

elmendorph echoes

 *Friends*
of ELMENDORPH, inc.
P.O. BOX 1776 / RED HOOK, NEW YORK 12571



VOLUME 6 NUMBER 3

DECEMBER, 1982

DEAR FRIENDS:

The stabilization of the Elmendorph has now been completed. In order to establish priorities for future development of the Inn, a Master Plan Committee has been appointed. Vice President Herman Gorgens, who supervised the stabilization work on the building over the past few years, will head the Committee.

The first meeting of the Master Plan Committee was held at the Red Hook Fire House on Wednesday, November 17th. In addition to the nine members of the Board of Directors, the following people agreed to serve on the Committee: Fred Cartier, Bob Cole, Fred Briggs, Robert T. McCarthy, Mary O'Neill, Paul Fredricks, Mel Jones and Ted Schacklinsky.

The Master Plan Committee will develop a five year plan that will address such issues as the order of exterior and interior restoration, the heating plant, landscaping, and the future use of the Inn. The Committee will continue to meet through the winter so that a comprehensive plan can be presented to the membership at the Annual Meeting in March. The next Committee meeting will be held on Monday, January 17th following the monthly meeting of the Board.

1983 looks to be an exciting year. Thanks to all of you for your continuing support. Happy Holidays!

HAROLD T. FELL, SR.
President

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to the following new members:

Mr. and Mrs. James Ellis of Red Hook, Ms. Sheryl Griffith of Annandale and Ms. Betty Morreale of Annandale.

Thanks also to several of our old members who have sent in donations recently. Membership in the Friends of Elmendorph totals 409 as of December 1, 1982.

OUR FIRST APPLE FESTIVAL

Dear Friends,

Our first Apple Festival held on October 9th was a success! The weather could have been somewhat more favorable to bring out more people but all in all, it was a worthwhile undertaking.

There are many I wish to thank, starting with Linda Keeling who did so much, especially with her superb job of procuring door prizes from area merchants. We are very grateful to all who made donations in gifts. Many thanks to Harold Fell who helped a great deal with various details. Gladys Abrial came down to the Elks to help price and sell all the delicious pastries that so many were kind enough and took the time to bake. The apple aromas were irresistible! Thank you all dear people who baked, donated cider, and also to those who purchased all the wares displayed. Other than apple pastries, applesauce, and various kinds of apples, cider, coffee, grapevine wreaths and apple pot holders were sold. Apple donations came from the following: Geigers, Voorhis, Fraleigh, Stagias, Greig, Mead, Cookingham and Montgomery Place. Thank you all so much! We wish to show gratitude to "Manny" and the Elks who allowed us to use their pavillion for our sale. To all those who helped making calls or aided in various ways, it is much appreciated.

Last, but not least, thanks to my husband, Ed, who became involved - willingly - for all he did and to my daughter, Lora, who entertained the patrons on our electrical keyboard and helped in selling.

The children who participated in apple dunking, enjoyed the fun of it and eating their prizes. Door prizes were periodically won through the afternoon and drawings were conducted by Linda Keeling. Chances for the beautiful hand-woven wool shawl to be raffled off were also sold.

Many thanks again to all of you who participated in any way.

Lorraine Seeley, Chairman of
October '82 Apple Festival

HERE AND THERE

The First National Bank of Rhinebeck has the Elmendorph depicted on notepaper that they are giving when you open a Christmas Club there. Also hanging in the lobby of the Red Hook branch is a painting of the Elmendorph by Richard King who also did the notepaper design.

Bill Tormey of Red Hook volunteered to take slides of the restoration work and even paid for the film. Thanks Bill!

Don't forget to pick up your raffle tickets (Sheep to Shawl) at Apple Valley Realty.

We were recently hosts to a Girl Scout Troop under the leadership of Pat Schweikert who visited the Elmendorph as part of a walking tour of the village of Red Hook. They were among the first people to see the artifacts that were uncovered during the recent stabilization.

Don't forget to visit Clermont State Historic Park on Dec. 11 and 12 from 1-4 p.m. for Christmas Open House. You will be entertained by the Columbia Woodwind Quintet. It's free!

Our shop, Elmendorph, Etc. did it again! They made over \$7000 for the Elmendorph this past year. Thanks to a great group of volunteers and to all of you who donate things for us to sell. Elvira Nuccio (758-8112) or Shirley Brown (758-8604) can be contacted if you have articles to donate over the winter months.

STRUCTURES REPORT

An Historic Structures Report has recently been completed on the Elmendorph. This 96 page document involved several years of research and contains detailed descriptions for the building room by room. These descriptions include the measurement of each window, floorboards, mantles, beams, doors and a description of the colors of the walls and layers of wallpaper.

In addition to the written description of the Elmendorph, many pages of the report were devoted to its history, which keeps revealing itself. Also included were copies of documents, maps, photographs and architectural drawings.

Herman Gorgens, Bruce Naramore, Rosemary Coons and James and Cheryl Gold were among the key people involved with the research and production of this document which can serve as an important planning tool in future restoration work. It should be noted that all of the above people volunteered their talents and put in hundreds of hours of labor to get this report completed.

ELMENDORPH ELVES

The Elmendorph Elves usually light up the Elmendorph for Christmas, with a candle light in every window. Unfortunately, this year they will have to limit the number of lights because of a severe vandalism problem.

Numerous windows have been broken on the north and east sides of the building, and we are very disappointed that this will curtail our Christmas spirit. The good news is that Central Hudson Gas and Electric Company has donated a pole with a floodlight to help with the security of the building. We are grateful for their generosity, but are sorry that this became necessary.

WANTED: MONEY...makers

This is it! In 1983 work will finally get underway on the VISIBLE restoration of the building. Now that the structural work has been done, we can turn our attention to working on the exterior and interior of the building to make it come ALIVE!

To do this, however, we need your help. Fundraising ideas and the people to implement them are desperately needed. An active FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE will be established this winter. Be part of it! If you can help, call Harold Fell at 758-2433. This is the year!

PROJECTED BUDGET: FISCAL YEAR 1983

Treasurer Doug Brown has prepared the following budget projection based on average receipts and expenditures over the past several years. The budget will not become effective until approved by the full Board. Funds allocated to restoration will increase commensurate with the success of the FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE.

Projected Balance as of 1 January 1983: \$ 8,000.00

<u>Projected Receipts:</u>	Memberships/donations	1,500.00
	Elmendorph, Etc. (Shop)	6,000.00
	Apple Festival	300.00
	Grant: NYS Office of Parks, Rec. & Historic Preservation	2,500.00
	Miscellaneous	400.00
	TOTAL:	10,700.00

<u>Projected Expenses:</u>	Mortgage Payments	1,400.00
	Central Hudson (Utilities)	175.00
	Postage/box rental/permit	150.00
	Printing: newsletter, etc.	445.00
	Insurance	475.00
	Photographic Supplies	160.00
	Administrative	195.00
	RESTORATION	15,000.00
	TOTAL:	18,000.00

RESTORATION UPDATE

During the month of September, Craft Construction Company of Hyde Park completed the stabilization of the south end of the Inn. This end of the present building was added to the earlier part of the Elmendorph sometime in the early 19th century. The hand hewn timbers used to frame the south wing were probably salvaged from another site, and were reassembled to enlarge the Inn. The timber skeleton was never tied into the earlier part of the building. Unlike the section of the building stabilized in 1981, the south wing did not show evidence of mud and straw fill and its floor joists were sawn, not hand hewn. The area beneath the first floor of the south wing was a crawl space, rarely leaving more than 18 inches between the ground and floor boards, that revealed a wealth of archaeological materials during the stabilization project.

In order to stabilize the south addition, Craft Construction had to jack up the building. Foundation walls were repaired and the badly decomposed sills were then removed and replaced with new pressure treated members. Insect damaged posts were also replaced. The sill replacement had the effect of raising the sagging second floor of the wing by nearly two inches.

Another component of the stabilization project was the installation of steel supporting columns beneath the floor joists. These columns rest on two parallel concrete footings which were poured in trenches excavated in the crawl space.

The completion of the stabilization of the sills and foundation means that the Friends of Elmendorph can turn their attention in 1983 to the more visible elements of the restoration program.

ARCHAEOLOGY REPORT

Oyster shells, marbles, a powderhorn, window glass, fragments of delft ware, children's shoes: these are but a few of the thousands of artifacts uncovered during the recent stabilization of the south wing of the Elmendorph. Although the discovery of these artifacts produced initial excitement, more sober reflection revealed it to be a minor tragedy, since a golden opportunity to carefully excavate a rich 18th century site was lost. Unfortunately, with the building propped up on jacks and winter rapidly approaching, it was impractical to call off the stabilization project until the area could be excavated by a crew of trained archaeologists.

A complete disaster was avoided by close cooperation between the Board of Directors and Craft Construction. Work was slowed down to allow for the salvage of artifacts from the projected line of the trenches needed to pour concrete footings. Bruce Naramore spent several vacation days scraping away the top 2 feet of soil with a trowel while the contractors followed along behind with pick axes to complete the trenches. Artifacts were bagged and later washed by Cynthia Morrison.

During the winter, Cynthia and Bruce will begin the task of inventorying and analyzing the objects.

EDITOR NEEDED - HELP !

The December issue of "Elmendorph Echoes" comes to you courtesy of THE COMMITTEE. Committees are a wonderfully democratic institution that have served our country - for better or for worse - to oversee the Conduct of the War, to track down UNAMERICAN ACTIVITIES and to draft the DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE (apologies to Thomas Jefferson). They are, however, a lousy way to run a newspaper. The Friends of Elmendorph are desperate for a fecund mind and a facile pen to prepare and oversee the distribution of this newsletter on a quarterly basis. If you are that person, THE COMMITTEE stands ready to assist in writing articles, labeling and mailing. If you have the time and inclination to serve as EDITOR, please call Rosemary Coons at 758-6334 or Harold Fell at 758-2433.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

