

THE PIERMONT NEWSLETTER



OUTSTANDING CITIZENSHIP AWARD TO RUTH AND HOWARD BRAWNER

For the first time the Piermont Rotary Club has given its annual award for Outstanding Citizenship jointly to Ruth and Howard Brawner for their contributions to the people of Piermont.

Long concerned residents of Main Street, both Ruth and Howard see something that needs to be done-- and they do it. Whether it be sharing the Chairmanship of the Piermont Bicentennial Committee, visiting elderly shut-ins, picking up litter, or watering the plantings on Main Street, the Brawners don't wait to be asked, they just get the job done quietly and correctly. In addition, Howard has served as

(continued page 3)

BRYAN ENTERS RACE FOR TOWN CLERK

Our Mayor Mimi Bryan has been nominated by the Democratic Party to run for Orangetown Town Clerk in the November elections.

This would be for Mimi a full-time, well-paid job which is essentially administrative rather than policy making. The town clerk is responsible for keeping the records, for licensing and for taking minutes at Town Board and Commission Meetings.

Mimi will not know who her opposition is until after the Republican convention, at which point she plans to run a vigorous campaign, meeting as many town residents as possible. She feels that she already has a good working relationship throughout the town from her work as Mayor as well as from her work as a Piermont Library Board Member, on the school budget, and as a Pearl River Library employee.

In her characteristically non-partisan way, Mimi says that she wants to continue the high standards set for the clerk's office by Ray Delo, the Republican incumbent who has said that he will not run again.

Mimi feels that for her the job would be a personal "challenge" and she thinks that Piermont needs a friend in Orangetown pointing out that the river village residents of Nyack, Piermont, Grand View and South Nyack make up almost one third of all Orangetown taxpayers. She feels that they don't have enough voice in town affairs.

During her terms of office, Piermont has been lucky enough to have what is in effect a full-time Mayor. How would we get along without her experience and hard work? Mimi points

(continued page 3)

TAXES--HOW HIGH WILL THEY GO?

At last Piermont taxpayers are getting a break. The long, steep increase in Village property taxes, nearly 18 percent a year during the past ten years, has abruptly slowed down. As Village taxpayers are or should be gratefully aware, their 1977-78 property taxes, payable the month of June, are only about 5 percent higher than last year's, or less than the national inflation rate. But is this slowdown in the rising Village tax rate a lucky, one-time accident? Or does it bode a more frugal supervision of Village government spending in the future?

A close look at Piermont's recent budgets certainly suggests that Mayor Mimi Bryan and Treasurer Mary Hardy are keeping a sharp eye on Village outlays. Two examples: 1) Nearly 20 percent of the current budget goes to the police and fire departments; practically all of this year's rise in their expenses is accounted for by mandatory pay increases to the police force. 2) Another 20 percent of the Village budget goes for "general government support"--office staffs, contingencies, claims, buildings, insurance, etc. Not counting an almost 100 percent increase in insurance premiums, about which the Mayor's office could do nothing, the 1977-78 budget calls for general government spending to rise only \$1300.

Much of the tax rate slowdown, never-

theless, is attributable to a couple of lucky circumstances. For several years, ever since Hurricane Agnes, the Federal Government has owed the Village several thousand dollars for storm damages. Last year the money came through. And when the Mayor's office prepared last year's budget, it wasn't sure what the impending boosts in water, gas and electricity rates would amount to, so it estimated them very generously. The result was a surplus of some \$25,000. This, plus tighter budgeting, has enabled the Village to get along with \$403,254 in property taxes, or only 5 percent more than it levied last year.

However, keeping next year's budget (1978-79) down to what might be called an economic level may present a problem or two. It is true that there will be no big-money purchases or additions to debt; some time ago the Mayor's office prudently set up a general equipment fund that has grown to some \$60,000. What's more, Mayor Bryan believes that Piermont hasn't yet taken full advantage of the many possibilities for state and federal aid. For this reason Katherine Smith will devote her time as a Village Trustee to tracking down those possibilities. This may take a while and there will be no storm damages coming in, and labor wage contracts will soon have to be renegotiated. As things now stand, the Mayor's office may somehow have to come up with another surplus, or draft a very tight 1978-79 budget, or both. ■

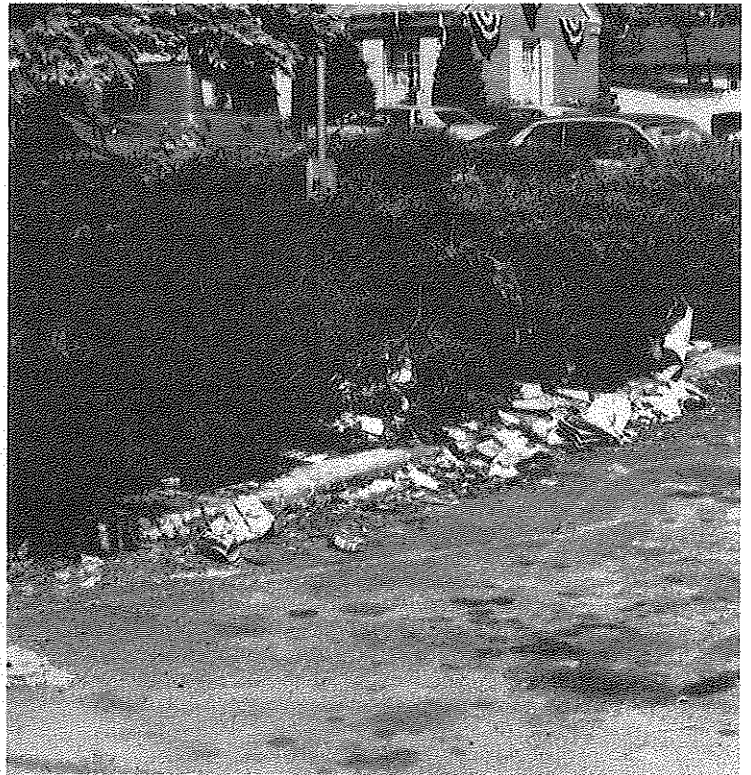
VILLAGE COOKBOOK

The third all new PCA Village Cookbook is a Piermont "best seller." Co-editors Maggie Voorhees and Marge Spring, were assisted by Linda Sullivan who did the expert typing, and John Zahn who arranged for its printing. And of course it couldn't have been done at all without the recipes of all the fantastic Piermont cooks. Copies of the Cookbook can be purchased at the Exchange and the Clausland Bookshop for \$2.00. It contains over 80 interesting recipes and it is a great hostess gift. ■

PCA JOINS CENTER FOR THE HUDSON RIVER VALLEY

In February, PCA President Doug Brunson attended a conference sponsored by The Center for the Hudson River Valley, to discuss problems of land use in the valley. The Pier and Tallman Park were areas included in the discussion. This new organization has as its purpose to serve as a coordinator and information source to aid in developing and implementing sound management practices for our natural and cultural resources. They also hope to promote public awareness of the issues of regional importance in the Hudson River Valley. ■

"THERE'S TROUBLE RIGHT HERE IN RIVER CITY"



And that trouble begins with the letter L and that stands for LITTER. Plantings on Main Street, parks and open spaces are beautiful if they are respected and kept clean. Well, who will keep them clean?? YOU! By using proper receptacles for garbage, litter containers, not the street or sidewalk, and picking up, sweeping up and cleaning up.

The newly expanded Parks Commission chaired by Howard Brawner promises colorful plantings for the summer and a massive effort to give the Village a clean sweep, but they can't do it alone.

The responsibility belongs to all of us.

Let's get busy and keep our beautiful Piermont, beautiful.

OUTSTANDING CITIZENSHIP...cont'd

president of the Empire Hose Company for ten years, as a Village Trustee for five, and has been a T-Shirt League coach. He is the newly named head of the Parks Commission. Ruth, active on the Village Emergency Committee, was a Girl Scout leader, and is now also serving on the Parks Commission.

that the history of Piermont should be preserved, they initiated the compiling and eventual publication of the Brief History of Piermont.

We join the Rotary and all of Piermont in saluting Ruth and Howard Brawner for giving so much of themselves to their fellow Villagers. ■

Through their hardworking efforts Piermont celebrated a very successful Bicentennial year. Howard's interest in history led him to collect a group of historical slides of Piermont that he has often shared with groups of Piermonters, and in 1960 he wrote a historical overview of Piermont for a course at Rockland Community College. Sparked by their belief

BRYAN ENTERS RACE...cont'd

out that the Village Board is a strong and dedicated one and that Tom DeRaffele has been doing a fine job for three years as Deputy Mayor. If Mimi is elected to the Orangetown post, by law the Village Board is responsible for appointing a successor to fill her term from January to the next March election. ■

PIERMONT'S HISTORY SALUTED

On Sunday afternoon, April 24, Pellegrini's "Haddock's Hall" came alive with a tremendous community turnout for a reception and buffet supper celebrating the publication of the Piermont Bicentennial Committee's Brief History of Piermont. Festive musical entertainment was provided by choral groups from the Piermont Reformed and St. John's Churches; Anthony Komornick, Andy Ciganek, Susanne Chute, Kert Gerhardt; and Betty Jane Watson, accompanied by Linda Sullivan on the piano.

Ruth Brawner set up an interesting display of the types of wares

sold at "Haddock's Hall" General Store, among them a clock and platter originally purchased there by Mrs. Blackburn's grandmother. The Bicentennial Committee wishes to extend their thanks for the cooperation from all the Piermont shopkeepers, people who donated photographs, community organizations and everybody who took part from the planning to the grand finale with the reception and presentation of the Brief History of Piermont.

Copies of the Brief History of Piermont are available at \$2.00 each from the Piermont Library, The Exchange, The Community Market, Clausland Book Shop, Frank Scolaro's Barber Shop and James Artrip's Delicatessen. ■



MEMORABILIA

The following articles are taken from The Rockland County Journal, a weekly newspaper published in Nyack in the 1850's. Though we have no reference as to the name of the "star reporter" who was the Piermont correspondent, we're sure that if he were around today he'd be on the staff of the NEWSLETTER.

[From Vol. 19, June 19, 1852]

OUR PIERMONT CORRESPONDENCE, Piermont, June 10, 1852.

DEAR SIR: - Why do you want a correspondent from this place? Is it to inform you of the misery, want and degradation with which it is infested, or is it to give you a weekly account of the little incidents occurring here?

I propose giving you a short sketch, at sundry times, of some of the most important events which may occur. - Being a man having very little to do (and as bachelors have but few troubles) I will inform you of a few of the most prominent features of our village. Piermont is improving now very fast. Through the village we are having better roads built, and we are to have a special meeting of the inhabitants to take a vote on the propriety of having a sidewalk through part of the village, and a Police Officer, to be paid the enormous sum of two hundred dollars per year, - for what, I cannot ascertain. I cannot find out what his duty is to be. I am sure it will not be to quell riots for we have none. If it is to take care of drunken persons, he is not needed a great deal, though we have more of them than we ought to have in a place like ours. I know nothing for him to do, but to prevent the Irish boys playing marbles on the Sabbath; and keep them off the platform when the cars arrive. But time will tell what our police officer will do.

Buildings are going up very rapidly. Judge Blauvelt has sold four lots, and four new buildings will very soon be progressing, upon one of

the handsomest heights that Piermont can boast of.

Mr. Blauvelt is building a new road across the marsh opposite station house, to lead to a small piece of ground now occupied with shanties which will very soon be torn down, and a neat row of cottages will supply their place. And in various other places are buildings arising, most of which will add to the beauty of this place. Although Piermont has remained idly for a length of time fearing the Railroad was going to leave us, she has now fairly commenced; and as the woman said who saw her husband fighting a bear, "I don't care which whips," so our Piermont folks are now determined to build, saying, "They don't care whether the Railroad goes or stays."

I must now draw to a close and regale myself with a "Principle" which is my morning luxury, and then take a stroll down in the village.

[From Vol. V, #2, August 14, 1852]

PIERMONT CORRESPONDENCE: VILLAGE MATTERS.

Passing through the village the other afternoon, I saw a notice posted up, calling a public meeting of the inhabitants of Piermont, on the 16th, to take a vote on the propriety of having the village again disincorporated. As near as I can ascertain, from one of the oldest inhabitants, two or three years ago, a few men, wishing to do a little good to their neighbors, put forth the idea of having the village incorporated in order, as they said, to compel the population to keep their houses and yards clean, and if possible, get rid of the almost incredible stench with which every street in the village was infested; to compel them to procure lime and strew it around their dwellings and yards; to dig trenches that might lead their filth and standing water into the river; to prevent disturbances, and, in general, to guard themselves, as much as possible, against sickness which might occur in the village from its uncleanness. ■

ELECTED AND APPOINTED VILLAGE
OFFICIALS

VILLAGE BOARD

Mimi Bryan, Mayor
Don Cocker
Tom DeRaffele
Bill Goswick
Kathryn Smith

VILLAGE CLERK

Mary Hardy

PLANNING BOARD ★

Ken Barnes
Les Bodak
Bob Bradbury
John Deans
Marge Spring

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

George Flobeck
Margaret Holihan
George Keane
Bill Stafford
John Streppone

BUILDING INSPECTOR

Clem Miller

FIRE INSPECTOR

Ray Holmes

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMISSION

Bob Cone
John Deans
Mary Evenson
Lenny Hunt
Stan Jacobs
Grace Meyer
June Stark
Bob Trier

PARKS COMMISSION

Ruth and Howard Brawner
Diane Davis
Viola diFrancesca
Georgia Ferrante
Honey Goswick
Frances Pierson
Mary Rotelli
Herman Valet

SPECIAL ADVISORS ★

Doug Brunson
Mildred Burck
Milton Immermann
C. A. Jackson
Ginny Johnston

NEW PLANNING BOARD ★

A new Village Planning Board took office on May 2nd, replacing the Planning Commission which has served Piermont since 1970. Members of the new body are Ken Barnes, Les Bodak, Bob Bradbury, John Deans and Marge Spring.

New York state laws provide for both types of planning bodies at the Village level, and the differences are important. In general, Planning Commissions are purely advisors to the Village Boards of Trustees, whereas Planning Boards have the mandate to initiate studies and make decisions on their own authority, without routine approval of the Village Board, although the Trustees do retain power to contravene Planning Board decisions under some circumstances.

A major reason for the change from a Commission to a Planning Board is that it greatly strengthens the Village's control over land subdivision. Until the Village Board recently adopted a good set of subdivision regulations, based on a state model, the Trustees actions on subdivisions were based only on their personal judgement of the merits of an issue, and were therefore very vulnerable to court challenges. Because of their many other duties, Trustees were able to devote only limited time to the details of subdivision proposals, further increasing the vulnerability to reversals in court. Now, with a good set of regulations, administered by a Planning Board which can devote its full time to such proposals, the decisions which are rendered should be more secure in case of judicial review. The membership follows state recommendations by including a high percentage of technically trained members, with two registered architects and one licensed engineer out of the five appointees.

Piermont, of course, has only a few large tracts of land which could be subdivided, so the review and approval of plans, however important, will not take up a large part of the

Planning Board's time. It will therefore continue to work on the Master Plan for the Village, which was the major effort of the previous Planning Commission. At the meeting of the Village Board on May 2nd, Mayor Bryan, in her charge to the new Planning Board, outlined as major areas of concern in the continuing work on the Master Plan, in order of importance, (1) the future of the Pier property, (2) improvement of the waterfront areas, (3) improvement of the business district, and (4) protection and improvement of the overall ecology of the Village. To assist in the last item, John Deans has been appointed to both the Planning Board and the Environmental Commission, and will provide good liaison between the two groups.

Trustee Katherine Smith, who was the first Chairman of the old Planning Commission, has been investigating private and governmental sources of funding for planning efforts, and will work closely with the Planning Board to assist in this vital area.

Members of the Planning Board were appointed for different terms of office, so that one term will expire each year for the next five years. New appointments each year will be for a full five year term. Mayor Bryan pointed out that this procedure is designed by state law to provide continuity and also to free the Planning Board from political control, since Planning Board terms are longer than the term of office of the Mayor and Trustees. ■

SPECIAL ADVISORS ★

When the new term of office began for Village officials on May 2nd, Mayor Bryan announced that a panel of five "Special Advisors" to the Village government had been appointed. Any Village Board or Commission may appoint non-voting advisors to assist in its work, and in the past both the Village Board and the Planning Commission have done so. This year, however, the new panel was selected for a wide

range of interests and qualifications, and its members are intended to be available to any branch of the Village government which has need of their help.

For the NEWSLETTER, Mayor Bryan touched briefly on the background and main areas of interest of the five advisors as follows:

Doug Brunson, an IBM executive, is President of the Piermont Civic Association and has been studying new ways in which that organization can serve the community. He would like to see the PCA make a more sustained contribution to the Village, and has a particular interest in addressing the problems of the Main Street business area.

Mildred Burck is clearly one of the "movers and shakers" in Piermont, and had a major role in the successful establishment of the Thrift Shop, the Piermont Exchange and the Sugby Corporation, which renovated two deteriorating buildings on Main Street. She is seen as an imaginative innovator and organizer, and a source of valuable contacts with people outside the Village.

Milton Immermann, who recently retired as head of one of the nation's foremost industrial design firms, has unusual organizational talents and in particular the ability to bring together diverse points of view to synthesize a common objective. One of his particular personal interests is the impact on the Village of the paperboard mill and factory, both physical and psychological. With the Company/Village Board relationship somewhat constrained by pending tax suits, it is felt that a non-official approach to the Company by one of our private citizens might establish a valuable line of communication.

C. A. Jackson, a management consultant, was selected as a special advisor for his ability to see Piermont from a broad point of view. Relatively new to Piermont, he brings a fresh perspective and a feel for future development

possibilities which can be so easily neglected in the pursuit of immediate, short term objectives. Mayor Bryan sees him as an "idea man," with a contagious optimism that desirable objectives can be accomplished. In his firm he has had particular experience in water-front and "water-related" projects.

Ginny Johnston is proprietor of the Clausland Bookshop, one of Piermont's successful new businesses. Her

term on the Village Parks Commission expired this year, and there was a consensus that her valuable services should not be lost to the Village. Aside from her interest in the development of Main Street, she is an ardent environmentalist, with a particular concern for Sparkill Creek, where she resides. She travels widely and frequently brings back from her travels ideas for Piermont in the field of marine development and preservation. ■

PIERMONT POLICE STATISTICS

A new computerized reporting system used by New York State's Division of Criminal Justice Services has given Piermont Police Chief Tim O'Shea the opportunity to compare his department's experiences with that of police departments in other Rockland communities. The State's printout gives the reported incidence of nine different crimes (murder, negligent manslaughter, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, total assault, burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft) as well as the total number of such reported crimes in nineteen Rockland jurisdictions.

Many of these departments also keep records of other criminal and non-criminal incidents to which the police respond but which are not included among the reporting categories. These reports can be useful in comparing the types of problems faced by the different departments and the effectiveness of a police response, after considering various factors in each community--such as large shopping centers, public recreation areas, major highways--that affect the police activity.

In 1976, the five-man Piermont force reported a total of 205 criminal offenses to the State system. Most of these were accounted for by three categories of the nine--larceny (90), burglary (52), and assault (47). They also filed local reports of 1084 "aided" incidents and 1459 "criminal"

offenses. That is, anything for which a summons could be issued. In addition, they gave out 1059 traffic tickets, handled 109 traffic accidents and made 192 arrests.

The 19-man Stony Point Town Police, serving a population of 13,300, over 9.6 square miles, reported 606 crimes to the State system and a total of 5544 other incidents. These included minor criminal "aided" reports plus such regular activities as guarding church crossings and checking doors--which Piermont performs but does not include in its statistics. Stony Point handled 3500 traffic tickets, 248 accidents and 382 arrests. Although larger than Piermont, it has several similarities which affect the Police activity--heavy Route 9W traffic, and increased summertime activity around its marinas and recreation areas.

Suffern, with a population of 7000 in 2.5 square miles, has 24 officers. They reported 444 crimes to the State, 2049 lesser offenses and gave 1328 traffic tickets. A highly industrialized area with a built-up downtown business district, Suffern had 313 traffic accidents and 387 arrests.

The five-man Piermont force is a good deal smaller than most in the county in relation to the population and area it serves. However, these figures seem to put it right up there with the biggest in terms of services rendered. ■

TRUCKS PASS SCHOOL BUSES ON 9W

Trucker trucks restricted from bridge crossings because of flammable or hazardous chemical cargo travel through Palisades, Piermont and Upper Grand View. These alarming reports as well as descriptions of increasing vehicular traffic noise were provided by a group of nine Orangetown residents representing their 9W neighbors and the West Hudson Environmental Association at a meeting with Orangetown Supervisor Joseph Colello and Police Chief Nelke on June 11, 1977.

The resident group led by George Hovanac, stressed the need for a more consistent police presence on the road to keep trucks from speeding. Questions were asked about the extent of police coverage and if the schedule coincided with the times of greatest traffic. Police Chief Nelke stressed the "fair share" issue. With 190 miles of road in Orangetown, the four mile stretch of 9W through Piermont and Upper Grand View accounts for only 2 percent. Yet, as evidence of police emphasis, 25 percent of the vehicular citations given in the town were for this stretch of road. Residents argued forcefully that the vehicular volume and problems on 9W required even greater share of police coverage than the present 2 Orangetown cars and Piermont car assigned periodically.

Chief Nelke presented data showing that for the first 4 months of 1977, 366 citations were given on 9W; one-third were for trucks, most for equipment disorders. Two full-scale truck inspections were held this year at the 9W Golf Range in Palisades.

Town Supervisor Colello described his interest in the problem, including personal tours he had taken in a police vehicle on 9W. He feels that intervention at both the local and state level is needed, as 9W is a state road. Colello is urging the State DOT to eliminate all passing zones, place signs at hidden driveway entrances and traffic signals at dangerous intersections, such as

Old Mountain Road, and reduce the speed limit.

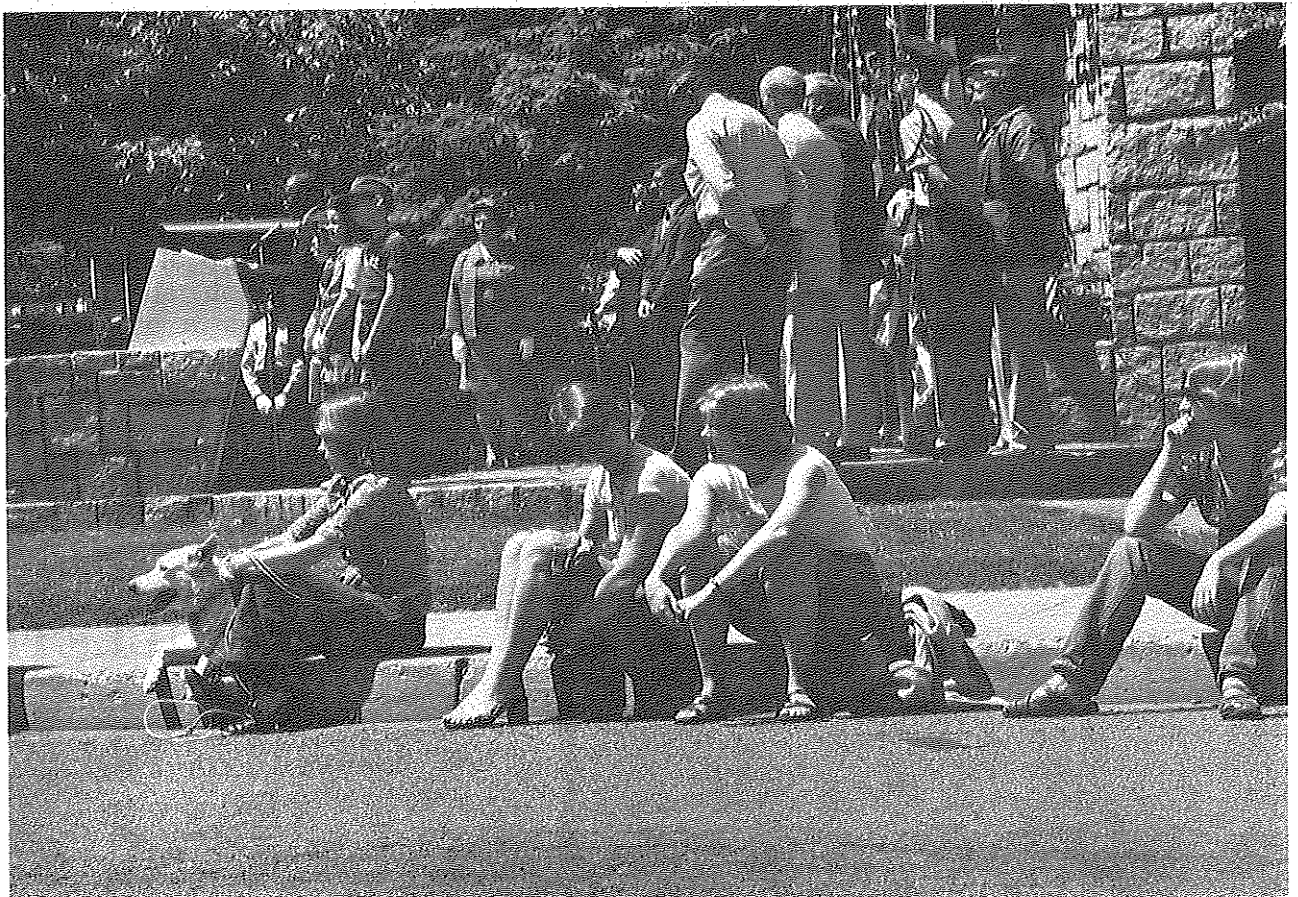
Local measures were also discussed. Town police are constrained by lack of suitable space to pull trucks over and having their cover blown by the ubiquitous CB radio and light flashing tricks. The Orangetown police plan to counter with an assortment of unmarked vehicles and utilization of newly obtained "moving radar." On June 28, the Orangetown police will be working cooperatively with Federal Authorities on a noise test to be held on the road. A New York State noise law which went into effect April 1, 1977 is stalled in implementation because the regulations have not been promulgated by the NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation. Colello promised to work closely with this agency to carry out a noise control program for this area. The question of safety of the Sparkill Viaduct was raised, constructed decades ago, it is only inspected every two years. Can it still withstand the ever increasing traffic? The next inspection of the structure is due in September.

Truck volume is increasing. Only a concerted effort by concerned citizens through elected representatives can be successful. A groundswell movement among area residents is evident. Senator Winikow and Representative Levy are working on the problem with the State DOT. Is a breakthrough near in this 10 year old issue? ■

**PLEASE
REFER TO
EXTRA BULLETIN
UPDATE —
CENTER FOLD
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Publicized by "Oz" and Jenny Hammerstein, the Blue Grass Fair was off and running on Memorial Day.

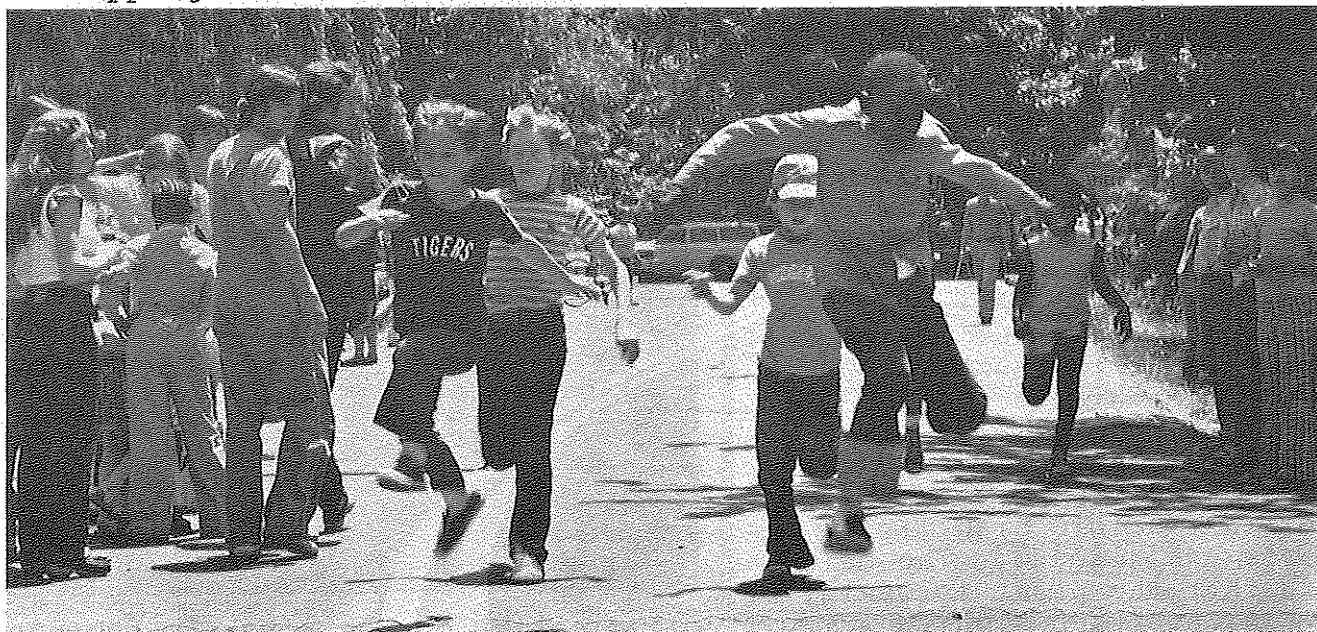


Commemorative speeches were given at Veterans Memorial in Piermont.

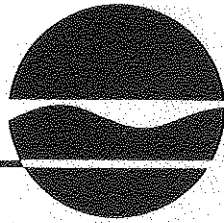
BLUEGRASS FAIR



The music by "The New Hudson River Boys" kept people dancing and clapping the whole afternoon.



Games of skill and strength keep the athletic occupied.



ON DRINKING FROM SEWERS

The time was when the Hudson River served many of the needs of people living in the region. The water was potable, swimming popular, fishing profitable, transportation cheap, waste disposal quick and easy. Or one could just sit back and enjoy the scenic splendor of it all. Now its role in service of one of our baser needs, as a conduit for our sewage, has eliminated several of its other assets. The trouble here as elsewhere is that the river has been a "commons," readily accessible to all, but destined to be spoiled when all became too large in number. Since limits to growth have always been considered slightly un-American, the inevitable has happened.

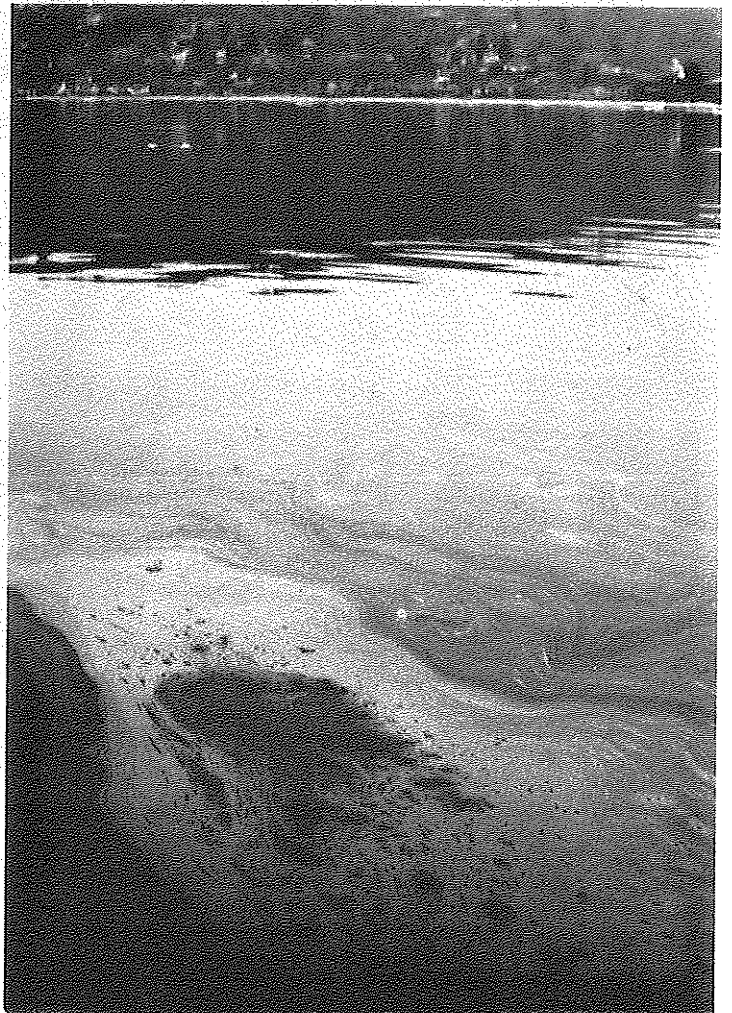
Of course there were rules and regulations to prevent some abuses, but these were rarely enforced. Now the regulations are stronger, providing jobs for water quality experts, environmental commissions, lawyers and assorted other officials. But still the rules of the game are different on paper than in practice. One local example is the sewage outfall just south of Piermont Pier, from which some 20 million gallons/day are discharged from the County and Orangetown sewage treatment plants, and from Clevepak. Some residents along the Erie Trail Park will no doubt attest that not all raw sewage reaches the treatment plants, but that's another story.

This summer more stringent limits will go into effect for the County treatment plant. They are to a large degree an exercise in futility. The plant is not complying with present standards and it will be late 1981 at the earliest before significant improvements can be made. The main problem is that the plant is operating at about 150% of its design capacity. As a result, coliform bacteria,

suspended solids and biological oxygen demand exceed the proscribed limits. This can pose a potential human health hazard, contribute to siltation problems, and adversely affect the river life.

A complicating factor is the particular location of the outfall near the end of the Pier rather than closer to the main channel. Since the lower Hudson is a tidal estuary, the effluent doesn't always go down-river; about half the time it goes upriver and is carried by currents in along the Piermont/Grand View shoreline. Most residents of southern Rockland County are in the fortunate position of never again having to see or smell what goes down the drain. Those of us along the river and in the vicinity of the treatment plants are not so lucky. Property owners along the waterfront, some having spent several

(continued page 14)



Oil floating on the river in February from oil spill near Bear Mt.

Notes Around the Village

PARKING

Main Street residents and shoppers will have an easier time finding a parking space now. The Village has a lease on the property opposite the Village Hall and has created parking for a score of cars. Evergreens planted along the edge of the lot have added to the spruced up appearance of Main Street.

VILLAGE HALL

The newly painted Village Hall is booked solid for weekends this month--graduation parties, annual dinners, retirement parties, christenings, showers and so on. It has become a very popular place to celebrate. Art shows continue to add to its attractiveness. During the month of June abstract paintings by Helen Burden Price and primitive paintings by Ermanno Pagliarole were on display.

FIRE DEPT. BOAT

The Fire Department Boat was launched with appropriate ceremonies and is now in service for any water emergency. People who moor their boats in local marinas are for the first time being asked to help defray the cost of maintaining the service.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Piermont's Road Department will be augmented by two CETA employees for six months. These men will be used for the usual summer projects--fence mending, berm repairs, etc.

BIKE TRAIL

The Bike Trail proposed by the Palisades Interstate Parks Commission to run from the George Washington Bridge to Bear Mountain is scheduled to get underway in mid-summer. The route will run through Piermont along Main Street and on River Road through Grand View.

TRUCKS ON MAIN STREET

Bud Mills, Superintendent at Clevepak, recently met with the Board in an effort to divert truck traffic from Main Street. This could make a significant improvement for residents and for business too. Milton Immermann has been named ombudsman for the people of Piermont, and will carry their interests in dealing with Clevepak. Mr. Immermann's experience with corporate problems, design, and planning makes us hopeful of good things to come.

TRAFFIC SIGNS

We begin to wonder is home rule disappearing? For vehicle and traffic regulations, the answer is YES! Those huge signs you see are state mandated. However, state mandate may work for us in another area. Senator Winikow has responded to the call for help from the Village Board. After months of effort to force CONRAIL to repair the track crossing at Piermont Avenue, an appeal was sent through Senator Winikow to the Department of Transportation. The Board is encouraged by the State's response--perhaps those awful bumps will soon be disappearing.

SUMMER PROGRAM

The 1977 Summer Recreation Program Director is Gene Baccaglini who has been assisting at the Teen Center all winter. A safe, happy summer for all the children in Piermont is the goal. . .

CREEK STOCKED

The Lions Club of Piermont recently paid off a pledge to the Village. A check was presented to pay for the cost of stocking Sparkill Creek which was the price of acquiring the property necessary to widen the intersection at Valentine and Piermont Avenues. ■

Compliments of the Chef

We've gone a bit afield of Piermont to cover some gastronomic news in Tappan. The Old '76 House, has been purchased by a group of Sneden's Landing residents and area Chef Joe Hyde (whose frozen foods are available for sale at the EXCHANGE) has been installed in charge of the cuisine. French trained, Joe Hyde is the author of several cookbooks that explain his philosophy of cooking--bring out the essence and texture of first rate food rather than camouflage ordinary quality with fancy sauces.

With the current absorption in our roots, it is particularly appealing to dine in the historic, landmark colonial inn that saw Washington, Lafayette and Alexander Hamilton as guests. Fresh flowers and candles at each table are in keeping with the cordial ambience of the dark panelled wooden walls and heavy

beams. To start with a basket of crudities is presented highlighted by broccoli, brussel sprouts, and parsnips. A delicious dressing brought out the fresh flavor of the vegetables. The appetizers and soups were especially good. Fresh mussels and oysters, chilled spinach soup or a combined scallop, clam and mussel chowder were heartily enjoyed.

Dinner entrees (luncheon is also served), ranging from \$6.25 to \$10.95 a la carte, include chicken breasts sauteed with mushrooms, duck, scallops, broiled fish, as well as the sizzling steaks and chops that often wafted past our table. We opted for the duck and the scallops. The scallops broiled in butter sauce were as tasty as any we've ever had. The duck was satisfactory. Desserts include apple cobbler, pecan pie and a cheesecake that we thought was luscious. ■

DRINKING FROM SEWERS...con't

thousand dollars each to connect their houses into the sewer line have good reason to be annoyed. The problem is likely to worsen over the next several years as new construction in the county results in additional tie-ins to the sewer systems.

There are numerous municipal outfalls along the river, including a 400 million gallon/day input on the west side of Manhattan. Toxic chemicals also end up in the river, including both visible and invisible varieties (oil and PCB's, etc.). Nonetheless New York City would like to drink from this witches brew. There are those who have believed for some time that people were a bit silly down at the Big Apple, and this scheme will be likely to bolster such opinions. Offered by the redoubtable Army Corps of Engineers as a response to water shortages in the mid-1960's, the plan calls for drawing up to 950 million gallons/day from the river near Esopus. The water would be cleaned in a treatment plant in Modena, piped south into Rockland County through a

16-foot aqueduct several hundred feet below the surface, across the river near Rockland Lake and on to the Kensico Reservoir. Public hearings on the plan have been held recently and many of its shortcomings have been pointed up. Aside from the probable destructive impact on river life, the need for such a project has not been demonstrated by reliable estimates of future population and industrial growth. Also, the Corps projections of water usage are unreasonably high, the full potential for water conservation is not developed, the capital and energy costs are astronomical, the quality of the water for drinking purposes is dubious, institutional arrangements for apportioning water in times of drought have not been evaluated, and so on.

Water supply and sewage disposal problems are closely related. If we all used less water we wouldn't be facing potential costs of billions of dollars for new sources and millions more dollars for larger facilities to treat the sewage. ■

PEOPLE

PIERMONT NATIVE SON ACHIEVES SUCCESS

William Boydston Jr. graduated from the BOCES (Board of Cooperative Educational Services) Food Services program in 1971. Today he is the instructor of that same program at BOCES.

For Bill it was a long but rewarding road to travel. After graduating from Tappan Zee High School and the Food Services course, he enrolled and graduated from the Culinary Institute of America, received his B.S. degree in Hotel Administration from the University of New Haven, and continued on at the CUNY Regional Center for Vocational Teachers Education, for certification in teaching occupational education. Meanwhile he received on the job experience as Assistant Chef at the Orangeburg Holiday Inn.

In 1975 Bill was chosen to teach a newly opened course at BOCES, the Exploratory Food program, designed to introduce 7th and 8th graders to trade courses. So successful was he at teaching that when the instructor of high school Food Services retired in 1976, Bill was named his successor, and came full circle.

PIERMONT ON ORANGETOWN ADVISORY BOARD

Mrs. Agnes Mackay Dark of Roundtree has been named to the Orangetown Advisory Board of Senior Citizens. A Social Gerontologist, Mrs. Dark is the Administrator of the German Masonic Home in Tappan.

GALLERY FEATURES PIERMONT ARTIST

Piermont mixed-media artist Richard Lee will have a one-man show at the Sienna Gallery, 39 No. Broadway in Nyack, during the month of September. Lee, who describes himself as a "Journeyman electrician by avocation and an artist by profession," pursues his

art work in his studio at Lawrence Park. "Lawrence Park," the artist says, "is not the romantic bohemian studio setting expected by many 'arty' people. It's not Easthampton nor is it SoHo. It's a modern place to work and live, not in the past but in 1977."

The artist is preoccupied with "modern times" and this is reflected in his work, which varies in media as well as content. Being a mixed-media artist, Lee's means to an end include: painting, drawing, collage, montage, light drawing constructions, video and film. Needless to say some of the technology he uses is borrowed from his electrical construction experiences.

NEW ARRIVALS

June and Paul Starke of 264 Piermont Avenue are the very happy new parents of a beautiful baby daughter. Alexis Leigh Starke was born on April 4th at 8:56 p.m. and weighed 8 lbs. 4 oz. Welcome Alexis!

Diane and Jack Franken have just moved to 744 Route 9W and are absolutely in love with this area and the view from their mountainside home.

PCA HONORS MAGGIE VOORHEES

At the 11th Annual Dinner held in March, Maggie Voorhees was presented a handsome pewter plate, the symbol of the PCA President's Award. Each year the out-going PCA President selects the winner, who has given outstanding service to the organization.

Maggie has been a mainstay of the Civic Association since she moved to Piermont. She masterminded the Piermont Directory, has served as our Secretary-Treasurer for two terms, works to our credit at the Thrift Shop, was co-editor of the third edition of the Village Cookbook and is always there to lend a hand in our various projects.

Thank you Maggie, we appreciate you! ■

AT THE PIERMONT LIBRARY...

The Piermont Library has added many new children's and young adult books to its shelves, and summer reading programs are planned to use the enlarged collection.

The Beachcomber Reading Club will continue this summer--open to any youngster who can read. Children must register for the Club at the Library between June 27 and July 8. The Club will meet on Tuesday afternoons at 3 p.m. starting July 11 for five weeks, and there will be a party for members at the last meeting on Tuesday, August 9. Participating children "go beachcombing" and choose interesting shells each week they finish reading and report on their book.

For the first time this year the Library will also sponsor a reading club for older children--Junior High School age on up. The Club is called Critic's Choice and members will read and discuss current books. They will also see films and do creative writing of their own. This Club will meet on Friday afternoons at 3 p.m.--registration and meetings are the same as the Beachcombers Club, June 27 to July 8, followed by five weeks of meetings.

Mardy Allen, who runs a shop by that name in Piermont, displayed her pictures, collages, and arrangements made with dried flowers in the Hall Gallery in June. She also came to the Library and spoke on the subject of dried flowers, how to collect, dry, and arrange them.

The July display in the gallery will be of "old favorite" toys belonging to staff members and library friends. In August the display will be of work from the children in the Summer Youth Recreation Program--always an imaginative and exuberant show.

Summer hours are upon us--the last Saturday opening was June 11. From now until after Labor Day the Library will be closed weekends, but open the regular 9-12, 3-5 and 7-10 hours five days a week, Monday through Friday.

In response to requests from some of the larger libraries in the county, the Ramapo Catskill Library System has instituted a new program called "Free Access." Under this system you must present a library card stamped "Free Access" from your home library in order to take out books from other libraries in RCLS. Cards must be renewed annually. The Free Access system makes it possible to keep records of the number of books borrowed from users outside the home library so that the larger libraries in the county, like Finkelstein in Spring Valley, can be reimbursed by the system for the service they provide to non-residents. It in no way affects borrowing privileges, which remain open at all libraries in the county. To get your library card, consult Librarian Grace Meyer at the Piermont Library.

RCLS has started several other new programs recently. It now has a Books-by-Mail Program for the home-bound. If you cannot leave your home, or live in an area not served by a library, RCLS will bring the library to you--through your mailbox. For information and a catalogue write to RCLS, 619 North Street, Middletown, New York 10940 or call 343-1131.

The Piermont Library has received a Filmstrip Viewer and two cassette players on indefinite loan from RCLS. The System purchased this equipment for loan to member libraries under the Adult Independent Learner Program Grant. The equipment may be used in conjunction with the AIL tapes and filmstrips--the Library has the catalogue--and Piermonters can use it to listen to the ten Oral History tapes which the Bicentennial Committee produced. These tapes are available for listening at the Library only.

Julie Jackson and Lisa Merrill are the two new members of the Piermont Library Board. Julie served as Children's Librarian while Paula Scholz was away last year in Japan, and Lisa has returned to the Board after several years of absence. ■

shop talk...

EPG OPENS

A new shop, EPG Originals, will open this summer at 512 Piermont Avenue. EPG is a collection of soft sculpture children's toys and accent pillows. Elise Picard-Gaston designs and manufactures these delightful toys - the Tooth Fairy, Busy Snake, Mother Goose and others. They sell throughout the United States from New York and Oyster Bay, Palm Beach, to Dallas and San Francisco. The toys are also included in the Horchow, Kaleidescope, and Geno Mail-Order Collections.

Elise will divide her shop as a workroom for design purpose, and a showroom where her complete collection can be seen.

MARDY MOVES

After July first, MARDY ALLEN will be relocated in the Piermont Exchange, next door to her present shop.

She will move her silk and dried flowers, mini-basket bouquets and flower arrangements, pressed flower collage, silk screen prints and lithographs, baskets et al and is looking forward to seeing all her customers and friends in her new spot.

THRIFT SHOP

The Tappan Zee Thrift Shop on Piermont Avenue will be closed from Saturday, July 16 to Tuesday, September 13. Donations are needed prior to the re-opening of the shop in September and will be happily received on three preceding Saturdays: August 20, August 27 and September 3, during the hours of 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Donations may be made in the name of any of the following organizations: Community Play Group; Mental Health of Rockland County; Palisades Free Library; Piermont Civic Association; Piermont Library; Piermont Reformed Church; Rockland Country Day School; St. John's Church; Tappantown Historical Association; Women's Way.

SAL IS BACK IN TOWN

Sal Conigliaro has had his whirl with idleness - and he is back in our alley.

On November 14, 1976 - the occasion of his 80th birthday - Sal made what seemed an appropriate, if however momentous, decision. His thought was to close his tailoring business of 42 years in Piermont, put his shop and his house on the market, say goodbye to friends and customers, the Sons of Italy Social Club, antiques and Main Street.

He took his treasures down from the walls; photos of organization meetings, honorary awards, news clippings of happily remembered events he had chaired. A new sign on the familiar little screen door read, "Retired, thank you for all past patronage." Indeed, he seriously packed off to Florida and retirement.

Sal's son and five grandchildren welcomed him and his wife to Tampa, Florida. His sister, on Florida's east coast welcomed him to Hollywood. He stayed retired altogether three months. Boring it was, he reports. He did not fish nor walk on the beach, nor pick up shells. He slept a great part of the time. Awake, he missed his customers, "who are my friends," his organization meetings (Sal belongs to and actively participates in the Sons of Italy, American Legion, Rotary Club, Masonic Lodge, Columbus Day Club, UNICO), and his work. In talking it over Sal said he so wanted to be busy, doing what he knows best - tailoring, in his Piermont shop. And so, he said quietly, nodding his head, "I made up my mind to return to beautiful Rockland County, where I belong."

Sal is back in his nest. He has shortened his time and days of work - well somewhat - open Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday 9 to 5. Closed Monday and Wednesday. The antiques are out. Just tailoring. Welcome home, Sal, everyone missed you. ■

IMMUNIZE NOW

With recent outbreaks of measles nationwide, concern has been growing over the need for Americans to be immunized against important infectious diseases. Although New York State Public Health Law (Section 2164) requires children entering school to be adequately immunized against diphtheria, measles, polio, rubella, and mumps, some slip through without this protection.

In Piermont parents may receive free immunizations and physical examinations for their children up to school age at the County Health Department well-baby clinic located in the Community Center on Hudson Terrace. Dr. Rene Brilliant, a Grand View pediatrician, and Vivian Gumby, a public health nurse, staff the clinic on the third Monday of each month from 9 a.m. to noon.

The well-baby clinic was started

several years ago in response to strong community demand. Besides providing immunizations, the clinic provides thorough physical examinations. If a health problem is discovered and the physician feels it can be adequately monitored at the clinic, treatment will be offered or referral to other county services will be made. When acute illness such as respiratory infection is found the child will be referred to a private physician. Vision and hearing screening is also available as is referral to the Child Development Center in Pomona for evaluation of any developmental lag.

Check your child's immunization record now. If you find it does not conform to the New York State Guideline below, then make an appointment at the clinic by calling 354-0200 or just come to the clinic on the third Monday of the month. It's important. ■

PRIMARY IMMUNIZATIONS

Age	Vaccines
2 Months	DPT & POLIO
4 Months	DPT & POLIO
6 Months	DPT & POLIO
15 Months	MEASLES
	RUBELLA
	MUMPS
18 Months	DPT & POLIO

BOOSTER IMMUNIZATIONS

4-5 Years	DPT & POLIO
Every 10 Years	TETANUS (Adult) Should be given intramuscularly at 10 year intervals to persons age 6 and above.

[DPT - Diphtheria]

EDITOR'S NOTE TO GRAND VIEW RESIDENTS ►►►

The Piermont NEWSLETTER is published three times a year by the Piermont Civic Association. Our aim is to make people aware of the things happening that affect Piermont, and much that affects Piermont affects Grand View, too. Ecological issues, 9W news, taxes, history, we have it all. And now we have a special Grand View column written by Mary and Eugene Polinsky, devoted solely to your news.

If you have enjoyed this issue won't you please become a subscriber or better yet a PCA member? The PCA is a non-profit organization and the NEWSLETTER is lovingly done by volunteers. We are supported solely by donations and fund raising events.

GRAND VIEW -- TERRA INCOGNITA

And we like it that way.

Ask most of the residents of Rockland County where Grand View-on-Hudson is and they'll come up with a reply something like: "Over by the river?" Over by the river, indeed. People from Nyack and Piermont who venture through Grand View -- carefully -- sometimes wonder fleetingly what Grand View is all about. And then they're through it and gone. But Grand View deserves more than a passing thought. As the smallest incorporated village in New York State it generates a disproportionately large amount of attention because of the almost fierce partisanship of the Grand View residents.

Perhaps some facts and figures, just for perspective, will help. Grand View-on-Hudson is 1.8 miles long and nowhere over 800 feet wide. Its one road, River Road, runs the length of the village. Two short, dead-end streets, Station Lane and Bight Lane, hardly detract from Grand View's basic description as a "one street town." River Road follows the old Indian trail along the river the white men discovered 368 years ago.

The village, being incorporated, has its own government which levies taxes on residents over and above county, town, school, state and federal

taxes. The Hon. Lorraine Moscow is Mayor, in her third term. She and four other trustees, William Donn, Otto Hassold, Robert Cummins and Albert Bensusen, comprise the village board. The village has its own police department, Chief Norwood Fitts as many speeders know. The village police court justice is William Youngblood, as many of the same know. There is a health officer, a village attorney, clerk, treasurer, engineer, building inspector, zoning board, planning board. And all for the 340 residents of the village. Elections are a yearly sporting event. They used to be humdrum affairs but then the blood rose and for a long while there have been surprisingly contentious elections considering the paucity of differences other than those foisted by the party excitations. A return to quieter spirits is, however, noticeable.

Grand View village interests range from bumpy roads and sewer hookups to musicales, art showings and an annual Christmas party for the whole town. The surprising variety of artists, professionals, professors, doctors, writers, lawyers is still limited in scope almost exclusively to white collar, to the regret of many residents: but prices and taxes being what they are, little change from that stratification is foreseeable. There is no doubt that the villagers take pride in Grand View and that former residents seem always to retain some link which brings them back sometimes after forty--or fifty--or sixty years.

To continue receiving the NEWSLETTER please fill in the form below:

SEND TO PCA, BOX 22, PIERMONT, NEW YORK 10968

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

- I have enclosed \$2.00 for a year's subscription
- I have enclosed \$5.00 for a year's PCA membership which includes the NEWSLETTER.

THE PIERMONT NEWSLETTER is published three times a year by the Piermont Civic Association. This issue was written by: Mardy Allen, Liz Barnes, Bob Bradbury, Mimi Bryan, Gilbert Burck, Stan Jacobs, Lori Joseph, Lisa Merrill, Eve Mesnick, Carole Novick, Lloyd Novick, Eugene Polinsky, Mary Polinsky, Marge Spring, and Maggie Voorhees. Photographs by Sally Savage and Charlie Windisch. Art Director Lori Joseph, Editor Carole Novick. Typing by Liz Barnes

A REMINDER...

It hasn't happened yet, but when the summer heat does hit us, remember that the downstairs reading room in the Piermont Library is one of the coolest places in town--come in and use it. Summer is for reading.

GARBAGE

According to the law, containers for garbage must be either plastic or metal with secure covers. Plastic bags or cardboard boxes do not comply with the law.

**Piermont Newsletter
Piermont, New York 10968**

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**OCCUPANT
Piermont, New York 10968**

extra ★★ bulletin ★★ extra

Through trucks weighing over 10 tons will be banned from 9W if we all act to support a new law sponsored by State Senator Linda Winikow and signed by Governor Carey on June 14.

The law specifically gives the N.Y. State Commissioner of Transportation the authority to restrict truck traffic on specified roads in residential areas. The new Commissioner of Transportation, William C. Hennessy has announced a tentative proposal to ban through trucks (excluding those making deliveries along the roads affected) weighing over 10 tons from Route 9W from the N.Y.-N.J. state line to the N.Y. Thruway interchange in South Nyack and from Route 340 south of Sparkill. Such a ban would get rid of our worst noise and traffic problems, since it would apply to all trailer trucks (auto carriers, general freight, liquid and gas tankers) except if they are making a delivery along the prohibited sections of 9W and 340--a rather unlikely possibility.

The proposal for such a ban on heavy, over-the-road trucks that use 9W as a convenient short cut and to evade tolls on the Thruway, appears to be a trial balloon by the Commissioner. No restriction will be implemented until after a public meeting is held in Orangetown at which local residents and officials (and presumably the truckers' lobby) can express their views on the proposed ban. It is very likely that if the truckers complain loud enough, and local residents do not give vigorous support, the proposal will be quietly dropped and 9W will continue for evermore to be "Gasoline Alley." The time and date of the meeting has not yet been set, but we will notify you when the information is available.

Therefore, it is absolutely essential that residents make their voices heard. You do not have to live on 9W to be affected by the trucks. Remember, your children travel in the school buses on 9W, remember all the times you as a motorist have been harassed by trucks tailgating, not allowing you to slow down to make a turn, and to the noise and pollution they bring to our community. And remember all the serious accidents. This is our chance to control traffic in our own community.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

1. Write and strongly urge the immediate implementation of the ban on transient trucks weighing over 10 tons.

Send to:

Commissioner William C. Hennessy
N.Y. State Dept. of Transportation
1220 Washington Avenue
Albany, N.Y. 12232

State Senator Linda Winikow
710 Legislative Office Bldg.
and Albany, N.Y. 12224

2. Be prepared to turn out in force when Senator Winikow and the State DOT hold a public meeting in Orangeburg.

This is the first real chance we have had, and it could be our last if the proposal is met with indifference by residents. Let's turn "Gasoline Alley" back into the quiet residential community we all want to live in.