

- ECHOES -

Winter 1990

Dear Friends,

What a party we had! Our celebration on October 13th in our restored South Room was the talk of the town. Our room looked so elegant and yet comfortable. So many of us felt as though we had been taken back in history to the time when the Elmendorph was used for gatherings by the community. It was a perfect evening.

To the many, many people who polished or served, decorated or donated food, a thousand thanks to all of you. So much caring and dedication was expressed to this great old building. Private enterprise should be envious of the loyalty this great old building inspires in our volunteers.

The party was capped by the announcement by Assemblyman Glenn Warren of a \$12,300 grant from the Natural Heritage Trust.

The next exciting event occurred on October 23rd when the Egbert Benson Historical Society, which organized at the Elmendorph on October 17, 1977, held its meeting in our South Room. They are the first group to use the restored room.

Congratulations to our wonderful shop workers. You have had a super season. Shirley Brown, our shop manager, has praised the volunteers. You deserve a lot of thanks as well, Shirley.

Do come to our Christmas Open House. Details in this newsletter. Help us to make it the happiest Christmas ever at the Inn.

Warm wishes for the holidays,

*Rosemary E. Coons
President, Board of Directors*

A LITTLE HISTORY

More than 100 well-wishers gathered at the historic Elmendorph Inn in the Village of Red Hook, Saturday evening, October 13th, to celebrate the completion of the restoration of the South Room added to the structure in 1803. The completion of the South Room restoration will permit the 200-year-old building to again be used for meetings and social events.

The Friends of Elmendorph purchased the deteriorating building from the Grand Union Company in 1977. Since then the Friends have replaced the sills and other structural members and restored the west and south facades of the large frame structure. A central heating system has been installed to permit year-round use. Now, at last, we can invite the community to come inside the Elmendorph.

A chandelier copied from one found in a Shaker meeting in upstate New York illuminated the white plaster walls of the large, high-ceilinged room as guests examined the delicately fan-carved mantle and a display of 18th century artifacts found during the restoration process.

From 1785 until 1850, the Elmendorph Inn served as the community center for the growing Village of Red Hook and for thirty years after the Town of Red Hook was incorporated in 1812 the Inn hosted town meetings and local courts of law. The large room may have been added to better accommodate public gatherings.

The high point of the evening was the presentation to the Friends of Elmendorph of a facsimile check in the amount of \$12,300 by New York State Assemblyman Glen Warren. The check represented a grant from the State's Natural Heritage Trust to help fund the completion of restoration of the south half of the building. Future plans include construction of a handicap accessible bathroom and a space for local history research. Assemblyman Steven Saland, County Legislator Woody Klose and Town of Red Hook Supervisor John Gilfeather were also on hand to congratulate the Friends of Elmendorph.

GRAND OPENING PARTY WAS GRAND

- Barbara Lindsley and Lottie Kittner, Coordinators

Although the weather was soggy and dank, the spirit at the Elmendorph Inn was not. Weeks after the party we were still getting comments about what a wonderful evening it was.

We know that a party is not ^{JUST} a room, nor ^{JUST} the food and drink. A party is ^{REAL} the people. You, who added your spirit to the one already existing in the building is what made it such a lovely party.

We are grateful to each and every one of you who came to the party--you who volunteered and helped at the party and you who donated to the party. That was the joy, that was the spirit that we all felt that evening.

If anyone should think a party happens by itself, here is a list of those who helped, because without each and every one ~~of you~~ it would not have been the great party that it was.

Murray Van Ness - He played the music and set the tone "perfect harmony."

Henry and Carol Gorgens Czaplicki - who travelled from Long Island to be with us and gave us the benefit of their expertise as Bartenders. They are trained at tending bar and did it with the ease of experts.

Silver Spoon Caterers at Frey's - The food was very delicious and hot and Leslie Lloyd volunteered her services. ^{DESANTO} Considering the conditions she was working under--virtually no kitchen--she did marvelously well.

Servers - the very lovely young ladies who served the hot hors d'oeuvres: **Cara Rodrigues, Janet Swift, Lisa Oudemool, Amanda Schloemer, and Mary Wright.**

Parkers - We needed someone to help direct parking so that the IGA wasn't suffering for lack of parking for its customers. Adeptly performed by four from Interact--**Alerie Tirsch, Mike Traudt, Kevin Sober, and Mary Wright.**

Centerpiece - arranged by **Helen Garlinghouse** with fruits and vegetables donated by Dom Tiberio of the **Red Hook IGA.**

Display - **Doug Traudt** and **Richard Coons** built the photographic display screen of "before and after photos. **Herman Gorgens** set up the display.

We also wish to thank **Bob Bowman**, "**Silver Lake Dairy**," **Glenn Bell** and the **Red Hook IGA** who so graciously gave us permission to use their parking facilities.
The following made donations for the party:

Coffees - **Jeremy Peel of JB Peel, Inc.** at the **Blue Roof Market** in Clermont whose specialty coffee and tea donated the regular and decaf coffee for the party. It was so freshly ground and the aroma was exquisite and tasted superb.

Pastries - were donated by a "**sweet tooth**."

Food - **Barbara Lindsley** - set the table and made the dips and arranged for donations of cheese, crackers, nuts, etc., from the following generous donators.

Jackie Appleby, Doreen Alexander, Ilse Balagh, Alma Bowman, Beverly Campisi, Mary Cioffi, Vera Gate, Esther Higgins, Joyce Rockefeller, Julia Schreiber, Karen Sipperly, Thelma Wilken, and Elinor Williams.

And just getting the building ready and cleaned for the party took a lot of effort. There was much that had to be done before the party. All the work was volunteer.

Shirley Brown mother-henned the cleanup and polishing and put a lot of her own effort into the scrubbing, assisted by **David Brown** (her son) and **Lillian Gorgens**.

The windows were washed (a lot of "pane"), the walls in the middle room not yet restored were scrubbed and cleaned and a lot of old loose plaster was wiped down. The floor, although it may not have looked it, was scrubbed on hands and knees by some of our ladies. If that's not dedication, then what is???

Cleanup Crew - **Herman Gorgens** and **Dave Brown** shop vac 'd the building for the party. **Betty Franklin** scrubbed and **Doug Traudt** scrubbed and vacuumed and **Blanche Traudt** scrubbed and scrubbed and washed windows. **Helen Garlinghouse** scrubbed on hands and knees and **Harriet Norton** scrubbed and vacuumed.

Bob Bielenberg and **Joe O'Brien** moved things that had to be moved. **Herman Gorgens** handled any problems that came up--front steps, rotted hallway floor.

The decorations that seemed to fit the room were perfect. No matter where you stood in any of the rooms used, you saw an eye-catching decoration or display from artifacts to candlesticks to pewter plates. It was heartwarming to see **Blanche Traudt** sitting on the floor in front of the fireplace arranging the dried grasses in the basket so it looked just so. The mantels that had just the right arrangement of pewter plates and candlesticks and even the middle room had a big cupboard that added to the warmth of the room.

It's so easy to take these things for granted as though it just happens. Someone had to think of it, someone had to bring it in and someone had to place it.

The decorations and the furniture were all lovingly thought of, brought in by **Bob and Barbara Bielenberg** and **Shirley Brown** and **Blanche Traudt, Harriet Norton** and **Elliott Lindsley** and from **David Brown** of **Beekman Arms Antique Center**. It truly looked like a meeting room in the 1800's. The furniture used that evening were all borrowed for the evening.

And. . .there are just lots of details requiring the cooperation of people like **Lillian Gorgens, Harriet and Bill Johnson**, and **Richard Coons** who handled the guest registry table, **Mary Cioffi** who was hostess/greeter, as were **Rosemary Coons, Joe and Margaret O'Brien, Barbara Bielenberg, Elliott Lindsley**. Photographs of before and after restoration and during the party were taken by **Bill Johnson**. **Doug Wicks** took photos at the party, and **Dorothy Wegman** also took some photos of the South Room.

There is a lot to do to coordinate a party, but it is not done by the coordinators. It takes the willing cooperation of so many people who work so very hard to make it happen. The Elmendorph Inn is very fortunate to have the dedicated people in the community who give so much of themselves to accomplish a goal.

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You, Thank You to everyone who made the Grand Opening really grand.

RESTORATION/BUILDING COMMITTEE

by Herman Gorgens

The South Wing was successfully completed on time, by the general contractor, Craft Construction of Hyde Park, Inc. The heating system for the first floor was also completed as part of this phase of construction.

The building will now function through the winter with heat, hot water, toilet facility, etc. for meetings that will be scheduled or other functions. Next, two phases are on the schedule to begin soon.

First, the processing of paperwork for the EQBA of 1986 State Grant is in its final stages. The Grant is for the restoration of the remaining facades of the building--east and north. This is a 50/50 matching grant, so we need dollars for our share of the cost.

Second, the handicapped-access toilet that is proposed for the "middle" room can be funded by another grant. This would cover the entire cost of this project. Plans and application are now being prepared to submit to the state for review and approval. This is in addition to the one toilet we have now.

ACQUISITION COMMITTEE

by Barbara Bielenberg

The Directors of the Friends of Elmendorph have established an Acquisitions Committee to develop a collections policy for the organization. The completion of the South Room of the Inn has attracted a number of donations as well as created needs for a permanent collection of chairs, tables and other equipment and accessories to make the room useful for meetings and receptions.

Shirley Brown, Bruce Naramore, Elvira Nuccio, Blanche Traudt, and Bob and Barbara Bielenberg have agreed to review the existing Elmendorph acquisitions policy and develop an inventory filing system for the recording of additions to the collection. Important donations of a handsome reproduction Shaker meeting house chandelier for the South Room and a lantern to light the entrance hall were received in time for the opening reception, but most of the furnishings presently in use in the South Room have been loaned by generous friends.

As the restoration of the Elmendorph is completed, needs may change, but right now space is limited to the completed South Room where sturdy antique or reproduction Windsor chairs and benches, candle stands and country tables are badly needed. "We hope we never have to use modern folding chairs in that beautiful room," states Shirley Brown. An Adopt-a-Chair program is planned to acquire reproduction Windsor chairs at a cost of \$90 each. Persons wishing to donate to the Elmendorph furnishings should contact Shirley Brown (758-8604) or the Bielenbergs (758-2923).

GOLF OUTING

by Joe O'Brien

In our first venture into the sport world, the Elmendorph golf outing was quite successful and well received. It took place on October 3rd at the Red Hook Golf Club on what had to be the loveliest day of the year. Among the men, the top golfer was Keith McBurnie and the best of the ladies was Jeanne Allen.

Our warmest thanks to those Friends of Elmendorph who were so generous in contributing prizes: Teresa and Ed McCaffrey of "The Cottage," Vin Zitz (Senior and Junior), Creative Hair Design, Bill Dodds of the Red Hook Golf Club, Bill Garner of the Fishkill Golf Club and Driving Range, and Paul Fredricks of Fredricks Unlimited. We are looking forward to a second Golf outing next year, probably in June, and we are confident this can be a very successful fund raiser and popular community event.

FUND RAISING COMMITTEE

- the Rev. James Elliott Lindsley

According to your Trustees' Minutes, I am Chair of Fund-Raising for the Elmendorph. That is the biggest fraud since Barnum sold tickets "To The Egress." The fact is I have done practically nothing to raise money for this important project. Our recent successes have been due entirely to Lottie Kittner, Joe O'Brien and my wife, Barbara.

I am glad, however, to take the credit, for (like you, I am sure) the old Inn has been the source of much satisfaction and pride this past summer and autumn. Those of us who trusted all along that the better day was coming for the place have been pleased--and, more important, skeptics have been turned around.

The very gala party we had in the reopened south Room was truly a community success, and many people realized for the first time what we have been trying to do. I hope we can make something like than an annual party.

The other fund raiser, the golf outing, was in its way an equally successful first-time affair that benefitted the Elmendorph. Twenty-four of us gathered on a perfect day at the Red Hook Golf Club. (As for my game, the less said the better.)

All this was due to Lottie, Joe and Bar. I thank them on behalf of all of us who care for the Elmendorph. As long as I have effective people like this to do the work for me, I will gladly remain the Chair of Fund-Raising indefinitely.

ELMENDORPH, ETC.

by Shirley Brown

Many thanks for your generous donations, your patronage, and your support of Elmendorph Etc. We had another banner year thanks to an average of 216 volunteer hours a week and your support. Our tiny building was bulging with donations, and under the leadership of Richard Coons, we added a Sunday afternoon lawn sale on an average of once a month featuring Richard's "dollar-a-bag sale." We exceeded our goal for the season and hit an all-time record!! Many of our volunteers have worked for several years to support the restoration of the Inn. We were especially encouraged to see the beautiful restoration of the South Room and know we helped. Thanks again. See you in May.

P.S. The shop is closed. Please save your donations until next May.

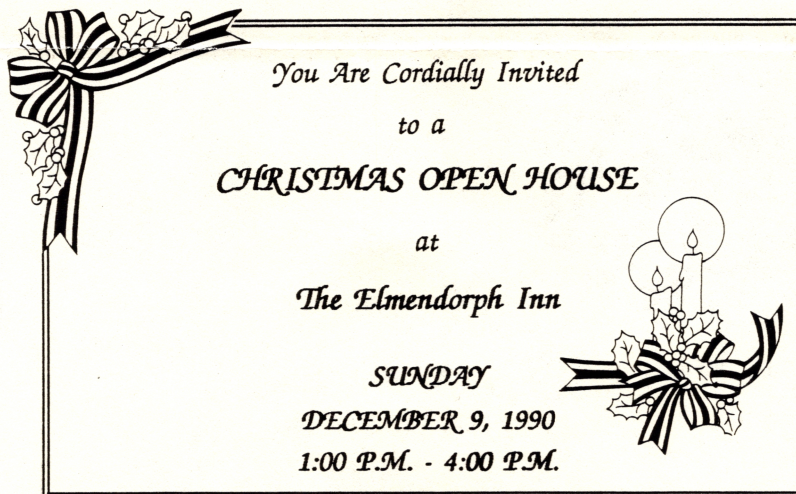
Many thanks to the Elmendorph Etc. Crew: Dorothy Wegman, Richard Coons, Lillian Gorgens, Shirley Brown, Blanche Traudt, Doug Traudt, Dave Brown, Betty Franklin, Dorothy Blauvelt, Elvira Nuccio, Elsa Krieder, Helen Garlinghouse, Edith Michael, Edith Kennedy, Doris Lemmmerman, Harriet Norton . . . and for special sales: Ginny LaBarbera and friends, Bill Reynolds, Wally Pulver, Inge Pulver, Michael Pulver, Joe O'Brien.

AUCTION '91

Yes, we are planning another of our now-famous auctions.

Tentative plans are for sometime in May '91. Exact date to be published later.

We need all good and saleable (auctionable) items that will continue our excellent reputation as a place to come and bid on something that you would like to own. Further details in upcoming newsletters. For information or whatever, call Herman Gorgens at 758-9192 or Shirley Brown at 758-8604.



ALL ARE WELCOME. We hope all our friends and supporters and anyone interested will come to see the restored South Room and enjoy mulled cider, hot chocolate and holiday fare on us.

COMMITTEES are forming for this party -

Pre-Party Help: Cleanup Crew - Vacuum and dust. Most of the major work was done for the Grand Opening Party, but it will need sprucing up.

Setup Crew - Set up room for party with tables, move furniture, etc.

To help with the above, call Shirley Brown 758-8604

Phone Crew - Make phone calls to volunteers to bake holiday cookies. If you like to bake holiday cookies, do a batch for the Elmendorph.

Call Helen Garlinghouse (758-6925) or Lillian Gorgens (758-9192)

Day of Party Table Setters and Servers - Arrange food and replenish plates. Prepare and keep the cider and hot chocolate pitchers full.

Decorators - Doris Lemmerman will arrange and set up the table for visitors to string popcorn and cranberries for homemade tree decorations.

Hostesses and Cleanup Crew - To greet guests and keep guest book, keep things in order and tidy, and clean up after party.

Call Lottie Kittner - 758-8891

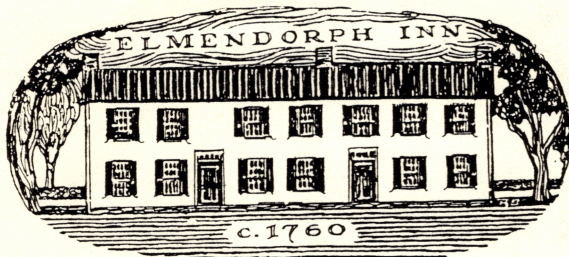
Also, we are looking for a **Christmas tree** to decorate. The ceilings are 9 feet high.

COMING EVENTS:

**AUCTION
ANNUAL MEETING**

**MAY 1991
MARCH 1991**

*A Happy Holiday Season
to all!!*



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