

THE PIERMONT NEWSLETTER

Volume XI, No. 3

PUBLISHED BY THE PIERMONT CIVIC ASSOCIATION

NOVEMBER 1977



NEW LIFE FOR 441 PIERMONT AVENUE?

Piermonters will be happy to hear that an agreement has been reached which should settle the future of 441 Piermont Avenue, the white three-family building next to the Sons of Italy social club. This building has been a source of concern for some time since it has been left vacant for more than ten years and, not being well secured, has presented an open invitation to mischief and possible harm to local youngsters. It has also developed into something of an eyesore along the main street of the Village.

441 Piermont Avenue is a "longtime resident" of the Village and although its history is no longer easy to discover, colorful rumors (by now legend?) abound. One story, unverifiable today, has it that the building

was used by the Underground Railroad transporting escaped slaves on their way to Canada and freedom. Another suggests that it was used by rum-runners during Prohibition! On the more prosaic side, a late 19th Century photograph shows the building as Meyer's Meat Market. A younger Village resident remembers it only as a residential building, and one in a fairly sad state by the time everyone moved out.

Indeed, whatever its past fames and infamies, hard times have prevailed for the last ten years and taxes have not been paid during that time to either Village or County governments. Since the County held a claim to the property in lieu of taxes, the Village had approached them to take some responsibility

Continued P.3

PCA TO ELECT OFFICERS FOR '78

The nominating committee of the Piermont Civic Association, Daisy Spencer and Grace Meyer, will present the following slate of officers to the membership at our next scheduled meeting on November 16, 8:15 p.m. at the Piermont Village Hall. As you will notice only a few changes were made from the officers serving in 1977. The nominating committee felt that the past officers had served well and that repeat terms could only increase their value to the Association.

1978 Slate

President: Douglas Brunson
Vice President: Kendall Barnes
Secretary: Helen Norman
Treasurer: Maggie Voorhees

Board: Bob Bradbury
Mildred Burck
Bo diFrancesca
Lori Joseph
Eve Mesnick
Carole Novick
Marge Spring

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor on November 16. Following the election an interesting program



PCA MEETING WEDS. NOV. 16
PROFESSOR FITCH WILL SPEAK

The country's leading architectural preservationist, James Marston Fitch, will speak at the PCA's next meeting on Wednesday, November 16 at 8:30 in the Board Room upstairs at the Piermont Village Hall. Fitch, former Director of Columbia University's Restoration and Preservation Program in the School of Architecture, is an eloquent, entertaining speaker, familiar with the historic buildings of Piermont.

On display will be the Piermont portion of a recent study of historic districts in Rockland County completed by Albin Associates. A short film will also be shown entitled "A Place in Time." It focuses on how communities across the

country have used historic preservation.

This meeting will serve by way of introduction to a project that Marjorie Spring will work on over the winter, to fulfill some of the requirements for her masters degree at Columbia. She plans to do an architectural and historical survey of all the buildings in Piermont using the New York State Parks and Recreation Division for Historic Preservation Building-Structure Inventory Form. These will be filed in Albany, becoming part of a statewide inventory of historic resources.

The survey can be used in Piermont as a basis for future planning and for considering historic district legislation for the Village. Creating an historic district in Piermont could bring the Village and individual property owners real economic benefits, making them eligible for Preservation Grants-in-Aid and enabling them to take advantage of provisions for historic buildings in the new tax reform act. More control over future development also results since an A-95 review would be required for any federally funded project which encroached on the Village. New construction would be required to be compatible with the existing buildings in the Village.

In the meantime, the completed survey will be a valuable record of what now exists in Piermont. Marge hopes to interest others in helping with the survey. The state supplies fairly simple two-page forms to be completed for each building. The form is designed to be used by people who don't necessarily have architectural or historical expertise, so don't feel you must be a professional to volunteer your services. For example, doing your own house would be a good way to learn and document its history.

State forms and explanatory manuals will be available at the November meeting and questions will be answered.■

EDITORIAL

TOWN CLERK ELECTION

On November 8, Orangetown residents will go to the polls to elect a Town Clerk.

Mimi Bryan has served the Village of Piermont for the past seven years, first as a Trustee and now as Mayor. As Mayor, she developed a spirit of harmony and bipartisanship, working effectively with the Village Trustees to bring about substantial accomplishments to benefit Piermont: winning a \$100,000 Federal grant to repair the sewer line on Piermont Avenue; saving the old Erie right-of-way for a Village Park; getting a \$10,000 grant from the County to rebuild the Kane Park dock; revising and updating all Village ordinances. During her term as Mayor, three new governmental bodies were established, the Planning Board, the Parks Commission and the Environmental Commission.

Now Mayor Bryan has been nominated to run for the office of Town Clerk in Orangetown. We all know of her fine record in Piermont. Mimi Bryan

is an experienced, concerned and proven public official.

The Editorial Board of the PIERMONT NEWSLETTER endorses Mayor Bryan in her bid for Town office and urges you to support her with your vote on November 8. ■

ATTEND THE PCA MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 8:15 AT THE VILLAGE HALL.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Please send us the Piermont NEWSLETTER. A friend, Val Peterson, sent us the July issue and we enjoyed it so much. It's good to hear from old friends but also good to read about the same old friends and places in a non-newspaper.

I enclose an extra \$1.00 for postage out of state. Your special articles and pictures are especially good.

Sincerely,

Ernie Tebo

New Life for 441, Cont'd.

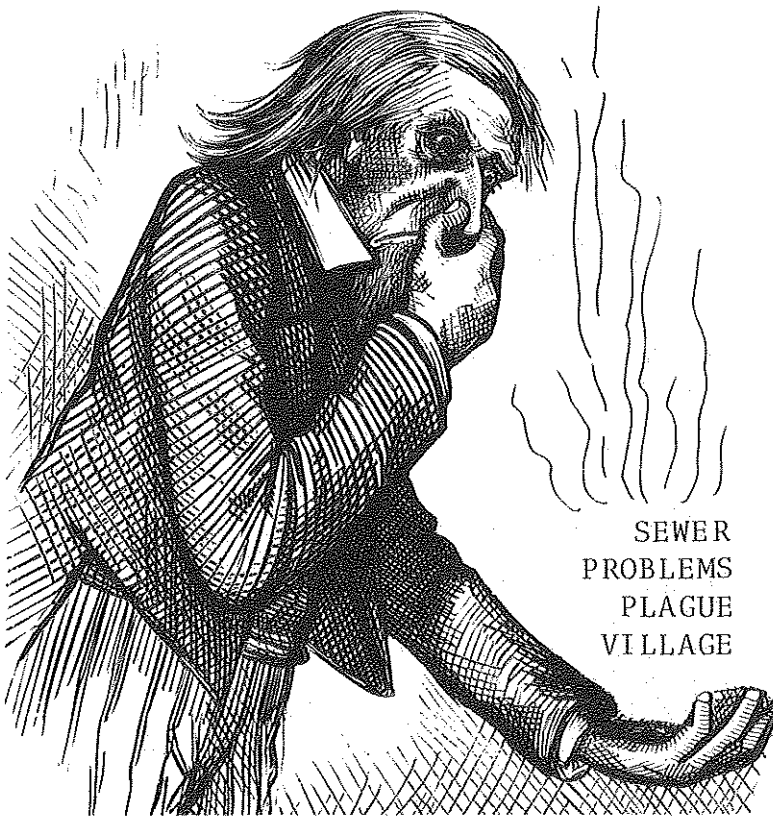
for its condition when the road started caving in in front on the property.

Plans to demolish the structure were being discussed, but demolition was not the solution the Village would have preferred since it would have left an empty lot on the main street, destroyed potentially good housing and with it a part of Village history.

Fortunately, demolition proved unfeasible because of the relationship of the unit to those on either side. From the County's point of view, the expense of razing 441 Piermont Avenue and propping up or otherwise strengthening the remaining structures, ruled it out.

In an attempt to find a more tenable solution, the Village Board discussed and Mayor Bryan presented to the County an idea which she believes to be "unprecedented" among small villages such as ours. Piermont has agreed to forego back taxes on 441 Piermont Avenue, in return for the County's promise to conduct a title search and offer the building at public auction. The terms of any sale will include the stipulation that the building be immediately secured and rehabilitation be completed within a "reasonable period of time," roughly 12-18 months.

Hopefully this plan will insure that a new owner for the property is found and a bit of Piermont's Main Street history will be saved, restored, used and returned to the tax rolls to the betterment of the entire community. ■



SEWER
PROBLEMS
PLAGUE
VILLAGE

In the July NEWSLETTER we learned in the Piermont Correspondence reprinted from an 1852 Rockland County Journal that Piermont was incorporated, in part, to "get rid of the almost incredible stench with which every street in the Village was infested." More than 125 years later we are once again plagued by an incredible stench in the streets. This time the smell arises from sewer gas and sewage overflows escaping from manholes along the line carrying sewage from Nyack and Grand View to the treatment plant in Orangeburg. The line follows the old railroad right-of-way, and residents living near the line, particularly in the vicinity of Ash Street, have complained to Village, Town, and County authorities about the odors since July of 1976, shortly after the line was constructed. Raw sewage has been observed to flow out of manholes along the line, down Ash and Tate Streets, and onto Piermont Avenue after heavy rains. The line is the responsibility of Orangetown's Department of Public Works, whose executive director is Donald Brenner.

After more than a year of complaints, the exact cause of the odors and the overflows remains unknown, but both have been traced to the Orangetown

sewer line by the Rockland County Board of Health. Following increased complaints to the Board during July, a meeting was held on August 16 between representatives of the Board of Health, Piermont, Grand View, Orangetown, the State Department of Environmental Conservation and the firms which designed and built the sewer line. At the meeting George O'Keefe, Assistant Commissioner for Environmental Health for Rockland County, acknowledged receipt of a petition signed by 246 Piermont residents calling for a solution to the odor and overflow problems. Mr. O'Keefe directed Orangetown to present to the Board of Health by September 20, proposals for both temporary and permanent solutions to both problems. The temporary solutions to be implemented by the end of 1977. Orangetown's resulting proposal made by Mr. Brenner was rejected by the Board of Health as being an inadequate solution. As of this writing the Board has scheduled administrative hearings on the matter, the first step in legal action to force a solution by Orangetown.

In the September 28 issue of Our Town, Mr. Brenner attributed the overflows to illegal hookups of rain gutters and storm drains into the sewer line. However, at the August 16 meeting he revealed that the sewer line was designed to carry a maximum flow of 6.5 MGD (million gallons per day), but begins to overflow at only 3.7 MGD. Thus while the illegal hookups do contribute to the problem, the actual fault lies in the improper functioning of the line, whether through poor design or improper construction. Since the line is anticipated to be at or near maximum designed capacity within ten years, the problems can only intensify if not corrected now. With these considerations in mind it is clear that a solution must be forthcoming. What remains to be seen is what additional cost, at the taxpayers' expense, will be incurred by the delaying tactics of the Orangetown officials who are responsible for the necessary solution.

To bring about a speedy solution to the sewer problems, the cooperation of all affected residents is required. Complaints should be phoned to the Board of Health, 354-0200, each time an odor or overflow is noticed. Direct odor complaints to Mike Fitzula, overflow complaints to Bob Mansfield. If they are not available leave the complaint with whomever answers the phone. The more complaints on file, the stronger the case to force a

solution by the Town. Your house does not need to be affected to file a complaint. If you are driving or walking through the area and notice an odor or overflow, call the Board and complain. Tell your friends to do the same, even if they are not Village residents. Complaints can also be left with the night or weekend operators at the Health Complex. And remember, only sustained citizen effort will bring about a solution to our Village's sewer problem!

shop talk...

The PIERMONT EXCHANGE reports a wonderful response from their consigners all over the country to a call for handcrafted gift items for Christmas. They are in the process of receiving great varieties of toys, stitched and quilted soft items, pottery etc. The freezer is stocked with home-made casseroles, desserts, bread, cookies, and hors d'oeuvres, to pop in the oven. Also available are delicious herb vinegars to add a distinctive taste to your salads and cooking.

MARDY ALLEN has English chintz Gift Bags with ties and labels enclosed, in various sizes and colors, for a different and personal wrap for your special gifts.

At the FLOWER POT, Frank Bassi and Linda Chaillou are featuring a fall arrangement known as Return-From-A-Quiet-Summer Special. Don't ask, go and see!

THE PIERMONT ANTIQUE SHOP, which we never know how or when to get into, now has Lora Sala assisting John McCahan and promises to be open 12:00 - 3:00 daily. Good!

THE CLAUSLAND BOOK SHOP will hang a second exhibition of prints by W. H. Bartlett, opening October 11. Ginny reports the first show was a sellout.

And at EPG, Elise Gaston says, "Watch for the GOOD FAIRY in an October issue from Kalaedoscope." Her shop is open now from 12:00 - 5:00 weekdays.

Butcher Tommy at the COMMUNITY MARKET recommends his young, light, milk fed veal. It is especially tender. Try scallopini, wienerschnitzel or a delicate veal stew. Delicious!

Our most recent Piermont Avenue opening is the shop of Landscape Architect LUCIA HANNUM. A graduate of the University of Maryland and Cornell School of Landscape Architecture, she works primarily in New York City, planning and beautifying parks and public areas. Sharing the shop are GAIL KINZEL, a sculptor, and JERRY SCHWARTZ, designer of custom jewelry. Jerry works in gold and silver.

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AT THE LIBRARY

Who is Peggy Dodds? During a recent cleaning of a Library storage room, a large painting was found. It is a fanciful portrait of a young girl gazing up at a large bird in the moonlight. The painting is signed by Peggy Dodds. If anyone knows anything about the painting or the artist please contact the Library. We are curious.

Fall was welcomed at the Library with a tremendously successful open house on Sunday, September 25. Honored guests were Piermont authors, William Gaddis, Dale Hiestand, Pat Lowe, Art Watkins and illustrator Portia Takakjian. A display of their books and those of other Piermont authors past and present was featured in the hall gallery. The following day the Library entertained the Tappan Zee Elementary School teachers at its annual tea.

This year the Library is working closely with the Librarian from Tappan Zee High School, Jane Scott. She has initiated a 1/2 credit course where students can volunteer to work either at the school library or their local public library to earn credit. Working in programs such as story telling, films and other facets of public library work can be selected.

With Halloween approaching, the display for October hopes to put everyone in the mood--magic is the theme. There will be a special program on Saturday, October 29 at

3:00 p.m. where children are invited to come and share their favorite trick or simply come and learn a few. Costumes are optional. Peter Ford, Piermont mime, who did a popular program last year will also turn some tricks and keep the ball rolling.

November will feature a display of photography by Barbara Porta, local environmentalist from Tappan. Her subject will not only be nature but other subjects that have caught her eye over the years while living in Rockland.

Children's Book Week is November 14-20 and the Library is celebrating by having a children's Poetry Workshop on Friday, November 18 at 4:00 p.m. conducted by Paula Scholz, Children's Librarian. It will be shown how anyone can write poetry and how much fun it can be. Mrs. Scholz conducted a similar workshop at the Tappan Zee Elementary School several years ago.

December brings us into Christmas with the annual tree trimming party on Wednesday, December 21 at 3:00 p.m. Adrienne Scholz will show children how to make origami ornaments to hang on the tree, an art she learned during her recent stay in Japan. Any adults who are interested are welcome.

Pre-school story hour continues every Tuesday morning at 10:30 a.m. and films for Elementary School children are every Tuesday afternoon at 3:45 p.m. ■

A WEIRD THANKSGIVING

At my grandma's during Thanksgiving
It's not even worth living.
Instead of eating turkey
We eat this awful stuff
It's called monkey meat
and it's really tough.
Instead of having pumpkin pie,
which I really love,
we have this really junky stuff
which is head of a dove.
And if we never eat this stuff,
which we hardly ever do,
we get fed with something worse called
Raw Kangaroo.

Declan Spring 11/17/76

9W HEAVY TRUCK BAN RECOMMENDED

The Piermont Village Hall was packed with over 200 people on September 7 when Al Dickson, Regional Director of the State Department of Transportation, conducted a public hearing concerning the State's proposal to ban thru trucks of over 10 tons on 9W from the N.Y.-N.J. line to the N.Y. Thruway interchange in South Nyack, and from Route 340 south of Sparkill. Trucks making local deliveries along the route or in adjacent villages would be exempt from the ban.

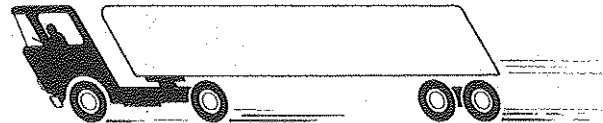
The State outlined studies they had conducted leading them to the conclusion that the ban of long distance trucking was the most feasible way to bring relief to our community from the high volume of such trucks now using the road to avoid tolls and traffic tie-ups on alternate routes. They calculated that most truckers could use Route 17 or the NYS Thruway instead of 9W and experience only slightly longer traveling times. Mr. Dickson announced that his office had been flooded with letters supporting the ban. (Indicating the success of the PCA letter writing campaign instigated in the July NEWSLETTER)

State Senator Linda Winikow, whose efforts in Albany have largely brought this proposal about, and Assemblyman Gene Levy spoke in support of the ban. Then the meeting was opened to comments and questions from the audience who gave the proposal their overwhelming support. Local government officials, Mayors Bryan and Moscow, and Supervisor Colello, all read statements in support of the ban. George Hovanac of the West Hudson Environmental Association presented Dickson with petitions signed by over 2,000 people. Carole Novick spoke for the Piermont Civic Association when she described the fears residents had when using or crossing the road and how these hazards discouraged potential shoppers from coming to Piermont's business district.

Only three truckers voiced opposition to the ban, and were quickly rebutted by pro-ban speakers.

After a rousing final oratory by State Senator Linda Winikow, the audience stood in standing ovation, and went back home feeling that just maybe, a small community could fight big government and win.

In response to the overwhelming community support for the proposed truck ban, Regional Director Dickson, recommended to the State Transportation Commissioner William C. Hennessey that the 9W ban be put into effect as soon as possible. The official ruling from Commissioner Hennessey has not been announced as we go to press, but we trust that the will of the community will not be ignored.■



SEND IN YOUR PCA DUES FOR 1978 TODAY!

LIVE IN PIERMONT? WHY HIDE BEHIND A NYACK ADDRESS.

Piermont residents who live along 9W and who must use a Nyack address to get mail delivery know all the inconveniences and frustrations that go along with it.

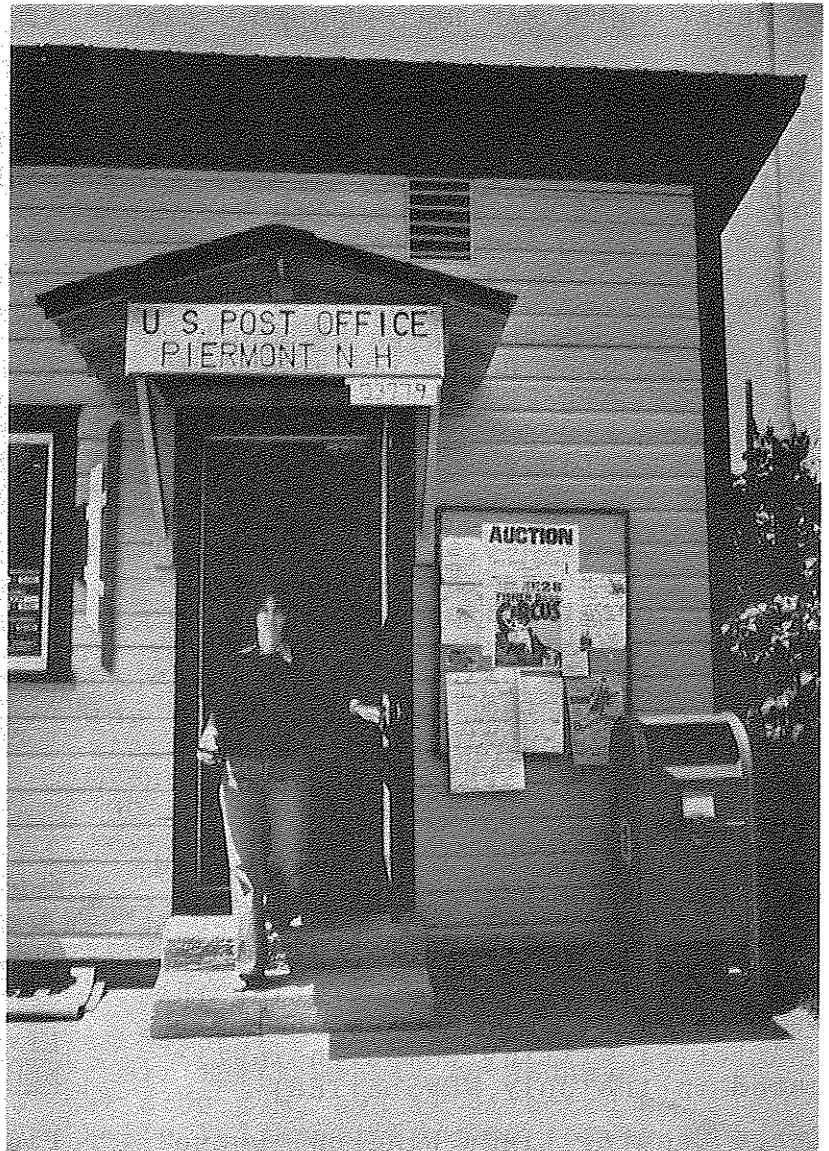
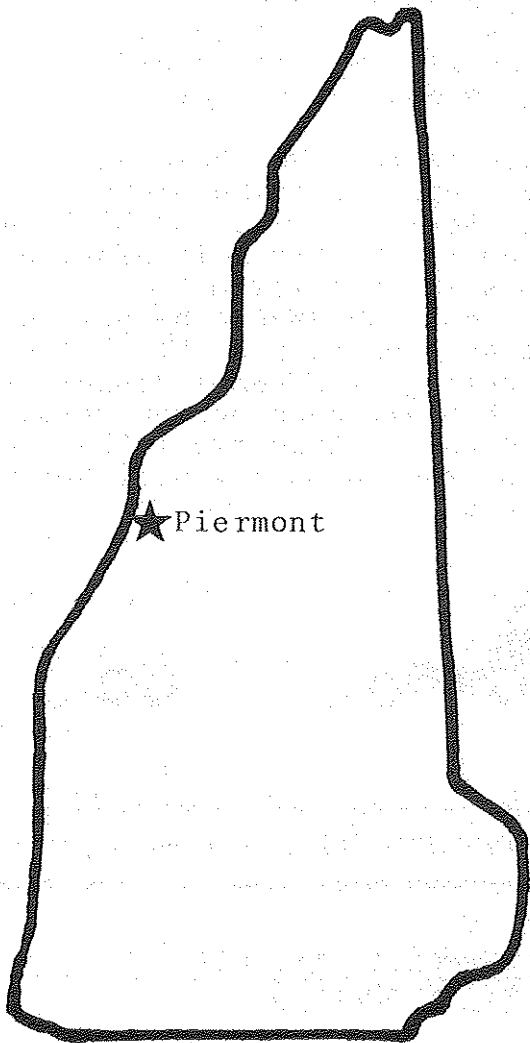
As one of those residents who is proud of their village I have tried to have my address changed.

How do you feel about it, wouldn't you like a Piermont address?

The Piermont Post Office now has a mail truck to make these deliveries and is willing to do so, but cannot while this route is assigned to the Nyack Post Office.

If there is community support we can petition the Postal Service to make this change.

If you are interested in pursuing this matter contact June Steiner 359-4784 after 6 p.m. or weekends.■



PIERMONT, NEW HAMPSHIRE!

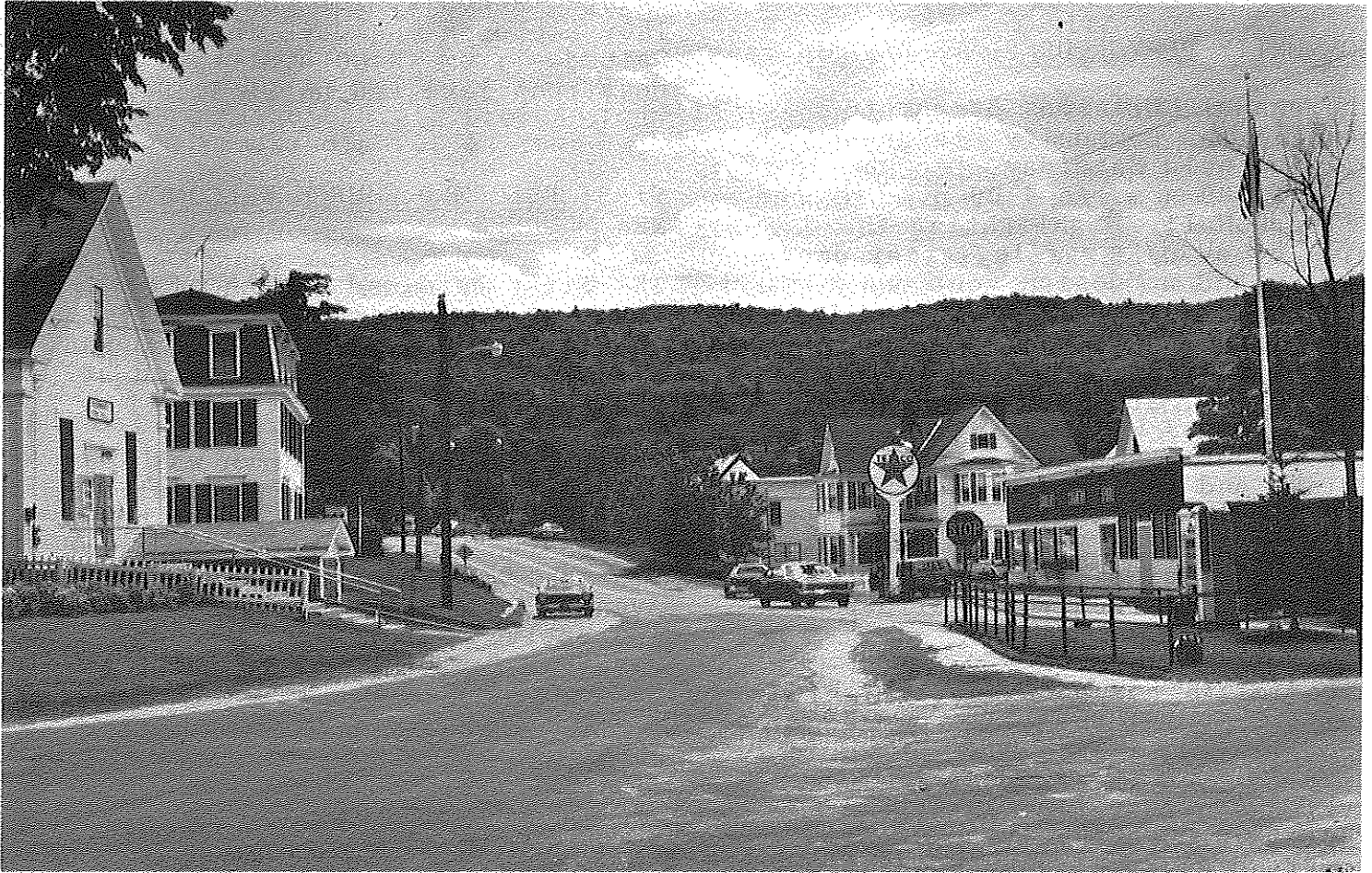
Last June the Spring family was driving up Route 91 en route to climb Mt. Washington when our son Evan's sharp eyes picked out "Piermont" on the map of New Hampshire. Since we were within twenty miles we decided to make a detour to see it, crossing from Vermont to New Hampshire over the Connecticut River. Halfway over the trestle bridge was a sign saying Piermont, N.H. On the other side of the river there were lovely farms set among rolling hills. The village center was a mile away.

In the center of town we got our car filled up at the Texaco gas pump just outside the door of the General Store which sells every-

thing from Wellington Boots and flannel shirts to fresh clams and Pepperidge Farm Cookies. The butcher's meats were as varied and delicious looking as those of the Community Market.

We wandered over to the Post Office and were hailed by the retired postmaster sitting on his front porch next door who said that he thought from our behavior we must come from Piermont, New York! He said that he often used to get our mail before the days of zip codes and that we are the only two Piermonts in the United States, and he knows of none anywhere else in the world.

We asked about the derivation of the village's name and were told that it was founded in 1764 by settlers



from Massachusetts. They saw a new rockslide on the face of Peaked Mountain which looms up behind the village. The slide looked like a "pier" hence the name. Then the long low mountain next to Peaked Mountain acquired the name Piermont Mountain from the settlement. Their "pier" is now forested over and is no longer the landmark ours is.

When we got home, we made a few telephone calls to learn some history and a few statistics about Piermont. Bob Lang, principal of Piermont Elementary School (75 children) said that Piermont, primarily an agricultural community, has a population of 520. Those not involved in farming, work in Hanover.

Mr. Lang referred us to Alfred Stevens, president of the Historical Association who, to judge from the sounds in the background, answered the phone in the barn and kindly interrupted his evening chores to talk to us. He said that the population has jumped 12 1/2% since 1970 and that they are anticipating resort and second home development. He said that in the late 1800's the population was as high as 1,100. Piermont, N.H. seems always to have enjoyed a fairly peaceful existence. When we asked Mr. Stevens about highpoints in the village's history, he told us about the season, a few years after settlement, when worms ate all the crops. The inhabitants survived the winter on pumpkins which were rafted down the Connecticut River to them from concerned citizens of nearby Newbury, Vermont.

ORGANIZATIONS

COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP PLANS BAZAAR

The annual Christmas Bazaar to benefit the Community Playgroup will be held Saturday, December 3 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Village Hall. Highlighting the day will be a 50/50 raffle, great door prizes and a "design your own T-shirt or patch" table. Adding new excitement for the children this year will be tables where they can make a gift themselves, at minimal cost. Refreshments will be served throughout the day, hot dogs, tacos, soft drinks and an array of home baked items.

Plan to join us for a fun day and an early start on your holiday shopping.

A committee has been meeting throughout the summer and fall to make hand-crafted items. If you would like to join this group, it meets every Wednesday from 10-4 at Phyllis Brunson's. If you can contribute any hand-crafted items, baked goods, plants, "white elephants," books or toys, contact Phyllis Brunson 359-5598, or Linda Baker 359-4050.

* * *

LIONS RECYCLING SUCCESS

The Lions Club wants to remind you that November 12 is the date of their next recycling drive. On the second Saturday of each month the Lions will receive your glass (clear and green only) and aluminum in the lot across from the firehouse from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. These drives have proved very successful, enabling the Club to raise money for their various community projects. Most recently the Lions have donated \$200.00 (plus the proceeds from the October drive) to the Piermont Fire Department to help defray the cost of the new door on the firehouse.

THRIFT SHOP

The Thrift Shop has had a slight change in hours, for your convenience. They are open Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. Donations received until 3:30 p.m.

* * *

FIRST REFORMED CHURCH WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

The First Reformed Church of Piermont would like to cordially invite all to come and worship and join in the fellowship offered at the Church.

The First Reformed Church was organized in 1839 as the First Protestant Dutch Church in a building on the hill below the railroad station. Now located on Ferdon Avenue, the Church has approximately 100 active members led by the Reverend Donald R. Veltman.

Sunday Church services are held at 11:00 a.m. and babysitting is available at the Church for those with young children. Sunday school is held at 9:30 a.m. The active choir meets weekly on Wednesdays at 8:00 p.m. and is directed by Belle Veltman, who also serves as Church organist.

The Church has several "working" societies that welcome your participation. The Missionary Society, meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 10:30 a.m. Their meetings include working on handicrafts for the annual Christmas fair and a sandwich and dessert lunch, followed by a devotional period.

The Women's League meets every 3rd Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. Coffee is served and plans made for the fund raising projects and dinners the league sponsors. They also earn money by testing new products for the Lever Bros. Company in New Jersey.

The Fellowship of Church Women meet the 1st Thursday of the month at 10:00 a.m. They sponsor Church special events, and travel monthly

to the County infirmary in Pomona to visit the sick and infirm and present them with freshly baked cakes.

Special events planned at First Reformed for November and December are:

Thanksgiving Pie Sale. During the month of November you can order a freshly baked apple or pumpkin pie for Thanksgiving. Baked by Church youth, the pies are delivered Wednesday afternoon before Thanksgiving at a cost of \$2.00 each.

Call the Church at 359-4637 before November 20 to place your order.

Thanksgiving Eve Service Wednesday, November 23 at 8:00 p.m.

Annual Christmas Fair Friday, December 2 and Saturday December 3. The many talents of the Church members are brought together on these special two days. Held in the Church Sunday School area, handi-crafts, jewelry, plants, baked goods, used toys and "white elephant" items are offered for sale. On Saturday a delicious luncheon will also be served. ■

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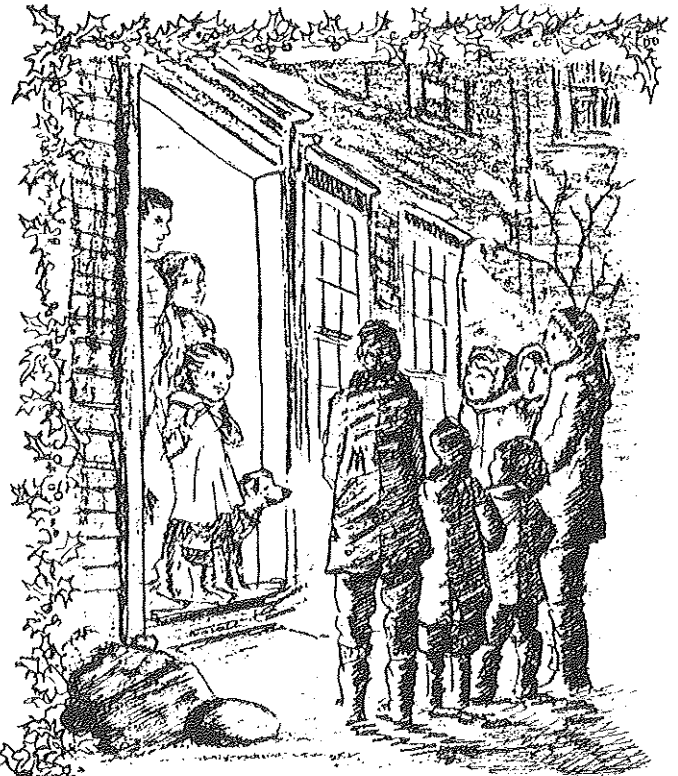
SEND IN YOUR PCA DUES FOR 1978 TODAY!

COMMUNITY CAROLING GROUP FORMED

Visions of snow swirling, gaily decorated homes, and familiar carols sung in the night, that's what some "Piermonters and Grand Viewers" were thinking about when they met on October 4 to discuss formation of a community caroling group. Interested area residents of all ages are welcome to join the group. Those playing instruments are also needed to fill the air with Christmas music.

The caroling walk will take place on Thursday evening, December 22, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Grand View Village Hall. The carolers will walk along River Road to the Piermont Village Hall where refreshments will be served and the music will go on indoors. Two rehearsals will be held at the Piermont Village Hall on Sunday, December 4 and December 18 at 2:00 p.m. Attendance at the rehearsals is not required to sing on December 22, but if you'd like to put some polish on your singing these promise to be enjoyable afternoons.

So, come, join the group and be merry! It's a great way to get some Christmas spirit. Contact Louise Windisch at 359-6599 if you'd like more information. ■



Notes Around the Village

PUPPET WORKSHOP

Beginning November 10, puppeteer Lois Bohovesky will direct a puppet workshop for interested area children from age 8 through 14. The workshop has been funded through a grant from America the Beautiful, and it will be conducted every Thursday from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Community Center. Class size is limited to 15, so sign up early. Registration is at the Library. There is a \$5.00 charge for the 10 week course.

NEW FIRE TRUCK

In preparation for the possible Thanksgiving arrival of Piermont's new "Yellow Bird" fire truck, the firehouse will be sporting a fresh coat of paint, and a newly constructed door. The partition separating the two doors on the south of the building will be removed and a steel beam will be added across the opening so one large door can be installed. This will provide for more ease in parking the trucks in the building.

TEEN CENTER

Volunteers needed! Teen Center activities are as varied as the staff can make them. You can increase the possibilities if you will share a skill or an experience with our young people. If arts and crafts is your "thing," or you want to talk about career possibilities, or an experience you've had, just call Gene Baccaglini at 359-9833 between 7 and 9 on Monday or Thursday evenings.

BOND ISSUE

The proposed \$750 million bond issue (which will be on the ballot November 8) could prove very helpful to Piermont. The projects proposed by the Village are eligible for matching federal money--this could double or triple the advantage to local taxpayers.

FLOWERS BLOOM

Throughout the summer and fall the Village was brightened by beautiful displays of flowers. From Ash Street to Piermont Avenue talented gardeners were at work, be they at the Parks Commission plantings or those in front of private homes. It was a pleasure to see our Village looking so bright.

CETA

With the recent addition of Andy Baez and Durwood Cook, the Village now has a total of five employees being fully paid by the federally funded CETA program.

CONRAIL

After nearly a year and a half of asking Conrail to repair the track crossing at Piermont Avenue, action was finally achieved by Mayor Bryan's move to seal off the tracks. It's as difficult to deal with Conrail as with O & R.

BOATING

Is there interest in a ten week SAFE BOATING course? The Village will cooperate with the Coast Guard Auxiliary in sponsoring the course. Please call for further information or to register: Village Clerk, Mary Hardy, 359-1258.

VILLAGE MOURNS

The Village of Piermont is saddened over the death in August of their groundsman, Mr. George Lynch Sr., who cared for the gardens and parks in Piermont as though they were his own backyard. The empty park bench on Piermont and Tate Avenues is a sad reminder of the loss and his daily visits to the Village Hall are greatly missed.



PEOPLE

Carlotta Petrina has been a Piermont mystery to many of us since first spotting her pink gallery on Piermont Avenue, decorated with her name and a flowing figurative painting. The historic white cottage further down the road again invites our interest with its sign, "Carlotta Petrina, Artist of Piermont and Capri." A phone call to the white cottage brought the information that yes, Carlotta Petrina was alive and well and living in--Palisades. Mrs. Petrina graciously invited this NEWSLETTER reporter to her home to see her work and learn a bit about her.

Born Charlotte Kennedy in Kingston, N.Y., she received early encouragement from her artist mother. Studying drawing in Paris, she later traveled to the south of France to practice her craft in oils using the outdoors as her studio. Sharing these years with her was her husband, an Italian artist, Joseph Petrina.

Widowed, Carlotta now divides her time between Palisades and Italy, primarily on the Isle of Capri where she has a vineyard and wine cantini. In Palisades her studio is a large greenhouse where she paints surrounded by her current work, large figurative oil paint-

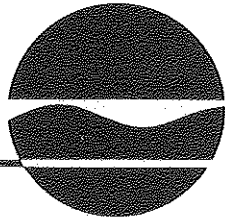
ings with architectural themes of Venice. Her art is inspired by the works of the Italian masters, reflecting her strong attachment for the country of Italy.

Her works have been exhibited worldwide, at the Salon des Artistes in Paris, the Chicago Art Institute, and Whitney Museum to name but a few. Her work is held in the permanent collection of the Brooklyn Museum, New York Public Library, and Burton Emmett Collection at the University of North Carolina.

In the forties she created rich classical illustrations for such books as Milton's Paradise Lost, Shakespeare's Henry the Sixth, and the Aeneid, for the Limited Editions Book Club. She has also designed and executed in sculpture, Christmas windows for Saks Fifth Avenue and Bonwit Teller, created cherubs for Matchebelli perfumes, was display director for Elizabeth Arden and found time to teach at both Pratt Institute and Hunter College.

Plans for her immediate future include a winter showing of her paintings in Venice and the opening of her own gallery in Naples.■

New contributions to the NEWSLETTER are welcome.
Contact editor, Carole Novick or send your story to
PCA, Box 22, Piermont, N.Y. 10968 for consideration.



DEC FUNDS CAC

The Piermont Conservation Advisory Commission (CAC) has recently received approval of a request for funding to the New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation (DEC). DEC will provide up to \$620, primarily in support of a comprehensive CAC study of the Piermont environment. The study will result in a reference volume designed to provide the necessary background for environmentally sound decision-making by Village residents and officials. It will include sections on building and zoning codes, natural resources, drainage and out falls, transportation, local ordinances, environmental regulations, wetlands, etc. There is a continuing proliferation of complex environmental legislation. A regularly-updated guide to this information is needed to facilitate local planning and development, while preserving Piermont's unique natural resources. The analysis will be difficult and assistance would be welcomed from individuals with relevant interests and expertise. Contact John Deans (Chairman) or Grace Meyer (Secretary) if you can help with this project.

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THE PIER

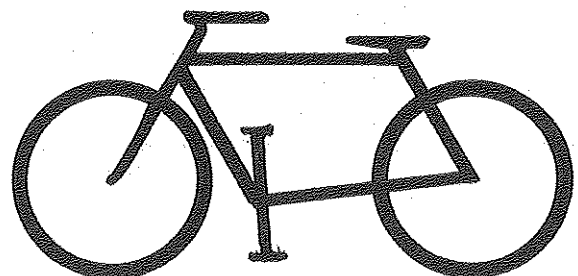
On recent walks out on the Pier it was noted that dumping by unthinking persons is again occurring on the Pier. Numerous Pier clean-ups and citizen attempts to keep the gate secure can only be successful when everyone realizes that the Pier is a precious and fragile part of Piermont's natural resources and that the Clarkstown Land Fill area on 303 is for disposal of refuse.

HUDSON RIVER BIKEWAY

In the last issue of the NEWSLETTER brief mention was made of plans for a bikeway along the west side of the Hudson River between the George Washington and Bear Mt. Bridges. Construction of this state funded project is expected to begin this fall on the New York Section and to be completed by December of 1978. Until the New Jersey portion is completed, the Bikeway will terminate at a small parking lot in Tallman Park adjacent to Route 9W.

The route will enter Piermont from the Tallman Park access road near the salt marsh, and run along Piermont Avenue, River Road and Nyack streets to Hook Mt. No construction work is presently anticipated for the Piermont section other than the erection of suitable route markers. The possibility still exists, however, that additional side routes might run along the Erie Trail or out onto Piermont Pier at some future date. Whether or not possibility becomes reality may hinge upon the degree of local interest. Spurs to the main bikeway are now planned for the Rockland Lake area, Stony Point Park and Iona Island.

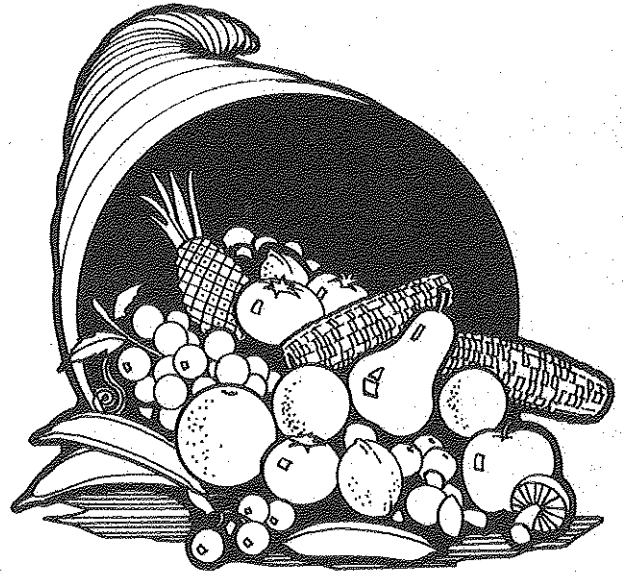
The Bikeway will be restricted to non-motorized vehicles through the Park sections. No estimates have been made of the potential traffic levels. As the first Village north of the GW Bridge, Piermont might anticipate the eventual need for bikestands to encourage local stopping and shopping. Perhaps some who now come to Piermont by car will be encouraged to switch to the healthier and more energy-efficient bicycle.



Notes from Grand View

Autumn is "acumin in," even in Grand View, and the river hoves into sight for many of the leafbound residents, a blessing to be paid for. Once the parade of color that is every autumn in Grand View has marched by and the leaves are down, raking is "acumin in." Among the new downhill rakers in the village are Roxane Witke who lives in the only new house built in Grand View in fifty years, give or take a decade. From her house, built by Ralph Bereschid of Piermont, there are river views from all six levels, especially when the fall's brilliant plumage has hit the deck, and the gutters, terraces, patios, lawns. (Somebody else has to do an essay on the joys of leaf raking, not this indentured rake wielder.) Roxane's definitive biography on the late Chairman Mao's widow was a publishing event of 1977. She is gathering material for a new book on China and would like to talk to anybody who lived in Shanghai in the 1930's.

Roxane Witke's house has become instantly the Witke house but it ain't that quick and easy for other new residents in the village. William Philliber now has Bette Uris' house and it'll take a while before it becomes the Philliber house. John Bainton and Stacy Gerber have been in Grand View for a year but they still have to identify their house as Karen Rosen's or even Helen Fitzgerald's, which identification is all done with much good humor that is guaranteed to wear thin in the next decade. The Garbaccios live in the Butler house, which took some years becoming the Butler house but will doubtless become the Garbaccio house in record time because they are plunging right into things here.



Happenings in Grand View: The Cultural Arts Council is planning two events for late October, early November; a night in Venice with appropriate music, art and watery view, and a program revolving around cartoonists and their very special contribution to the way we live. Dates and fliers soon to be issued giving all details. Ditto for the Grand View Flea Market, scheduled for November 5 in the village hall. Local residents have first crack at exhibit space and the usual unusual displays comparable to those of other years will prevail. Grand View's village hall benefits from all the events held on the premises and reflects the successes of the programs held therein. Upstairs and downstairs, new paint, appliances, fixtures, have made the old hall brighter with each passing day. Gifts have lent special touches. All this TLC is developing the village hall into a place of frequent and pleasant use by the villagers and that's the way it ought to be.

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(Our apologies to Margaret Holihan and Richard Lee whose names were omitted from the July issue roster.)

Reminders

THE PCA VILLAGE COOKBOOK IS AVAILABLE AT THE EXCHANGE AND THE CLAUSLAND BOOK SHOP FOR THE VERY REASONABLE PRICE OF \$2.00. THEY MAKE TERRIFIC PRESENTS, CONTAINING OVER 80 ORIGINAL "TIME TESTED" RECIPES. QUANTITIES ARE LIMITED SO PICK UP YOURS SOON.

ATTEND THE PCA MEETING ON WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 8:15 AT THE VILLAGE HALL.

SEND IN YOUR PCA DUES FOR 1978 TODAY!

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