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THE PIERMONT NEWSLETTER

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PIERMONT

By Alan Rich

It will soon be thirteen years since I last lived in an apartment, a baker's dozen of solar orbits since my last tangle with a landlord, a bar-mitzvah of calendars since I last paid blackmail to a building super and his army of minions. Anyone who might, in 1966, have suggested to the undersigned (an apartment dweller since birth) that happiness might be found in a village on a riverbank would have drawn pitying stares. Yet, I think I vaguely knew what I was doing when I signed papers and wrote checks in a bank office on a rainy morning in May of '66, and if I didn't then I do now. I have a certain passion for the implausible; I found it deliciously implausible to be signing over to some suburban bank a chunk of my wherewithal for an uncountable number of

years to come, even as the only source of that wherewithal--the lamented New York Herald-Tribune, sob!--was on the strike that would soon lead to its demise.

There were other implausibilities, too. The main reason I wanted to move out of Manhattan was that I was living in an excessively burglar-prone brownstone; at first glance, my riverside dream-house-to-be looked like a double of that brownstone. Between the first and second visits, however, the wisteria vine across the front had turned bawd, and loathing then turned to love. (I don't intend to write about every step of my growing thirteen-year love affair with the Left Bank of the Tappan Zee, but I thought you might like to know how it got started.)

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PCA ELECTS

Election of PCA officers and board members was held at the January 25 PCA meeting. The officers and board members are as follows:

President- Doug Brunson
Vice President- Ken Barnes
Treasurer- Maggy Voorhees
Secretary- Eve Mesnik

Board Members- Jean Berechid, Mildred Burck, Tom Mitchell, Roger Pellegrini, Marge Spring and NEWSLETTER staff Lori Joseph and Liz Barnes.

The PCA also voted to support local residents in their suit against the Orangetown Board's decision to downzone the Spurr property in Sparkill. ■

PIERMONT...cont'd.

Thirteen years later, the implausibilities remain, but I have come to recognize them as a way of life. It has to be implausible that in a dinky little village--which, dear friends, is the most that Piermont, for all our love, can ever hope to look like to an outsider--a grocery store can aspire to stock imported cheeses and coffees, fresh white asparagus, and saddle of lamb; that the local liquor store can offer the fine old bottles that George Walters comes up with and still placate the Ripple crowd; that a tiny and understocked bookshop can survive on the premise that people still buy books for pleasure and uplift.

But these no longer seem like implausibilities. For all the unique advantages of life along our small and precious strip of riverfront, the most important, for me, been the discovery of the meaning of the word "community." I suppose that, for the politically minded, a sense of community can develop in any size--otherwise, why aspire to be mayor of New York City or President of the U.S.A.? But the notion of community sense meant nothing to me, one of the least political of men, until I was able to discover it for myself in these little henscratch-size villages along the Hudson, with people in countable numbers and land in measurable sizes. And what has gladdened me particularly about Piermont over the past few years is largely the result of the exercise of community sense.

It's easy, I think, to understand why that sense should be so strong in this particular area. The real

community along here isn't bounded by the village lines of Piermont, Grand View, or the Nyacks. The major unification force is the River--its beauty, of course, and its endangerment. I would guess--although I wasn't yet here--that the Hudson River Community of Concern (which, far more than "Piermont," or "Grand View" or "Nyack" is the real name of this area) was born, or at least defined, back in 1956 when the unholy alliance between the New York State Thruway and the New Jersey Turnpike came within an ace of turning this whole area into an on-ramp for the Tappan Zee Bridge. The Community of Concern was strengthened, again in direct relationship to the River, by the growing awareness of industrial endangerment to the water, the end of fishing in our time, the ineptitude of state and federal environmental agencies, the glimmers of hope from private sources like Pete Seeger and his water-testing and Bob Boyle and his Hudson River Fisherman's Association. My own community awareness goes back to 1972, when a Grand View resident blithely began filling in his riverfront property and a citizens committee, assembled practically overnight, put together the legal machinery to stop him cold. Could you imagine that happening in Manhattan?

The citizens' groups that fight for the river, and the coalitions that have been working within specific river villages for other community purposes, may of course be made up of different people. But the spirit that fires the one fires the other, and what has happened in Piermont in the past few years

PIERMONT...cont'd.
 bears this out. We are, as we all know, an implausible community in an implausible area. (I have to insert here, of course, that I happen to live in Grand View, and I even got chewed out by a Piermont cop one day, in a sentence that began "You Grand View people think you can get away with..." Yet, as a member of the aforementioned Hudson River Community of Concern, I assume the right to the pronoun "we.") The ethnic mix, the mix of nationalities, politics, and lifestyles isn't merely broad; it's downright wacky. (Just step one night from the dining room of The Turning Point into the pool-room-bar that occupies the other half of the same building and you'll see what I mean.) Anyhow, out of this potpourri of divergences has come the coalitions that made possible the Piermont Exchange at one end of the business block, the funding that got the Community Market open again and thriving midway in the block, and that encourages such noble souls as the Thrift Shop ladies and Virginia Johnston in her bookshop at the far end.

The business development in downtown Piermont has been slow, and some of it has been painful. Shops have come and gone, forced out either by lack of management sense or--and this is crucial--by a failure to understand the peculiar and unique mixture of lifestyles and attitudes that makes this an area like none other. (The failure of the last management of the Community Market is a glaring example of non-understanding of the Piermont mix. It is awfully easy, you have to admit, to confuse a dinky appearance with a dinky spirit.)

Elsewhere in this NEWSLETTER is a report on the newly formed business committee to solidify and draw upon this spirit that already exists in the area in abundance. I would assume that their work will be made somewhat easier by what has already happened along Main Street in the past few years, starting with the success of the Exchange in 1975

and its subsequent growth into virtually a model of the way a small-scale crafts cooperative can and should be run. The subsequent success of The Turning Point, while not initially the outgrowth of community funding, is certainly some sort of testimonial to the vitality of the area: a couple of kids with no experience at all, a genius-lady at the stove, and a modest setting in which good food was all that mattered--and, suddenly, the best restaurant in the County! And the current brilliant comeback of the Community Market, in which both inventory and management demonstrate the highest care for quality and a keen awareness of the needs of the community, is testimonial to the entrepreneurial ability of owner Allan Kravitz, along with further testimonial to the spirit of local citizens who underwrote the store's reopening expenses.

A look at Piermont's little Bicentennial booklet, with its photograph of Main Street as a thriving block of one kind of shop after another, is a little depressing against the vista of empty storefronts that assaults the eye today. It is foolish to expect, of course, that in this time of easy transportation and nearby shopping malls there's any need for a fully-stocked hardware or drug store or a super-market for apparel. Yet, some solution between that situation and today's emptiness ought to be made some sort of business priority. A drop-off laundromat and cleaner is urgently needed, as is a minimal stock of drugs and sundries (perhaps a branch of a Nyack establishment with frequent delivery from main stock). And it does strike me as sad that in a historic river village there is no pleasant place by the river to sit and sip.

You see...give me a piece of paper and this least political of citizens starts blathering on like a concerned member of a community. That's what happens when you move out here. Now, if I could only figure where, and why, Piermont Avenue becomes River Road becomes Piermont Avenue again becomes Main Street... ■



at the Library...

The annual Fund Drive being conducted by the Piermont Library is even more critical this year than in year's past because of public libraries being cut from the County budget. This means that Piermont Library is operating with \$700 less this fiscal year, which is a considerable loss to its small operating budget. The Library Board hopes that everyone will keep this cut in mind when writing out their check. If you haven't done so yet, why not pick up your pen as soon as you put down the NEWSLETTER.

Several of the larger companies like McGraw Hill will match donations given to educational or non-profit organizations for fund raising purposes. Please check and see if your company participates in such a plan. After filling out the appropriate form, a matching amount will be sent directly from the company to the Library. You will be doubling the amount of your donation and helping the Library significantly.

Egypt will be the theme of the Library's display for the month of March. Both with the treasures of Tutankhamun on exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum and the recent publication of a magnificent book with photographs by Piermont resident Farrell Grehan, this seemed like a timely topic. Grehan's book, Ancient Egypt: Discovering Its Splendor published by National Geographic, will be the main focus of the exhibit. Bob Bradbury, another Piermont resident who has

been doing work in Egypt, has been kind enough to lend us some examples of Egyptian hand-crafted art objects, both ancient and modern, to add another dimension to the display. On Saturday, March 17 at 3 p.m. two films on Egypt will be shown--Tutankhamun: The Immortal Pharaoh, a viewing of the magnificent collection now on exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum and Ancient Egyptian, a film showing paintings and monuments from early Egyptian history.

The Master Gardener from Cooperative Extension, George Lindenberg, will be helping the Library get ready for spring early this year. On Tuesday, March 20 he will be at the Library at 10:30 a.m. to show perspective gardeners how to prepare seed flats for early planting. He will not only demonstrate how it is done but which seeds are best for this preparation in a sunny window or cold frame. Then on Saturday, April 28 at 2 p.m. he will be back with these plants and others to actually plant a garden in back of the Library and help you with tips to plant your own.

Grace Meyer, Piermont Library's Director was elected President of the Rockland County Public Librarians Association (RCPLA) at its December meeting. The Publicity Committee of RCPLA is now designing and distributing a poster on a particular theme every month to be used by each library to aid in displaying books and other materials. April has been traditionally known as "Earth Month" at the Piermont Library for several years now. This theme will now be adopted by all Rockland libraries for the month of April.

The Library Board will miss the familiar face of Clarence Branch who has been an active Board member for over ten years, holding offices of both President and Vice-President. Clarence's final term expired in December and Louise Windisch was elected to fill the vacated seat on the Library Board. ■

VILLAGE ELECTION MARCH 20

Piermonsters will go to the polls on Tuesday, March 20 to elect a Mayor, Police Justice and two Trustees, and for the first time since 1975 they will be offered a choice of candidates, at least for some posts. (As this issue of the NEWSLETTER went to press the Democratic slate was being challenged only for the two Trustee positions by the Republicans, although petitions for Independent (non-party) candidates could add additional names to the ballot as late as the end of February.)

The Democratic ticket includes three incumbents seeking reelection: Mayor Mimi Bryan, Trustee Bill Goswick and Police Justice Tom Ciganek. Grace Meyer is seeking the position formerly held by Trustee Tom DeRaffele, who is retiring from the Board.

The Republicans have nominated Janet Zahn and Sherilyn Schwartz for the Trustee positions. (In Village elections the Trustees are not paired off in "head to head" elections; of all the candidates, the two receiving the most votes are elected.)

Asked to comment on the Republican challenge this year, Mayor Bryan stated, "I don't honestly see that there's a Democratic as opposed to a Republican way of doing business at the Village level. Problems are local, often involving individuals rather than political issues, and the philosophies of the national political parties are simply not applicable." She pointed out that she and Trustees Don Cocker and Kathryn Smith had all been registered Republicans before accepting nominations by the Democratic Party for the post of Village Trustee, and in fact Kathryn Smith still registers as an Independent. "Historically many Village Trustees have first served in appointed positions, especially on the Planning Board, and then, when they were needed for elective office of Trustee,

accepted the nomination of the Democratic Party. Considering the traditional strength of the Democrats in Piermont, it seems a more logical way to enter Village government service than the uphill struggle of a Republican Party challenge at the polls."

Janet Zahn, disagrees. "Must I change my party affiliation to be elected in Piermont? I just don't believe it. Sherilyn and I are not running on a Republican platform. We tried to express that in our campaign slogan 'Voice of the People and Not of the Party.' We are two people who are fortunate to have the time to serve in Village government, we have the energy, we love Piermont, and we believe that new people can bring some fresh, new ideas into the government. But we don't believe in officials being picked by anyone, no matter how well meaning, so we're running as Republicans and will let the voters decide."

Some of the qualifications and words of the Trustee candidates follow:

Bill Goswick, incumbent Trustee has been a member of the Volunteer Fire Department for 31 years and while a Trustee has also served as Fire Commissioner for the Village. Mayor Bryan is known to feel that he is practically indispensable in that post. Goswick: "I will be working to make it mandatory for all multiple residences to have smoke and fire alarms, not only for Piermont but state-wide."

Grace Meyer is Librarian at the Piermont Public Library, a charter member of the Village Environmental Commission, Piermont representative on the Rockland County Environmental Management Council and President of the Rockland County Librarians Association. Meyer: "I hope to encourage greater participation by citizens of Piermont in the decision making of the government through the mechanics of the Village advisory commissions and boards. One of my prime concerns will be

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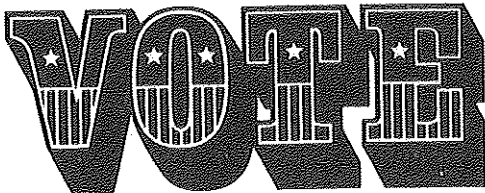
VILLAGE ELECTION...cont'd.

the future of the Pier."

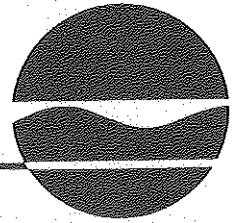
Janet Zahn has been a resident of Piermont for 7 1/2 years, and lived in Sparkill the same length of time before that. She has been active in such community organizations as the Girl Scouts, Brownies, PTA and the Catholic Church, where she is Regent of the Catholic Daughters of Piermont. She is secretary of the Women's Republican Club. She has an A.A. degree from the State University of New York and has a secretarial and business background since graduating.

Zahn: "We don't feel that this is really a party contest...there are conservative Democrats and liberal Republicans...and our main interest is to serve the people of Piermont, but we feel that it gives people a sense of security to have opposing candidates to choose from; victory should not be too easy; so we're running as Republicans."

Sherilyn Schwartz has resided at Roundtree Condominiums in Piermont for 6 1/2 years, during which time she has served as a Republican Committeewoman from Grand View and has been active in the Gilman and Levy campaigns. She is serving her third term on the Orangetown Consumer Protection Board, has been active in the PTA, and organized and coaches the first girls soccer team in Orangetown. She has a BA from Kansas State University and was formerly employed by the New York Telephone Company. Schwartz: "When we talk to the people in the Village our concern is about their problems, not their party affiliations. We don't think of our neighbors as Republicans or Democrats, but as people with problems. A candidate should not have to change his party to be elected, and I'm sure everyone realizes that Janet and I will be the same responsible people, regardless of party label." ■



The Ecological Perspective



The following is a thoughtfully articulated response from Mr. W. Dorwin Teague to the Piermont Conservation Advisory Commission's November NEWSLETTER article.

Gentlemen:

The Ecological Perspective column in the latest issue of the Piermont NEWSLETTER states that the Conservation Advisory Commission will welcome suggestions regarding an improved management scheme for the Piermont Pier. The Pier is a unique and potentially beautiful spot but as the article implies it has been turned into an unsightly garbage dump and parking lot because of a complete lack of any control or supervision.

I don't believe it is all that difficult to clean up the Pier and to make it into an attractive park which can be enjoyed by everyone. Here is my suggested program.

Starting immediately ban all cars from the Pier. The cars are not only the major source of beer cans and garbage, the cars themselves are the worst pollution of all. Screams of protest will be heard but there is really no unbearable hardship involved in walking half a mile or so to fish, and the exercise will probably do some of the beer drinkers a lot of good. Those who are too lazy to get out of their cars and walk will be better off at home watching the tube and littering their own living rooms.

There is plenty of parking space along each side of the road just outside the gate. Once the cars are kept out the litter will be reduced to a fraction of the present amount. It is just too much trouble to carry the garbage out there on foot.

As to how to ban the cars effectively, this is simple. A substantial parking fine (\$25 ?) should be put into effect for parking in prohibited areas, i.e. past the gate. Signs should be put up to this effect. In the beginning the Pier should be patrolled every couple of hours by the Piermont P. D. and any cars found past the gate should receive a summons. The slight additional cost to the town of an occasional patrol will be more than offset by the revenue from the fines. Later the patrol can be cut back to one or two a day unless a violation is reported. The signs will probably be torn down in the beginning but the tickets should be handed out anyway.

In addition a substantial fine should also be levied for any vandalism such as tampering with the signs, the gate or any Pier installation. Some extra effort should be put into detecting, apprehending and convicting the first couple of offenders. The word will spread fast enough. Presumably there is already an anti-littering ordinance; perhaps the penalty should be increased.

Much of the effectiveness of the program will depend on the provision of good signage which should call attention to the parking, littering, and vandalism ordinances and the penalties. The Park Commission can supply advice on format, placement and location.

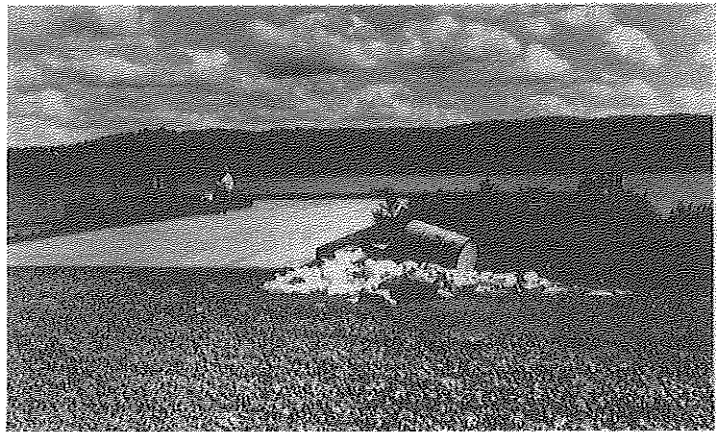
The town should supply a few litter baskets and empty these once a week.

I believe a no hunting ordinance should be put into effect or if one already exists it should be enforced on the Pier and the immediate surroundings. The Pier area is just too small to take the amount of shooting that now goes on. In addition to local people hunters come over from across the river and shoot well after dark. Here again, some fairly intensive enforcement in the beginning, plus posting, will get the word around fast. If operated as a wildlife

preserve the Pier can have as great a collection of wildlife as Rockland Lake.

Other than these few measures nothing more need to be done. In the writer's opinion any artificial improvements would be a mistake. Given the chance nature will automatically make the Pier a place all Piermont can enjoy. ■

* * *



Dock at end of the Pier

PIER CLEAN-UP?

The Piermont Conservation Advisory Commission has sponsored the annual spring Pier clean-up for several years in an effort to dramatize the need for Pier users, Pier owners and appropriate Village agencies to show more active environmental concern for one of the truly unique assets of the Village and its residents. Regrettably, the evidence indicates that the annual event has failed to accomplish this goal. We are now reluctantly convinced that only more formal measures will save the Pier from the pollution of littering and dumping that persists. Consequently the CAC will not sponsor the voluntary Pier clean-up this spring. In our opinion the principal step that must be taken to remedy the situation on the Pier is the development of a formal understanding and, subsequently, a formal policy between the owners and the Village to:

1. Prohibit all dumping and littering.
2. Prohibit all unauthorized vehicles from access to the Pier.

shop talk...

EPG has added to her line, Winnie the Pooh and Piglet. Also, Little Miss Big Cheese and Little Mister Big Cheese. The ultimate gift for the new arrival!

From the newly opened and richly stocked COMMUNITY MARKET owner Allan Kravitz reports that fresh chives and dill are in, slender and big asparagus and fresh spinach are tossing their tempting greenery, and the grapes are from Chili. On weekends there are fresh brioche and croissant from the same bakery that supplies Bloomingdales. And the Brie--forget it, who likes runny cheese. (Tell your friends.)

From March 2, the PIERMONT EXCHANGE will be selling raffle tickets on a quilt, hand crafted by the Cabin Creek Quilters. The design is the double wedding ring with multi-colored rings on a white background, double bed size (80"x105"). 500 tickets will be offered at \$2.00 each. Drawing will be held June 16 at 12 noon at the PIERMONT EXCHANGE. They also have Tom Renzi's beautifully hand painted faces on eggs for Easter. You may spot old stars among them. And don't forget, delightfully delectable hors d'oeuvres and desserts may be ordered in advance. They certainly help the hostess in her preparation for entertaining and will be so different.

MARDY ALLEN's shop is ready for spring with The Gardeners Catalogue--The Most Important Gardening Tool Since the Watering Can. It is a complete compendium--trees, shrubs, flowers, seeds, bulbs, house plants, fertilizers, tools etc. All about this garden earth. Also in stock, three of the Earl M. Coleman reprints, The Rose Garden by William Paul, Old Garden Roses by Edward A. Bunyard and Old Roses by Ethelyn Emery Keays. Each a beautiful excursion in rosedom. Check out also Mardy's miniature Easter baskets.

This month at the DIPLOMAT HEALTH SPA, owner Bruce Woolley will celebrate his sixth happy and successful year in business. He is particularly pleased with the response to his one month trial membership plan (\$25) offering the opportunity to try out the many facilities for exercise and health improvement. Also he looks forward to opening up windows all around the pool for a breath of spring air.

Guy Henle in his last column written for the Westchester Section of The New York Times added another star to THE TURNING POINT's rooster. In it he listed his 20 favorite restaurants ever reviewed. THE TURNING POINT was one.

Ginny Johnston at CLAUSLAND BOOKSHOP has again in stock a book by Grand View author, Henry Moscow, The Street Book. This is an interesting writing tracing origins of street names in Manhattan, and nicely illustrated with drawings and maps, places, houses and people. Patricia Sargent, who is indeed Pat Sargent Zegart of South Nyack is having published by Avon her first book, Mortal Encounter. In paperback, a suspense story of international intrigue, the book has received good television publicity. Early this month it will be on the table waiting for you at the CLAUSLAND BOOKSHOP.

At PIER 9W pedigree toys, gifts and giant stuffed plush toys abound. Cartoon characters recently added to this line include Bugs Bunny, Porky Pig and Daffy Duck. In the spring, owner Frank Hodges plans to open a discount furniture department in the basement of his shop. He also plans to have small antique pieces for sale.

Piermont welcomes a new shopkeeper, NANCY SJOFTROM, opening at 530 Main Street. Nancy designs and crafts gold and silver jewelry. Presently teaching at Rockland Community College, she will also schedule classes in jewelry making in her Piermont shop after March 1. Having studied at the Craft Student League

and the New School for Social Research in New York, she combines knowledge with a fine individual design sense to create beautiful one of a kind pieces.

THRIFT SHOP

The PCA NEWSLETTER continues to depend on the Thrift Shop for a share of its funding. In fact, members of the Piermont Civic Association started the Shop in the fall of 1966 as an outgrowth of its need for funds to pay for the completion of Kane Park and to bolster the burgeoning NEWSLETTER.

Designated "The Tappan Zee Thrift Shop of the Piermont Civic Association" the enterprise took shape under the guidance of Mildred Burck whose hope it was "to supply a source of income for the Piermont Civic Association, and to provide a means whereby local non-profit organizations can raise funds." Space was found in the present building at 454 Piermont Avenue which had housed Miraglia's Bar & Grill before the latter moved across the street to larger quarters. The restaurant's long mahogany bar remains, serving as the shop's display counter, backed by mirrored shelves which over the years have held items as exotic as Chinese silk jacket of a famous actress, as impressive as a Steuben vase, or as utilitarian as a meat grinder.

After a flurry of cleaning, carpentry, painting, collecting and pricing, members opened the shop Saturday, December 10, 1966 with \$700 worth of merchandise. It was an instant hit. A manager and a treasurer were recruited, present Mayor Mimi Bryan painted the sign that still hangs, and in the first year \$3,155 was distributed. Initially the Shop took items on consignment as well as thrift donations but it runs strictly on donations today. Other groups to benefit in the early years were the Piermont Fire Department and Ambulance Corps, the Sparkill Nursery School, Teen Center, Tappantown, South Nyack Tree Commission, The Palisades Library, the Dutch

Reformed Church of Piermont, Rockland Country Day School, and the Rockleigh Fire Department.

In 1970 the Thrift Shop became independent of the PCA. However, the Civic Association continues its affiliation as one of the eleven member groups who staff and benefit from the Shop. The other groups are: Community Playgroup, Macedonia Baptist Church; Mental Health of Rockland County, First Reformed Church of Piermont, Palisades Free Library, Piermont Library, Rockland Country Day School, St. John's R. C. Church, Tappantown Historical Society and Women's Way.

About 60 persons from these groups give volunteer hours to run the Shop. Some are pricers who, under the knowledgeable eye of Sue Hurst, wade through all the donations, discarding the unsuitable, inspecting the condition and attaching prices accordingly. The other volunteers staff the Shop during the hours it is open to the public--Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Isabel Stancliff has managed the Shop since 1971, juggling volunteers around to get coverage at all times in a manner that is fair to all the participating organizations. Donations are taken any time until 3:30 p.m. the days the Shop is open.

Popular in the Tappan Zee Thrift Shop is the Penny Box, a treasure trove of trivia, a place where a youngster can always find something to make his visit worthwhile. There is also a continuing Half Price Sale of clothing that has not moved within a certain period of time. And always there exists that element of adventure in hunting bargains, be it an antique, last year's Pop Art, or next Saturday night's evening dress. Many are the unexpected surprises, odd gifts and useful household items there for the recycling.

When a price goes on an item the amount is credited to the donor who once a year receives a tally of the total amount he has con-

THRIFT SHOP...cont'd.
tributed over the year for income tax purposes. (One donor was surprised to have \$20 returned that had turned up in a purse she had donated.)

A donor fills out a card assigning credit to the participating organization of his choice. Disbursements are made four times a year, the amount depending on the number of volunteer hours and donations made in each group's name. Last year PCA received \$604 from this source, about the cost of one NEWSLETTER printing and mailing.

PCA members and NEWSLETTER friends are urged to make donations to the Shop in PCA's name. Better yet, if you have some hours you would like to give, and a yen for fun, make yourself known. Don't forget, merchandise should be clean and serviceable. Clothes coming in on hangers are easier for the pricers to handle and generally bring higher prices.

In its twelve years of operation The Tappan Zee Thrift Shop has fulfilled its earliest dreams. Over \$70,000 has been distributed after expenses to local non-profit groups. More important, the Shop brings people to downtown Piermont, and by offering reasonable prices, helps many a tight budget in these inflationary times. ■

Senior News

Agnes Mackey Dark and Kurt Gerhardt have been appointed to the Orangetown Senior Citizen Advisory Committee. ■

IN MEMORIAM

JOHN A. BOYAN

...his name synonymous with service

Notes Around the Village

What do you know about the Pier?

Despite intense interest and concern about the Pier, many people mistakenly believe that the Village owns and controls it. Nothing could be further from the truth. The Village owns about 7% of the land above high water, and has no underwater land rights.

Continental Can owns approximately 62 acres of underwater lands north and south of the Pier together with the contiguous shoreline, all of the road, all lands south of the road (including the ball field--now leased to the Village, but excluding the old landfill site), and all the land eastward from the first bend in the road to the tip--a total of 44 acres. Continental Can also retains ownership, but leases to the Village, both the bi-level parking lot opposite the Fire House and the "mill beach" site.

Clevepak owns the buildings at the foot of Ash Street, along the newly fenced siding behind Community Market, and the unused building on Ohio Street. These, plus the parking lot cover approximately 12 acres. The aeration basins, located on the north side of the Pier road, east of Federal Paper's land, comprise an additional 7 acres for Clevepak.

Federal Paper owns 16 acres of buildings and parking area on the north side of the Pier road.

There are easements for telephone cables which carry the main trunk lines to Europe, and for pipelines carrying sewage from Orangetown's and the county's treatment plants. Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory has a lease for the end of the Pier where the concrete dock and cinder-block building were constructed. □

The Fire Department is sponsoring a Red Cross First Aid course which is scheduled to begin in the spring. For details of the time and dates call Al Bartley at 359-5190 or Dave Gerhardt at 359-4216. There is no obligation to join the Empire Hose Co.

How good is your household security?

Do you lock your doors, including those on decks and porches? Cellar? Garage? Windows?

Would your neighbors call the police if they saw someone seeming to study your house? Or a strange car in your driveway when you're not at home? Or anything which seemed out of the ordinary or unusual for your neighborhood? Most burglaries in Piermont occur in daylight--before noon, when no one is home.

Have you marked your valuables with an engraving tool to make fencing more difficult, and tracing and identifying easier? The Police Department has such a tool available on request. □

Do you understand the Village communication system?

359-0076 FIRE--calls answered by Orangetown Police who activate the alarm.

359-0240 POLICE--calls answered by Orangetown Police who radio the message to the Piermont car when it is on the road.

359-1828 AMBULANCE--calls answered by one of five volunteer dispatchers who have extensions in their homes. □

Nothing to do?

Can you believe that a village of about 2500 people has these activities, organizations and clubs to join?

Lions, Rotary, Sons of Italy, VFW? Empire Hose Co. #1 (Fire Department, Ambulance Corps, Underwater Rescue Squad), Piermont Library Staff?

Parent-Teachers Association, Piermont Civic Association, Senior Citizens, RSVP, Tappan Zee Yacht Club?

Boards and Commissions of the Village Government? Church groups for men and women?

Scouting and the T-Shirt League, though for children, take a lot of adult time? □



Mildred Burck, Fred Stewart, Betty Catron and Mardy Allen, members of Piermont's newest group of businessmen and women.

It has been several years since the draft Master Plan was presented to Village residents. Though some of its recommendations have been acted on, it still remains skeletal with regard to Main Street from Ash Street south to the railroad crossing. To flesh out the plan with very specific, attainable objectives is the task being undertaken by a group of businessmen and women of the Village under the chairmanship of Mildred Burck, newest member of the Planning Board. Using techniques of meetings, surveys, workshops, with the fullest cooperation of the Village Board, this group hopes to deal with the physical appearance of Main Street, to determine and recruit the kinds of additional services needed to encourage Piermonters to stay in Piermont to shop, to create cooperative methods of attracting others to shop, eat, or utilize services offered by Village businesses and to thus enhance the quality of life in the Village.

Direct involvement of the people most affected by the success or failure of business in Piermont (both users and providers) is needed. Piermont already enjoys a singularly beautiful setting, a richly diverse population and shops offering unique quality. To build on these significant advantages is the work of this committee. ■

COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP ADDS DAY CARE PROGRAM

As of press date, the Community Playgroup is completing the renovations to the Community Center which will permit their licensing as a Day Care Center. Hopefully this program will be in place by March 1 with openings for 15 full-day children, ages 3-5, in addition to the present pre-school program.

At this time of national questioning and examination of CETA programs, we feel it is important to emphasize the critical role this federal funding has played in the establishment of our Day Care program. The existence of our CETA grant has enabled us determine community need, train and salary staff and institute a quality day care program which we are confident will greatly benefit many Orange-town families. Without CETA this would not have been possible.

We would like to thank our CETA employees who have made our program such a success: Eileen Burge, Tina Comey, Elda Dow, Diane Malkus and Verlaine Zamore.

Our appreciation must also be extended to those helpful people in the Manpower office: Michael Condello, Robert Goodkin, Pamela Gross and Larry Gowney. Additional gratitude for their assistance and support must go also to Samuel Coleman, Joseph Collelo and David Stuart.

As our program expands, so do our horizons. Presently a survey is being done to determine the need for an after school program for older children which would be a recreational program of sports, crafts and science. If you haven't received a survey through the Tappan Zee Elementary School, contact the Playgroup if you are interested in this program.

If you need additional information, are interested in enrolling your child, or visiting any of these programs, contact the Center at 359-9174 and speak to Eileen Burge or Dee Krummack.

PIERMONT SUPPORTS DAY CARE PROGRAM

"A Community that Cares"

The Community Playgroup would like to express their thanks to the PCA and other organizations for their contributions to our capital funds drive.

PCA donated \$500.

Palisades Presbyterian Church gave \$500 and a loan of \$2,750.

Clevepak Corporation \$50.

Chemical Bank sent representatives from their Urban Affairs Group and we have submitted a proposal to Ms. Weisel. We are optimistic that we will receive a substantial contribution from them.

Other thanks go to the Piermont Fire Department, especially Mr. Sorriento, Mr. Goswick and Mr. Lynch who have worked closely with our staff in determining the best alarm system for the building. The Village Board and Mayor Bryan have been most helpful in directing us to people within the community skilled to do the work. They also provided support for the alarm system which will protect the entire building as well as the rooms used by the Playgroup. Mr. Bill Holmes, one of our parents, assisted by Mr. McPherson and Mr. Jewett, have donated a great deal of their time to install the hood for the stove, the flooring in the kitchen, pantry and bathroom as well as the kitchen storage units. Community Market, Piermont Liquor Store, Clausland Book Shop, EPG Originals, The Turning Point and Cornetta's have all been very supportive of our fund-raising activities and we want to thank them publicly. The Piermont Thrift Shop has been a source of income for us for many years and the Piermont Exchange sells all manner of small beasts and dolls for us which provide seed money for our Christmas Bazaar.

If you have lasted through this long list of kudos, you have fortitude! We read and hear a great deal about people's self-centered lives. This community has shown

COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP...cont'd.

again its uniqueness in that its people really do care--for without this support, we could never have made our dream a reality.

Phyllis Brunson for
The Board of Directors
The Community Playgroup ■

**THANK
YOU!**

T-SHIRT LEAGUE

Spring training for the T-Shirt League begins in April. Registration forms were distributed last month, and teams are now being chosen. League president Dee Krummack negotiated with the Village to provide field maintenance. "Anyone with construction skills (masonry and carpentry) better watch out!" says Mrs. Krummack. "We have a work session planned for Saturday, April 7 at the field. The bleachers and dugouts need repair."

For the first time the managers will not be burdened with fund raising because Ronnie Cocker and Kathryn Smith have agreed to co-chair the fund raising committee. (See letter below.)

The players and their parents pay the cost of insurance and the baseball caps. The League, with community help, provides equipment (helmets, pads, bats, balls, etc.) at a cost of about \$600, with trophies costing \$150. The umpire fees require an additional \$310 for the full season. The League's official policy is to keep the cost as low as possible for each child therefore local merchants are being asked to underwrite the cost of uniforms.

This program, beginning mid-April, continues through June and provides four evenings a week (Monday through Thursdays) when Piermonters, old and young, can gather at the field for the old ball game.

T-SHIRT LEAGUE PIERMONT, N.Y.

Dear Friends of Piermont Children:

The T-Shirt Baseball League, serving the children of our community, celebrated its 20th year of activity in 1978. This wholesome, recreational sport for boys and girls ages 8-12 receives no funds from any governmental source. The coaches give freely of their time to instruct the children.

Because we believe that communities such as ours subscribe to the concept that young children need and grow through disciplined sports activities, we are appealing to you to help us support this League.

Any amount of money you wish to contribute will be greatly appreciated. Please be generous to our children, you will be repaid in many ways. Please make check payable to Piermont T-Shirt League and mail to:

Piermont T-Shirt League
c/o Dee Krummack, President
593 Piermont Avenue
Piermont, New York 10968

Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,

Ronnie Cocker and
Kathryn Smith ■

1979 PCA Dues are still being collected.

BLUEGRASS FAIR MEMORIAL DAY, MAY 28

Don't forget to mail in your 1979 PCA Dues.

PIER CLEAN-UP...cont'd.

3. Establish a workable policy for enforcement of Items 1 and 2.
4. Clarify and enforce owner property maintenance responsibility as per Village code.



CAC members inspecting broken lock on Pier gate

We thank all those residents of the Village who have participated in the Pier clean-up in previous years and trust your continued concern will not be diminished by this temporary setback and that together we may find more effective ways of restoring our environment.

Piermont Conservation Advisory Commission ■

Compliments of the Chef

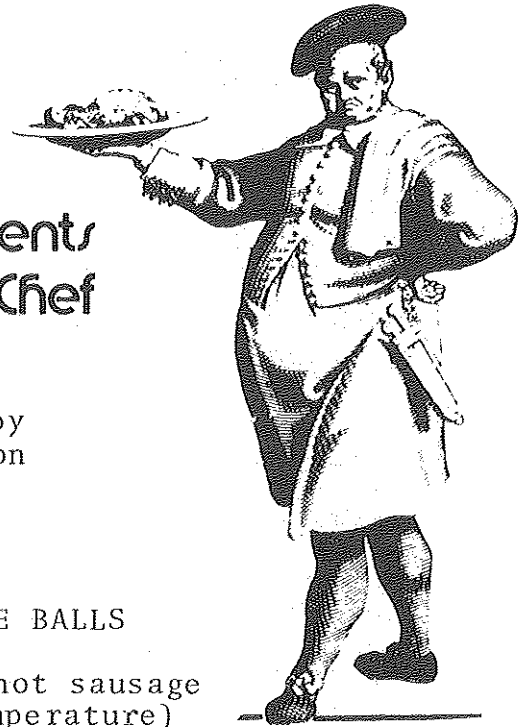
Submitted by
Helen Catron

HOT SAUSAGE BALLS

- 1 lb. raw hot sausage
(room temperature)
- 3 cups Bisquick
- 10 oz. extra sharp Cheddar
cheese, grated
- 4 drops Tabasco Sauce

Combine all ingredients until they adhere in a large ball. Make bite size balls and bake at 375°F for 30 minutes.

They do not change size in baking. Try them, you'll delight in their taste. ■



PIERMONT'S HIDDEN WORD GAME

E A R T S R R P C A T M
N G D V I E W I H S F A
T S D B V I L E A I I R
N R E I O P E I R E S S
O B R W R A L E M R H H
M I L L E B T I K S I O
R R S H O R E S O L N U
E D O A U A T S O N G S
I S T C G N I L I A S E
P S K E E R C S P O H S

WORD LIST

ARTS	MILL
BIRDS	PCA
BOATS	PIER
BRIDGE	PIERMONT
CHARM	RIVER
CREEK	SAILBOATS
ERIE	SAILING
FIRETRUCK	SEWER
FISHING	SHOPS
HOUSES	SHORES
LIONS	VIEW
MARSH	

PALISADES TRIANGLE

Palisades residents have long been concerned that the 2.93 acre parcel of land in the center of their hamlet might some day be developed. Known as "The Triangle," it is zoned CS (Community Shopping) and the peaceful woods could be replaced by any number of businesses with accompanying traffic increase; leaving the rural character and values of the community seriously affected.

The land, bordered by Route 9W, Oak Tree Road and Closter Road is known locally as the "Gateway to Rockland County." It is owned by the heirs of the late Marie (Chrissy) Ratcliff. Last summer Reg and Dossi Thayer learned that the property was going on the open market. Because of strong concern with the irreversible nature of commercial development, they acquired for \$1000 an option on the parcel from the owners. The option was based on a \$50,000 purchase price--the \$1000 to be applied toward the purchase price if the option is exercised and forfeited if not. A committee to save the Palisades Triangle was formed.

Hopes for a federal or town grant proved unfounded. However, with the help of Nash Castro, then

General Manager of the Palisades Interstate Park, the Committee learned that the Triangle can be preserved under a Small Neighborhood Funding program administered by the New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal. The grant provides 75% of the \$50,000 purchase price and the other 25% to be raised by the people of Palisades. The Triangle meets all requirements for this particular funding. To get the funding the application must be filed by Orangetown, which they agreed to do. Because Palisades is unincorporated and cannot take title to the property, the land will be donated to Orangetown but will remain a passive park with at most a foot path crossing it. This is significant because there will be no Orangetown maintenance required. No town money will be required in either the purchase or maintenance of the property.

The money has been raised by Palisades residents and various organizations for their portion of the purchase price and has already been turned over to Orangetown. As of press date the town is applying for the state grant for the remainder of the \$50,000. It appears the Triangle will be saved from possible commercial development. ■

VILLAGE ELECTION TUESDAY, MARCH 20

PEOPLE

LOCAL ARTIST EXHIBITS

Currently exhibiting her acrylic paintings at Rockland Center for the Arts on Greenbush Road, West Nyack, is local resident Helen Burden Price. Helen moved to Tweed Blvd. several years ago from Bergen County where she was active in art circles and the recipient of numerous awards. Since coming here she has exhibited in Village

Hall and in the Piermont Library. She is very impressed with the opportunities for artists in Rockland County, citing "the personal climate for artists" as particularly good.

Helen is creating a studio in her basement where she can continue to explore on canvas the uses of form and color in space to express feelings of loneliness, peace, anticipation and joy.

The show continues through March 25, Monday-Saturday, 10-4, Sunday 1-4. ■

THE PIERMONT NEWSLETTER is published three times a year by the Piermont Civic Association. This issue was compiled and written by: Mardy Allen, Liz Barnes, Bob Bradbury, Phyllis Brunson, Mimi Bryan, Mildred Burck, Helen Catron, John Deans, Lori Joseph, Dee Krummack, Grace Meyer, Palisades Triangle Committee, Alan Rich, W. Dorwin Teague and Maggy Voorhees. Photographs by: Betty Catron, John Douglas, Stan Jacobs and Sally Savage. Art Director Lori Joseph. Edited and Typed by Liz Barnes.

Reminders

VILLAGE ELECTION TUESDAY, MARCH 20

Garbage Pick-up Holiday Schedule

When a holiday falls on Monday, garbage pick-up is on Tuesday.

When the holiday is Friday, garbage pick-up is Thursday.

Coming holidays: April 13, Good Friday, garbage will be collected on Thursday, April 12.

SPRING CLEAN UP AND TRASH COLLECTION WILL BEGIN ON TUESDAY, APRIL 3.

Monday, May 28 PCA Annual Bluegrass Fair. Mark your calendar.

* * *

1979 PCA Dues are still being collected.

* * *

ERRATUM

Apologies to Barbara Porta for the typographical error in spelling her name in the November 1978 NEWSLETTER.

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