

# elmendorph echoes

FRIENDS OF ELMENDORPH INC.

P.O. BOX 1776

RED HOOK N.Y. 12571

VOL. I

Nº 2

MAY, 1977



Dear Friends,

WE DID IT! After a two year struggle, and with the help of so many of you, the ELMENDORPH now belongs to all of us. The story of the FRIENDS OF ELMENDORPH is one of many people, including hundreds of students, getting aroused enough to see that Red Hook would not lose another landmark, such as the Red Hook Hotel. Many people worked unselfishly for the betterment of the community. No member of the Friends or its supporters worked for personal gain or profit. It is the story of being knocked down over and over again, but it is also one of being able to take the barbs and bouncing back. You had the gumption to stick to it and make it happen.

We have shared many gloomy moments, but when things looked bleakest, a new supporter stepped out of the wings to help us. The Rev. James Elliott Lindsley wrote to and then met with James Wood, the President of the British-owned Grand Union Company. An agreement was reached and this was followed with a Letter of Intent to the Friends. This letter was received the same day that we received our FEDERAL TAX EXEMPTION.

The terms are as follows: Purchase price: \$30,000. \$2,000 paid down when the contract was signed; a 30 year mortgage for \$28,000 with the Grand Union Company. We will pay \$350. every three months starting December 1, 1977, or a total of \$1400 a year which includes principal and interest. If you figure the interest rate, you will realize that it is very, very low.

We have already had several requests for use of the building. We intend to lease a small portion for a professional office. This will pay for the upkeep of the building. The Town Board and some community organizations have already expressed an interest in conducting meetings at the Inn. We are on our way . . . . .



## ANNUAL MEETING

At the Annual Meeting on March 1, a new Board of Directors was elected. The Board then met and elected its own officers. Members of the Board until the next annual meeting are: Herman J. Gorgens, President; Paul Fredricks, Vice President; Rosemary Coons, Secretary; Lillian Gorgens, Treasurer; Richard Barrett, Robert Bielenberg and Helen Garlinghouse, Directors.

Cheryl Gold, Site Manager at Clermont, gave a beautiful slide presentation on the restoration of Clermont.

Richard Baright was given the award for Visual Improvement in Red Hook in 1976. Congratulations, Dick! You have done much to brighten up the Village. The Award can be given to anyone in the Town of Red Hook, so keep your eyes open for a candidate for next year.

## COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

The following committees have been established. Now is the time for you to pick the committee of your choice so you can do whatever it is you like to do or are best at. WE NEED YOU.

**FUND RAISING** -- Paul Fredricks & the Rev. Lindsley will work on this committee (call 758-2491). Needless to say, this is a vital committee. Georgia Coon will help to find foundation money.

**ARCHEOLOGY** -- John Losee, Chairman (758-8768) Archeology will always come first before any necessity for disturbing the ground.

**BUILDING/RESTORATION** -- Herman Gorgens, Chairman (758-9192) If you have any talents in restoration, electricity, plumbing, heating, or carpentry, you should contact Herman. Dick Jones will be a vital part of this committee.

**PHOTOGRAPHY** -- John Losee will serve as temporary chairman. This committee will serve two functions -- record everything we

## COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS (cont.)

are doing and document the building thoroughly. Barbara Bielenberg will work on the documentation.

**ACQUISITIONS** -- Barbara Bielenberg, Chairman (758-2923) Any donation of contents for the building should be done through Barbara.

**MEMBERSHIP** -- Lottie Kittner, Chairman (758-2491) Lottie needs lots of help and ideas for promoting membership, and willing hands to get out mailings.

**PUBLICITY** -- Paul Fredricks.

**BUILDING GROUNDS** -- Helen Garlinghouse, Chairman (758-6925) Call afternoons or evenings. This will include the planting of a colonial garden. Anyone willing to share appropriate root cuttings, seedlings or plants should contact Helen.

**TELEPHONE COMMITTEE** -- We don't have a Chairman for this yet. Please let us know if you would be willing to make phone calls so that we can keep our members alert of events between newsletters.

## NEW MEMBERS

Since March 1, 1977, the following have become members of the Friends of Elmendorph, Inc.: The Junior Womens Club of Red Hook is the FIRST organization to join; John Fish, Billy Harrison, the Rev. & Mrs. James Elliott Lindsley; Mr. & Mrs. John Cioffi; Mr. & Mrs. Terence Dewsnap; Mrs. Katherine Ham; J. Leonard Rall; Mrs. Raymond Pulver; Lawrence Apsey; Mr. & Mrs. Karl Sandfort; Karl Weyerman; Mr. & Mrs. Robert Lowe; John Waryas; Jane Rubinowitz; Mary Weiser; Mr. & Mrs. Larry Martin; Mrs. Mary F. Kelly; Mr. & Mrs. Philip Seymour; Benjane Arts (the FIRST business to join), David P. Blair and Mrs. Florence M. Arnold.



### NEW MEMBERS (cont.)

They join the 93 Charter Members. Our members come from many areas, namely, Claverack, West Hempstead, Yonkers, Germantown, Baldwin, L.I., Jacksonville, Florida, Newington, Conn. and Amherst, Mass.

### MEMBERSHIP FEES

At the Annual Meeting, the following membership fees were voted on: \$3.00 per person; \$5.00 per family; \$1.00 for students under 18 and \$10.00 for organizations and businesses. Our new members are paid up. If you are a charter member and you do not receive a receipt attached to this newsletter, it means that you have not paid your membership for this year. Your membership helps to send this newsletter out to you. Please use the form in the newsletter when sending in your membership.

The form may also be passed on to your friends if they would like to join.

### NATIONAL PRESERVATION WEEK

The week beginning May 8, 1977 was National Preservation Week. This was made official by our Governor, Supervisor Bowman, Mayor Harold Fell and Mayor Herbert Mead.

On May 7, a sign was placed at the building site. This sign was made by Bob Bielenberg out of lumber used in the "Hello Dolly" movie set. BEAUTIFUL JOB, Bob. A photo taken on that day is reproduced in this newsletter. If you want to order a copy of this picture, contact Peter Zietz, the photographer at 758-9155.

Bob Bielenberg is also designing the stationery we need so urgently, and hope to be using soon.

Also, with regard to Preservation, the Village Historian has an understanding with the Village of Red Hook Board that she will be notified on an impending

### NATIONAL PRESERVATIONS WEEK (cont.)

demolition in order to record by photography or architectural drawings the property that is being destroyed. She has already been informed of one impending demolition and one exterior building alteration.

If we work with our public officials and educate them about preservation, we will accomplish much more than crying after the demolition of a landmark.

### HISTORY

In an 1811 Poughkeepsie newspaper, we find the Elmendorph is called "LOOP'S HOTEL" while other places were still called Inns or Taverns. Perhaps this means that the Elmendorph was more elegant than most places. We are now zeroing in on who built the Inn. We are down to either David or Christian Feroe, Philip Jacobs or George Sharp. If anyone turns up any information on these people, please share it with us.

### HARDSCRABBLE DAY

June 11, 1977 will be the third Annual Community Day. This year, the Elmen-dorph will be open from 10 AM until 4 PM for a peek inside. The Dutchess County Quilt and the Red Hook Town Quilt will be displayed there. Until the building is stabilized, we cannot allow more than one or two rooms to be open on that date, but you'll get a good look at the beams, floors, chair rails, moldings & mantles. There will be walking tours in the Village from 10 to 12 and 1:30 to 3:30. Among craft people will be spinners, weavers, potters carvers and silversmiths. Some of them will be at the Inn and others will be near the Grange Hall on Prince Street. There will be a historic exhibit at the Grange Hall. This will include some of Red Hook's early newspapers, photos of old schools, Indian artifacts and enlarged, mounted photographs of the 1899 and 1900 glass negatives which were donated by SYLVESTER PULVER. George Englert (father of Georgia Coon) will have an art display.



### HARDSCRABBLE DAY (cont.)

MEMBERS PLEASE BRING COOKIES OR DONATE CIDER OR LEMONADE FOR THIS DATE. We will sell them to those who come to visit us. Please call Lottie Kittner (758-2491) if you can make cookies or donate some refreshment.

### PRESERVATION LEAGUE CONFERENCE

On April 20 and 21st, Lottie Kittner, Rosemary Coons, Bob Bielenberg and Herman Gorgens attended the Preservation League Conference at Saratoga Springs. The Conference was directed toward fund raising. Much information regarding funds from Foundations, Federal & State agencies and IRS rules was gained. We met many people in the field (including the Ahlbachs from Fishkill) who are actively involved in Preservation, and they were a source of much information. Many thanks to the Red Hook/Tivoli Bicentennial Committee for giving the Friends \$100. toward the expenses of this Conference. Just for the record, the attendees stayed at the GRAND UNION MOTEL!

### DONATIONS

We thank all of you who have donated anywhere from \$1.00 to \$1,000. We are especially grateful because you have had faith before you needed to see anything visible.

ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES. THERE IS MUCH CLEANUP WORK TO BE DONE BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE BUILDING. IF YOU WANT TO WASH A WINDOW OR SWEEP A FLOOR, GET IN TOUCH NOW. WE WILL SCHEDULE A CLEANUP DAY SOON. CALL HERMAN GORGENS (758-9192)

PERHAPS SOME OF YOU WOULD LIKE TO WRITE A THANK YOU NOTE TO JAMES WOOD, PRESIDENT, GRAND UNION COMPANY, 100 BROADWAY, ELMWOOD PARK, NEW JERSEY 07407 FOR MAKING THIS ALL POSSIBLE.

### TALENTS

We want to know your talents. It is amazing to constantly learn of the varied talents that are drawn to our group. If your talent does not lie with restoration, it may be in the arts -- if you sew, write, do art work or are good at photography, let us know. Every talent will be used.

### AMTRAK SPECIAL

Be sure to see the Amtrak Special in the window of Apple Valley Realty. Perhaps it should be called the "Elmendorph Special".

### STREAKERS

We want you to know that there are two people in the community who could really raise funds for us if they cooperate. One said she would streak through Red Hook if the Grand Union ever sold the building to us, and the other said he would ride a white horse in the buff. We shall leave these people nameless, but we thought it would be a good way of raising money for the building if we charged for such a spectacle. They look very uncomfortable everytime we remind them of what they said.



the **ELMENDORPH**  
A COMMUNITY  
RESTORATION PROJECT

