

## - ECHOES -

Fall 1993

Friends,

It has been a busy time around the Inn since our last newsletter.

The auction took up a lot of the members' time and their resources, but it also generated a nice return for the effort. A special note of thanks to the Browns — David, Mim and Shirley — who gave an extra amount of effort. I didn't take notes, but I believe that all of the directors were there helping out as well as shop workers. A most deserved "Thanks" to all.

If you have used the northeast entrance to the Inn lately, you can't help but notice the nice stone patio there. Rumor has it that one of our newest directors, Larry Thetford, with the help of a couple of workers, gave up a weekend to install the patio. They also installed a stone landing at the end of the handicap ramp. Nice job, guys.

The installation of the patio and the previous work on the handicap ramp generated some dirt piles. But a group of neophyte archaeologists, a fancy name for people who like to play in the dirt, had a fun time sifting through the dirt looking for items of interest. They found some shards of pottery, dishes, smoking pipes, and an 1897 Indian head penny. The sifted dirt was used to fill in low spots in the yard.

These and other activities not only help in the restoration of the Inn, but I know that you will find that those involved enjoy the effort and feel a true sense of accomplishment. There is a lot happening around the Inn. Why not get involved and enjoy the fun?

Our saddened hearts go out to Norma Liuzza, typesetting and layout manager of this newsletter, who recently lost her husband, after a long illness. We, too, will miss having John around helping out. For John, the pain has ended.

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Joe Kavaky  
President



## MEMORIAL FUNDS for Rosemary Coons and Harriet Johnson

Many friends have sent monetary donations in memory of Rosemary Coons, our former President and long-time Elmendorph advocate, and Harriet Johnson, who was so indispensable in the shop for countless years. For Rosemary Coons, part of the memorial will be a copy of the portrait of Egbert Benson by Gilbert Stuart from the John Jay House in Katonah, New York, which is to be hung in the Elmendorph above the mantel of one of the fireplaces. Work on this project has begun. For Harriet Johnson, the fund is earmarked for a piece of furniture for the Middle Room. The Middle Room is scheduled for restoration to begin by February 1994.

We are pleased to report the two funds are growing and further gifts would still be welcomed.

### FRIENDS OF ELMENDORPH, INC.

#### DONATIONS

Apple Valley Realty  
Dr. and Mrs. Antonio Boba  
Janet and Douglas Brown  
Paul Fredricks

Joan Morrison  
Mrs. Edward Shields  
Spirit of Elmendorph  
Charlotte Thomson

#### NEW MEMBERS

Gail and Richard Bennek  
Valerie Borges  
Janet and Douglas Brown  
Nancy Delahont  
Bob and Marilyn Heuer

Bob and Marilyn Heuer  
Robert and Ellen Krum  
Jeanne Opdycke  
Marvin Van Benschoten  
Bob Walters

### RESTORATION COMMITTEE

Barbara Bielenberg

Our handsome new office and handicap accessible lavatory were completed in June by Hudson Valley Preservation and their work and our final report on the project have been accepted by the State. This project was largely funded by a grant from the New York State Legislature, obtained for us by **Assemblyman Glenn Warren**, and we are very grateful for the addition of these useful, modern amenities to our historic tavern. Full use of the office will be delayed until after the dust-generating restoration of the Middle Room is completed this winter, but in the meantime we're enjoying having a place to gather together all the books, archives and other Friends of Elmendorph papers which have been dispersed in various locations throughout the community.

Our plans and specifications for the Middle Room restoration have been approved by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation and, once again, **Hudson Valley Preservation** underbid competing contractors. Needless to say, we are pleased that **Craig Marchessault** and **Mason Lord** will be tackling the technically demanding restoration of our "best parlor." By mutual agreement, the restoration will be done next winter, allowing us to get through our busy fall schedule of activities and continue our wallpaper investigations and documentation before the work begins. We hope to be able to restore the center hall as well, while we have our expert craftsmen on the job!

Thanks to Board Member Larry Thetford, and his assistants, Doug Curran, Vito Fontana and Joe Kavaky, we now have handsome bluestone paving the back porch outside the kitchen door, instead of dirt and mud. Larry personally selected the native stone, trucked it to the site and assembled a gigantic stone jigsaw puzzle on the lawn before he and his crew excavated the area, transferred the thick stones, and levelled them into their permanent locations. Larry also paved the base of our handicap ramp with large sheets of bluestone. This project is a splendid example of what a crew of well-directed volunteers can contribute to the restoration of the Elmendorph. Thanks, Larry!

Although test holes in the areas of disturbance have been investigated by professional archaeologists, Joe Kavaky, Red Hook High School senior John Ham and I sifted all of the dirt removed from the porch and handicap ramp excavations and found a fascinating collection of pipe stems and bowls, 18th and 19th century ceramics, glass and metal which provide valuable clues to the dishes and other objects used in the Elmendorph. This fall, after the Art Show, we plan to have a workshop at which volunteers will clean, sort, match, document and bag the many artifacts we have accumulated. Those volunteers with some knowledge of antique ceramics and glass will sort and identify, but the cleaning requires only an old toothbrush and a sense of joy in the pleasure of discovery! Please give me a call at (914) 758-2923 if you are interested in participating.



## THIRD ANNUAL ART SHOW AND SALE

### OCTOBER 8-11

Once again on Columbus Day weekend, the Elmendorph will enjoy the comings and goings of artists and friends, old and new, who come to see the display gracing the South Room. The Opening Reception will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. on Friday evening, October 8, and the show will continue Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and again on Monday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. when the show closes.

This year's Chairperson, Ruth Zipser, who is known to area artists and Friends of Elmendorph art show attendees for her vibrant personality as well as her vibrant art, has been a major factor in the success of the previous shows while working closely with the series founding Chairman, Ed Fisher, who is recovering from surgery this year. Ruth writes:

The Elmendorph is certainly every Red Hooker's nearest and dearest project. And when it was decided to have our first Art Show three years ago, of course I'd help. Ed Fisher, a multi-talented retired school teacher was in charge of the hanging. With his skill in constructing panels, boring straight holes with his electric drill while I steadied the ladder (that fooled no one) — but most of all, the complete accord we shared in placing and hanging, we had the Elmendorph ready for the show in very little time."

Ruth reminds the artists that registration forms must be in by Friday, September 24th, and all entries brought to the Elmendorph on Saturday, October 2nd, between 1:00 and 4:00 p.m. For further information, please call Ruth at (914) 758-2011.



## AUCTION '93

David and Mim Brown

At the Elmendorph Inn biennial auction which was held on August 29th, the wide diversity of items donated by members of the community netted over \$6,700. The food tent additionally made \$355, thanks to the healthy appetites of the active bidders, hard-working volunteers, and a mouth-watering menu.

In less than 3 hours, **George Cole**, well-known Rhinebeck auctioneer who generously donated his time, sold over 250 lots under a spacious red and white tent while cheerfully entertaining the large crowd of bidders. The underwriter of our second largest fund-raising event was the **First National Bank of Rhinebeck**. Their generous donation helped offset the auction's expenses. Local businesses also helped in supporting the auction by donating goods and services. These "special friends" of Elmendorph include:

*CT Glass*  
*The Tap House*  
*Holy Cow*  
*Movies To Go*

*Red Hook Cinema 6*  
*The Gazette Advertiser*  
*Sherman's Furniture*  
*Dutchess Signs*  
*Beekman Arms*

*Village Dinner*  
*Mill House Antiques*  
*Cynthia & Bob Fennell Antiques*  
*Three Chairs Antiques*

A special thanks also goes to all those who contributed to the auction and those who put in countless hours to insure its success. GREAT TEAM!

If you feel that you missed out this year. . .think again! The auction committee continues to collect donations on a year-round basis (excluding food items, of course) and will accept donations for our next auction at your convenience. Keep the auction committee and the Elmendorph Etc. Shop in mind when doing your fall cleaning.



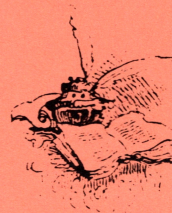
From: *The Old Post Road, The Story of the Boston Post Road*  
by Stewart H. Holbrook, McGraw-Hill, 1962, p. 68

. . . the public houses of 1774 still lacked a good deal in taste and comfort. Usually, however, they had at least one chamber of modest pretension, heated, well furnished with a feather bed, and decorated, after about midcentury, with the imported "scenery wallpaper" that was becoming popular. The less said about the other rooms. . . . Save for the better taverns, whose superior furnishing and service were known to experienced travelers, the rooms were cubicles without even a window, often without a door, and surely not a fireplace; or they might be great, stark "shed-chambers" with from three to six or eight beds. The beds were commonly ample for one person, but they were expected to accommodate from two to four guests each.

In these virtual dormitories, those guests who went early to bed might anticipate being aroused several times during the night when the landlord appeared, candle in hand, to escort late arrivals to their exact lodgment. Lone female travelers, as witness the self-assured Mrs. Sarah Knight, complained about being bedded down in the same room with strange men.

#### DATES TO REMEMBER:

October 8 - 11	Art Show
December 5	Greens Show
December 6	Christmas Open House



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