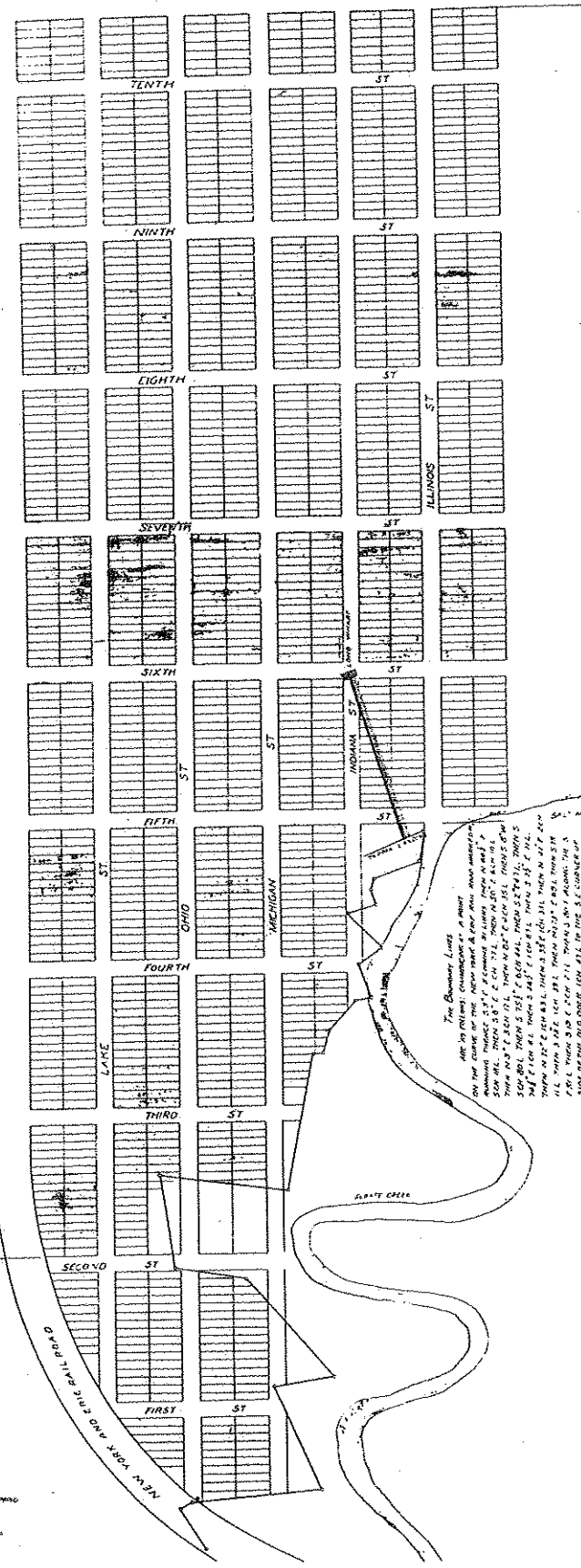
For unknown reasons, Continental Can is not interested in losing its ownership of the pier. Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory utilizes the pier road for access to its oceanographic vessels. It leases the dock which was reconstructed during the 1960's with a \$100,000 U.S. grant, at the end of the pier from Continental Can, a renewable agreement provided Continental Can does not decide to implement developments with which Lamont's vessels would be incompatible.

Is development possible? Yes and no. The narrow neck of land comprising the pier contains 104 acres owned by Continental Can. Seventy-four of those acres are under water. The underwater land grants date to approximately 1836. Of the remaining acreage, approximately one-half of it was firmly filled when the railroad was built and the rest is a combination of marsh and dump. Filling is costly but that has never impeded the plans of untold numbers of developers throughout the country. Furthermore Village zoning would allow development. However, the Army Corps of Engineers

Map of Land

THIS MAP WAS PREPARED BY ISAAC M. DEDERER SURVEYOR IN 1836. IT SHOWS THE LOTS AND STREETS LAYED OUT BY CORNELIUS J. BLAUVELT AND ELEAZOR LORD IN 1814. THE LOTS ARE 100 FEET WIDE AND 200 FEET LONG. THE STREETS ARE 25 FEET WIDE. THE MAP IS ACCORDING TO THE DEEDS OF SALE OF THE PROPERTIES BY CORNELIUS J. BLAUVELT AND ELEAZOR LORD IN 1814. THE DEEDS ARE FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF SAID COUNTY. THE DEEDS ARE AS FOLLOWS: CORNELIUS J. BLAUVELT TO ISAAC M. DEDERER SURVEYOR IN 1836. ELEAZOR LORD TO ISAAC M. DEDERER SURVEYOR IN 1836. THE MAP IS ACCORDING TO THE DEEDS OF SALE OF THE PROPERTIES BY CORNELIUS J. BLAUVELT AND ELEAZOR LORD IN 1814. THE DEEDS ARE FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF SAID COUNTY. THE DEEDS ARE AS FOLLOWS: CORNELIUS J. BLAUVELT TO ISAAC M. DEDERER SURVEYOR IN 1836. ELEAZOR LORD TO ISAAC M. DEDERER SURVEYOR IN 1836.

Isaac M. Dederer Surveyor



I hereby certify that this map is a true and correct copy of the original returned to me by the Clerk of said County the day of ... 1836

Filed for record
Isaac M. Dederer

Map of land in and out of water owned by Cornelius J. Blauvelt and Eleazor Lord, at Tappan Slope in the Town of Orange, County of Rockland and State of New York, lying south of the New York and Erie Rail Road at its termination of the western shore of the Hudson River. Surveyed and laid out blocks and lots, with streets running at right angles north and south, east and west, to be filed in the Office of the Clerk of said county for reference with respect to boundaries and descriptions in the deeds of sale of the properties

by
Isaac M. Dederer Surveyor

September 1st 1836

EXPLANATIONS
 2 CHAINS OR 132 FT TRAN INCH
 FULL BLOCKS 400 BY 200 FT CONTAINING
 EACH 20 LOTS 25 BY 100
 STREETS 25 FT WIDE

INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF PIERMONT

478 PIERMONT AVENUE

PIERMONT, NEW YORK 10968

(914) 359-1258

March 7, 1978

To the residents of Piermont:

The village will intensify immediately its program of inspections for fire and building hazards. A team consisting of Building Inspector and Fire Safety Inspector will examine your house or apartment and alert you of any dangerous conditions which may exist. For those of you who feel competent to do your own investigations, check-lists of items to look for are available at the Village Hall, the Library, and the Post Office. For further information, or to make an inspection appointment, please call 359-1258 from 9 to 4, Monday through Friday, or 359-1839 evenings and week-ends.

Mary C. Bryan, Mayor

INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF PIERMONT

478 Piermont Avenue Piermont, New York (914) 359-1258

Article IV Sec. 78-13K states: The Board of Trustees shall have the right to require the separation of rubbish such as papers, cartons, cardboard, other paper products, glass and aluminum cans. A resolution to require separation of newspaper was passed March 6, 1978.

Beginning April 12, 1978 and continuing every 2nd and 4th Wednesday thereafter, the village DPW will pick up newspapers. Please place papers, tied in bundles, packed in kraft bags or in cardboard cartons, not exceeding 50 lbs., at your usual garbage pick-up spot. The Ladies Auxiliary of the Fire Dept. will continue to pick up the last Saturday of the month.

REMINDER: Although separation of glass and aluminum cans is not yet required, you are asked to do so voluntarily and bring them to the barrels provided in the lot opposite the Fire House. This is a project of the Piermont Lions Club.

and federal and state environmental legislation (such as the New York State Tidal Wetlands Act) pose many restrictions in terms of docks, filling and construction, making any large-scale development on the pier, industrial or otherwise, very difficult.

The Rockland County Planning Board report, endorsed in 1974 by the Piermont Planning Commission, seems to concur in the unlikelihood of construction on the unused portions of the pier. They also anticipated that the Village would soon take steps to acquire the vacant portions of the pier "for open-recreation purposes for Village residents." They emphatically state the environmental value of the pier:

"The important natural role played by the pier, the surrounding wild-life marsh, and the Hudson River shallows to the life cycle of micro-organisms, birds, fish, and thus to man, are reasons why the Village should act to ensure preservation of the open space on and near the pier."

They also state, as part of their development goals, that the "natural setting of the Village should be protected and enhanced. Of particular concern are the Sparkill Creek, the pier, and the riverfront. There should be more public access to the waterfront and the river."

The physical beauty and environmental uniqueness of the pier have been hailed by many others. In its Natural Resources Inventory, the Rockland County Environmental Management Council includes the pier in its scenic inventory by virtue of its grand vistas up and down the Hudson and west to the Palisades and its frequent bird activity. It strongly recommends that the County and its villages locate these scenic areas and do their best to acquire them for the preservation of the beauty of the County and well-being of its citizens.

Piermont's own Conservation Advisory Commission (CAC) has conducted several pier clean-ups and recommended that the former dump be allowed to return to its natural state and be maintained as a Village nature sanctuary.

Members feel that the pier itself, in addition to being environmentally unique, has an integral relationship to the adjacent marsh and that pier development could severely jeopardize the marsh ecosystem. CAC members favor the idea of acquisition of the pier as parkland and preservation of its natural state.

CAC member Anthony Amos, Piermont's bird authority, has published two articles in the NEWSLETTER, each of which emphasizes the pier's uniqueness for bird activity. He has sighted more than 155 different species there, many of them not seen anywhere else in Rockland County, some very rare in New York State, and several very rare in the entire U.S. A peregrine falcon was observed feeding on its prey, a blue jay, on the pier road in 1975. Many ducks winter on the pier and marsh; herons, wrens, warblers and many more nest here; numerous others use it as a temporary haven during migration; and swans and ducks make it their permanent residence. Amos writes ". . . every time I hear of a scheme to erect high rise apartments, make it into a recreational park or channelize the Sparkill Creek, I fear for the future of this unique place."

Residents who responded to a Village questionnaire in 1973 favored 10 to 1 acquisition of the pier for recreation. Fishermen have long used the pier and the native mulberry, willow and poplar trees on the south side are enjoyed by many casual strollers. Long-time Piermont residents have fond memories of swimming, fishing, boating and picnicing on the pier and protest strongly the idea of major development. They like it the way it is with perhaps the addition of some limited docking.

Does the Village want the pier? When questioned, Mayor Bryan responded "yes but pointed out that there are two problems. One is the absence of detailed plans for it (the Planning Commission and CAC are working on those.) The other would be the cost of owning it. Although the loss of tax dollars would be minimal, the vacant portion of the pier is assessed at the value of one single-family home; taxes are \$1334.07, just owning it is costly. Liability insurance is

necessary and costs \$1700 per year, and additional insurance for the nine Village employees who would have occasion to work there would be costly. Limited docking at the end of the pier was one of the Mayor's ideas if the Village did acquire the land.

Acquisition by another organization is still a possibility, although the Palisades Interstate Park Commission, a likely candidate, seems uninterested. According to Nash Castro, Director, they have all the land they can currently handle. But apparently there are state funds left over from the Environmental Quality Bond Act of 1972 which are specifically earmarked for the acquisition of wetlands and adjacent areas. Mayor Bryan is meeting with officials the first week in March to discuss these possibilities. In the meantime the Village, very anxious to acquire at least some access to the river, is negotiating with Continental Can for a grant or lease on an acre of riverfront along the northwest shore behind the bank. It would be used solely as a passive recreation area.

The future of the pier itself remains to be seen. With strong Village interest in acquisition and the increasingly stringent environmental protection laws, it hopefully will continue to be a sanctuary for wildlife and a retreat to the Hudson for Village residents generations to come. ■

PCA PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Thanks for your strong support in 77. We had a good year building to a 1978 that looks to be a real upbeat year for the PCA.

We had an excellent turnout at the meeting to select projects and set priorities for the year. Our memberships are well ahead of last year, we're financially sound, and a positive spirit abounds that says we can get some things done.

The key project selected for '78 will be to work with the Lions and others on the development of the Pier in the area of the old dump. Suggestions range from an active picnic area with a pavillion covering approximately ten tables, to a quiet nature education center with walkways out into the marshy areas to open them up for closer observation and enjoyment of the wild life.

We are already planning for an outstanding Blue Grass Festival on Memorial Day including the possibility of a ride on the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater. Bicycle racks for Main Street are also in our plans.

It's an exciting time for an active participative organization. We need your ideas and your time and skills. Come join us.

Doug Brunson

TRAGEDY NUMBS PIERMONT

Tragedy struck Piermont on March 2nd when three children of the Hancock family, Patricia 6, George 4, and John 3, perished in the fire that destroyed their two family home on Main Street. Other Hancock family members and the Smith family escaped from the fire.

Efforts to help the homeless families began immediately. Mayor Bryan opened "The Piermont Fund" at the local branch of the Chemical Bank for donations. Clothing and household items were collected at the Village Hall. The PCA Dinner held on March 3rd, became a fund raiser for the families. Profit from the dinner totaling \$500 was added to the \$225 in donations that was collected separately, and Lenny Sullivan, local businessman pledged \$100 worth of household goods to each family from his Nyack store.

Local firemen exhibited incredible bravery as they fought the fire, and managed to contain it saving other buildings from destruction.

OPINIONS!

Dear Friends,

The subject of this letter is your useful NEWSLETTER!

We have met with Orangetown Supervisor Joseph Colello concerning the sewer trunk line between the Village of Upper Nyack and the Orangetown treatment Plant. After being shown your NEWSLETTER, Mr. Colello became truly concerned with the disfunction of the sewer system and stated that both Orangetown's landfill problem and the problems related to the waste treatment system would receive the major portion of his time and energy this next term in office.

This information and a copy of your NEWSLETTER, along with data on the sewer trunk line was delivered to Nyack Village Board Trustee, Albion Volk. Mr. Volk is presently taking action to prevent additional connections to the present sewer line until the problems with the system can be resolved.

As you are likely aware, there is a proposal for 189 low-income dwelling units for the Nyack Commercial District. For some time we have felt that planning for the present proposal has been undertaken improperly. For example, the choice of the central business district for housing rather than vacant residential land along the river, the shortage of parking spaces in project plans, the modern design of buildings, no traffic study on the impact of proposed street closings and now it is uncovered; there are problems with the sewer system which were never investigated in the environmental report, HUD form ECO-1.

In closing we must say that without the expression offered Piermont residents by the Civic Association NEWSLETTER, we would have been unable to receive such a helpful response from the various governmental officials contacted. Please keep up the good work!

Yours truly,

James J. Clyde

To the Editor:

Re: Piermont NEWSLETTER-November 1977

On receipt of a letter of inquiry to Supervisor Colello related to the capacity of the Orangetown trunk sewer lines in the riverfront villages, I also found a copy of the November Piermont NEWSLETTER attached thereto.

We understand the great concern that the Civic Association has for the sewer problems which are plaguing the Village. However, we are of the opinion that newsletters should convey items of fact and not items of fiction.

To be more specific, at no time did the writer submit a proposal which was rejected by the Board of Health as being inadequate. In fact, it has been the detailed prodding and insistence of the writer and the Department of Public Works to the engineers who have the primary and only responsibility for the project since they designed and supervised construction of the facilities which has resulted in studies which appear to define the cause and resolve this temporary inconvenience. These solutions were presented to the Health Department on December 13, 1977 and it is anticipated that the improvements will be installed shortly and the system will be in operation to its full design capacity.

Further, the issue of overflow and illegal hookup of storm drains and rain gutters into the sewer line on River Road is completely independent of the trunk sewer situation. These are two independent problems that are not related both of which will be resolved if the Village enforces its ordinance (Grand View) and removes the illegal connections and the engineers install the necessary air release systems on the trunk sewer line.

As related to the additional cost, said charges will not be paid by the residents of the Town of Orangetown.

If the Association requires additional detailed information, I would appreciate if they would contact parties who are able to give proper answers.

Very truly yours,

Donald Brenner, P.E.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Mr. Brenner accuses the NEWSLETTER of fiction in its November 1977 article "Sewer Problems Plague the Village." However, we feel the facts stand for themselves. The NEWSLETTER first reported on the serious sewer problems of odor and overflow in November 1976 when we then interviewed Mr. Brenner. What he has described in his letter as a "temporary inconvenience" has not been such to those living with the problem for well over a year. Perhaps the fiction, Mr. Brenner speaks of so authoritatively, is that he understands citizen concern for the problem and its speedy solution.

While Orangetown did on December 13, 1977 present an acceptable proposal to the Rockland County Health Department, this proposal was due by September 20, 1977, and its presentation was made only after petitions were sent to local government officials, pressure was brought from the County Health Department and the NEWSLETTER printed a news story on the matter.

GAS ADJUSTMENTS IN REVERSE

To the Editor:

Recently I had a heat recovery system installed in the exhaust flue of my 20-year-old furnace. After many months of investigating systems widely advertised, I decided to go with one developed by a small, local company. Am I glad I did. Once I gave them the go-ahead, the men came within several days and had the unit installed in less than three hours.

To me, it was a new toy. I kept mental notes of how it was affecting my heat situation, and I soon discovered that I could remove the heat registers in the basement and have it heated instead by the new unit (and at 5 degrees warmer than before). I kept track of temperatures throughout the house and particularly in the different sections of the basement. Several weeks after the initial installation, I became convinced that I was now heating nearly 30% of my house with heat that had previously been going up the chimney.

SEWER PROBLEM UPDATE

The sewer problems described in the last NEWSLETTER continued through the end of the year. Most notable among these was an overflow during the heavy rains of last election day. An observer from the Health Department estimated the flow from the manhole just south of Ash Street at several hundred gallons per minute. Odor problems were reported as late as January 2 of this year.

At a meeting on December 13, 1977, a resolution was agreed upon by the Health Department and representative of Orangetown and the engineering firm which designed and constructed the sewer line. It was specified that the cause of the overflow problem was believed to be trappage of air at the high end of the siphon line, and that installation of air release valves along the line should remedy the overflows and perhaps the odors. Installation of the air release valves was completed in January. To this date we are unaware of any further overflow or serious odor problems.

So if you're tired, as I was, of working for O & R, do your own bit of investigating and see how good it feels to have a gas adjustment in yo favor for a change.

Use-Less-Gas-Sullivan

SNOW CLEAN-UP

To the Editor:

I want to publicly call attention to the fine job the Piermont D.P.W. men did during the recent snow storms. They deserve both praise and thanks. The ambulance corps answered twenty-six calls during the month of January and were greatly aided by these hardworking men. In some cases our response would have been impossible without their assistance.

William B. Goswick,
Fire Commissioner

GRAND VIEW HISTORY CORRECTED

To the Editor:

I enjoyed your NEWSLETTER--however I would like to point out that the Kastners house, 199 River Road, Grand View, was built in 1958, the year I first lived in the village. You stated that the Witke house was the first one built in the village for 50 years.

Yours sincerely,
Helen Rockwell

To the Editor:

I feel that I must correct a statement made in the November issue of the PIERMONT NEWSLETTER, in regard to the Witke house. The writer states that Mrs. Witke "lives in the only new house built in Grand View in fifty years, give or take a decade." Oh come now!

That statement is simply not true. Since 1950 we have had 17 new houses constructed in the village. In addition, 4 residences were made from, or on the foundations of, garages. I would also add the recent conversion of Cascadian Springs, our only industry, into a home.

While it is true that many of our homes are very old, I hope this sets the record straight. I think in all fairness that statement should be corrected in your next issue.

Sincerely yours,
Betty M. Geist
Historian



LAWRENCE PARK BALCONIES SCHEDULED FOR RECONSTRUCTION

Last summer a balcony at the Lawrence Park complex collapsed, seriously injuring one person. The Village Building Inspector, Clement Miller, subsequently inspected all of the 130 balconies at Lawrence Park and found that 90 were in violation of the building code. They ranged from "slightly deteriorated," to "in immediate danger of collapse." The Village posted warning notices in the buildings at Lawrence Park and the owners, Piermont Realty Company, were called to meet with Village officials. Piermont Realty acknowledged the problem as documented and agreed to fix the balconies at a rate of 2 per week.

However, Piermont Realty failed to live up to the bargain, so a formal notice of violation was served on the owners by the Village Attorney, Ray Icobelli. This notice gave the owners 30 days to correct the violation. The Village also mailed a warning notice to all tenants, advising them not to use their balconies. At this point Piermont Realty appealed the building inspector's ruling as "arbitrary and capricious."

A public hearing for the appeal was set for January 30, 1978, but an hour before the scheduled hearing the lawyer for Piermont Realty requested a private meeting with Village officials. Present were Leo Landau of Piermont Realty, his lawyer, Village Attorney Ray Icobelli, Mayor Bryan and Building Inspector Clem Miller. Landau finally conceded that all 90 balconies were in a state of disrepair, and he agreed to follow the direction of the building inspector making the repairs. Work is to commence not later than February 20 (with the balconies in worst condition being repaired first) and to be completed within the next 13 months. Piermont Realty will also pay the Village a \$500 inspection fee. If Piermont Realty fails again to live up to its bargain, it faces fines of up to \$250 per day per violation.

VILLAGE AND PIER CLEAN-UPS

APRIL 8th

COME ON OUT AND HELP

ORGANIZATIONS

WEST HUDSON ENVIRONMENTAL ASSOCIATION

LIONS CLUB

The Piermont Lions Club, now 2 years old, would like to thank all of our neighbors who have participated in our fund raising projects.

Our glass and aluminum recycling program continues to be successful, and we urge all those who have not participated to please join us. The collection date is the second Saturday of each month, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., across from the Fire House. For those who cannot make this date we now have a storage van at the same location where glass can be deposited at anytime.

Among the projects accomplished with the funds from this program are the improvements to the "T" Shirt League Field, new gates and backstop, restocking the creek, and a \$350 donation to the Fire Department. Also ready to go as soon as the necessary approvals are received are the park projects on the waterfront and adjoining the "T" Shirt League Field. Our used eyeglass collection program has netted over 700 pairs of glasses thus far.

The 40 Lions Clubs in the Rockland, Putnam and Northern Westchester area, District 20 R-1; which includes the Piermont Club, have purchased a Mobile Unit. This unit, funded by our District Walkathons, is outfitted with medical testing equipment and manned by paramedics. It will be scheduled to visit Piermont for approximately one week sometime this year. A variety of tests, blood pressure, diabetes, etc. will be available to all residents free of charge. Announcements as to dates and services available will be made as soon as the schedule is prepared.

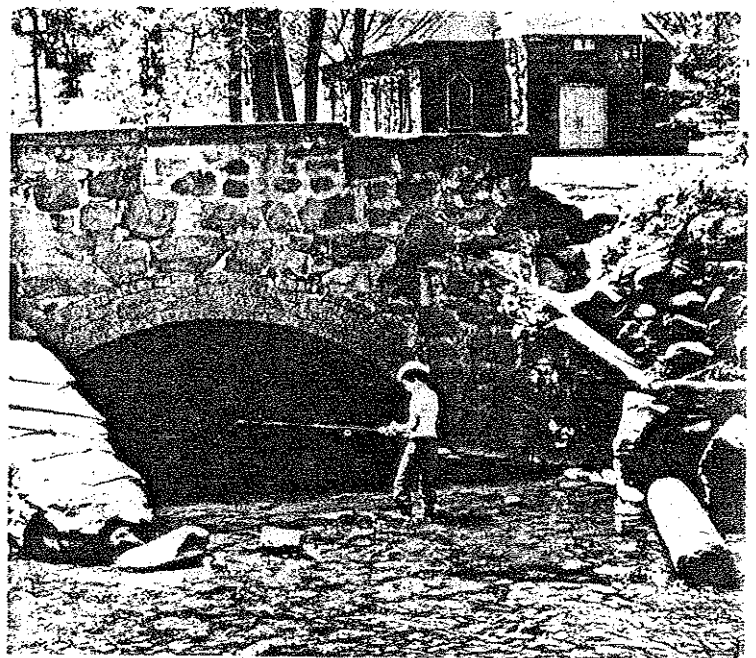
During May the annual Glaucoma Testing Program will be held at the Tappan Zee High School. This is another Lions sponsored project available to all residents free of charge.

WHEA has named four co-chairmen for 1978: they are George Hovanac and Ed Zissman of Upper Grand View, Carole Novick of Piermont and Dossie Thayer of Palisades. The Association would like to thank all those who have worked so hard to bring about the 9W truck ban, particularly State Senator Linda Winikow who responded to our problem with an energy and dedication that was truly impressive and to Transportation Commissioner Hennessey who has stood by the ban despite pressures from truckers and the State of New Jersey.

WHEA feels that the ban is a beginning to safe living along 9W but that we can't sit back and enjoy the victory for long. We must continue to be a strong organized voice within the community.

The West Hudson Environmental Association in spearheading the 9W truck ban movement has incurred mailing and phone charges and we find the treasury at the empty mark.

To support WHEA's continued efforts for a safer 9W and to maintain the ground we've already won, please send a contribution today to the West Hudson Environmental Association, Box 372, Piermont, N.Y. 10968. ■



Spring...will it ever come?

PEOPLE

PIERMONT'S MASTER POTTER IN RESIDENCE

Peter Callas lives and works in an entire floor of the old silk mill on Ferdon Avenue. He is a potter of awesome artistic stature. It's incredible to have arrived at his stage of development at only 26 years of age, until we learn of the unique zig-zagging direction of his training and life experiences, leading to his dynamism.

Peter's artistic philosophy was greatly influenced by his travels in Japan. During his 2 month stay he covered 2500 miles, visiting 30 pottery villages. He learned the traditional Japanese method of constructing a kiln in Shigaraki, an old village with a prominent tradition of pottery.

Mr. Callas has built a unique hill climbing wood burning kiln. The 20 degree slope of this massive tube-like structure gives an induced draft which dramatically changes the marks from the fire. In preparation for firing his wood burning kiln, 2 cords of wood must be prepared for fuel. Several hundred pieces are stacked in the kiln with a conscious knowledge of flame movement. Peter watches the kiln for 36 consecutive hours, feeding it in order to control the climate within so that the combination of fire, air and movement are likened to the exposure that all living organisms experience in nature. The deposits of ash greatly increase irregularities and form the glaze. Design is also affected by the juxtaposition of pieces in the kiln, a result of the original placement of the pieces and the potters intimate knowledge of flame movement. Thus, are color, texture and glaze partially determined.

Clay is an elusive material "having a life of its own." The potter constantly struggles with this force. This struggle between the two life forces limits the artist's role. Mr. Callas believes the finished piece reflects this struggle.

The degree of involvement, the personality of the artist and the nurturing the potter imparts to his work will determine the measure to which the work will succeed. Each piece Peter creates is the embodiment of the affirmation of the life force creating movement and raw power. His work has the harmonious irregularity of all living organisms.

From 1970 to 1973, Peter attended the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma Washington where he gained his fundamental skills, learning in depth about the complex chemistry of the wide diversity of clays. He also took up mountain climbing here, a sport he feels gave perspective to his work. In 1974 he began a year's residency program at the Archie Bray Foundation in Montana. Without formal instruction, a handful of carefully screened potters reflecting a cross section of philosophies, some sculptural, others functional, worked a 10-12 hour day, 7 days a week, experiencing total involvement and dedication.

Currently, Mr. Callas teaches part time at the Newark Museum and at the Summit Art Center. He recently received a grant from the New Jersey Council of the Arts.

There will be a showing of his work at Bloomingdales in Short Hills, New Jersey for 2 weeks beginning March 3, and another sometime in March at Incorporated Galleries at 150 Spring Street, New York City. For further information, contact the gallery. Mr. Callas is agreeable to visitors at his studio on weeken between noon and five. Please call first, 359-9228. ■

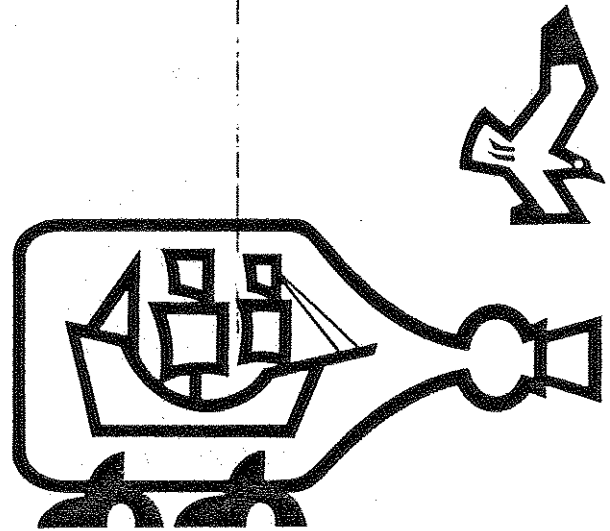
New contributions to the NEWSLETTER are welcome.
Contact editor, Carole Novick or send your story to
PCA, Box 22, Piermont, N.Y. 10968 for consideration.

Notes from Grand View

Now is the winter of our discontent made even more discontented by tennis elbow. How is it that tennis elbow runs rampant in the winter, especially among those who never wield a racquet? For them as loves winter, this is a winter to be loved. Seen walking along Grand View's River Road loving it in the midst of one of these blizzards we've had lately was Piermont's Cynthia Crippen and sons, Grand View's Kitty Bensusen and sons and if you think that's the end of the social notes, you're wrong. Seems all the county has discovered Grand View as a neat place to visit. At the Nyack Hospital bash which was held at the Village Hall between snows was a goodly crowd from all parts, some of them brave enough to follow the dictates of some misguided soul who suggested costumes. A legal capacity crowd had food and drink and dancing until the small hours.

Grand View has made it big in recent weeks. Deputy Mayor Bill Donn has been seen on national television trying to explain that he cannot explain those big bangs in the atmosphere off the Jersey coast. These UFB's, as someone tagged them, (you supply the words for the letters, more fun that way) have attracted the attention of scientists and gadabouts all over the globe. Somebody may even find out what all the noise is about. If anyone does, it'll probably be Bill.

The rest of the village board--plus Bill--made it big in the local picture and all, when Grand View hosted a crisis meeting of river villages officials to try to figure a practical way of making the water front more secure. The rash of boat felonies has prompted insistence on both land and water policing of the whole area. Sounds like a terrific opportunity for boat minded auxiliary police.



And, talking about police, in another village hall party, Grand View bade farewell to Norwood and Geneva Fitts. Chief Fitts has retired for reasons of health. In the short time he was with us, both he and his wife won the hearts and respect of everyone in the village. Not only the village: a Red and Tan bus driver took the trouble to tell your scribe that Chief Fitts was a helluva good guy and it was too bad he was leaving. His replacement, Chief Louis Washington, promises to be as well liked and respected. Not only that, he plays ragtime piano. Before his arrival, Grand View had the security of being covered, as it were, by the efforts of one of Grand View's own, Bill Ellsworth. Bill, whose parents, Bea and Bud Ellsworth live in Grand View still, is a Hudson Riverite from way back. His great-grandfather was the famous American Hudson River painter, Jasper Cropsey.

Time for a couple of mea culpas: When this reporter was talking about Roxane Witke's new house (she just married Andy Nathan. Felicitations to the happy couple!) and said it was the only new house built in fifty years give or take a decade, the words "for speculation" were left out. Sorry about that. Elsewhere you'll see fallout from the resultant flap. ■

The Piermont NEWSLETTER is published three times a year by the Piermont Civic Association. This issue was written by: Mardy Allen, Ruth Brawner, Doug Brunson, Mimi Bryan, Gilbert Burck, Sal Conigliaro, Tom DeRaffele, Charlotte and Joe Durazzi, Doug Ikelheimer, Rose Memmolo, Eve Mesnick, Grace Meyer, Grace Mitchell, Carole Novick, Eugene Polinsky, Declan Spring, Marge Spring, June Starke and Maggie Voorhees. Photographs by Sally Savage. Art Director Lori Joseph. Editor Carole Novick. Typing by Liz Barnes.

Reminders

ELECTION DAY -- MARCH 21stsee page 3.

VILLAGE AND PIER CLEAN-UPS --APRIL 8thsee page 7.

THE PCA ANNUAL BLUEGRASS FAIR ON MEMORIAL DAY! START PREPARING NOW!

Long term enforcement of the ban on heavy thru trucking on 9W will depend on the commitment of the Orangetown Police Department to do so. State Police will only be here to enforce the ban for the initial period. Each citizen concerned that the ban be properly enforced, should call or write Supervisor Colello. State that you, as an Orangetown resident, expect him to use his office to insure a strict and consistent enforcement of this ban.

Piermont Newsletter
Piermont, New York 10968

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