

# THE PIERMONT NEWSLETTER

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MARCH 1977



## VILLAGE ELECTION MARCH 15



The entire Piermont Village government, running for reelection in March, has received a strong vote of confidence by the unusual endorsement of the Democratic slate by the Piermont Republican Committee.

Mayor Bryan and trustees Goswick and DeRaffele are running for full two year terms; trustees Smith and Cocker, appointed during the past year, are running for the remaining year of their predecessor's terms.

The following statement was released on February 10th by Julian D'Antonio, Piermont Village chairman of the Republican Party:

"The Piermont Village Republican Committee will endorse the incumbent bi-partisan slate which is composed of Democrats, Republicans and Independents in the upcoming March Village election. The Republican Committee is cross endorsing this ticket because we believe that qualified people have been chosen without regard to political affiliations to serve the needs of the Village residents. The Village Republican Committee looks forward to a successful bi-partisan approach to Village government."

Before their appointments last year, and recent nomination for reelection by the Democratic Party, Katherine Smith was a registered Republican and Don Cocker was an Independent. Mayor Bryan, before entering Village government, was also a Republican.

In interviews with Mayor Bryan and Mr. D'Antonio, after the Republican action was taken, both expressed the view that national party labels have very little meaning at the village level.

"The five candidates in this election are, for the most part, apolitical," said Mrs. Bryan. "For Piermont, where Democrats outnumber Republicans four to one, to be deprived of the services of someone like Katherine Smith, simply because she is a Republican, would be destructive."

Mr. D'Antonio pointed out that "...there is simply no opportunity to express the differences of the national party philosophies in the village government. Decisions on matters involving party differences, such as taxation and social programs, are made at higher levels of government, county, state and federal. We do have issues in village government, of course, but they do not correspond to party lines."

Neither Mayor Bryan or Mr. D'Antonio would predict, however, that bi-partisanship would become a permanent feature of Piermont elections. There are Democrats and Republicans who feel that lack of opposition invites complacency and abuse of office, and would like to see a choice offered in every race. But for this year, at least, the incumbents have apparently earned the approval of both political parties, and a holiday from campaigning. ■

PCA PRESIDENT'S LETTER

There is a new spirit in America today, a new optimism and a brighter economic outlook. This can be a year of new spirit and optimism in Piermont too.

Piermont is a delightful place. It is delightful because of its diversity of people, natural endowments of river, marsh, creek and palisade and its buildings both historic and contemporary.

At times we have been pessimistic about our ability to solve the problems facing the Village. I believe the role of the PCA is to be a helper in shaping changes that will make Piermont an even better place to live.

The efforts of the PCA should be directed by that new spirit of optimism to help the Village by:

...working with the town and landlords to encourage another business or two to move to the vacant shops, making our shopping more convenient

...installing a bike rack and planting trees on Main Street to increase our walking and cycling enjoyment

...sponsoring a Blue Grass Festival that encourages friendships within the community and brings newcomers to Piermont

...providing a format for discussion of community affairs at our meetings and through the NEWSLETTER

1977 can be an outstanding year for Piermont and the PCA. I look forward to working with all our members and encourage others to join us in support of our community.

Doug Brunson

BE THRIFTY

The PCA would like to remind you that it is one of the ten organizations which benefit from association with the Tappan Zee Thrift Shop at 454 Main St., Piermont. Moneys accrue to our organization on the basis of donations made and volunteer hours given, either as pricers or sales people.

Don't forget, if you have merchandise you wish to give, it should be clean and saleable. Volunteer hours spent sorting

through soiled or broken items are counterproductive and do not earn money for our organization. The shop is open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Donations are accepted until 3:30 p.m.

If anyone has questions about volunteering in the shop, kindly call Maggy Voorhees (359-8597). It's fun and it brings in needed funds which help put out this NEWSLETTE

YOU'RE INVITED!  
PCA DINNER MARCH 11 (see last page)

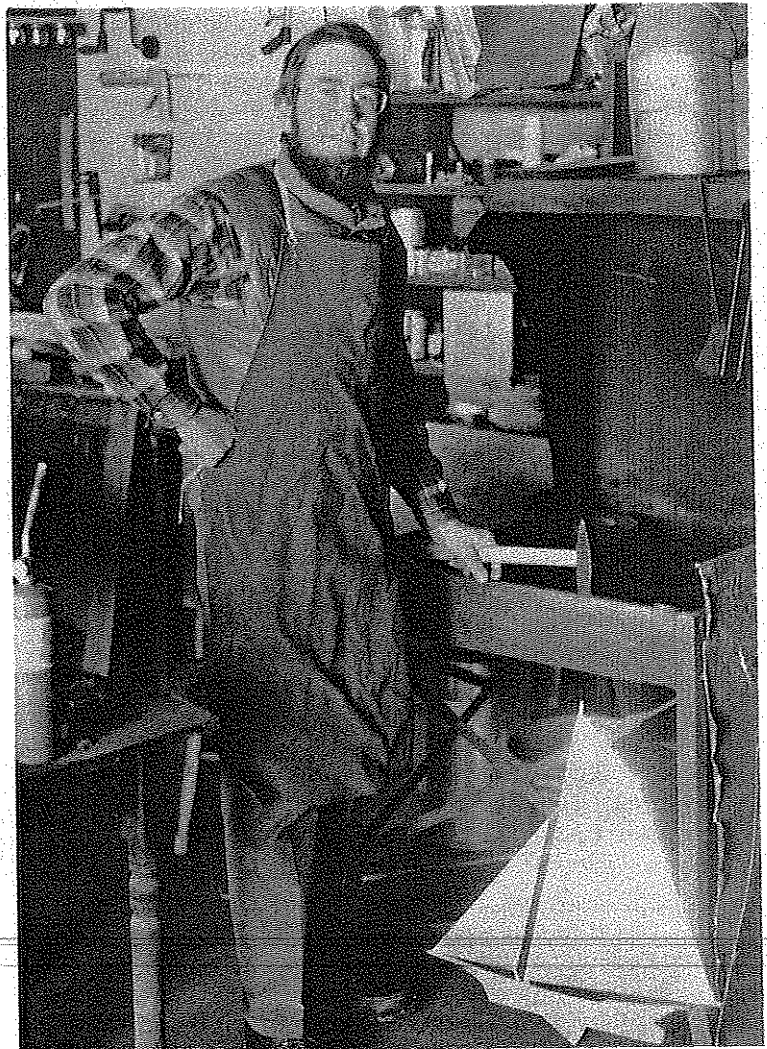


## PIERMONT HISTORY PUBLISHED

The final project of Piermont's energetic Bicentennial Commission led by Ruth and Howard Brawner, is the publishing of a 24 page Brief History of Piermont. The volume compiled and edited by over thirty Piermonters includes many historic photos. The book will be in paperback and available for purchase at a nominal charge at the Clausland Book Shop and at the Library.

Piermont and the Bicentennial Commission can look back on a very successful celebration of the special 200th year. Almost every organization and businessman responded with some help in the activities. There were festivities, a Strawberry Festival, Blue Grass Fair, Nite Down Memory Lane, Village Picnic, church choirs singing, the Quilt, the Bennington Flag, the re-enactment of the Boston Tea Party, the Wagon Train, and the Historic Slide Presentation. The windows of the local shops were filled with displays that changed regularly. These interesting and educational displays created by Ruth Brawner, Marty McQueen and Lucile Lowry with special assistance from Mary and Gene Polinsky, will be missed. Some samples of historic furniture will remain to brighten the Montesano windows.

Not only did Piermonters enjoy the activities of the Bicentennial, they got to know their history and each other a little better. ■

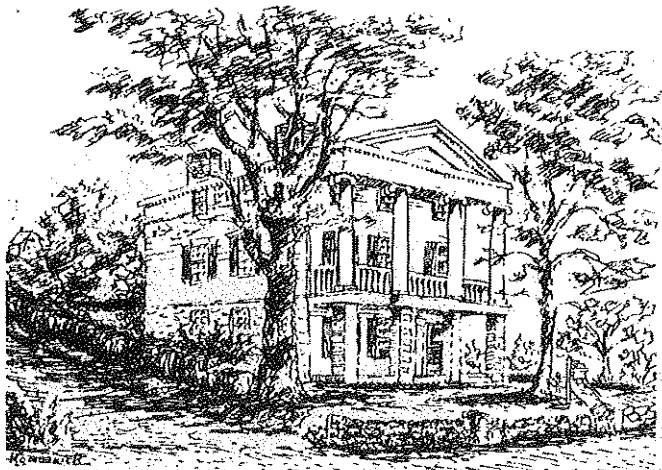


Herb Schlobohm at his blacksmith's forge with the copper model of "Victorine"

## WEATHERVANE FOR COMMUNITY CENTER

A copy of the "Victorine," the only Hudson river sloop constructed in Piermont, has been cut out of copper by Herb Schlobohm, soon to be made into a functioning weathervane for atop the cupola of the Community Center. Herb's hobby of smithing and his interest in giving a Bicentennial gift to Piermont, prompted the construction of the weathervane. Yet to be completed are the directional arms which will be forged and attached to the copper model. Although Herb admits the original completion date for the project was July 1976, he now hopes to have it in place by Memorial Day--well whenever--it will be a beautiful addition to our Village. ■

## AT THE PIERMONT LIBRARY...



### LIBRARY ADDS 200 NEW BOOKS

Recently the Ramapo Catskill Library System disbanded its fiction collection and gave it to member libraries. As a result, the Piermont Library has added 200 new adult fiction books to its existing basic collection. Many of these books are by popular authors of mysteries and science fiction, and should provide plenty of new reading to the fans in Piermont.

Children's Librarian, Paula Scholz, returned to her duties early in February. She and her family had spent six months in Japan, and brought "millions" of slides home with them. Paula will share them at a library program soon. Julie Jackson did a marvelous job filling in for Paula and kept all the programs going without a hitch. Paula has now picked up again with the pre-school Story Hours - every Tuesday morning at 10:30 - and the Tuesday afternoon movies for elementary school students.

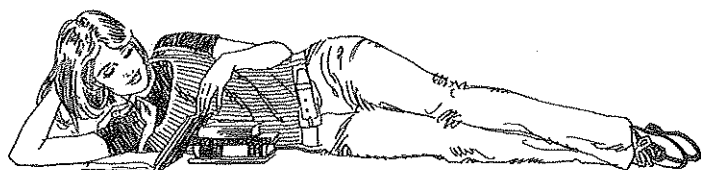
A former Piermont Librarian, Patricia Gaven Ternes, contributed the outstanding collection of Eskimo art that was on display in the Upstairs Gallery during February. Patricia was Director of the North Star Borough Library

in Fairbanks, Alaska for six years and during that time collected the masks, carvings and prints which were on display. She gave a talk at the Library on February 19th explaining the objects in her collection and describing her experiences in Alaska.

In March the gallery display features work done by Piermont young people in the Arts & Crafts Program at the Teen Center. Diane DeLoatch, Arts & Crafts Program Director, selected material from a wide variety of the projects her students undertook--from sketching to jewelry making and enameling. She will conduct a program at the Library on Saturday, March 19th at 3:00 p.m. for anyone interested in the art of enameling.

April is traditionally "Earth Month" at the Library. This year the focus will be on the work of the Rockland County Environmental Management Council and other environmental matters of concern to Piermont. A speaker will be scheduled to talk on a topical issue, so watch the bulletin boards for the date. The Library's schedule of events is posted on the Library bulletin board, at the bank, the post office, the Village Hall, and the Piermont Exchange.

The Library conducted its annual fund drive in February and March this year. New Board President, Mary Polinsky, wants to thank all those who have contributed and to urge those who have not yet sent a donation to do so. An active Library deserves and needs the support of the community it serves--please help. ■



## PIERMONT YOUTH PROGRAM

The Piermont Youth Program, housed in the Village Community Center is "home" every Monday and Wednesday night for thirty to forty young pool enthusiasts, ping-pong players, basketball hoopsters and experts in disco dancing, painting and crafts. A three member staff provides general supervision and ideas for activities, and enforcement of specific guidelines, insuring teen center members responsibility towards Center property, each other and the community. Diane DeLoatch, a veteran from Piermont's summer program, lends her expertise in arts and crafts. Recreational know-how is provided by Gene Baccaligni who teaches physical education at Jesse Kaplan School in Bardonia. Bill Oswald is the Director of the Center, experienced in both education and child care at St. Agatha's Home. Important assistance to this staff is also given by Harry Reiss who monitors the front door and various other volunteers.

Andrew Naclerio, a ninth grader at Tappan Zee High School and "teen center regular" has written his description of what happens at the center.

"On Mondays and Wednesdays the center is open from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Members of the center must be residents of Piermont and be between the ages of 13 and 18 years. Members must sign their name as they enter. Guests are charged 25¢.

Upon entering, members may choose what they want to do since there is a wide range of activities to choose from. Wrestling, basketball, dodgeball, badminton and kickball may be played in the gym. Pool, ping-pong, table soccer, nok-hockey, as well as other

small games may be played upstairs. Members may play the juke box, or watch T.V. There are also movies on Monday nights. There is a small charge for use of the pool table, the juke box and the soccer table. This money goes into the Teen Center funds.

Crafts such as candle making, donut making, jewelry making, printing, tie-dying and painting are brought in by staffer Diane DeLoatch for all members to participate in.

All the activities mentioned are supervised by well-enforced rules. If these rules are violated members can be suspended from the center indefinitely by Mr. Oswald or Mr. Baccaligni.

Just before 9 p.m. all members pitch in to clean up. The staff then makes sure that all doors and windows are locked and the place is in the same shape they found it.

The center would appreciate any donations of equipment or time which residents could offer. You may contact Mr. Oswald at 359-9833 on Monday or Wednesday between 7 p.m. and 9 p.m."

Director Bill Oswald invites all Piermont Teens to join the Piermont Youth Program activities. There are also numerous areas in which community residents could be of aid to the center. Help in supervising games, fieldtrips, lending expertise in sports or crafts and any innovative ideas would be welcomed. Both staff and members agree that participation from the community would be an asset in providing the teenagers of Piermont with an educational as well as recreational program. ■

# Notes Around the Village

## VILLAGE TO PURCHASE NEW VEHICLES

A new chassis for Piermont's garbage truck is on order and scheduled to be delivered in March. The \$26,000 chassis will be used with the present compactor body which was purchased six years ago.

The Village has sent out to bid the specifications for a new fire truck to replace the 25 year old "500." Seven potential bidders have expressed interest in supplying the \$60,000-plus vehicle. The three trucks currently serving the Village are: "Yellow Bird," 25 years old; "Maxum," 10 years old; and the 25 year old "500."

When all the bids are in the Village will study the funding options, possibly resulting in a permissive referendum later this year. One of the possible ways of ~~meeting this expense being discussed~~ is to sell Village Bonds to residents. These would be tax-free bonds floated at current interest rates.

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## SHAD FESTIVAL

Dink Hardy has agreed to provide shad for a Shad Festival. For a river village this seems highly appropriate--interested fish eaters call 359-8926. Date: sometime in April, depending on how they run.

\* \* \*

## TEEN MOVIES

The fifth and final show in the winter movie series will be Saturday, March 19th. Admission is \$1, refreshments are sold by the T-Shirt League. Movie begins at 2 p.m. at the Village Hall.

## NEW PARKING ON MAIN ST.

The Village has taken a five year lease on the vacant lot directly across the street from the Village Hall. Work will begin as weather permits to remove trees and surface the area for parking. It is hoped that this additional parking space will ease the parking problems for shoppers, and those appearing when court is in session. Over-night parking will be by Village permit only.

\* \* \*

## TREE GUARDS TAKING A BEATING

The attractive iron guards that encircle the trees and protect the plantings on Main St. have become a casualty of the winter season and some careless parkers. It seems that many people are ~~backing into and over the guards~~ with their cars causing them to break. Repairing them is costly, but necessary to protect the plantings. So please park carefully.

\* \* \*

## NEW FACES AMONG VILLAGE EMPLOYEES

William Stone, two year veteran of South Nyack's Police Department, has transferred to the Piermont force. Bill is a community college graduate, with an AAS degree in Criminal Justice. He has additional specialized training in Arson and Narcotics Investigation. He and his wife are expecting their first child.

The Teen Center staff now includes Eugene Baccaglioni, who will assist the director, Bill Oswald, in organizing sports and games. Gene is a full time Physical Education teacher at BOCES. He has been active in the Rockland County Special Olympics, a volunteer activity for children with various handicaps, since its inception.

# ORGANIZATIONS

## PIERMONT AVENUE RESURFACING

The resurfacing of South Piermont Avenue should begin as soon as the weather permits. A special note of thanks goes to the residents of that street for their patience during the trying period of sewer re-construction and gas and water line replacement. There were many weeks of inconvenience and these people reacted with generous acceptance.

\* \* \*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Editor:

With the possibility that garbage recycling may be in store for Piermont (see November NEWSLETTER article "Solid Waste"), it is time for a note of caution. The process of making garbage into combustible fuel can be noisy and smelly. In addition to the influx of trucks bringing the garbage, there must be machinery for culling it, compacting it, and converting it into fuel. Such plants are experimental and not perfected, and require large amounts of Federal funding. Granted the urgency of resource recovery in Orangetown, is Piermont the right place for such a facility? Within a small area there is a high population density and a pollution-prone geography. Residents would be subsidizing local industry with their roads, their property, possibly their health. That's a hefty price to pay even for tax ratables. There are other locations more convenient and practical for a resource recovery program, and Orangetown should choose one of them instead of Piermont.

Robert Cone

## PIERMONT LIONS CLUB INITIATES MONTHLY RECYCLING PROGRAM

On Saturday, January 8th the glass and aluminum recycling program got underway. While the number of participants was not great the volume of material was considerable, in fact 10 barrels of glass were shipped over to Glenshaw. The Lions Club membership is most enthusiastic and sure that as the word spreads and the program becomes established the community will give their usual cooperation.

Let's consider some of the benefits Piermont will derive from these cooperative efforts:

- . conservation of our natural resources
- . a cleaner environment
- . the life of our garbage disposal areas will be greatly extended
- . and most important, all monies earned are reinvested 100% in community projects

The immediate plan for the use of this money is for three initial projects, the stocking of the Sparkill Creek, the Frank Parelli Memorial Park, and a community picnic area complete with a shelter adjoining the "T" Shirt League field.

So please mark your calendar right now! The Lions Club members will be waiting across from the fire house to receive your glass (clear and green only) and aluminum on the second Saturday of each month from 9:30 A.M. to 11:30 A.M.

1977 PCA DUES NOW BEING COLLECTED

# Historic Restorations

In the past few months two of Piermont's most handsome and historic buildings have been acquired by new owners, the "McKenna House" and the "Silk Mill." Both structures have long been of interest and concern

to Piermonters fearful of losing these buildings to vandals or demolition. Now each has been purchased by new owners who prize them for their history, charm and solid construction.







The "McKenna House" (named for the family who lived there from 1928 to 1971) is the large brick, Greek Revival house on the corner of Ash and Franklin Streets. It probably was built when the Erie Railroad came to Piermont.

It appears on the Rockland County 1854 map as owned by Co. Silar Seymour. In 1868, it was purchased by Sarah Whiton, the daughter of Eleazar Loard, the president of the Erie, who built the "Castle." The Whiton family lived there until Lord died and they moved to the Castle. In the late 1880's the following ad appeared in the local newspaper --

"To let--with the Privilege of Purchase--furnished mansion at Piermont, N.Y... with three acres of lawn, shrubery and garden...two minutes walk from the railway station, one hour from New York. Situated 150 ft... above tidewater; overlooking Sing-Sing, Tarrytown, Irvington, Dobbs-Ferry and the Hudson with inland scenery of surpassing beauty and grandeur from ten to forty miles in every direction. Location is as healthful as it is beautiful."

Almost 100 years later, the mansion

has found a savior in its new owner, Richard Stark, an electronics technician from New York. He was able to see beyond the damage done to the house by years of vandalism and neglect and feels confident that he can restore the house to its former beauty. Mr. Stark kindly showed us around and he has already accomplished an impressive amount of work. The sagging northwest corner has been propped up, rotten plaster replaced and vandalized fireplaces-eight of them!-repaired. He is not making any changes-just restoring what is there, from the handhewn beams with mortice and tenon joints in the basement to the intricate plaster moldings in the upstairs rooms. He is looking forward to the spring when he can rebuild the back porch.

What made him take on such a formidable project? He said that the house just "feels right," that it is "sound and well-built." He knew that it would be a lot of work but when he is done he will have a solid place to live, a house that couldn't be built anymore today. He also likes to watch the sun come up over the Hudson.

\* \* \* \*

The three-story brick building that stands on Ferdon Avenue across from Rockland Road on the eastern side of the Sparkill creek, was last occupied by the Crescent Ribbon Mill which closed its doors at the end of 1975. Piermont residents refer to it variously, depending on their work experience in it, their age, or their hobby as history buff, as the Ribbon Factory, the old Silk Mill, the Opera House, or Haddock's Hall. Now it has been bought by Roger and Maureen Pellegrini, photographer and actress respectively, who plan to convert its 88 by 40 ft. space into an imaginative combination of home and work place.

The building, with its many tall windows and its tower at the southern end, was erected in 1876 by Roger Haddock who in 1857, with a capital of \$350, started his own wholesale

mercantile business. Soon the supplier of most of Rockland County, Haddock felt the need for a larger warehouse, and he engaged the well-known builder William H. Hand, who happened to be his brother-in-law, to put it up for him. At its completion he was able to pick up his goods at the base of the Piermont Pier when they arrived by ship, haul them by barge along the creek, and unload through the bottom-floor door of his new warehouse. The two lower floors Haddock used for storage, and the top one he rented to the Village of Piermont for town meetings, social gatherings, dances, and for movies--the projector was on the third-floor balcony under the tower. The cost of the building's construction was around \$15,000. Apparently, however, Haddock never paid Hand's \$4,400 fee, perhaps because of the relationship! Notwithstanding this cavalier behavior, Haddock was a man of great repute in the Village and was its president in 1882. His personal affairs were another matter. His life ended unhappily when, in a fit of despondency one evening over the constant bickering between his second wife and Anna, daughter by his first, he climbed to the balcony tied a noose around his neck and shot himself in the head. After his death, the business was not continue

In 1900 the building housed the Hasbrouck Motor Company, with sales rooms on the second-floor and garage and machine shop below.

Movie fans will be interested to know that in 1914 Haddock's Hall was used as a set by movie mogul William Brady (later he was joined by Adolph Zukor) of the World Film Company of Fort Lee, N.J. Brady patterned the creekside facade after a Venetian palace with balconies, columns, and even a replica of Venice's Straw Bridge connecting it to the other side of the creek.

We are in the dark as to the exact date when the character of the two lower floors changed, when aprons and then suits were

made instead of cars being sold and serviced. We do know that Erminia Savoia went to work there in 1917, soon after she had come to Piermont as a young girl, and that at that time it was an apron factory. She also stayed when the factory converted its product to the manufacture of little boys' wash suits. It is interesting that Mrs. Savoia lives today in Roger Haddock's big frame house at 321 Ferdon Avenue. It had been acquired by the previous owner when Anna Haddock owed money, she could not pay and her debtors foreclosed. Throughout the years of garage, auto sales, apron and suit factories, the top floor continued to be used by the Village for meetings and entertainment.

It is difficult to find documentation for each change of ownership. But it is almost certain that by the mid 1920's a silk spinning mill was operating in the building. Not much later there began the ribbon and narrow fabric production that continued under at least three managements until its last, the Crescent Ribbon Mill. During the early years ribbons were woven on about twenty-five creaky and cumbersome machines. By the end, though, eleven sophisticated machines from Italy were in operation. Automatic, only three feet in length, these were capable of weaving six different ribbons at one time. At various periods, the factory turned out hat bands, laces for shoes, gauze for flowers, corset bindings, the ribbon stripe that runs down the side of men's evening trousers, and ribbons of all colors, in plaids and stripes, of silk and satin. All were narrow. In addition, during the last war, the factory made the little striped ribbons for medals and ripcords for parachutes.

There are several ladies of Piermont who remember well the snippets of plaid or striped ribbon garnered by their mothers from ends on the factory floor and used to tie up their pigtailed. One of these is Viola di Francesca, and another is Tilly (Otilia) Cheben,

born in 1910, but still with the giggle of a girl of seventeen. Here is a condensation of Tilly's memories of work in the silk mill, taped for the occasion of the Village's Bicentennial.

"I went to work there just before my graduation. I wasn't allowed to finish school, my father wanted me to go to work and I had to go. I was sixteen and it was 1926. I was weaving ribbons in the silk mill. We used to make really pretty ribbons then. They might be gingham, sometimes colored, with imprints of flowers, or checks, perhaps. That was different and difficult, because the pattern itself was woven in, and the threads might break on you. There were needle looms from Italy. I never did any cutting off or skating or quilling. For that you had to thread it, put it in the shuttle machine, and this was hard because the thread sometimes thickened up. So it was taken by a weaver and put in the machine. I learned on raw silk, which was very fine. It took six weeks to learn, and you had to be on the ball the whole time. I taught my sister when she came to the mill, and I had her crying, it was so hard. The manager, the last one, I think, he said: 'If you know how to stop and start and thread the shuttle, that's all you need to know.' But that's not all there is to it at all. I made good conduct ribbons during the war, in red and white, for the soldiers. I even made one for myself and wore it to the USO, and told them I had a good conduct metal too. I didn't tell them I made it myself, of course. We made what they call angel skin, too, and satin ribbon, in white for hair or shoulder straps. There were a lot of girls there from Piermont and from Nyack, too. At one time there were twenty-five or more. At the end? Not more than ten. The work was very interesting, and I liked it."

Early in 1976 the Crescent Ribbon Mill hung a "For Sale" sign on its door. The modern machines were taken away, and for nearly a year only Haddock's ghost haunted the shell

of his Opera House. Now everything has changed. The huge red brick building no longer hums with the noise of machinery, but it is not silent or empty. Instead it vibrates with soaring imaginations of its new owners, the Pellegrinis, as they make plans for its future.

Roger grew up in the community, and his parents still live not far away. He says that he has coveted the building for a long time and now hopes to retain as much of its character as he can. Entering the middle floor from Ferdon Avenue, at street level, one sees one section of the cavernous room has been made as homey as possible through careful placing of sofa, chairs, stereo and house plants. White curtains hang at the windows and a makeshift kitchen has been set up at the south-east corner. At the north end of the building is the glassed-in office, its two desks and file cabinets, now used by the Pellegrinis for their paper work. Most of the old fluorescent lights have been taken down and lie heaped against the wall (anyone in the market for them?), but a few remain, as does the octopus effect of meters of piping. Pushed into the shadows are half unpacked boxes of Maureen's china, and the new refrigerator.

What lies ahead would discourage most people from even beginning, but not the Pellegrinis. Already much of the maple floorboards, laid diagonally for greater strength, have been scoured. One of the four oak columns has been half stripped. These, and the remaining eight made of cast iron must, of course, remain since they hold up the top floor of the building. At present, the approach to this floor is via the broad institutional looking stairs at the north end. A false ceiling presumably placed there to hold in heat but which the Pellegrinis plan to remove, conceals the balcony from which Haddock killed himself. This entire floor will be rented, for daytime professional use only, to painter, or sculptor, for music, dance, or photographic studio, or

even for a theater. Roger and Maureen feel strongly that the space here should not be cut up or divided in any way.

This is not possible on the two lower floors. The one at street level will provide the new owners with living room and bathroom and of course, there will be a fireplace.

The basement floor will contain Roger's photographic studio (as adjunct to the Pellegrini Studio on East 22nd Street in New York) and the kitchen. Maureen has ambitious ideas for this, wanting it to be large and old fashioned and connected to the living room by a "beautiful old wooden spiral stairway," she says. There will be a fireplace and restaurant stove, and a door out the north side to a terrace on the bank of the creek.

Roger and Maureen wish to maintain as much of a connection with the building's past history as possible, and so understandably they are reluctant to change anything too quickly, to throw out anything they find in it. But so far they have not figured out what to do with hundreds of plastic spools, the old metal machine in the basement (a *trouvee*?), the odd reel of gold or white synthetic thread, rolls of grimey ribbon, or the hundreds of glass rods. But they will keep the intriguing shelves with tiny cubbyholes for sewing cottons; and they will keep the wooden artifacts that were left. They are fascinated, for example, by the knittyknotty (anyone knowing just how this was used, please write in), which probably belongs in a museum.

One of the things the Pellegrinis are concerned with (as who isn't this frigid winter) is the possibility of heating their enormous home in an economical but also energy conserving fashion. So they are investigating types of furnaces that use more than one kind of fuel, that will take wood or oil, for example. Perhaps, if they are unsuccessful, they will choose instead the kind of old black

pot-bellied stove used during Roger Haddock's day.

When the mill opened as a ribbon factory a giant furnace was installed in the basement, replacing the old stoves. With the use in the machines of partly synthetic thread, this furnace was turned higher and higher and eventually maintained at a 85 degree temperature, because anything cooler tended to make the thread too brittle. Roger Pellegrini was told by the former owners that now completely synthetic threads necessitated conversion to a more modern heating plant with built-in humidifiers. The cost of this

would be so prohibitive that they felt continued operation of the factory to be impractical.

Plans are brewing to hold a reception at the Pellegrini's "Haddock's Hall" sometime in March to celebrate the publication of the Bicentennial Commission's Brief History of Piermont. How nice to see its return to the function of social gathering place it served so long ago.

(Much of this material is from a recently finished book by Pat Lowe of Piermont) ■

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1977 PCA DUES ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED

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The Marsh



#### HISTORIC MAP REPRODUCED

A very handsome reproduction of the 1745 Verplanck survey map of the Lockhart patent has been printed by the Palisades Library Historical Committee in conjunction with the Historical Advisory Committee of Rockleigh, New Jersey. The map shows the Sparkill Creek (referred to on the map as the Tappan River) marking the houses that existed at that time and extending south past Sneden's Landing and west to Tappan.

The map is available at the Clausland Book Shop in two sizes for \$1.00 and \$3.00. The proceeds will be used by the Palisades Library to do further reproductions of historical materials within their collection.

YOU'RE INVITED!  
PCA DINNER MARCH 11  
(see last page)

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VILLAGE LAWS: 1977 RECODIFICATION

Piermont's Local Ordinances had remained the same for many years. So had the penalties for violations of those ordinances, and many of them, in fact, had no penalties at all.

Since the start of the year, however, the Village has been engaged in the time-consuming process of recodification. It is partially an effort to eliminate any inconsistencies within the body of ordinances; also, through the adoption of new laws, it is a means for the Village to begin coping with problems which the previous ordinances could not handle. Furthermore, the Ordinances now become Local Laws--with more stringent penalties.

Briefly, recodification involves sending the Ordinances to General Code Publishers for editing, recommendations, deletions, and additions. They are then considered at public hearings in the Village Hall, studied by the Village Attorney for legality, and, if adopted by the Village, sent to the Attorney General's office.

Much progress has already been made. The general penalty now for violating any Local Law is \$250. (Certain laws have specific penalties of their own.) Fees for permits have been updated. Twenty Local Laws have already been adopted, three of which are new and aimed at Village problems previously difficult to handle.

For example, under preexisting ordinances, waterfront and waterway abuses, abandoned cars, and derelict buildings could not be eliminated. Local Laws Nos. 16, 17 and 18--adopted and now enforceable--can effectively deal with such Village problems.

Local Law No. 16-1977  
Inoperable and Abandoned Vehicles

By establishing removal procedures, this law seeks to eliminate the placing of inoperable and abandoned vehicles on private property. Proceedings can now be enacted to remove these vehicles when they become a public nuisance.

Local Law No. 17-1977  
Waterfront and Waterways

This local law seeks to keep the waterfronts and waterways and all land or lands adjacent to the borders of the Village clean, sanitary and safe to make the best available use of our natural assets and conserve them for posterity.

Local Law No. 18-1977  
Property Maintenance

This local law seeks to ameliorate or eliminate substandard housing conditions, such as structural deteriorations; and appearance of the exterior of the premises, infestation, lack of essential heating, plumbing, storage space or refrigeration equipment, lack of maintenance or upkeep of essential utilities and facilities, fire hazards, inadequate provisions for lighting and air, unsanitary conditions and overcrowding.

Piermont is a very special Village in terms of both its natural beauty (Tallman Mountain, the marshes, the pier, the Hudson River and its shoreline, and the Erie Trail and adjacent fields) and its architectural diversity and heritage. All who love Piermont will appreciate these efforts to protect its attributes from neglect and abuse. ■

YOU'RE INVITED --

FRIDAY, MARCH 11 AT 7:00 P.M. IS THE DATE FOR THE 11TH ANNUAL PIERMONT CIVIC ASSOCIATION VILLAGE DINNER. Everyone is welcome to this pot luck dinner to sample some of the finest food in Piermont and to meet your friends and neighbors.

A cookbook is being compiled to mark the occasion. It will include the recipes of many of the foods that you'll be sampling and a host of other favorites from our members. This will be the third, all new, edition of the Piermont Village cookbook. The first two have become prized collector's items so be sure to come to the dinner to get your copy. They will also be sold at the Piermont Exchange and the Clausland Book Shop.

Make your reservations for the dinner by calling Linda Sullivan at 359-2039. There is limited space so call early, and let us know what delicious food, hors d'oeuvre, salad, main dish, or dessert you will bring. \$5.00 per person includes wine with dinner. Cocktails may be purchased.

### THE NEWSLETTER--TO BE!

The staff of the NEWSLETTER would like to sincerely thank all of you who responded to our plea for membership to help us to continue printing. We were happy to see many new names added to the list of NEWSLETTER supporters, as well as those who've joined in the past, and it's not too late to still become a NEWSLETTER supporter. Join the PCA today and don't forget about our new "extra subscription" to send to a friend or relative.

Your written comments were appreciated too. We found that Piermonters do want a source of local news and indeed depend on the NEWSLETTER to alert them to controversial projects, new laws and regulations and the activities going on in our Village. And, we received suggestions--could we have more "people news" such as the announcements of births, marriages, news of church groups, scouts, and any Piermont area organization. We're happy to try an announcements column, but it will only work if you will send us your good news. Send your announcement to PCA, Box 22, Piermont or call Editor, Carole Novick, 359-7183.

We need your support.

DUES AND DONATIONS ARE BEING COLLECTED NOW FOR 1977

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

I have enclosed \$5.00 for 1977 PCA dues. \$\_\_\_\_\_ additional donation.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

I have enclosed \$2.00 for a year's "extra subscription" to the NEWSLETTER. Send to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

THE PIERMONT NEWSLETTER is published three times a year by the Piermont Civic Association. This issue was compiled and written by: Bob Bradbury, Doug Brunson, Tom DeRaffele, Pat Lowe, Grace Meyer, Lisa Merrill, Andrew Naclerio, Carole Novick, Bill Oswald, Marge Spring, June Starke, and Maggie Voorhees. Photographs by Alex Crippen and Sally Savage. Art Director Lori Joseph. Editor Carole Novick. Typing by Liz Barnes.

## **A REMINDER...**

New contributions and reporters are needed and welcomed. Contact editor Carole Novick, 359-7183.

ATTEND THE PIERMONT CIVIC ASSOCIATION VILLAGE DINNER ON FRIDAY, MARCH 11  
AND DON'T FORGET 1977 DUES ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED.

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**Piermont Newsletter  
Piermont, New York 10968**

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