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# THE PIERMONT NEWSLETTER

VOLUME XIII NO. 2

PUBLISHED BY THE PIERMONT CIVIC ASSOCIATION

JULY 1979



*Wooden boat made by and belonging to Dick Janda.*

## TSCA SMALL CRAFT FESTIVAL

By Carol Janda

The Small Craft Festival sponsored by the New York Greater Metropolitan Area Chapter of the Traditional Small Craft Association was held in Piermont on May 19 and 20. In spite of rain, a strong east wind and choppy water on Saturday, 55 people participated. Eleven boats were present: three dories, a Seabright skiff, a Whitehall pulling boat, a dink, a St. Lawrence skiff, a cat boat, two wherries, and a Drascombe Lugger.

Activities included use of the boats, workshops on oarmaking, the history and use of Japanese tools, and sail-making, the latter given by Steve and Anne Lewis of Tappan.

On Saturday evening Jim Brown, a well-known small craft and multihull

designer, spoke on a boat building technique called constant camber construction. His entertaining and informative presentation included slides on the building and sailing of a prototype using this construction method.

Following the program the drawing was held for the raffle. Ann Wells, on the staff of Wooden Boat magazine who travelled from Maine to attend, drew the winning ticket. John Sullivan of Piermont won the 8 foot spruce oars donated by Boatcraft, Ltd., and oarlocks and sockets donated by Ken's Boat Shop. John's comment was, "I just bought that raffle ticket!"

Sunday brought calm water and light breezes, so the boats were used con-

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tinually all during the morning and early afternoon, a satisfying ending to our first festival.

Interest in small craft, particularly in wood boats based on traditional designs, has grown enormously in the last decade. All over the country hundreds of enthusiasts are holding meets like the one in Piermont. Economics has certainly played a part in the trend toward craft which can be built, maintained and stored in the backyard. But there's more to it than money. More and more people are realizing that pleasure on the water does not depend on a great hunk of plastic or a gas guzzling engine. The return to wood and fine small boats is part of a larger trend back to more sensible and responsible life styles.

The Traditional Small Craft Association was founded by a group of builders, owners and enthusiasts to encourage the construction and use of small craft for manual and sail propulsion, built from designs developed prior to the gasoline marine engine, and including modern adaptations and variants. A partial list of the Association objectives includes:

1. Protection of the boating environment: Guaranteed access to the water for small boats. Provision of public landings and campsites. Protection against excessive real estate development of the shores. Protection against pollution, contamination, noise and excessive speeds.
2. Protection of the rights of the builders, owners and users of small boats: Defense against excessive, unreasonable and unnecessary regulation by federal, state and local authorities.
3. Education for boating safety. Education of the public in the selection of worthy boats as distinguished from commercial junk, and their proper use and care.
4. Encouragement, initiation and organization of shared recreational boating activities, meets, regattas, conferences, boating festivals, and cruises.

[This list was drawn up by John Gardner, past president of TSCA, a technical editor of National Fisherman, and Curator of Small Craft at Mystic Seaport.]

We in the NYGMA Chapter of TSCA wish to thank all the Piermonters who helped make our Festival a success. Special thanks to Mayor Bryan, Ken Barnes, Phyllis Brunson, Mildred Burck and Mardy Allen for help in organization, and preparation of the excellent map handed out to participants. Grace Meyer opened the Library to our members, showed boating films, and displayed boat plans, tools and models. The Krackerbox Marina provided facilities for fun in boats, and all the businesses in the Village were friendly and helpful in serving our members. We hope to see you all next year.

Anyone wishing to join TSCA is invited to our meetings, held the third Friday of each month at 8 p.m. We meet in the boat building shop of Boatcraft, Ltd., 689 Minneford Ave., City Island, N.Y. 10464. Programs include films, demonstrations of boat building techniques, etc. For more information contact Dick Janda at the above address. ■

#### RECREATION COMMISSION CREATED

Trustee Grace Meyer introduced legislation creating a Recreation Commission which is charged with advising the Village Board on recreation matters--development of programs, coordination with privately sponsored activities available to Piermont residents, seeking funds, planning for future recreation facilities and activities according to the needs of Village residents.

Art Rittenburg, Chairman of the new commission, believes that recreation plays an important part in a person's development. Following the adage, "a healthy mind in a healthy body," he will encourage healthy bodies through a well balanced Village recreation program. Art is warm, enthusiastic, intelligent--the kind of man you like your kids to get to know.

Piermonters who have watched Art as Dodger coach (T-Shirt League) since his coming to Piermont six years ago,

know he likes kids, know he sees team sports as a chance for them to learn how to play hard, how to acquire physical skills and coordination, how to enjoy and value team play, and yes, how to lose gracefully.

Baseball has always been his special sport, both as a player in school and as a fan (Red Sox, of course, for a Boston U grad!). His background seems tailor-made, fitting him for this job--his working knowledge of sports is just a start. Experience as father and grandfather has given him an understanding and genuine interest in kids; from service in the Marine Corps during WW II, he brings a nononsense toughness and realism; the demands of his job as a corporate Vice President (Prentice Hall, General Books Division) certainly require organizational know-how and the ability to draw out and utilize fully the skills of others.

Under Art's leadership, Pat Hennion (Teen Center Director), Phyllis Brunson (Community Playgroup Chairman), Brian Holihan (DeWitt Clinton HS Guidance Counselor), Ronnie Cocker (Den Mother) and Tim O'Shea (Police Chief) will deliver the kind of well-rounded recreation program the residents of Piermont want. ■

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## ACTIVE LIONS

The Piermont Lions would like to thank all our neighbors who continue to support the Lions glass recycling program. Remember GREEN & CLEAR GLASS ONLY. Sorry but the Lions cannot accept brown glass or aluminum.

During the month of April ground was broken for the Parelli Park project. As you can see from the photos there was a great deal of activity. Because of all the rain during the month of May progress was slowed considerably; but things are looking better and the Lions hope completion is not too far off.

Come down and take a look at your park and watch it progress.

[PHOTO'S on page 15]

REGISTRATION FOR SUMMER PROGRAM  
Children who live in Piermont are lucky. Every year they have an exciting Summer Program to look forward to when school is out, and it is essentially free. The only costs are a small entrance fee to Tallman Park Pool for swimming and an occasional extra charge for a special Friday excursion. The program is open to any child entering first grade up to 13 years old. Registration is necessary to join. Forms can be obtained at the Library or at the Village Hall. The program lasts for five weeks--beginning July 9 and ending August 10. Children meet each morning at the Community Center at 9 a.m. with activities ending at 12:30. Swimming instruction will be at Tallman Park. Younger children will alternate days with older group. Every Friday a trip or activity is planned, ending with a parade on the last Friday, August 10.

Pat Hennion, Director of the Teen Center, will be heading the Summer Program this year. Pat has lived in Piermont all of his life and is a good friend and neighbor to many Piermont young people. We are also fortunate to have the DeLoatch sisters back. Diane will be instructor for Arts and Crafts and Lysa will be in charge of cooking and sewing programs. Cooperative Extension will add a dimension to the cooking program this year by offering instruction in nutrition once a week to older members.

Grace Meyer, Village Trustee, will be administrator of the program and will also conduct nature walks once a week. Any parent who can volunteer time as chaperone, driver, or has a special interest that they are willing to share with the children, please call Grace Meyer at the Library. Your help and interest would be most appreciated. ■

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1979 PCA Dues  
are still being collected.

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## at the Library...

The shelves in the Children's Room are filled with many new books to add to summer reading fun--some old favorites, some new titles by popular authors and some that you've never heard of before. The Beachcomber Reading Club begins July 10 and lasts for five weeks. Children must register at the Library to be a member. The Reading Club meets every Tuesday afternoon at 3 p.m. At that time books read the previous week are discussed, "beachcombings" are collected and a special program is planned for the afternoon. July 10 begins the series with a craft program, followed by three Tuesday afternoons of films (new CBS Afterschool Specials) and ending with the traditional party on August 7. The Beachcomber Reading Club can really add a dimension to your child's summer. Why not encourage them to join if they haven't already?

Parking continues to be a problem at the Library, but has been somewhat alleviated by the new 1 hour parking regulations directly in front of the building--1 hour parking, from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., Monday through Friday. Also, Library patrons may go up First Street, the short street just south of the Library, and park in spaces at top during daytime hours. Remember, the Library is closed on Saturdays during the summer. The other hours remain the same--Monday through Friday, 10-12, 3-5, 7-10.

A new office has just been completed for Library Director and staff on the first floor of the Library. This

second floor for a much needed Reference Room and expansion of the collection. The Environmental File compiled by the Piermont Conservation Advisory Commission can be found in this room and is available for public use. Many reports, studies, newspaper clippings, etc. relevant to Piermont and the Hudson River, as well as other environmental topics, gathered in one place is one of the Library's most valuable reference resources.

As a fund raising project, the Board of Trustees is planning a garage sale for Saturday, July 28 (raindate - Sunday, July 29) from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the front lawn of the Polinsky home, 225 River Road in Grand View. Small items can be brought to the Library prior to the sale. Larger items will require a telephone call in order to make special arrangements for their delivery. Call Library - 359-4595 or Mary Polinsky - 359-1284 (home) or 358-2919 (Grand View Village Hall until 1 p.m.). Help the Library make this a successful "first" by donating saleable items and then coming to see what other goodies are available. Remember, mark July 28 on your calendar. ■

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## CLEVEPAK

By Margie Spring

Clevepak Corporation, which in January bought the portion of the mill that it had been leasing for five years from Continental Can, has made Piermont its center of paper recycling operations in the East. With this commitment to stay in the area, Clevepak is also launching what Mill Division General Manager John vanKerkhoven calls "a new area of cooperation with the Village."

Recent manifestations of this closer working relationship with the Village were symbolized in January by a dinner at Cornetta's that Clevepak gave for members of the Village Board, Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, Environmental Committee and Parks Commission. After the dinner, Ed Merrill, the Waste Procurement Manager, explained and

Clevepak...cont'd.

showed slides about Clevepak's nationwide activities.

The Company produces--in 31 plants from New Jersey to California, from Massachusetts to Texas--a large variety of recycled paperboard and packaging products, as well as industrial products. The following is quoted from Clevepak's 1978 Annual Report:

"We manufacture various grades of recycled paperboard used by our partition, composite container and folding carton operations, and sell the remainder to other converters. We also manufacture elastic and non-elastic ties used primarily in packaging and packaging machinery. Our industrial products include various types of metallic and non-metallic flexible tubing for use as air ducts in commercial structures and automotive emission control systems; wastewater aeration systems for use in municipal sewage and industrial effluent treatment, and automated products for fabric processors. Packaging products represent over 90% of our business and industrial products make up the balance."

John vanKerkhoven answered questions--most of them directed toward environmental control. Mr. vanKerkhoven stated that Clevepak is ahead of schedule in conforming to E.P.A. standards.

Recently, the NEWSLETTER interviewed John vanKerkhoven in his office at Clevepak which has a beautiful view looking onto the river and back towards Piermont. Mr. vanKerkhoven re-emphasized the reality that Clevepak will be in Piermont for a long time as an integral part of the community. He hopes that villagers--in spite of the negative connotations of heavy industry--will continue to think of Clevepak with pride and promised that the Company will do everything it can to make that possible. Pointing to some recent efforts in that direction, Mr. vanKerkhoven mentioned the ten-foot cedar stockade fence built to shield the paper collection operation area and a contract the Company made with the Village for snow removal and sweeping Clevepak's parking lots. The terms of the contract give the Village a small profit.

The Company has cooperated with local Boy Scout troops, arranging mill tours. The scouts bring in five or six different kinds of waste paper and then after their tour, they are shown how to make paper in the Company lab.

Mr. vanKerkhoven said that Clevepak's current goals for the mill were increased production and enlarging its share of the market by additional finishing equipment. These goals are initiating three capital projects. Clevepak is installing a turbine generator which will make the plant's own electricity, will utilize steam from the boiler and use it again in the paper making process. Secondly, a new cleaning system will be installed allowing the plant to branch out into other paper utilization areas. This way, the Company will be able to service a bigger market by running some higher grades of paper. Finally, when the cleaning system has been installed, the water loop will be tightened up so that the same water can be used more times in the paper making process. The pump station at the dam on the creek just upstream from the bridge and the Silk Mill is owned by Clevepak. Here the 600,000 gallons needed per day is taken out and channelled to the plant in water lines which run under Main Street. After being cleaned, less than one half of the water is discharged back into the Hudson. The dam operated by Clevepak also functions as a flood control measure for the town.

Mr. vanKerkhoven asked for our patience, warning that there would be temporary growing pains involved with these projects--probably construction and an increase in truck traffic. Construction will not involve any expansion however; Clevepak owns 30 buildings, some of which are empty. The Company is also exploring the possibility of opening up the Pier to receive barge traffic for deliveries into the plant.

Clevepak is looking for more people to work in the mill--mechanics, electricians and production people. The Company generally tries to hire local people if at all possible to keep the money within the area. At the beginning of June, the mill still

Clevepak...cont'd.

had four full-time summer jobs available for students 18 or over.

CLEVEPAK CORPORATION WILL CONDUCT TOURS OF THE MILL FOR ANYONE INTERESTED ON FRIDAY, JULY 27. THERE WILL BE TOURS AT 11 A.M., 4 P.M., AND 7 P.M. THE TOURS WILL SHOW THE WASTE PAPER PLANT, THE PAPER MACHINE, THE STOCK PREPARATION AREA AND THE LABORATORY. ANYONE INTERESTED, SIGN UP BY CALLING DEBBY AT 359-7730, EXT. 54. ■

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### SOME COMPARATIVELY GOOD NEWS

It's hard to describe tax increases as good news, but Piermont's 1979-1980 tax increase is at least comparatively good news. At a time of double-digit inflation, the Village found itself obliged to raise \$553,617 in taxes this year, or only about 6.5% more than last year's \$519,976. But keeping the percentage that low, according to Mayor Bryan and Treasurer Hardy, was not as easy as it may seem. Most of the big increases in spending were mandatory. Four examples: 1) the Village's ten full-time employees are protected by a contract that calls for a seven percent wage increase; this increased their take from \$177,000 to nearly \$190,000, or by nearly \$13,000. 2) Insurance costs rose \$6,192. 3) Owing to heavy snows last year, some \$8,000 had to be spent on replenishing stocks of sand and salt. 4) Legal fees for defending the Village against suits by Continental Can and Federal Paperboard came to \$17,500.

Although these alone add up to about \$45,000, they were at least partly offset by other revenues. Such things as utility taxes, fees, fines and parking permits brought in about \$10,000 more than they did last year. And federal revenue sharing netted some \$31,000. And thus it was that although its total budget rose to \$656,000, the Village had to raise "only" \$553,617 in taxes. ■

### STATE OF THE VILLAGE REPORT

On Monday evening, April 2, 1979 the Village Board Organization Meeting with the formal swearing in of Village officials and newly appointed Village officers took place. At that time Mayor Bryan gave the "State of the Village Report." The PCA NEWSLETTER would like to share that report with all Village residents.

"It has gradually become the custom to use this forum, our annual reorganization meeting, to analyse the state of the Village; to assess the performance of the immediate past and to indicate where appropriate, proposals and estimates for the future.

Let me say that for the short term future, I am very optimistic. We are enjoying a surge of home improvements and business expansion. We've had a new church dedication, a new service club introduced, and registered a large number of new voters. There has been a proliferation of cottage industries, which means more people staying in the Village during the day--not simply returning as in the typical suburban bedroom community.

We have a large proportion of dynamic individuals, of creative people, of diverse characters.

Yet, lest we become complacent, we can simply look at Village fencing, at litter, at loose animals, at unsupervised or inadequately supervised children.

With regard specifically to Village spending (again for the short term) we are in good fiscal condition; our 1978-79 estimate of revenues proved to be conservative--the prime rate soared just after we had adopted the budget, so the return on our investments was higher than we had anticipated.

At the same time we followed our usual frugal spending pattern. Our physical assets are in good order--under our road maintenance and rebuilding schedule, approximately two-thirds of our streets were resurfaced over the last two years; our "rolling stock" has been gradually upgraded with repair schedules closely adhered to, our replacement program is in hand with the establishment of the capital equipment fund. We will shortly replace two major pieces of equipment--a ten year old dump truck, and a twenty-five year old fire truck. Meantime, our buildings have received the attention they deserve.

recreation use and for parking. There are several advantages to this practice. The land remains on the tax roll under private ownership while becoming (in the case of the parking lots) income producing for the Village, and the land acquires added aesthetic and utilitarian value.

By a wide margin though, our greatest asset is our employees on whose loyalty and integrity we depend absolutely. They work harder, cooperate and share responsibility for the welfare of the people of Piermont to a far greater extent than we have any right to expect considering their pay scale and fringe benefits. They are a most vital part of the team that serves the Village. Their contribution is matched by the large number of commissioners and board members who volunteer time and talent to further enhance our quality of life. No budget could possibly afford the cost of their service, any more than it could adequately reimburse the Trustees. In how many villages does the Fire Commissioner answer all fire calls? Concern himself intimately with every detail of fire department operation? And still have time and energy and enthusiasm to spend on other departments? And where but in Piermont would you find a Department of Public Works Commissioner willing to plow snow with his own truck? Or work all night on a Village emergency. Or design and construct improvements for Village equipment? In how many villages will trustees share the work load so that one of their number can devote full time to seeking grants and attending meetings with people from other governmental agencies?

These people who care--these are our strength.

I seriously question, though, whether in the long run even such dedication and concern will be sufficient. We face a number of very grim prospects: 1) the erosion of our tax base by such maneuvers as the School-Town-Village tax suit against Continental Can and Federal Paper, and the negotiated settlement with Lawrence Park; 2) the state and federal mandates which erode our Village home rule with civil service regulations, requirements for unemployment compensation insurance, minimum wage scales; and 3) the erosion in the amount of state aid to local governments. The proposed reduction from 18% of the state's income tax revenue to a 3 1/4 or 3 1/2% of the state's general revenue is seen by all

reduction for the coming year and a very large one for subsequent ones.

In the interest of our future survival, we will continue to take advantage of the CETA program, of the Community Development Funds, of the Housing Rehabilitation Program to correct violations and upgrade the shelter of our less affluent residents, and to seek whatever funds are available to do the projects we feel are necessary while avoiding the trap of programs and projects which impose the burden of unwarranted future Village expense.

We will continue to offer the services people expect at the lowest possible cost; we will provide the leadership and the climate which encourages people to help themselves and each other. And so perhaps we will survive.

We firmly believe that good will and encouragement achieves desired goals more readily than adoption of adversary positions. However, should this approach fail, we will be ready to do what needs to be done, albeit unpleasant. Most of the Village problems we deal with (other than financial ones) stem from the selfishness or insensitivity of someone.

As inflation continues to exert greater pressure on us all, the Planning Board must address itself anew to the Pier, to the business community, to the potential development of the South Orangetown School District's 40 acre holding surrounding our elementary school. The same inflation will no doubt cause the Zoning Board of Appeals to hear more requests for high density land use--single family homes may well become a luxury few can afford. While conserving and protecting our natural resources, the Environmental Commission must strike a workable balance between ideal and practical. Parks and Recreation Commissioners must create areas for repose and for activity, plan facilities and programs for involvement by many, and varied people.

I truly believe that the people who are members of this administration will continue to meet the challenges of their particular task with the highest standard of conduct, one that leaves no question or doubt--that, at least where ethics is concerned, the ideal is both the goal and the achievement. By the oath we have just taken, we have promised to perform to the best of our ability. I have great faith that sufficient ability, as well as the intention, is there so that great things will be achieved."

# shop talk...

The TAPPAN ZEE THRIFT SHOP at 454 Piermont Avenue will re-open after its summer holiday on September 11. The Shop will be open to receive merchandise on three Saturdays prior to that date: August 18, August 25 and September 8, between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Staff members will welcome your clean, useable thrift items so that they may start the fall season with shelves and racks well stocked and ready to recycle for the benefit of the eleven worthy organizations whose volunteers keep the Shop operating.

Available now at THE PIERMONT EXCHANGE, T-shirts and sweat shirts, silk screened front and back with a panorama of the Village, "Piermont's The Place," available in sizes s,m,l and xl. Our thanks are extended to Sadi and Ken Clements, longtime Piermont residents, for contribution of art work for the silk screening. The Exchange took a booth at the Rockland Charity Fair at the Nanuet Mall in early May for the sole purpose of acquainting those visiting it with the services available in Piermont as well as inviting them personally to visit our historic Village. The shop will be closed for the month of August.

PEDIGREE TOYS has the official 1980 Olympics Mascot, a 24" racoon, which is being offered at \$15 if ordered before June 30, \$20 thereafter. Also, a new department has opened, PIER 9W REPAIRS, offering repair of lamps, lighting fixtures, fans, vacuum cleaners, clocks of any vintage, also antique and contemporary furniture.

It's Circus Time at MARDY ALLENS. Miniature painted clay clowns and elephants are there, to please young and older sawdust fans. For the approaching hot weather she is showing colorful straw and woven scented grass fans that make a cool stir. The shop will be closed during the month of August.

THE NEWLY FORMED PIERMONT BUSINESS ASSOCIATION is designed to include all those having services and businesses in the area, and to encourage participation in any plans which involve business in Piermont. Election of officers has not taken place as yet. Mildred Burck is acting as chairman and Fred Stewart as Treasurer. Dues are \$10 yearly. The group's initial project has been the printing of a map, designed to assist in locating the most direct routes to Piermont, and pinpoint available services to be found here. The Association is grateful to Lori Joseph for the cartography and art work.

Janet Aulisio and her husband, John Dannheiser, are developing a gallery and studio at 500 Main Street, where their paintings are on view. John, a painter and calligrapher, also teaches in Nyack and paints children's portraits. Janet a professional illustrator for Science Fiction, has worked for Prentice Hall, Analog, Galaxy and Marvel Publications. A show of her black and white drawings and illustrations opens at Finkelstein Gallery June 2. Welcome to Piermont!

The exterior facelift of the new home for THE TURNING POINT is about completed-- sand blasted brick facade, new porch and iron railings and pretty entrances are lovely to look upon. Concentration now switches to the interior. Hopefully late summer or early fall will see a dream come true. Meanwhile, beautiful food and fun keep crowds coming to their present flower-bedecked location.

We may be anticipating a new look out on the Hudson this summer. Piermont marinas report many boat owners switching from power to sail, and from Connecticut (and further away) docking to berths closer to home. TAPPAN ZEE MARINA has moved some docks and completed all work on their marina for summer operation. Bill Goswick and Jerry Abels have taken over the KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS MARINA, docks have been changed and it is in ready shape. CORNETTAS has all new floats this year, and has a neat look. The KRACKERBOX MARINA began the season with the Small Craft Festival in May. Happy Sailing!



A new book by the Piermont author, Austin Ferguson, Random Track to Peking, may be had from CLAUSLAND BOOKSHOP. A previous book, Jet Stream, came from the same author.

HELEN SKJERDING, Licensed Real Estate Broker reports a very busy season in her "Hudson River View Properties" business, and welcomes your listings and inquiries. For appointment call 358-0451 or 359-1111.

New, at SJOSTROM SILVERSMITH on Main Street, are handmade sterling silver chains from 15" to 30" long; and, as always, handmade pieces of silver and gold, set with ivory and semiprecious stones.

ELISE PICARD-GASTON is happy to announce that all of her designs are now being sold through the Piermont Exchange. She will be devoting all of her time to designing and manufacturing. Elise also wishes to thank everyone who had endured the frustration of never finding her in, and hopes all will enjoy the wonderful new look The Exchange has given her. ■

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## PEOPLE

### WOODY RETIRES

William Lynch, better known as Woody to most Piermonters, will retire from the South Orangetown School District's Tappan Zee Elementary School on September 1. Woody has been custodian of TZE since it opened 10 years ago and was custodian at the old Sparkill school for 22 years before that. Woody is a veteran of WW II and attended Pace University for two years. Woody first joined the school system in 1947 before it was centralized. He says he was offered the job by Mr. Barone, but he wasn't sure if he would be satisfied with the job if he accepted it. Mr. Barone told him to try it for a while and that is just what Woody did, except "for a while" has lasted for 32 years.

Woody's stay has been a most memorable and enjoyable one over the years, but he almost didn't last the first year of employment. His first year, 1947, was when Piermont received its share of the "Big Snow of '47," with some 26 inches deposited on the ground. He says that this was the only time that he ever had any serious reservations about the job. His love for the children has made his stay a most pleasurable one.

Woody's love of children also reached out into the community with his involvement in many other activities throughout the years. He was one of the founders of Piermont's T-shirt League, of which he remained active with for 16 years. He was also director of St. John's Church C.Y.O. program for 18 years and is still active in the Church Council.

The political system of Piermont is no stranger to Woody either. He was Democratic Committeeman and Chairman for 15 years, and also served as Trustee for 10 years on the Village Board.

If all this hasn't been enough, he is an active member of the V.F.W., Knights of Columbus and Piermont's Fire Department.

When asked what he will do now that he will be receiving a pension, he says that he would like to travel to places such as Ireland and California. He also wants to catch up on many other things that he never had a chance to do in his very active life.

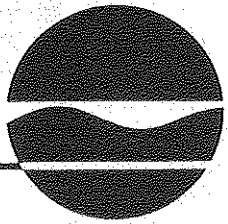
Thank you, Woody, for such devotion over the years in the many activities you have been involved with and we hope that your retirement is a long and happy one. ■

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### NEW ARRIVAL

Welcome to Piermont, Kate Louise, born June 7 to Gene and Nancy Weinberg [Sjofstrom Silversmith]. ■

# The Ecological Perspective



By Mary Evensen

Among Piermont's many pleasures is the abundance of local wildlife. Birds are most commonly observed, and one occasionally sees the larger mammals such as deer, foxes, raccoons and skunks, but there are also many small mammals which are rarely seen. In spite of their inconspicuous lives, they play important roles in the local ecology.

The short-tailed shrew is slate gray and looks much like a stubby-tailed mouse. It is quite a ferocious creature for its size, having an almost insatiable appetite. Although it generally feeds on ground insects and earthworms, it can kill mice and other small vertebrates. It is the only mammal to have poisonous saliva.

The common shrew is much smaller, weighing only a fraction of an ounce, and is a dull brown color. Its diet includes invertebrates and carrion. Both shrews are common in wooded areas. They make runways under the leaf litter where there is an abundance of food. Shrews are active at all times of the day throughout the year. Because of their high metabolic rate they must feed frequently, especially the common shrew, which can starve to death in a few hours.

Shrews breed several times a year, with up to eight young in a litter. The babies grow rapidly and are on their own in a month. Shrews have active lives but rarely survive into their second winter.

Moles are related to shrews, differing mainly in their larger size and specializations for underground living. The star-nosed mole is named for the circle of tentacles on the end of its nose. It inhabits wet areas and eats invertebrates, mainly earthworms. Moles breed in the spring

and have three to five young per litter. Very little is known about the social life of these animals, but pairs may spend the winter together.

Bats are among the most beneficial mammals. There are several species that occur locally, somewhat unimaginatively named little brown bat, big brown bat, pygmy bat and red bat. All our bats are insectivorous and may consume up to a quarter of their weight each night. Bats are inactive during the day, roosting in crevices, caves, trees, attics or abandoned buildings. At twilight they emerge and begin to hunt. They use a form of sonar, emitting a series of high-pitched sounds which are bounced back from objects in their path. This allows them to track insects and avoid obstacles. They either catch the insects in the mouth or scoop them out of the air with the wing membranes. The prey is usually eaten in flight.

Because their food supply is cut off in the fall, bats must either hibernate or migrate. Those that hibernate build up fat reserves in the late summer and early fall and gather in small groups. They undergo extensive metabolic changes which are characteristic of true hibernators and rouse when the first warm days of spring bring out the insects again. Migrating bats travel south in the late summer and return in the spring.

Typically bats only have one offspring per year. Young bats are fairly well developed at birth and grow rapidly. They occasionally are carried by their mother, clinging to the fur on her underside, but usually remain in the roost while she is off hunting. In communal roosts the females recognize their own young by sound. So far as is known, males play no part in raising the young.

The most visible local mammals are the members of the squirrel family. The gray squirrels are the most common; they at least pass through every yard. Other squirrels have more specific requirements. Red

squirrels usually live in pine trees, chipmunks prefer rocky areas and woodchucks are generally found in grassy spots (or in gardens). Unfortunately the most appealing of our squirrels, the flying squirrel, is nocturnal and therefore rarely seen. They live in hollow trees and glide from branch to branch, using flaps of skin that stretch between their front and back legs.

Most squirrels are basically vegetarian but occasionally include insects or small animals in their diet. Squirrels give birth in the spring and may have another litter in the summer if the food supply is plentiful.

When rats and mice are mentioned, the house mouse, Norway rat and black rat usually come to mind. These animals are not native species, they came over from Europe with the early settlers and have been a nuisance ever since. Our native rats and mice are more engaging creatures. The most common mice are the deer mouse and the meadow vole. Deer mice are handsome little animals with glossy dark fur on the back and white underside and feet. They have prominent ears and large dark eyes. Their diet consists mainly of seeds, but they also eat insects. They breed throughout the summer, producing as many as four litters a year.

Voies are about the same size as mice but are more compactly built with short ears and a short tail. The most common one locally is the meadow vole. These animals always live in grassy areas making their homes out of cut grass and grass also forming an important part of their diet. They are prolific breeders, capable of producing litters every three weeks throughout the summer months. Voies undergo population cycles and sometimes are very abundant.

The muskrat, despite its large size and name, is closely related to the voies. The fur of the muskrat is dark brown and thick, insulating the animal from the cold water. Muskrats

thrive in marshes, eating the roots, buds and young stems of aquatic vegetation and building their houses from the unpalatable parts. Muskrats usually have two or three litters a year with six to eight young per litter. The young do not remain with their parents but strike off on their own when they are about six weeks old. There is very little suitable habitat here except for the marsh and creek so many perish while looking for a homesite.

The mammals discussed here are not all that are found in Piermont, but they are the most common ones. There are other small mammals and many larger ones such as the ones mentioned in the beginning paragraph. These animals have been studied more extensively and books about them are available at the Library. ■

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## Senior News

### "VIAL OF LIFE"

The free "Vial-of-Life" program could save your life--if you are 60 or over. Al Puryea, Assistant Captain of Piermont Fire Department's Ambulance Corps, urges all senior citizens to pick up their "vial" at the Piermont Village Hall, Piermont Liquor Store or at his home, 663 Piermont Ave. at the foot of Bay Street. The form inside the vial is simple to fill out--name, address and telephone number of senior citizen, next of kin, who to call in case of emergency, and doctor, along with any pertinent medical information (i.e. heart condition, allergies, etc.). After the form is filled out, it is to be placed inside the vial, stopper replaced and put inside refrigerator in upper right-hand corner. In that way, if a person is unconscious or unable to answer questions, the Ambulance Corps will have the answers necessary to aid in emergency treatment. All information is kept confidential and never leaves the home. This program was originally started in Minnesota by state police. District 1 in Rockland County is promoting it statewide, after a successful pilot project was completed in Spring Hill in northern Spring Valley.

# Notes Around the Village

## FIRE DEPARTMENT ELECTS OFFICERS FOR 1979

### Empire Hose Co. #1 Officers:

President	L. Goswick
Vice President	H. Brawner
Rec. Secretary	G. Bryan
Financial Secretary	A. Lynch
Directors	L. Pagliaroli, E. Scott, R. Codello

### Piermont Fire Dept. Line Officers:

Chief	A. R. Bartley
1st Asst. Chief	C. Pagnozzi
2nd Asst. Chief	F. Taulman
Foreman	K. Fagan
Asst. Foreman	D. Hardy, Jr.
Captain	H. Aubut
Asst. Captain	A. Puryea
Lieutenant	J. B. Alise
Asst. Lieutenant	J. Mercurio
Chief Chauffeur	A. Sisolak
Commissioners	L. Goswick, A. Lynch

### Reminders from the Police Department

\* An engraving tool to be used for identifying your valuables is available--call the Police Dept. to borrow it.

\* When your vacation time comes, notify the Police Dept. when you'll be away. Simply call 359-0240 or stop in the station and fill out a card.

\* Curfew means that children under 16 should not be on the streets, parks, docks, etc. after 9:30 p.m. unless accompanied by parent or guardian.

\* Mini-bikes and mopeds are illegal unless properly registered and insured. They are completely prohibited on Fire Roads.

And from the DPW. . .

\* Do not put out garbage in flimsy plastic bags and do not put garbage at the curb more than 12 hours ahead of collection time.

\* Every pound of newspaper and glass that you recycle helps two ways: it saves Village labor costs and it enables the Fire Department and Lions Club to undertake projects which benefit the Village.

Who to thank department:

\* The Oakleys and Bullocks for the lovely garden on the wall along South Piermont Avenue.

\* Sawnie and Alise Gaston for the attractive fence which screens equipment at the Village Garage.

\* Phyllis Brunson for the improvements in the kitchen at the Community Center.

\* The coaches in the T-Shirt League for their caring about our children.

\* Clevepak for use of their parking lot for overflow during special events, and during the Fire Department carnival.

## BLOOD PRESSURE CLINIC

Some members of Piermont Fire Department Ambulance Corps will be trained by Rockland County Health Department to run a Blood Pressure Clinic in Piermont. The Clinic will be on Saturday afternoons. Dates to be announced. Records will be kept at Rockland County Health Complex. After testing, follow-up letters will be sent with any suggested treatment that might be necessary. This will be a free service to all Piermont residents.

See "VIAL-OF-LIFE" under the Seniors' column.■

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## NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN TRUCKING CONTROVERSY

By Julio Alonso, III

A new ruling by State Supreme Court Justice Theodore A. Kelly has caused further controversy in the lawsuit against the Piermont Zoning Board of Appeals. Justice Kelly ruled in March that the Zoning Board must reconsider variances granted to Rene's Mini Coffee Shop and the

Company.

In his conclusion, Justice Kelly stated that he did not feel the variances preserved the public welfare. Though the ruling has been handed down, an appeal is possible.

The two establishments on Ladik Street are the center of complaints by several Village residents regarding the amount of noise and pollution which exists. Eleven Village residents filed a suit against the Piermont Zoning Board when the variances allowing them to continue to operate were granted.

The new ruling nullifies the variances, but Village Attorney Raymond Icobelli had instructed the two owners, Rene LaTour and John Marchese to continue to operate. Marchese has leased the space for his company from LaTour since 1974. LaTour owns and operates the cafe.

Now that the variances have been ruled void, new public hearings must be held and LaTour will be required to present further information to the Zoning Board.

On June 12 the Zoning Board of Appeals held a meeting to consider granting a new variance. At this meeting Mr. LaTour's attorney presented an amended zone map dated November 29, 1962 which showed the LaTour property listed as a business zone. There are no records available prior to this date. This meeting turned into a heated debate which lasted several hours and was adjourned until September. ■

[Ed. Note: Julio Alonso III will be attending Indiana University at Bloomington in the fall. The PCA NEWSLETTER Staff is grateful for his contributions to the NEWSLETTER and wishes him the best of luck in the future. Thank you, Julio.]

Letters to the Editor

9W-340 Weight Limit Coming Under Attack Again

After several months of relative calm, the 10-ton truck weight limit placed on Routes 9W and 340 by the New York State Department of Transportation in March 1978 is being threatened once again, this time by attacks from both the North and the South.

The Rockland County Association, made up of the business firms located in the county, has stepped up its complaints that the prohibition against heavy trucks using the roads in our residential communities as a short-cut is costing its members money. They have gone so far as to demand a meeting with State Senator Linda Winikow and Department of Transportation Commissioner William Hennessy--which is scheduled for some time in July--at which a dozen or so Rockland businesses are prepared to document the additional costs they have incurred by routing their trucks via safe highways designed for trucks instead of sending them roaring through the Grand Views, Piermont, Sparkill, Palisades and South Nyack.

Safety usually does cost money, one way or another, and it undoubtedly would be

cheaper for these companies to once again use 9W and 340 as a short-cut for their 18-wheelers. But many of the same companies that are complaining about increased shipping costs have been boasting about their record profits last year and in the first quarter of 1979 in the pages of our local newspapers.

So, let's judge this latest attack on the 9W-340 weight limit on the basis of what it is--a case of "crying all the way to the bank" in the hope of persuading the Department of Transportation to help fatten their profits by allowing all Rockland County trucks to make unrestricted use of Routes 9W-340, destroying our residential communities in the process.

The attack from south of the N.Y.-N.J. boarder is more insidious in one respect. Bergen County politicians up for election this year continue to blast the 9W-340 weight limit in the pages of their journalistic mouthpieces, such as the Bergen Record and Our Town. Of course, what they're complaining about is that since March 1978 heavy trucks servicing the huge industrial complexes built just south of the N.Y.-N.J. line in Rockleigh, Northvale, Norwood, etc. have to use Bergen County roads instead of being

Letters to the Editor continued

routed through 9W, 340, and Oak Tree Road. Bergen County's idea of an equitable situation--where its residents get the tax breaks based on industrial development and we here in Orangetown get their heavy trucks--seems unfair to us, but it's a great emotional issue for the upcoming Bergen elections.

Having gotten nowhere so far with their direct onslaughts against the 9W-340 weight limit, the Bergen politicians are orchestrating their own sort of sneak attack. Some months ago, they arranged for the Tristate Regional Planning Commission to appoint a three-man task force to study the issue. Our understanding is that the members of the task force--who were appointed by the New Jersey Commissioner of Transportation--have little sympathy for the problems we will face if a large volume of heavy trucking returns to East Orangetown.

It appears likely that the task force's report to be issued in July will call for a "compromise" solution of the dispute between New York and New Jersey over the truck weight limit by suggesting that 9W-340 be opened up to trucks having a destination or origin anywhere in the part of New Jersey bounded by the Hudson River, Route 4 to the south, and Route 17 to the west.

Therefore, it seems that July will be a critical month for the 9W-340 weight limit and the well-being of our riverfront communities. If the Rockland County Association gets its way and opens up 9W-340 to trucks from all of Rockland, and if New Jersey succeeds in forcing Bergen County trucks back on our roads, then the five years of effort on the part of the residents of East Orangetown to have the truck weight imposed will go down the drain. Not only will many hundreds of additional "legal" trucks be dumped in our laps, but the weight limit would become impossible for the police to enforce and we could expect the return of long-distance truckers seeking the shortest route between Maine and Georgia.

At present, it seems that all we can do is wait and keep abreast of developments as they occur. And if it appears that the 9W-340 weight limit is in danger of being chipped away to the vanishing point, we must be prepared to voice our viewpoints loudly and often to State Senator Winikow

and Commissioner Hennessy.

George Hovanec  
for The West Hudson Environmental Association

As a new resident of Piermont I felt that perhaps the NEWSLETTER would be interested in knowing that a very unique book has been produced within the limits of the Village.

During 1977, while serving as cartography and graphics consultant with the United Nations in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, I thought of an idea--a guide book to the capital of that now important Kingdom. This was based on the fact that when I arrived in Arabia I could not find a map of the city. I went on to create the first accurate map of the capital along with a listing and proper locations of all major agencies, government buildings and business places. This developed a kind of "yellow pages" for that desert city.

My proposal was accepted by a company headed by HRH Prince Saud ben Fahd, son of the crown prince, Fahd. I arrived back home in December 1977 and set up my studio at Diplomat Apartments in January 1978. The book of 130 pages was sent to the printer in Singapore in January 1979. It is now being printed and I will send a copy to the Library.

The title is Riyadh, the Royal Capital of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It contains 46 detail maps at a scale of 1:10,000 and has 18 city maps as well as other points of interest necessary for the visiting businessman or foreign resident. It is totally in color. Most of the work was done by Rockland County residents and most of the data and art was completed in Piermont. My introduction is dated "Piermont, New York, 1978."

It has been pleasant to create this book in my studio overlooking the peaceful Tallman Park and the 9W bridge. Piermont is now to become known in the international marketplace.

Armand Beard

I don't live in Piermont now but my interest in the village where I grew up still remains. It was this interest and concern for the Village and Mr. Teague's suggestions on beautifying the Piermont Pier which prompted some thoughts of my own.

FIRST, rather than ban cars from the Pier entirely, have anyone desiring the use of the Pier join a membership. For a membership fee, the member would be issued a key for the gate at the Pier's entrance and a membership button which must be worn when on the Pier. Members would be responsible for keeping the Pier clean at all times and participate in a spring and fall clean-up session. Anyone not present for these predetermined sessions would forfeit his membership fee and not be allowed to join the following year.

The Spring Valley Water Company has set up a detailed and seemingly effective program to protect Lake DeForest Reservoir from similar problems which we now face. I'm sure a similar program would work out well and basic ideas could be obtained from them.

Second, why is a hunting ordinance needed in Piermont? The state and federal governments spend millions each year paying wardens, providing parks and nesting areas for wildlife, and making certain that wildlife and resources aren't wasted or exploited. This money comes from hunting and fishing license fees, from duck stamps issued by the federal government and from taxes on firearms and ammunition. Piermont doesn't need a hunting ordinance or another sanctuary to protect the wildlife already being protected by many other laws.

If we make hunters join our membership, sign in and sign out when they are hunting on the Pier, and insist that the local game warden makes frequent visits to the area, the night shooters will disappear and those who love hunting for the sport it is will still have the opportunity. The present laws are adequate, the enforcement is lacking.

Also, for those sincerely interested in migratory birds, there is an organization which has done more to preserve ducks, geese and other migratory birds than all of our "local natural zoos" will ever do; we can donate some of our membership fees to them.

I would gladly become physically involved in any effort to use and protect Piermont's Pier so long as these efforts will benefit everyone and not be used to express our likes or dislikes for another's choice of recreation.

Robert J. Scolaro

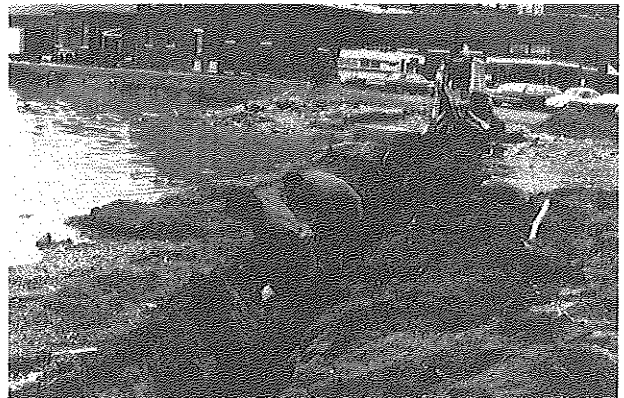
## COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP

The Community Playgroup is now licensed and fully operational as a Day Care Center. Hours are 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily. Children must be 3 years old and toilet trained. Tuition is \$45 per week which includes a hot lunch. If you need more information or wish to apply, call Eileen Burge at 359-9174.

Due to increased enrollment, an additional 4 year old class has been added to the preschool program which begins in September. Four-year-olds meet Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. Three-year-olds attend class Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. If you are interested in enrolling a child in the preschool program, call Dee Krummack at 359-9174. There are only a few openings left.

If there is enough demand there will be a 6 week summer program for preschool children beginning July 2 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon. The total cost for two mornings per week is \$50 and for three mornings \$70 per week. If you are interested call Mary Watts at 359-7719 or Debby Rabinowitz at 359-2952. ■

*Work has begun on Parelli Park*



THE PIERMONT NEWSLETTER is published three times a year by the Piermont Civic Association. This issue was compiled and written by: Mardy Allen, Julio Alonso III, Liz and Ken Barnes, A. R. Bartley, Mimi Bryan, Phyllis Brunson, Gilbert Burck, Tom DeRaffele, Mary Evensen, Carol Janda, Grace Meyer, Margie Spring, and Maggy Voorhees. Photographs by: Tom DeRaffele, Dick Janda and Maggy Voorhees. Art Director Lori Joseph. Edited and Typed by Liz Barnes.

## Reminders

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There are still 1978 PCA members who have not sent in their dues for 1979. Please mail in your check today. Family Membership is \$5.00 per year. New members welcomed too.

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Piermont Newsletter  
Piermont, New York 10968

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