



## - ECHOES -

Mid-Summer 1991

Dear Friends,

Our Elmendorph is seeing lots of activity these days. In June we were host to two tour groups --the first, a benefit for the Northern Dutchess Day Care Center on June 1, and then, on June 29, for the Church of the Messiah in Rhinebeck. After our large yellow auction tent came down, a smaller yellow tent went up for the Red Hook Chamber of Commerce Picnic Barbecue (another first at the site). The Lions Club held a meeting in the South Room and plans to hold further meetings there as well.

A thousand thanks to David Brown, who not only was the auctioneer all day, but made hundreds of pickups of auction items. To all of you super, wonderful volunteers who worked at the auction before, after, and during, the results of your labor stand as witness to your hard work.

The auction was so important, but more fund raising ideas will be needed in the coming months. Anyone with an interest in, or experience with, bus tours, card parties, grants, and other ideas is welcome to discuss them with any board member.

Many favorable comments were heard as the building was opened for tours. The one that I especially enjoyed was, "Does the community know what a treasure this is?"

We love taking care of our treasure.

Thankfully,

Rosemary E. Coons  
President

### Restoration Committee

- Herman Gorgens

As of July 12, 1991, we at least have final New York State approval of the plans, specifications and other paperwork which will permit us to solicit bids for the completion of the exterior restoration of the east and north facades of the Elmendorph using our matching grant from Environmental Quality Bond Act funds. At its July 16th meeting, the Friends of elmendorph Board voted to proceed with the bid process according to State guidelines with an anticipated September starting date for the work.

Contracts have also been received from the State to initiate our Natural Heritage Trust grant of \$6,150 after anxious moments caused by the budget negotiations in Albany. These funds will cover the replacement of a partition removed earlier in this century from the rear of the middle room, creating a much needed archival storage/workroom and office and space for a handicap-accessible lavatory to be added later. Hopefully, this work will also be completed in 1991 with completion of the restoration of the middle room to follow soon after.

## AUCTION '91

- Shirley Brown & Herman Gorgens  
Auction Coordinators

Many, many thanks to all our friends who donated so generously to the Auction. At present writing, the grand total raised is well over \$9,000.

We've heard the comment that it's wonderful that we can earn all that money "in just one day," but that isn't the way it happens! We started collecting in May. Dave Brown and Doug Traudt spent many days for several weeks picking up furniture and storing it wherever they could tuck it, right up to the morning of the sale. Many thanks to Catherine Jones, who gave us barn space, and to Sharon Byrne, who offered us space when the Elmendorph was overflowing! Blanche Traudt spent several days unpacking, sorting and cataloging items. Barbara and Bob Bielenberg handled all the posters and publicity, hand delivering information east and west, and somehow all the jobs had to be done in blistering heat and humidity.

Our refreshment chairman, Richard Coons, and his able crew--Thelma Wilken, Dorothy Wegman, and Olive Lynk--prepared lemonade, iced tea, and soda for the 90 degree weather we'd been having. At the very last moment, a cold front blasted through and broke the heat wave! Undaunted, they donned winter jackets and brewed 8 pounds of coffee!

Thank you to Betsy Wacker and Harriet and Bill Johnson who served as bid recorders; Frank and Elvira Nuccio, Elsa Kreider, Mary Cioffi, and John and Norma Liuzza, cashiers; Sherry Tessler, who took "left bids," and Mim Brown, loose end tie-upper. Dave and Doug, with the help of Gary and Greg Rhoades, started "setting up" under the tent at 7:30 in the morning, and all four men worked until we stopped auctioning after six p.m. We still didn't have time to sell all the items donated. We have a listing of available furniture posted at Elmendorph Etc., so stop in Wednesday, Friday, or Saturday and check!

Thank you to the Hood Dairy Co. for allowing us to use their parking lot and to Jay Chapman who missed the auction in order to direct traffic! And again, thank you to all our members who donated so generously.

We are also very grateful to all the generous local business people listed below. Please thank them when you see them.

Beekman Cleaners  
The Bookery  
Broadway Cafe  
Butler & Sons Floor Coverings  
Colleen's Hair Affair  
Conway's Lawn and Power Equipment  
Copy Cat Printers  
Dutchess Signs

Elk's Club  
First National Bank of Rhinebeck  
The Flower Basket  
McCaffrey's Cottage Restaurant  
Red Hook Inn  
Red Hook Video  
Scissm's Hair Salon  
Sherman's Furniture (Poughkeepsie)  
Singer Motors

## Elmendorph Inn to be Featured in COUNTRY SEATS TOUR

-Barbara Bielenberg

We are pleased to announce that the Friends of Elmendorph have been invited to sponsor an evening reception at the Elmendorph Inn as part of the very prestigious **4th Annual Hudson Valley Country Seats Tour**. The event, which is sponsored by Hudson River Heritage, The Friends of Mills Mansion, Clermont and Olana State Historic Sites, Wilderstein Preservation, the National Park Service, and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, will be held this year on September 19th through the 22nd. Our reception will occur on **Friday evening, September 20th** from 5 to 7 p.m.

The **Country Seats Tours** are designed to call attention to the historic and architectural significance of the Hudson Valley and the funds raised help support the preservation efforts of the sponsoring organizations. The Friends of Elmendorph will share in the profits of the evening reception and benefit from this very tangible recognition of the Elmendorph Inn as one of the important historic buildings in the region.

Of the sixteen properties on the tours, twelve are privately owned and rarely open to the public. Several of the private homes have Livingston associations, while others were built by early Dutch and Palatine settlers. Tours A and C on Thursday and Saturday will focus on Dutchess County and include The Pynes, Orlot, Elmwood, Wilderstein, Wildercliff, Mills Mansion, Evergreen Lands, and the Vanderbilt Mansion. Tours B and D on Friday and Sunday include Columbia County sites such as Clermont, Midwood, the Rockefeller Tavern (a Palatine building predating the Elmendorph), the Bouwerie, Pruyne Vlackte, Ludlow House, Olana, and the Brennan House. Tour tickets cost \$25 each day and there is a separate charge for the evening receptions held on Thursday at Forth House, a private home in Columbia County, and on Friday at the Elmendorph. There will be a dinner cruise from the City of Hudson dock on Saturday evening.

Information on the **County Seats Tours** is available at Elmendorph Etc. or write CST, Box 470, Germantown, NY 12526.

## Country Seats Volunteer Opportunities

Members of the Friends of Elmendorph are invited to volunteer to serve as docents assigned to interpret and supervise those touring the many private homes. This is an exciting opportunity to learn about one or more of the fine homes on the tour as well as contribute a valuable service absolutely necessary to the success of the **Country Seats Tours**. Volunteers will be expected to work one or two hour shifts and attend a training session tentatively scheduled for September 7th. Docents working two four-hour shifts will receive a **free tour pass**. If you are interested, please call the Country Seats Volunteer Coordinator, Richard A. Plass, at (914) 758-6137 **immediately**. The deadline for volunteer applications is fast approaching.

The September 20th Elmendorph reception will have a Hudson Valley flavor appropriate to our beautiful South Room. **We will need volunteers to help greet our guests and inform them about our restoration project and donations of Hudson Valley wines, cider, food products and other light refreshments.** The less we have to spend, the more we will make on each \$10 reception ticket the Country Seats Tours committee sells. But more than that, we want to take the best possible advantage of this important opportunity to win new friends for the Elmendorph Inn restoration project. Please call Lottie Kittner at (914) 758-8891 to volunteer. Thanks for your help and donations!

## **ELMENDORPH ETC.**

- Shirley Brown

Our little "garage" building seems to get smaller every year!

Community support has been wonderful; donations seem to be pouring in faster than we can process them -- so the good news is that, at the end of three months, we have profits equalling a whole year's total three years ago! The bad news is that we can no longer handle hardcover books, magazines, or items "bigger than a bread box."

We will have a lawn sale on July 28th, weather permitting, featuring a "Quarter Acre" sale. Many strange and wonderful items will be offered for sale for 25¢ in a designated area of the lawn.

We have a dedicated, faithful group who work at garage and lawn sales. We are nearly all Senior Citizens, however, and have a great need for volunteers who can lift and carry. A half hour at 4 o'clock on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, and an hour at 5 p.m. on Lawn Sale days would be a great help. Call 758-5887 between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. on shop days to let us know you'll be there!

Thanks "Friends" for your support. I feel 1991 will see another great step forward in restoring the old Inn, as a result of your efforts.



## **ACQUISITIONS COMMITTEE**

- Barbara Bielenberg

Your response to our Adopt-a-Chair program has been so generous that for now we have all the chairs we can use in the South Room. Our sincere thanks to all of you who contributed. There have been several donations since our last newsletter. Our very sincere thanks to:

*Matilda Skrivaneck in memory of George Plage*

*Carleen and Richard Baright in memory of Carl J. Stockenberg*

*Caryl Fyllingen in memory of Vivian Fyllingen\**

\* This donation will be matched by IBM with a contribution to our furnishing fund (see below).

The Directors of the Friends of Elmendorph have personally purchased a chair in memory of *John Cioffi, Jr.*, beloved son of Mary and John Cioffi. Mary, as you know, is the hard-working treasurer of our organization.

We all offer our sincere apologies to Mary E. Willets whose name was misspelled twice in our last newsletter. We are terribly embarrassed, and assure Mary that the spelling will be correct on the memorial plaque attached to the chair donated to the memory of Mr. and Mrs. Walter R. Willets.

**Acquisitions Committee (continued . . .)**

We are still soliciting contributions of \$30 each window to pay for hand forged shutter hardware and donations in any amount toward an antique or reproduction meeting house table, Windsor-style bench and panelled-door cabinet for the storage of brochures and supplies. Donation of \$100 or more to our furniture fund will be memorialized on brass labels affixed to the pieces as they are purchased.

Of course, right now our greatest need is for restoration funds so that we can continue our work on the Elmendorph and improve its value to the community. Memorial donations to the restoration fund are recorded in a special memorial book displayed at each of our public functions.

**An Account of 18th Century Travel by Stage Coach**

In 1784 Josiah Quincy went to New York in a stage coach. He writes of that experience as follows: "The journey to New York took up a week. The carriages were old and shackling and much of the harness was made of ropes. One pair of horses carried the stage eighteen miles." Quincy adds that they usually traveled until ten o'clock in the evening. After a frugal supper they retired "with a notice that we should be called at three the next morning, which generally proved to be half past two." Regardless of weather, "the traveller must rise and make ready by the help of a horn-lantern and a farthing candle, and proceed on his way over bad roads, sometimes with a driver showing no doubtful symptoms of drunkenness, which good-hearted passengers never fail to improve at every stopping place by urging upon him another toddy."

From: BROWN, JOHN HULL,  
*Early American Beverages,*  
New York, 1966, p.34



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