

PIERMONT NEWSLETTER

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FROM THE EDITOR

This issue of the Piermont Newsletter is devoted primarily to reports on the budgets, financial status, and needs of the Village and some of the organizations which operate in it. Like everyone else these days, our Village is faced with severe financial problems. It is going to take some imaginative thinking and planning to get the most for our money, and we must think in terms of long range needs as well as immediate necessities. We hope that this reporting will assist the citizens of Piermont in understanding and evaluating the difficult decisions we face in 1970 and the years ahead.

CHALLENGES FOR THE NEW VILLAGE BOARD

There have been important changes in the cast of characters at the Village Hall since the last issue of The Newsletter; however the problems of municipal management still require solution, and the need for setting guidelines for the future development of Piermont and the protection of its natural advantages is immediate.

Little more than two months since the Village elections shifted the balance of political power, Mayor Bo DiFrancesca and the four new members of the Board of Trustees are seeking a cooperative approach to the problems that are common to most suburban communities. At the same time the Village Planning Board of seven representative citizens appointed last February by the Mayor and the trustees is about to begin its assigned task of studying the forces for change, good or bad, that may have an impact in the decade ahead upon Piermont.

The changes in Piermont's officialdom were brought about by the election of an anti-Administration slate of three candidates for trustee in March, the subsequent resignation of a fourth trustee because of ill health in his family, and the resignation or removal from office of several appointive minor officials. The new members of the Village Board who were elected in March by popular vote are:

Philip DeLorenzo, who had resigned as Village Building Inspector to run for Trustee.

Vito Sorriento, who had resigned as Fire Inspector to become a candidate for Trustee.

Thomas Boyan, a former Fire Chief and former correspondent at Continental Can Company and a brother of former Village Clerk John Boyan.

Holdover Trustee Howard C. Brawner's resignation, for health reasons, early in April created a vacancy to which the three new trustees elected Frank Kline, with Mayor DiFrancesca abstaining. The seating of Mr. Kline, who is Orangetown's building inspector and Republican committeeman in Piermont, left the Village Board divided politically for the first time in many years with Mayor DiFrancesca a Democrat, Mr. Kline a Republican and the three other trustees elected under a United Citizens Party label with Republican and Conservative support.

It is the hope of the Piermont Civic Association that despite their political differences the members of the Village Board of Trustees will lay aside partisanship in their approach to Piermont's current problems.

Trustee Boyan sounded an invitation to all residents, at the April board meeting, to notify the officials immediately of any condition that needs correction. He said any complaint or pertinent information should be telephoned to the Village Clerk's office (EL 9-1258) between 9 A.M. and noon. The matter will then be relayed to the commissioner or other official in whose jurisdiction it lies. This would apply presumably to complaints of emissions of black smoke or other pollutants, uncovered and overflowing garbage cans, discharge of toilet waste from boats within village waters, potholes, vandalism and other nuisances and health or safety hazards.

While the immediate problems are, hopefully, about to receive the cooperative attention of the Village Trustees and their aides, the Village Planning Board will meet, probably early in June, to consider the long range factors in Piermont's future and the way to shape them towards making our village the best possible place for good living.

Mayor DiFrancesca said he would set a date for the session after conferring with William Chase, planning director of the Rockland County Planning Board, who will explain the concept of a village master plan to the local members.

Mayor DiFrancesca, in announcing the upcoming activation of the Village Planning Board, repeated what he had said when the board was appointed early this year. This was that the Master Plan was to be "a guide for the potential development of the community" in the years ahead but would not be an exact blueprint of future projects and developments. "The Master Plan must be flexible enough to allow for changing conditions and new ideas for meeting them to the best advantage of our citizens," he said. The Mayor insisted that the development of a Master Plan, such as many other towns, villages and administrative units--like Rockland County, for example--already have did not in any way involve Piermont in urban renewal.

The former Board of Trustees, which had -- on Jan. 19 -- held a public hearing as required by law on the application of two non-resident property owners for down-zoning of lands they owned adjoining 9-W, voted at its regular meeting on March 12 to deny the petitions, thus protecting Piermont against the first major assault upon its zoning law.

STIFF INCREASE DUE FOR VILLAGE TAXES

This year, village taxes in Piermont will increase by more than one third.

For every \$100 paid last year, taxpayers will have to put up \$137 this year. There is no mystery about the higher taxes - they had to rise for a number of good clear reasons:

- * Inflation boosted the cost of everything from paper clips to insurance.
- * New expenditures for garbage disposal and road maintenance materials will occur this year that the village has not had to bear before.
- * Payment for a deficit left over from last year, amounting to \$19,874, must be taken care of immediately from this year's taxes.

The deficit left over from last year is the result of an unfortunate combination of events. First of all, the Village did not receive \$28,300 in revenues, other than taxes, that it expected to get. Secondly, there were extra and essentially unpredictable expenses of \$11,853. That means last year's budget was off by \$40,153.

What it all adds up to is that it will cost a total of \$232,674 to run the Village for the next year, compared to \$195,822 budgeted for last year. The Mayor and the Village Board have tried to hold expenses down where possible. The fire department, library, and village clerk's office have had their budgets cut from last year. For all, it is not a matter of cutting fat - it is cutting necessities. The detailed village budget is available for examination at the Village Hall - it is a long, ten page document, well worth examining to see where every dollar goes.

In brief, here is where the increases came from:

- * General village expenditures are up from \$76,670 to \$91,990. In this amount is \$47,000 for paying off the debt incurred for the sewer. The big increases include a \$7000 increase in state retirement payments for Village employees an increase of \$2000 in liability insurance rates, a \$700 increase in auditing expenses, and an \$1800 increase in group insurance rates. Legal expenses to defend the village in civil court cases brought by Continental Can and the owners of Lawrence Park apartments are budgeted for an \$1800 increase.

- * Refuse collection and disposal are up \$8000 next year as a result of closing the Con Can dump. The Mayor and the Board are not sure that the budgeted increase will be sufficient, though they hope it will be.

- * Snow removal costs will jump \$4000 because the village must now buy salt and sand instead of using free cinders from the can plant.

Those are most of the big items. There are many small increases scattered throughout the budget as a result of higher prices. But the mayor and the board have held most expenditures down to rock bottom. The cost for police protection, for example, increased less than \$2000 - from \$48,150 to \$50,075. Most of the increase is an extra \$1500 for part time patrolmen. Neither the police chief nor any of the three full time officers is even getting a cost of living increase, though they are getting a small increase in the contribution toward their retirement payments from the village. The Mayor, in particular, is concerned about the lack of increased pay for police. "They must be paid enough", he says "to give them self respect. We can't turn them down indefinitely."

Despite the increase in rubbish disposal costs, the budgeted amount for all streets and sanitation is somewhat lower than last year: \$68,357 compared to \$69,532. The cuts to make up for unavoidable increases come out of plans for sidewalk construction -- there simply won't be any.

Mayor DiFrancesca says of this year's deficit: "It's nothing we have to hang our heads about. We couldn't let a broken down fire truck just sit there, or leave the streets icy when the cinders became unavailable, and there was no way to predict either the liability insurance increase or expenses for the dump."

In detail, the unbudgeted items that helped throw last year's balance in the red are as follows:

Fire truck repair: \$2888.00
Salt and sand and new spreader: \$3870.00
Village garbage dump - bulldozing and levelling: \$2505.00
Liability insurance increase: \$1990.
Police car resuscitator: \$600.

The revenues the village expected (but did not get) totalling \$28,300, include: A \$20,000 payment from the town and county for an easement on the sewer right of way; a \$3800 payment for the sewer outfall easement; \$1000 less than expected in state aid from mortgage payments; \$2000 less than expected on sale of village land, and \$1500 less than expected from per capita state aid.

For the near term, the Mayor realistically sees little hope for tax relief. "We have to live with our existing tax base", he points out. "And we have to face the fact that the village's most important real property -- the business area -- is in many cases nearly derelict. I don't think we ever have to go to garden apartments or massive high rise buildings to increase the tax base -- that is not a good solution. What we have to do is bring up to date what we have. When the tax rates go down in the business district because of decay, home owners have to make up the difference and pay higher taxes."

MEETINGS OF THE VILLAGE BOARD

The Editorial Staff of the PCA Newsletter has assigned one of its members to attend all Village Board meetings and report their happenings in these pages. The reports will be brief, summary in nature, but hopefully they will help to keep Piermont's citizens up to date on Board actions and perhaps -- even -- encourage more citizens to attend Board meetings. -- Ed.

The new Piermont Village Board, voted into office on March 17, met publicly on April 15 for a Proposed Budget hearing and again at its regular meeting date -- the last Monday of the month -- on April 27. At each meeting the proposed budget was carefully analyzed; board members representing the United Citizens Party speaking out for cost-cutting whenever possible.

The mayor discussed Piermont's limited tax base and future revenues. "The tax base will never really go up because not much land is available to develop", he explained. The Village's equalization rate has moved down from 29% to 21% in the past year. 30% is considered healthy, the Mayor said. The only way to bring the rate up, according to the Mayor, is to reassess property.

Thomas Ciganek, the new Town Attorney, reviewed Continental Can's and Lawrence Park's lawsuits against the Village -- they are challenging their Village assessments. The contractor who installed sewers in the Village (which failed to meet specifications) also has a lawsuit against the Village.

The Mayor, backed up by some observers, spoke about the need to keep Village employees' salaries up to a cost-of-living level. "If we let it slide one year," Mr. DiFrancesca said, "it will take too much to make it up." In a discussion of proposed police salaries, Mr. Boyan stated that Piermont is -- in effect -- a training center for novice patrolmen. They are content with lower salaries here, he stated, because they know their performance is being watched in the county, and they can move -- in several years -- to better paying jobs elsewhere. A concession to raising police salaries in the present budget (they will remain the same) was Village payment of police insurance. The beginning patrolman's salary here is \$7,086.

The Board discussed sewage problems -- raw sewage in the Creek from Orangetown and outflow from the Nursing Home on Route 9W in Grand View, as well as other Grand View outflow.

Fire Chief Griswold asked for and received permission to use the Village Hall to host the New York-New Jersey Firemen on May 27th. He also spoke of his concern about fighting fires on Tweed Blvd., proposing a pipe line for increased protection of houses up there. He mentioned that he had made a tour of old houses in the downtown section of Piermont, along with the building inspector, to review their fire problems and consider demolition when necessary. Mr. Ciganek was asked to take the necessary steps to board up places deemed unsafe, deducting the cost of that procedure out of the lien on the property.

The old school property on Hudson Terrace was discussed again. There is general agreement that the old high school is structurally unsafe; the Mayor reported that the price of demolition is estimated at \$18,000 and restoration of the grounds at between \$20,000 and \$25,000. He also said that 60% of the demolition cost and from 40% to 60% of the restoration cost could be repaid from the federal government. Mr. Boyan expressed reservations about federal funds, saying "They can cut budgets too". The Mayor assured him that once the allocation is made no federal or state budget can affect its distribution.

The following motions were made and passed: To ask the clerk to apply for state funds for recreation program; to allow senior citizens to use the Village Hall free of charge; to authorize the leasing of the swimming pool for Village use. General business and complaints were reported and delegated:

Ordinances concerning garbage collection will be enforced, after issuance of one warning notice.

Dogs running loose -- police

Parking overnight on streets -- police and fire chief

Any complaints or questions -- Village Clerk, between 9 a.m. and noon.

THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

At the April meeting of the Village Board, after the entire agenda had been dealt with by the Mayor and the new Trustees, and many private citizens had taken the opportunity to air grievances, Trustee Boyan suggested that the Village Clerk's office act as a clearing house for any complaints to be made to the Board or the various departments. After a long and difficult meeting, this motion, which seemed almost an afterthought, caught the essence of a small town's working democracy. As individual Americans are feeling more frustrated that they enjoy a voice in the political affairs that affect their lives, Piermont still has a personal and responsive ear to the opinions expressed by its citizens. This is the service which Piermont provides that really means the most. It is worth protecting and paying for.

This service costs very little. Other services are a great deal more expensive. The streets must be maintained, fire prevention apparatus must be kept in good repair, garbage must be removed and disposed of, and law enforcement salaries met. If we are to continue as a small independent community, all these costs must be accepted as our common responsibility.

In addition to the normal headaches that go into making up the Village's budget to meet these costs, we have special problems this year. The Village is in debt. Approximately \$24,000 of expected revenue from an easement on the Orangetown sewer pipeline, plus tax on the same sewer line, was not received in the past fiscal year. It may come through this year, or become a drawn out legal battle. To compound this problem, Continental Can Co. has ceased operating the garbage dump, which costs it shared with the village. A raise in taxes seems unavoidable.

These then are the multiple problems the Village Board faces: raising taxes as equitably as possible, finding an efficient way to dispose of the Village's refuse, prosecuting its legal battles to recover lost revenue, and keeping up the services that it now supplies its citizens. All this is in the face of rising costs. Still, given a tax increase, these problems can be met -- for a time.

Eventually our tax base must be expanded. New ratables will have to be found. Even as the Board is trying to solve its immediate problems, it must look ahead to developing permanent solutions. These solutions might include the developing of our waterfront to accommodate the current boom in boating, or finding a research firm interested in locating in a quiet spot not too far from the city, or it might include redeveloping our sadly run-down business section of Main Street.

In any case it is important that whatever the solution, it does not alter too deeply the present way of life of the citizens of our community. The emergency we face is not so drastic that we could excuse zoning variances to bring in new apartment buildings, or new industry, and it is not so drastic that we can afford to pass up the opportunity recently afforded by the school referendum to make the center of our town a recreational park for our children and our children's children. We must not overreact to our financial problems, or we might be defeating the very reasons that we have remained an incorporated village; i.e. to fulfill the specific needs of a very small community without undue outside pressure.

In the meantime, if anybody thinks of better solutions, or disagrees with anything whatsoever, he is entitled to voice his opinions at the next Village Board meeting -- or leave the message with the Village Clerk.

-- James Hammerstein
President, P.C.A.

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IS POLLUTION SPOILING PIERMONT?

Piermont, N.Y. in the year 2000: Will it be a pleasant village nestled between green hills and blue water? Or will it be a smog-bound eyesore, overcrowded and overexploited, a tiny Pittsburgh on a river-turned-cesspool?

Like other communities through the country, Piermont is suddenly aware of the imminent danger of mushrooming technology coupled with an exploding birth rate. "The next forty to one hundred years will tell whether the human race survives or perishes," Oliver Moore said at the last meeting of the Piermont Civic Association. He added that he considered the outcome to be less than 50-50 in favor of survival. Moore, who is the co-chairman of the PCA's new Environment Committee (with Ed McPherson) and William Donn were featured speakers at the meeting.

Air and water pollution in general, and as they relate to Piermont in particular, were topics of the meeting. Donn expressed particular concern about soot-laden air from Piermont industry, which is caused by burning oil that is not sulfur-free. Soot deposits are so heavy that they turn the river ice to gray in wintertime, he said. However, state laws are vague on the subject of airborne soot, so that it is virtually impossible to prove a company in violation.

He said soot like that emitted by Continental Can Company has been known to cause cancer when applied to the skin of laboratory animals, and is much more dangerous when ingested in the lungs. The problem is greater in summer, he said, when southerly winds bring more soot, along with sulfur dioxide, fluorides and other pollutants from New York City and New Jersey chimneys. Continental Can, Donn said, has no precipitators on its smokestacks. In order to minimize soot and gases, it must have three engineers a day (one on each shift) to watch the stacks. He suggested that if the plant converted to natural gas, it could save on labor costs and so pay for the more expensive fuel, while being a better neighbor

Moore pointed to the proposed Reynolds Aluminum Company plant in Congers as an example of industry entering a town without (so far as is known) adequate ecological safeguards. Chemicals that are used in its can-coating operation, he said, are probably harmful when airborne, and could spread hazards as far down the river as Piermont.

Both speakers were equally concerned about pollution of the Hudson River. Thermal contamination of water used for cooling in the Con Ed plant at Indian Point has taken the lives of hundreds of thousand of fish, as late as this year, Donn said. The heated water lowers the oxygen content of the water which may eventually be more harmful than fish-kills.

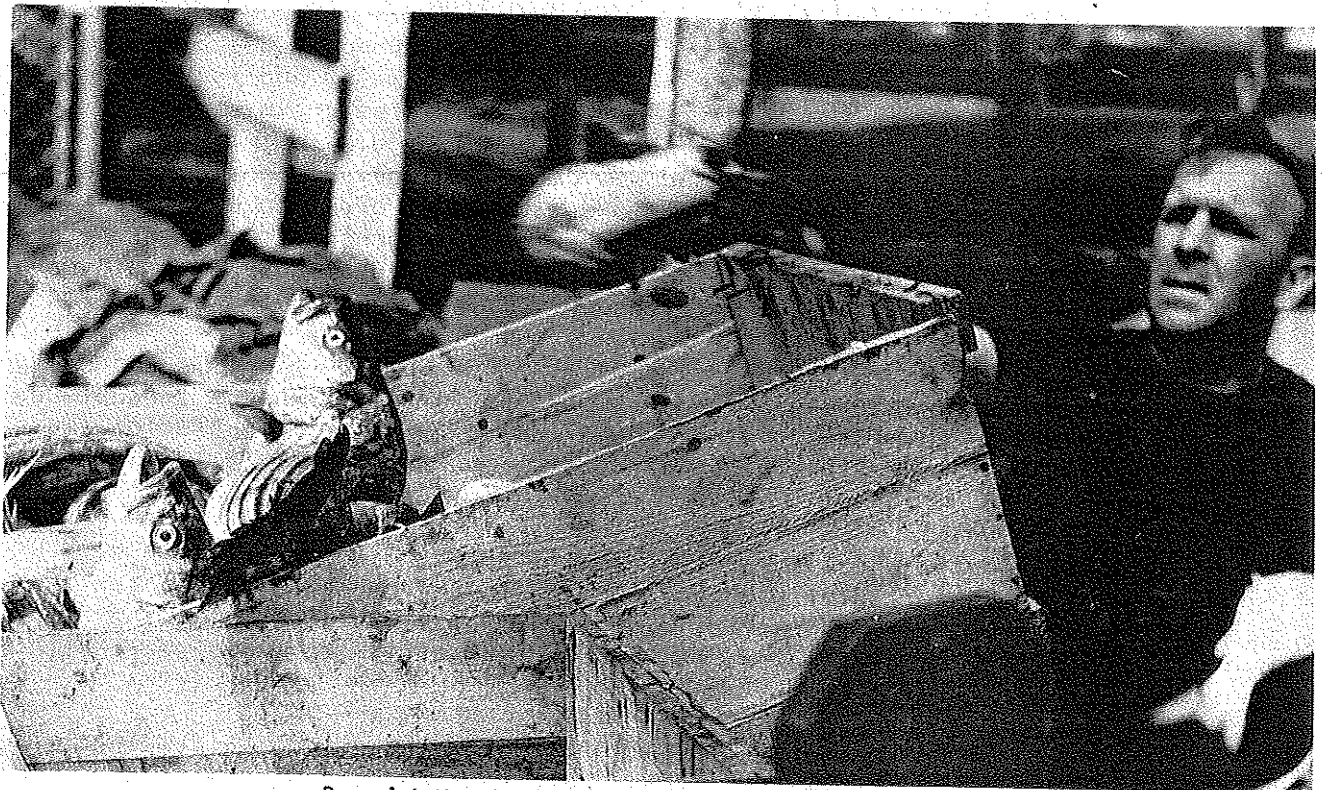
Another opinion on the state of the Hudson was given the Newsletter by Donald Hardy, a shad fisherman of Piermont, whose nets are seen in the spring and fall

just south of the Tappan Zee bridge. "The fishing was good this year," Hardy said. "We have been taking over 2000 pounds of shad a day and are now netting about 1500 pounds of stripers a day. But the pollution is as bad as it always was. Close to shore, there's the oil from the marinas and open sewers. Out in the channel, there are more things floating around than you can believe." Hardy said that he had often encountered oil slicks from tankers flushing their tanks illegally on their way out to sea. "Some of these slicks are a mile wide and several miles long," he said.

Hardy and his partner, Ray Holmes, are now entering the last round of the spring netting, called the "cherry run." The shad are gone for the season, but striped bass abound. Each day the nets are emptied at Holmes' dock on Main Street and fat stripers are packed in ice for the New York markets. Often they exceed 25 pounds in size. There is also a plentiful supply of catfish and occasionally a carp or sturgeon.

A visitor mentioned that he had eaten a Hudson River striper and that the flesh had an oily taste. Hardy's son Don Jr. explained why. "Bass are top feeders," he said, "so they pick up the oil that floats on the surface." He said that the taste was easily improved by first skinning the fish then soaking it a few hours in vinegar water with salt. The fish should then be thoroughly washed in running water and can then be cooked. That way it is extremely palatable.

The younger Hardy was asked if he would carry on, some day, the outdoor craft he had learned from his father. "I like to fish," he said, "and this pays money. Every spring I say that I won't help out, but I do. I like the river. I even think it's getting cleaner. This spring, you could see the bottom at two feet. And the river's always something new and different."



Donald Hardy loading the day's catch.

PIERMONT COMMUNITY CENTER

The Piermont Community Center won the first round of its battle for survival on May 6, when the voters of the school district overwhelmingly approved Proposition 3, to allow the school district to sell the Hudson Terrace site to the village of Piermont for one dollar. The local vote at the Tappan Zee Elementary School polls was 2 to 1 in favor of the sale. Round two will come when the Piermont Village Board decides whether to accept or reject the purchase. Mayor DiFrancesca, who introduced the idea of using the old school property as a playground and community center, strongly favors its purchase. Trustee Philip DeLorenzo, who was opposed to the passage of Proposition 3, refused to reveal his current position, until, he said, the people have had a chance to express their opinion. He said the board is considering a referendum to secure a public mandate on the question. The topic will be discussed at the next village board meeting, Monday, May 25.

In arguing for the purchase, Brian Holihan, chairman of the Adult Advisory Committee to the Teen Center, cited the past year's activity as proof that the center is filling a vital need. Up to seventy different local teens have used the gym or gameroom facilities of the center in the thirty weeks it has been operating since October, 1969. They have played ball, pool, or ping-pong, danced or listened to music, or just talked, four nights a week, from 7 to 9. Members of the newly-formed Girls' Club, with the help of a few boys and a parent or two, have repainted a classroom and installed donated carpets and furniture to make a cozy meeting room. The outraged howls when the center has to close for a night because a chaperon is lacking testify to the teens' own desire for a place to go.

In addition to housing the teen center, the school property is also the site of a number of other activities the village has come to take for granted. It serves as a playground and sled run for the younger children, off-street parking for the adults, and is the home of the only public swimming pool and basketball court in Piermont. It is a vital physical and psychological link between sections of the village which too often seem to be cut off from each other. All of this would be lost if the property falls into private ownership. Less concrete is the loss of the future benefits the village would gain from a thriving park and community center on the site. Among the proposals are an after-school club for school kids, a permanent meeting place for the senior citizens group, and a pre-school play area. Various village groups have already inquired about using the gym for sports activities on week-ends. One suggestion for the imaginative utilization of the unusual terrain calls for a small splash pool, a few benches, and possibly a bocci court to be placed somewhere on the lower level, for quiet enjoyment away from the noisier sports area. All of these possibilities would be forever lost if the property is lost to the village.

The principal argument against the purchase is that in its present financial straits, the village cannot afford the expense of tearing down the old high school, repairing the annex, and creating a park; and that the village needs the increased tax base that private ownership would provide. Estimates ranging as high as \$40,000 have been mentioned as the cost of the necessary work. However, Mayor DiFrancesca estimates the actual cost to be much lower, to be further offset by the availability of Federal funding. Under recent rulings, the village could receive as much as 60% of the total cost of creating a recreational area primarily for youth, without relinquishing any degree of local control.

Further, the village has the option of buying the property for one dollar, demolishing the condemned building and then holding up any further action until the financial crisis eases. This was the policy advocated by a unanimous vote of the PCA at its May meeting. The actual outlay by the village to operate the teen center is minimal. This year, it paid approximately \$400, most of this for the salary of the director. Other operating expenses came from the donations of the Rotary and the Thrift Shop and totaled about \$300. Estimates for the coming year, covering heat, electricity, salaries, and needed new equipment, are \$2,500-\$3,000. The increase is due to the village taking over some expenses formerly carried by the school district.

If the village board fails to buy the property, the school district will offer it for sale to the highest bidder. Since they have described it as of no commercial value in offering it to the village, the question arises as to what value a private bidder might see in it.

At the general meeting of the PCA on May 12, President James Hammerstein noted the unalterable nature of the decision that faces the village board and urged attendance at the board meeting on May 25. If the Hudson Terrace property is lost now, it can never be regained and all that is lost with it is lost forever. To those who see the life of the community center at stake, the question is not whether Piermont can afford to buy the old school, but whether it can afford not to.

THE VILLAGE COFFEE SHOP

On March 28th the residents of Piermont were welcomed to "The Coffee Shop", which opened its doors to the public. The shop is located on Main Street where the Emporium used to be. Jimmy and Renee Alise, and Lawrence and Cecily Goswick -- all of whom are natives of Piermont -- jointly own and operate the new business. For the Alises, this is a second business venture. "Alise's Deli", which is located in Piermont, is well known to its customers for its fine service and friendly atmosphere.

The Coffee Shop is open seven days a week, from 6 a.m. until 10 p.m., offering a variety of good food at reasonable prices. Take-out orders are filled but not delivered. Another service the shop offers is the catering of a private party or club social meeting.

The Coffee Shop is unique in Piermont, with a home-like atmosphere which makes a person feel comfortable right away. Both the Alises and the Goswicks have put a lot of time and effort into opening the shop, and it shows -- they are all eager to please, the service is good and business is booming. Their friends, old and new, are delighted to have this long needed service in the Village and wish them continued success.

-- Donna Lynch

LOST --- \$100.00 REWARD for information leading to the return of my black and tan YORKSHIRE TERRIER PUPPY. Grey head, wearing a blue collar, weight 5 pounds. Disappeared April 18 on Route 9W opposite new elementary school. Call EL 9 - 1385.

REPORT FROM THE LIBRARY

Amidst the talk of financial crisis in the Village of Piermont, the Piermont Public Library would like to report about its place in the Village. We have been located in our own building since 1907, when the Main family gave us the house. While we could not exist without the building, we likewise could not get along without our staff and our corps of enthusiastic volunteers (who now number over twenty), nor without financial support. We have received support from the Piermont Village Board for many years. In 1969-70 the Village Board gave us \$5400. We also request donations by mail campaign annually, and have been pleased by the response (approximately \$800). We receive about \$4400 annually from the monies authorized to be collected through the South Orangetown school system tax collection. In past years, we have received assistance in money and in kind from the Ramapo-Catskill Library System, of which we are a member. However, for the coming 1970-71 year, we will receive no financial assistance from RCLS (in 1969-70 we received \$590 from this source).

Like everyone else, our activities are subject to increased costs. In view of this, and the fact that we will receive no aid from RCLS in the coming year, we requested the sum of \$6600 from the Village Board for 1970-71 (less than 1¢ per person per day). The Village Board, in the face of other problems, has allowed us the sum of \$5000. We foresee the need for increased support in the years ahead if we are to maintain our program.

The Library Trustees, all of whom are property owners and taxpayers too, are convinced that the Library and its program constitute an essential service in the life of the Village.

We have intentionally directed the efforts of our staff to provide special service to pre-school and primary school children. Our story hours and film programs are well attended, with up to sixty children at a time. We think that these efforts are introducing Piermont children to the world of books, and we get real pleasure when they continue to use the library as they grow.

Because of our reduced budget for the next year, we will have to cut back on the number of books we purchase for our own collection. However, we will increase our efforts to maintain an attractive stock of books and other materials by borrowing from the Ramapo-Catskill System.

Our open hours will remain the same. We welcome all comers and suggestions for improvement, because we are a public library and -- we hope -- a fixture in the Village of Piermont.

-- Ewan MacQueen
President
Piermont Public Library

Summer Schedule at the Library

Sunday, June 7 -- Nature Walk, Library 10 a.m.

Saturday, June 13 - Last Saturday opening until school resumes in the Fall. All other hours remain the same: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 10 a.m. - noon, 3 - 5 p.m., 8 - 10 p.m.

Friday, June 19 -- Movies, Adults & Young Adults, Library 8:30 p.m.
Barbershop -- W.C. Fields
Wm. S. Hart -- highlights of his finest westerns
Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde -- Horror classic

June Displays -- Upstairs Gallery, Stichery from school classes
Downstairs, Children's art work from the school

The Wednesday story and film programs for pre-school and elementary school children will continue through July. Watch the bulletin boards for locations -- some will be held outside. For readers, the Beachcomber Club will be held again this summer. Registration June 15, 17, 19 at the Library -- a chance to add to the shell collection started last summer. There will also be special cooperative programs with other South Orangetown libraries again this summer -- announcements later.

P.C.A. PRESIDENT DECLINES CABINET POST

Washington, D.C. May 1970

Unimpeachable sources close to the President revealed last week that James Hammerstein, of Piermont, N.Y., had been sounded out as a possible replacement for Treasury Secretary Kennedy when he retires later this year. Mr. Hammerstein was reported to have been somewhat surprised by the offer, and in fact was only coaxed down from the upper branches of a large Pine tree by the explanation that any organization which could publish a free newsletter to all residents of a village of over 600 families, four times a year, and yet charge only \$1.00 annual due to its 85 members must surely have a financial genius at its head.

"As a matter of fact," Mr. Hammerstein replied, "we were considering applying to Washington for a grant. It's true we've been operating this way for several years, but it's only come to our attention recently that it doesn't add up." It is reliably reported that the emissaries from the White House expressed disappointment that Mr. Hammerstein's system was nothing new, but was, in fact, "the same old deficit spending the government has been operating on for years".

The fact is, of course, that the P.C.A. has not operated on dues alone, but has always solicited contributions to supplement its very modest dues. In recent years these additional contributions have declined, to the extent that some of the P.C.A.'s programs have been endangered. So, if you enjoy the Newsletter, and want to see the P.C.A. continue its efforts for Piermont, please send in your vote of encouragement, whether a few dollars or fifty. Checks should be mailed to: Jerry Ikelheimer, Treasurer, Piermont Civic Association, Box 365, Piermont, N.Y. 10968.

THRIFT SHOP REPORTS FOR THREE YEARS

The Tappan Zee Thrift Shop, in its fourth year of operation, has submitted a financial report covering the three-year period from December 1966 to January 1970. It is estimated that \$1150 will be paid shortly from receipts of the first quarter of 1970.

Figures given for 1967 include three weeks in December 1966 when the shop opened for business.

1967

Receipts	\$ 7900	
Expenditures	2400	(Operating expenses included redecorating.)
Donations	3300	

A balance was carried over to the following year.

1968

Receipts	\$ 6900	
Expenditures	2600	(Operating expenses included salaries & purchase of office equipment.)
Donations	5200	

1969

Receipts	\$ 7200
Expenditures	2400
Donations	5500

Total

Receipts	\$22,000
Expenditures	7,400
Donations	14,000

A balance of approximately \$600 was retained in bank account.

Organizations listed in order of amounts received between December 1966 and January 1970:

Sparkill Community Play School	\$ 2800
Piermont Library	1400
South Nyack Tree Committee	1300
Palisades Library	1200
Piermont Fire Department & Ambulance	1100
Rockland Country Day School Scholarship Fund	800
Tappantown Society	700
Piermont Teen Center (Eligible for funds only since summer 1969)	400
Ladies Auxilliary of Piermont Fire Department	100

Amounts of \$50 or less have gone to:

- The Sparkill Skating Rink
- Piermont Reform Church
- Piermont T-Shirt League
- The Rockleigh, New Jersey, Fire Department

Total \$10,000

The Piermont Civic Association, sponsor of the Thrift Shop, has received \$3650 to cover its operating expenses, publication and mailing costs of the Newsletter, Kane Park improvements, etc.

The figures on this report have been rounded to the nearest \$100 and were submitted by Kathryn Smith, Thrift Shop treasurer.

THIS ISSUE was produced by the Newsletter Committee of the Piermont Civic Association: Robert Bradbury, Rosemary and Bob Cone, Charles Grutzner, Margaret Holihan, and Ted Merrill. Donna Lynch and Ewan MacQueen were special reporters. Bob Cone took the picture 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 six times a year for all of Piermont and anyone else who belongs to the PCA.

The PCA always wants new members, their ideas and their participation.

It costs only \$1.00 to join -- per person, per year. Just fill in the sheet below and mail or bring to the next PCA meeting. Mailing address: PCA, Box 365, Piermont, N.Y. 10968.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Interests _____