

PIERMONT NEWSLETTER

Published by the
Piermont Civic Association

THRIFT SHOP OPENING IS HIT

After a month of solid effort, a restaurant of 30 years has been converted to the Tappan Zee Thrift Shop. The new enterprise sponsored by the PCA, made its debut December 10, and will be open from 10 to 4 on Tuesdays and Saturdays. (It is on Piermont Avenue, opposite Miraglia's Restaurant.)

About that opening, and the days of cleaning, demolition, construction, painting, collecting, pricing and mailing that made it possible, Mildred Burck, who resigned as chairman of the Ways and Means Committee to head the effort, remarked: "It exceeded all our hopes." Members of the committee Katharine Smith, Dale Hiestand and Lloyd Hale worked closely on the project, as did other members of the PCA and local citizens.

"The aim of this endeavor," Mrs. Burck said, "is to supply a source of income for the Piermont Civic Association, and to provide a means whereby local non-profit organizations can raise funds. It is anticipated that the Thrift Shop will attract new business to the existing shops in the Village."

People wishing to contribute merchandise may telephone EL 9-2455 regarding pick up and delivery.

BANK TO HAVE OCTAGONAL STRUCTURE

Piermont's new bank will belong to the world of boats as well of automobiles. According to Frederick Palmer, president of the Tappan Zee National Bank, the design will be a brick octagonal structure with high arched windows. Several Piermonters have already seen architect George Schofield's preliminary design, and have expressed solid approval. "The basic purpose behind the octagon is that the bank will look good from every angle," the Newsletter was told, "including the river."

SPARKILL PLAY SCHOOL IN NEED

Of the 32 children who applied to the Community Play School in Sparkill, only ten are currently enrolled. A shortage of operating funds, forcing the school to be open only 2 mornings a week, led to

this situation, and may soon force the school to close, Bincy Taylor, advisor to the school, told a meeting of parents, volunteers and community members recently.

If sufficient funds can be obtained, plans are to resume a 5-mornings a week schedule in January, Miss Taylor told the group, but at present finances limit operation to Tuesday and Thursday mornings, when a teacher assists for less than minimal salary.

Explaining the continuing effort being made to obtain operating funds through public and private sources, Miss Taylor said that play materials are also urgently needed by the school, particularly sand-box equipment, and trucks, dolls, and puzzles in good condition.

LIVELY SPRING DUE FOR PIERMONT AVENUE

The request by the ribbon mill for permission to add to its plant on Ferdon Avenue has been turned down. The Village Board has decided that permission to build an addition to the plant is "not in the best interest of the Village," according to a spokesman.

Other building and renovating projects, however, are proceeding. Planned for Spring are initial work on the new Bank, tree-planting on Main Street, groundbreaking for the Elementary School on 9W, and extensive redecorating, both inside and out, of the buildings housing the Thrift Shop and the soon-to-open Piermont Emporium, both on Piermont Avenue.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES POLL PLANNED

Knowledge of Piermonters' hobbies and interests may help Piermonters to help each other. This is the theme of a survey to be conducted in January by the PCA in conjunction with the Library Association. Legwork will mostly be done by the Library's Junior Bookworms club of 10-to-12 year olds, who will present a brief questionnaire to residents about their occupations, hobbies and interests. The purpose of the survey is to help the library select books and plan programs, and to form a pool from which volunteers can be sought for community projects.

VILLAGE ISSUE: AIR AND WATER POLLUTION

Smoke on the Pier:

In recent weeks, Piermonters have reflected the nationwide concern with conservation and air pollution. At its last Village Board meeting, Trustees heard a citizen complain about smoke from the Village dump. The complainant said that he visited the site and said that the source of the smoke was bales of cardboard waste from the Continental Can Company. He raised the question of whether

an anti-pollution law might halt such burning.

Mayor A. J. Di Francesca pointed out that the Company could not be held responsible for every fire, even though the dump was its property. Other dump fires occurred, he said, through spontaneous combustion of trash and children with matches. Village Attorney Henry V. Stebbins said that action against dump fires was possible under the existing Public Nuisance Law (Section 1050 of the Penal Law); however, those present at the meeting could recall no instance of such action ever being taken.

Since Continental Can pays most of the cost of bulldozing and maintaining the dump for the Village, the Mayor suggested that the Village should take prime responsibility for preventing fires there. He said that a police car would be instructed to make a daily visit to the dump and the Fire Department would be asked to extinguish any fire there as soon as it was discovered.

After the meeting, the Mayor added his personal view that these fires could be held to a minimum but not eliminated, and that if they were, vermin might be an even greater nuisance. He advocated Piermont's participation in the community clean incinerator program now under discussion by Orangetown and Clarkstown, which, in spite of its cost of 6 to 7 million dollars, would be the only satisfactory permanent answer to Piermont's disposal problems.

Tidal Waters

Continuing contact with the Army Corps of Engineers makes the prospect for cleaner tidal waters nearer, the Mayor told the PCA Newsletter. He said the Corps was actively considering the Village proposal that it pierce Piermont Bay and the tidal waters of Sparkill Creek, as well as cutting a sluiceway in the Pier to prevent further silting.

Green belt on the Creek?

Conservation efforts have resulted in the upgrading of Sparkill Creek from an F to D rating, Emil Di Francesco told a recent meeting of the PCA. "We had hoped for a better rating," he said, "and expect to get a 'C' when the County sewer line is finished. Then we can go fishing. But even now, the Creek has some fish, and ducks and geese. Woodcock and other game have begun to appear in a green belt area with a walking path along it."

NEW COMMITTEES FORMED

To work as closely as possible with Piermont businesses, the Executive Board of the PCA has established a Business Committee, whose chairman is Kurt Gerhardt. Another new committee is the Ways and Means Committee, under Ed McPherson. Members were urged

at the last meeting to join one of these, or other PCA committees, as a way of actively participating in PCA projects.

THE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Robert Bradbury

Most of us are familiar with distressing stories about children from slum areas of our cities who don't know how to play when they begin school, who don't know their own names, and who haven't the simple vocabulary that even a 3 or 4 year old should have--the names of colors, of animals, of simple objects around the house.

Educators have shown that these children begin kindergarten with a disadvantage which they are usually not able to overcome through the rest of their formal education. These are the children who lag further and further behind and finally drop out of school. It is to assist these children, babies really, that the Federal Head Start Program was begun.

Most of us do not realize that there is a pressing need for a Head Start Program in Piermont; but that is exactly the purpose of the Sparkill Community Play School, most of whose pupils are from Piermont. Apparently slums are not the only environment that can result in this delayed development of children. Parents who both work and are out most of the day; children who live in remote areas and have few or no playmates; these are only two of the situations that can result in delayed social development of 3 and 4 year olds, with such disastrous consequences when school begins.

The Sparkill Community Play School is probably the most deserving charity in our area at this moment. Efforts are being made to find a sustaining source of funds, but in the meantime there are about 20 children sitting at home who could be playing at the school. We urge you to send a check to the School at Box 32, Sparkill.

Like Motherhood and the Flag, clean air is something that presumably everyone supports. And yet our village continues to be spoiled by grime and smoke. One of the worst sources of pollution is burning garbage on the pier. The Mayor feels that the best hope for a permanent solution to this problem is the proposed Grangetown-Clarkstown incinerator, and we agree.

But it may be years before the incinerator is available. In the meantime, we will accept the smoke with more grace if the Village authorities will make a visible effort to police the dump, issue summonses if necessary, and, once fires are detected, put them out promptly.

LIBRARY HAS OCEANOGRAPHY DISPLAY

The Piermont Library building on Hudson Terrace has been brightened on the exterior with a fresh coat of paint and a welcoming red door. The current exhibit at the Library is a salute to Lamont Geological Observatory and its research vessels Vema and Conrad. The display consists of photographs, charts, and cores--geological samples taken from the sea bottom -- on the cruises of the two ships, and is supplemented by a large collection of books on oceanography and related fields. Films featuring R.V. Vema and R. V. Conrad were shown at the Village Hall on December 18th in connection with the exhibit.

The winter months are busy ones for the Library; volunteers from the Library participated actively in the opening of the Tappan Zee Thrift Shop on December 10th. The same weekend the Library Association sponsored a Christmas book sale at the Village Hall, which brought approximately \$80.00 in aid for maintenance of the Library.

Other winter Library activities will include a concert in February at which Rockland County musicians will play the Brandenburg Concerto #1; the annual fund drive to help meet the Library's annual deficit, and an exhibition of Haitian art.

ZONING ORDINANCES BEING READIED

An initial draft for Piermont's new zoning ordinances has been completed. It embodies many changes from the present set of ordinances and affords a "specific plan for every type of business and residence for the first time in Piermont's history," according to Mayor A. J. Di Francesca. The Dorothy Thompson estate is zoned for 40,000 square foot (slightly less than 1 acre) single-family residential use, and the property on which the new elementary school will be built is zoned for 20,000 square foot tracts, in the present draft.

NEXT PCA MEETING JANUARY 3rd, 1966

The PCA will hold its customary first-Tuesday-of-the-month meeting on January 3, at 8:30 P.M. Place: Piermont Village Hall.

TENORS ANYONE? Singers, especially tenors, are wanted by the Piermont Choristers. This harmonious group, under Ernest Tebo's direction, meets Tuesday nights at 8 o'clock in the hall of the Dutch Reformed Church. The Choristers would welcome any new members, whether they be of the Barber shop variety or Metropolitan Opera aspirants.

HAVE YOU JOINED THE PCA?

The aims of the Piermont Civic Association are your aims --- to beautify Piermont, to promote business, and to provide a better community for all its citizens. Why not join in these goals by subscribing -- now -- to the PCA? The dues are only \$1.00 per year (\$2.00 for a family). We need your suggestions and help in supporting the PCA and serving our Village.

Enclosed are my membership dues \$1.00 per individual or \$2.00 per family) for the PCA

Name _____

Address _____

Village _____

NEAT PCA MEETING, TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 1967

VILLAGE HALL

8:30 P.M.

YOU ARE INVITED

AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!