

EDITOR:
Faith Compo

TYPESETTING/LAYOUT:
Norma Luzzza

DISTRIBUTION:
Lottie Kittner

ECHOS

Fall 1995

Dear Friends,

About three weeks ago my seven-year-old son Dougie and I were entering the village of Red Hook on our way to the Elmendorph Inn. I was explaining to him the job we had to do there that morning, how it would help others there, the net results, etc. When I finished, he explained to me in a very serious grown-up manner how great it was that they did not wreck the building in order to put in a parking lot, something we discussed a while back. "And besides that," he stated, "if they had done that, we wouldn't know Richard or anybody who works there now." As we stopped at the traffic light, Dougie emphasized the point by directing me to imagine an Elmendorph acquaintance crossing the street. Now waving to this imaginary acquaintance, Dougie said, "Hi, Bob Bielenberg. How are you doing today?" He then turned to me and said, "See, we wouldn't be able to say that if the Elmendorph Inn wasn't there because we wouldn't know him." He was so correct and I was so pleased with his insight on this favorable aspect of the Inn; namely, making new friends and acquaintances there.

Before carrying this point to greater depth, for some reason I asked him what he would say if Bob Bielenberg was a stranger crossing the intersection. Without batting an eye his reply came in an instant..."Get off the road, you knucklehead, before we run you over." After three light changes, we managed to compose ourselves enough from laughter to safely get through the intersection and on to Elmendorph.

Now, if this story came from the Rocky and Bullwinkle Show and was classified as a "fractured fairy tale," then the moral or point of the story would be one of two possibilities:

- A. If Dougie and I don't know you, then there's a good chance you're a knucklehead and we'll run you over; or,
- B. I owe a debt of gratitude and a sincere thanks to the Elmendorph Inn for all the friends and fine people I have met while being associated with her to this date. (I feel most people associated with the Inn feel the same way, too.)

So, for now I'll choose B and hope that the summer heat will ease up. Also keep abreast with and enjoy all the great activities and events the Inn has in store in the months ahead.

Sincerely,

David Brown
President

Auction

- David Brown

We are pleased to announce, if you have not already heard, the Friends of Elmendorph's 5th Biennial Auction held on Sunday, July 29th, netted nearly \$12,000, a record total! An eclectic array of merchandise including fine china, a grandfather clock, walnut, pine and oak furniture (antique and new) as well as paintings, prints, canoes, bikes, etc. were sold to an overflowing crowd under a spacious tent behind the Inn.

A "silent auction" which netted over \$800 in sales was held prior to the regular auction and featured a large assortment of semiprecious cut gem stones. Sales at the refreshment tent netted over \$400.

The auction of '95 will always be remembered in my mind as the one which featured, amongst other things: 1) a note from the Jenik's asking us to pick up the contents of their summer home they just sold; 2) the first day of temperatures in the mid-70's after two weeks of oppressive heat and humidity; 3) the perfect and most professional work crews on the auction floor, recording tables and food tent; 4) going from "not nearly enough" merchandise to "Wow, look at what we have," in a five-day span; 5) traveling up to Latham and meeting a most delightful senior Friend of Elmendorph to pick up auction items; 6) the generosity and kindness year in and year out of Nick and Carol Annas; 7) Doug and Blanche Traudt spending two full days cleaning, repairing, organizing, etc. the auction merchandise; and 8) my seven-year-old son after five hours of auction pick-ups while sitting on the tailgate of my truck at the Bielenbergs stating, "I'm tired of being an Elmendorph Friend anymore today; let's go home!"

And last, but certainly not least, a special thanks to the First Hudson Valley Bank for their sponsorship of the 5th Biennial Auction. Their ongoing support of our Biennial Auction is most appreciated by the Elmendorph and is a fine example of their generous support of community projects. Again, thanks to First Hudson Valley Bank and to all who made the auction such a great success.



Hardscrabble Day - Events at the Inn

The Hardscrabble Day Committee of the Village of Red Hook has arranged a wonderful array of things to see and learn about at the Elmendorph, Saturday, September 16, 10-4. We will have a Quilt Show sponsored by the Wiltwyck Quilt Guild, and we will have a group of activities under the banner of "The Artisans." Invited to participate are a wood carver, a spinners group, a man who makes Windsor chairs, and a caner. This will be an excellent day to bring the children to the Inn to watch the workers and see their crafts. In addition, the Etc. Shop will be open and there will be bowls of steaming chili available to purchase for lunch.

...And That Night!!

That evening we celebrate Hardscrabble Night in the F. W. Olin Auditorium at Bard College with a humorous one-act opera, "The Old Maid and the Thief," by Gian Carlo Menotti, performed by members of the Gilbert and Sullivan Music Theater Company; AND a dramatization by the "Society to Apprehend and Detain Horse Thieves!" This will be a gala event indeed. Tickets are \$15.00 and \$10.00 for Seniors and Students. For information, call the Inn at 914-758-5887.

FRIENDS OF ELMENDORPH, INC.

As of August 20, 1995

DONATIONS

Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth Appell - Auction
Alma and Robert Bowman - Auction
Mrs. George Curran
Mrs. John DePreter - in memory of John DePreter
Jane and John Ferguson
First Hudson Valley - Auction
Jim Hardin
Sally Johnson
Betty Miller
Old Dutch Village Garden Club - use of building
Ray and Chris Rhodes - IBM Matching Grant
Douglas B. Ward - in memory of Milton C. Ward
Johnson and Johnson - Matching Grant

NEW LIFE MEMBERS:

Alba and Gary Kossen



Our Thanks to Workers at July Auction 1995

Volunteers in the news, helpers contributing to the big success of our biennial auction last July include: Harriet Norton, Alice and Arnold Colburn, Catherine and William Schmidt, Pat Roberts, Suzanne and Tim Muldoon, Blanche and Douglas Traudt, Susan Ellis, Mary Cioffi, Bill Johnson, George Vengrin, Gussie Townsend, Jay Chapman, Mim Brown, Caryl Fyllingen, Sherry Tesler and Richard Coons. Thank you all for a job well done.

Elmendorph Inn Hosts Receptions for Country Seats Tour

The Eighth Annual Country Seats Tour is sponsoring two special evening receptions in our historic inn September 21 and 23. A portion of the proceeds will benefit the Elmendorph restoration. This prestigious tour series presents an opportunity for visitors to enjoy seeing many private residences rarely open to the public as well as a number of our grand estates now publicly owned as historic sites. In addition to the scheduled tour of sixteen distinctive homes in Columbia and Dutchess counties, our Elmendorph receptions provide an opportunity for the visitors to partake of refreshment, enjoy our restored rooms, meet new people and learn about our accomplishments and future plans for our beautiful building. The Country Seats Tours benefit, and are sponsored by, the Friends groups of Mills Mansion, Clermont and Olana State Historical Sites, Wilderstein Preservation, Hudson Heritage and the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historical Preservation.

Fifth Annual Art Show - Columbus Day Weekend

The Elmendorph Inn will once again be blooming with real art, Friday, October 6th through Monday, October 9th as the annual art show series, so well begun by Ed Fisher and continued under the guidance of Ruth Zipser, celebrates its fifth season. Area artists will be showing canvases, photographs and more in a profusion of colors and sizes in the South Meeting Room. The Art Show weekend is always a splendid time to bring friends to the Inn which is still rarely open during the ongoing restoration. The Friday Evening reception for the artists is particularly popular, perhaps second only to the Christmas Open House. All the displayed art works—oils, watercolors, prints, graphics, acrylics—are for sale and a portion of the proceeds benefit our nonprofit restoration-in-progress. What a delightful way to support two worthies—local artists and the old Inn! Artists who are not known to us and have not received our Art Show brochure may still participate. For information, call Faith Compo (876-4675).

Friday	October 6	(Reception) 7-9 PM
Saturday	October 7	10 AM - 5 PM
Sunday	October 8	1 PM - 5 PM
Monday	October 9	10 AM - 4 PM



♦ ♦ ♦

Remembering Ruth

We are all deeply saddened as we prepare this newsletter to learn of the sudden loss of our dear friend, Ruth Zipser, who died August 17th in Northern Dutchess Hospital where just a month before she had had the great joy of seeing her great-grandson arrive. Our hearts go out to Dr. Fred and his wonderful family in this bittersweet time. We remember Ruth with such pleasure as the vivacious, colorful lady, grand personality and artist. She directed the hanging of the Annual Elmendorph Art Show for the past three years and was known to climb ladders unassisted and unafraid, positioning the pictures and other art works just so in the South Room of the Elmendorph even as recently as last year. We had agreed that this year she wasn't to be allowed to climb any ladders, but we were surely counting on her being our guiding eye. We will miss her very, very much.

♦ ♦ ♦

The Inn Place for a Tea Party

- Doreen Alexander, President

Old Dutch Village Garden Club held a beautiful mid-summer Tea Party at the historic Elmendorph Inn, August 10th. The decorations, flowers and delicious party sandwiches, cookies, cakes and tea brought the old Inn to life. Many friends enjoyed a light lunch there; some local people and some new faces. The Club thanks all who came to enjoy a "little something different" in Red Hook. Perhaps it will become an annual affair?

Several members of the Garden Club helped to make the town beautiful by helping to plant the tubs which grace the business section of Red Hook. Hope you are noticed how nice they look!

The Inn will be used by the Club again in December for our annual Holiday Greens Show, with the showing of holiday decorations, which you can copy for yourselves! There will also be a special gift table of things for sale. Don't forget the date: December 9th from 10:00-4:00. Hope to see you then.

We are delighted to report that the plans and specifications for the restoration of the tap room and historic kitchen have been approved by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. Herman Gorgens had prepared very detailed drawings, based on hours of investigation and study, which apparently reassured State officials that we would continue to adhere to the high standards they require. We still don't know if any State grant money will be available for the project, but in the meantime our fund-raising efforts are bringing us ever closer to the day we can solicit bids and begin work on this final, and very important, phase of the restoration.

Earlier this summer, I participated in a four-day seminar on Historic Wallpapers held at Don Carpentier's Eastfield Village in Nassau, New York. Museum curators from the United States, Canada, and England, wallpaper and paint specialists and preservationists gathered to examine, discuss and learn to make historically accurate reproductions of historic wallpapers. Each day included slide presentations, demonstrations and exciting "Show & Tell" sessions where the experts studied and evaluated wallpaper samples submitted by the participants. We showed samples of our Elmendorph papers with the following results:

1. The first paper applied in the Middle Room was determined to be English because of the width of the paper used (21½") and the quality of the printing. It, and the two borders used with it, are 1810-1820. Read on for exciting news about this paper!
2. A sample of wallpaper and border found between the beams, above the ceiling, in what is now the "new" kitchen were both judged to be from around 1820. The border is French with one of the colors varnished to resemble bronze. The paper itself is American, printed in pink and blue on a rough-textured blue paper of inferior quality. We studied two similar blue papers, both from New York State houses, and one also had a French border! These findings support our belief that the kitchen el was added by 1830 and that the room adjacent to the historic kitchen was possibly a private dining room.
3. Paper number two in the Middle Room remains a mystery! Not one of the experts had seen a paper like it! It is definitely a copper plate engraving on a continuous roll of paper which dates it after 1836. So fine is the engraving that there was some speculation that it might be a machine print from the 1880's, but its appearance *under* several layers of earlier 19th century papers precludes that possibility. Much more research needs to be done to discover which of the innkeepers might have selected such a sophisticated design and where it was purchased!

When we showed Middle Room paper #1, Bill Flynt from Historic Deerfield volunteered that he knew the paper well for it hung in his parents' bedroom! Historic Deerfield had marketed a reproduction of the design in the 1950s! The reproduction was silk screened for them by Old Stone Mill in Adams, Massachusetts and was later offered by Scalamandre as "Farrington House." An early 19th century design found in Old Deerfield, Mass." Bill tells us there is no "Farrington House" at Historic Deerfield and that the original document may have been a trunk lining—a frequent source of period designs in the 50s. He gave us a generous sample of the reproduction and a copy of the Scalamandre catalogue page. A call to Scalamandre confirms that the paper is still available on special order and we have requested prices!

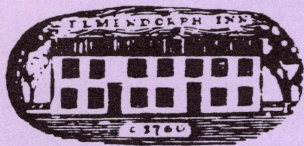
Bob and I drove to Historic Deerfield to pick up the sample and to tour the many interesting restored houses which line the main street of the village. In our next issue, we'll share with you the exciting educational uses to which one of their two old taverns is put.

Historic Note

Kym S. Rice, in the excellent *Early American Taverns. For the Entertainment of Strangers*, published by Fraunces Tavern Museum in 1983, writes that the tavern was often a venue for cultural events and performances. In 1793 three traveling performers accompanied by a live catamount and a wolf spent the month of December "in residence" at Adams' tavern in Ipswich. The tavern keeper wrote in his journal:



"Mr. Neventon & wife (and) Mr. Todd performed in the evening in my Barn for want of a suitable room any where else — the Italian shades — Shewed the Magic lantern - performed on the sheet...had about 100 spectators...." And again — "many people Came to see the Catamount &c. - and in the evening, our Hall was crowded with people to see Mr. Neventon perform many feats of activity such as walking &c. on the Slack wire & Slack rope - Balancing swords (illeg.) together with many representations of Animals with the Magic Lantern &c...."



Friends of Elmendorph, Inc.
P.O. Box 1776
Red Hook, New York 12571

SEP 08 1995

Non-Profit Org
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Red Hook, N.Y.
Permit No. 36

PO
Leocadia Kittner
PO Box 8
Red Hook NY 12571 0008

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED