



- ECHOES -

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NEWSLETTER

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Spring 1997

Dear Friends:

With the second floor of the Elmendorph Inn now targeted for restoration (starting in part by early May), it is hard to believe that the light at the end of the tunnel is not from an oncoming freight train! As a matter of fact, I have to keep reminding myself that we are way beyond the halfway point and at this time next year we may very well be only one "second floor, south room" away from total restoration.

Beyond the "business as usual" activities and "before, during and after" restoration work to be covered by our experienced Restoration Committee, I feel the Board and Friends will face several major activities/challenges shortly. On July 12th, we will be holding a community favorite, the 6th Biennial Benefit Auction on the Elmendorph grounds. This single event has been our biggest fund-raising activity second only to the Elmendorph Etc. shop program. Nearly \$12,000 in profits were realized at the last auction, so start saving your treasures for this summer's event. Please watch for further details.

A concerted effort will also be established to enhance certain aspects of the Etc. shop, including its interior and to increase the number of volunteers who share the work load. I'm sure these challenges will be handled admirably, as they have in the past, and I'm looking forward to great success.

In closing, I thank you all for your never-ending support and offer my congratulations to the Friends for all we have accomplished and are about to accomplish at such a sprinter's pace. The light we once saw is no longer the one originating from the end of the tunnel. The light we see is now the one shining ever so brightly through the second-floor south room window at the Elmendorph. We are that close! Best of health to you and hope to see you at the Annual Meeting.

Sincerely,

David Brown
President

FRIENDS OF ELMENDORPH, INC.

DONATIONS

February 1997

Mr. and Mrs. Heinz Bertelsman
Richard and Virginia Cheney
Marilou Corrigan
Doris Diebold
John and Anne Gilfeather
Anne Elmendorph Impellizzeri
John and Stanya Jimenez
Dennis and Beverly Kipp
Joan Mann
Joseph and Margaret O'Brien
- Rosemary Coons Archive Room

George and Martha Reid
- IBM Matching Grant
Mr. and Mrs. Judson Sprague
Richard and Karen Streifeneder
Alice Timothy
Augusta Townsend
- Gift Certificate to Copy Cat Printers
Marvin VanBenschoten
Douglas Ward
- Johnson and Johnson Matching Grant
Monica Wieboldt and Stephen Wrynn

NEW MEMBERS

Marie Kalson
Valerie and Tom Kennedy
Joan Mann
Margi Riker
Monica Wieboldt and Stephen Wrynn

Story Teller to Entertain at Annual Meeting

Her voice sparkles with enthusiasm and joy as she admits "it took her 70 years to find out what she was really good at." Ethel Howlett is Mother Goose and the fairy godmother to audiences ranging from "little ones" to 84-year-olds. Iroquois Indian tales will be featured during Ethel's program following the annual meeting and dinner at McCaffrey's Cottage Restaurant on Monday, March 24th.

Ethel began her story-telling career as a volunteer at Montgomery Place. "They were looking for someone to entertain children and, without even thinking about it, I said, "I can do that!" she recounted in a recent phone conversation. She discovered she had a real talent when an Elderhostel instructor advised her that she was good enough to turn professional. But she says she prefers to give her gifts to the children at the Mill Road School, where she volunteers in the library, at Montgomery Place, or wherever tales need to be told.

Married to Dr. Harlan Howlett, a retired veterinarian whom she met as a student at Cornell, Ethel says her background was in science until her interest in storytelling led her to research the folk tales of other countries and cultures. Recently she's been studying the folklore of Africa. "When I first started it was hard to remember all the stories," she said, "but the more I learn, the easier it gets." It sounds as if she's found the true fountain of youth.

Restoration Committee

- Barbara Bielenberg

Now that the days are getting longer, we have more hours to focus on the work ahead on the second floor. Steel shelving is high on our want list to organize and store all the archeological artifacts which have accumulated in the small second floor chambers. The electricians will then be able to install the much-needed wiring already authorized. Very shortly we will begin some selective removal of loose plaster in the north room while Herman Gorgens prepares final drawings for State approval. You will recall that we are required to have all restoration plans approved in advance by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.

Initially, we are focusing on the room over the tap room, the staircase and the large hall at the top of the stair which we believe was once an informal "dormitory" for drovers, peddlers and others seeking inexpensive lodgings. Rosemary Coons, the dynamic Village Historian who did so much to galvanize interest in saving the Elmendorph Inn so many years ago, always envisioned that the second floor would be devoted to the collection and preservation of the history of the Town of Red Hook and the conversion of these spaces into the Rosemary Coons Historical Archive and Research Center and gallery will bring her dream closer to fulfillment.

The Center will be the responsibility of the Egbert Benson Historical Society of Red Hook, which recognizes the urgent need to gather together historical diaries, ledgers, photographs, maps and documents in one place where they can be preserved and studied. so that we can learn more about the people and activities which contributed to the development of the Red Hook community. As president of the society, I urge all members of the Friends of Elmendorph to consider joining the society as well. Members receive advance notice of the ten interesting programs held each year, three editions of a newsletter full of information about the history of the area, and the knowledge that they are contributing to the development of the Historical Archives and other outreach activities of the society.

Dues for the 1997-98 year are payable to the **Egbert Benson Historical Society**, P.O. Box 1813, Red Hook NY 12571-0397. A Family membership is \$12, an Individual is \$8. Larger donations are, of course, welcome. Please be sure to include your name, address and telephone number. Your membership will help the Historical Society become a more active partner in the development of the second floor of the Elmendorph Inn.

Acquisitions

Richard Coons has enhanced our interpretation of life in an early 19th-century Inn with his donation of an early foot warmer. The warmer has been placed on the kitchen hearth where it awaits hot coals to fill the tin container hidden within its decorative pierced-tin box. This is just the kind of object which helps us bring early Red Hook to life for our fourth grade local history classes. Richard also gave us two well-used clay smoking pipes and a handsome yellow ware bowl for mixing and serving in the kitchen.

The Egbert Benson Historical Society of Red Hook has received from Edith Platt a framed photograph of East Market Street taken about 1909. It pictures the Curtis hardware store (now Stockenberg's) and the Cann Pharmacy before all the street trees were cut down to widen the street. Although not of the period of our early 19th-century tap room, the photo is so interesting that we've hung it there until the Historical Society has its own gallery on the second floor. The Historical Society welcomes donations of photographs, postcards, diaries, ledgers and other objects which preserve and interpret Red Hook's history for display in the second floor gallery or storage in the Rosemary Coons Historical Archive and Research center. (See Restoration Committee report.)

Christmas Open House

Bad weather forced the cancellation of the Chamber of Commerce's annual Snowflake Parade and Tree Lighting this year but, with the following weekend already booked for the Garden Club Greens Show, our own Family Christmas Open House was held as scheduled on Sunday December 1st. Although our attendance was somewhat reduced, a jolly crowd braved the weather for our traditional celebration. Two members from Ohio, who were in New York to enjoy Thanksgiving with their daughter, made a point of attending the Open House and were especially impressed by the festive decorations: the magnificent tree donated by Mac's Agway, decorated by the children with clove-studded Clementines donated by Carleen and Richard Baright, popcorn from Mim and David Brown, and nine bags of cranberries from Tiberio's IGA which also donated pineapples, oranges and several kinds of apples for the lavish South Room mantle. Val Borges, Phyllis Smith, Irene Castle and Judy Rockefeller helped the children create the decorations.

Barbara Bielenberg decorated the South Room assisted by Sheryl Woods who also expertly decorated the three front door wreaths. Elvira and Frank Nuccio and Shirley Brown donated greens. Blanche Traudt, assisted by husband Doug, decorated the tap room and parlor using gorgeous apples donated by John Feller of Oriole Orchards. Special thanks to Bill Alexander for making the huge wreath which graced the Elmendorph Etc. throughout the holidays.

We are very grateful to all who contributed to the decorations, but it is also the aura of hospitality which makes our Christmas Open House so memorable. Mary Cioffi's warm greeting in the front hall, the aroma of mulled cider donated by John Hardeman and our gracious crew of greeters and servers recruited by Betsy Wacker: Nancy and John Nielsen, Joelle Trachta, B. J. Kjartanssen, Janis and Peter Lawson, Ruth Bornschlegel and Ann and Brendan Donnelly. And, of course, the delicious odor of fresh bread wafting from the historic kitchen where Ellen Phalen and Lisa Tompkins baked in the brick oven and in an iron kettle in front of the fire tended by Joe Kavaky, who also kept an eye on the cocoa and cider pots with Richard Coons and Gussie Townsend. Thanks to Terry's Bakery for once again letting Ellen and Lisa use their professional mixers to prepared the bread dough.

Thank you, Joan Lewis, for all the phone calls recruiting dozens of cookie bakers. We lost track of the delicious donations, so we'll have to use the newsletter to thank you all. There weren't enough guests to eat up all your cookies this year so we froze some for the Historical Society Christmas meeting and donated the rest to those in need.

A very special feature of our Open House was the "live" music provided by Regina Scheff and her fiddle and Bob Burroughs on the Irish harp. Thanks also to Alan Van Ness and his wonderful fifth-grade flute ensemble: Heather Michael, Veronica Roseberry and Rachel Bennek. Some of the musicians had to rush back from family Thanksgiving weekend activities and we want them to know how much we appreciated their music. And finally, our deepest appreciation to Gussie Townsend, Shirley Brown and Blanche and Doug Traudt for the thankless chore of cleaning up after the party to make way for the next event.

Friends of Elmendorph, Inc. ANNUAL MEETING

Dear Friends,

The ANNUAL MEETING of the FRIENDS OF ELMENDORPH, INC. will be held on **Monday, March 24, 1997** at 8:00 p.m. at **McCaffrey's Cottage**, Route 9 North, Red Hook, New York. The meeting will be preceded by a cocktail hour at 6:00 PM followed by dinner **promptly** at 6:30 PM.

Please send your proxy or dinner reservation to: **MARY CIOFFI**, RD #3 Box 72, Red Hook, NY 12571, (914-758-6204). **All reservations must be made by Thursday, March 20th.** You may choose to attend the program and the meeting without attending the dinner. Please let us know, so that we can arrange seating for you. Please make all checks payable to **McCAFFREY'S COTTAGE**.

The speaker for the evening will be Ethel Howlett, a story teller.

Now is the time to renew your membership for 1996. Please note the date on your label; your membership is paid **through** that date. An envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

-----**PROXY**-----

I/We will **not** attend the ANNUAL MEETING of the FRIENDS OF ELMENDORPH, INC. In my absence, I hereby appoint the President or his deputy or _____ as my proxy to vote on all matters that may come before the membership on March 24, 1997.

Signature

Signature

Date: _____

Date: _____

-----**Dinner Reservation**-----

March 24, 1997

DINNER SELECTIONS - \$15.00 Per Person

(Includes Salad, Rolls/Butter, Entree, Baked Potato, Vegetable, Tea/Coffee, Dessert and Tip)

HOW MANY?

_____ New York Strip Steak

_____ Shrimp & Scallop Boat w/Dijon Sauce

_____ Stuffed Chicken Breast (sausage and bread) w/Bernaise Sauce

Name: _____

Amount Enclosed _____

Name: _____

SPRING HIGHLIGHTS AT THE ELMENDORPH INN

Sunday, March 9	1:00-4:00 PM	Red Hook Winter Tree Celebration
Thursday, March 13	6:00-8:30 PM	Chamber of Commerce Meeting
Monday, March 24	6:30 PM 8:00 PM	Friends of Elmendorph Annual Dinner Annual Meeting and Program (McCaffrey's Cottage Restaurant)
Tuesday, March 25	7:30 PM	Egbert Benson Historical Society Meeting Life and Work of Frederick Church
Tuesday, April 1, 8, 15, 22	7:30 PM	Clermont State Historic Site Spring Lecture Series
Saturday, May 3	All Day	Red Hook Apple Blossom Festival

COMING THIS SUMMER!

**The 6th Biennial Friends of Elmendorph Benefit Auction
Saturday, July 12, 1997**

Donate Quality Merchandise! Come and Buy!

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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