

# elmendorph echoes

FRIENDS OF ELMENDORPH INC.  
P.O. BOX 1776  
RED HOOK N.Y. 12571



VOL. 1

No 1

FEBRUARY, 1977

Dear Friends,

This first newsletter is to inform you of the Annual Meeting of the FRIENDS OF ELMENDORPH, INC., to be held on Tuesday, March 1, 1977 at 7:30 P.M. at the Red Hook Grange Hall on Prince Street, and also to bring you up to date on some of our activities during the past year.

Since the Annual Meeting on March 2, 1976, the Friends have had many ups and downs -- mostly downs. Our aim has always been to save the Inn, and it is toward that end that the Board of Directors has labored.

We will bring you up to date on all of these details at our Annual Meeting and answer all questions that you might have.

There have been some new developments in the last few months which are changing the picture every day. We hope to have lots to tell you on March 1st.

We ask all of you to talk to those who might be willing to help us financially, and we would appreciate those of you who have had fund raising experience to step forward and offer your advice.

There will be a part for all to play in the coming year. We need more research on the building, people on the membership committee, people to do typing, to raise funds and people ready to help with the clean-up and restoration necessary to accomplish our goals. We would also like to have volunteers to work on a newsletter. Please think about the part you would like to play.



### PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION

In the Spring, extensive photography was done in the building by Bob & Barbara Bielenberg and John & Clara Losee. Fuses blew, but the work went on.

### TEACH-IN

In March, Paul Fredericks and Rosemary Coons conducted a Teach-In at the High School. Guess what the subject was!

### ELMENDORPH BOYS & GIRLS

We can't say enough about the students of all ages who have helped us. They collected over 600 supporting signatures for our cause. Their spirit is to be commended and could teach us all something.

### WALKING TOUR

Permission was obtained to include the Elmendorph in a walking tour of the Village on Hardscrabble Day, June 19, 1976. A drawing and history of the building was also included in a Tour Guide booklet printed for the occasion.

### 4TH OF JULY

Permission was granted to decorate the Inn festively. The Rotary Club served old-fashioned lemonade & cookies in front of the Inn, immediately following the dedication of a restored milestone across the road.

### DUTCHESS COUNTY FAIR

The FRIENDS had a display at the D.C. Arts Council Booth at the Fair in August. We also passed out a brochure which Barbara Bielenberg helped put together.

### MEMBERSHIPS

The FRIENDS are now members of the National Trust for Historic Preservation (a gift membership); the Preservation League of N.Y.S. (also a gift) and the D.C. Arts Council.

### THANKS

Special thanks to Herman Gorgens who has spent much time & money donating architectural drawings, who capped a chimney on the roof of the building and mowed the lawn on many weekends.

Also, to Bob Haack who helped Herman with many of these projects.

Bill Walsh, our attorney, who has donated his services and is never too busy to chat.

Henry Webster, who offered his accounting advice and looked over our financial books.

Georgia Coon and Clara Losee for working so hard on the Nominating Committee.

Harold Fell for time and labor, and being there whenever needed.

Joe Zalenski for getting this whole thing started.

### HISTORICAL SOCIETY

A Historical Society will be formed this year. Lottie Kittner is working very hard on this project. Of course, the Society will need a place to meet and a place to store their goodies.

### PUBLICITY

There has certainly been no lack of publicity of our activities. We thank the news media for having an interest in our story. The FRIENDS have been on television and were written up in the NATIONAL edition of America the Beautiful.

### TULIPS

In the Spring, red, white & blue tulips that the Girl Scouts had planted at the Inn came up in living color. We will look for them again this year.



## HISTORY

Thanks to Clara for so much help with the latest history of the building.

Ad in the N.Y. Packet, Aug. 14, 1783: "To be sold, AN ELEGANT HOUSE, for a store-keeper or Tavern . . . . with three commodious Rooms below stairs, a large entry through the house, a large room above stairs with a large Garrett; the said house has got three Fire Places and a Kitchen, a good stable and barrack, a well of good water . . . ." Signed: Philip Jacobs, Red Hook, Rhinebeck Precinct.

Dutchess Observer, April 11, 1799: "To Let for one year, from 5 May next, House and lot which the subscriber lately removed from in the Town of Rhinebeck on Post Rd., . . . . this place being so agreeable, together with the convenience & goodness of the HOUSE, GARDEN & LOTT renders it unnecessary to enter into any further particulars concerning the premises; the subscriber only wishes to remark, that the stand for a Public House is equal to any in this part of the county. For further particulars . . . . enquire of the subscriber at Lower Red Hook Landing. Cornelius C. Elmendorph".

American Farmer, Sept. 3, 1799. Robert Williams, Collector of the Revenue for the County of Dutchess was collecting taxes for the sale of wines and foreign distilled spiritous liquors at "John Elmendorph's tavern, in the town of Rhinebeck".

Clara also found in the Rhinebeck Tax Lists: Philip Jacobs, Feb. 1762 to June, 1768 and also 1778 -- George (Jury) Sharp, June 1768 to 1778. Does this mean that Jacobs operated the Inn from 1762 to 1768 and then Sharp took over and operated it for him? That would place George Sharp there right at the time of the "plotting against the Torries".

## IN MEMORIUM

Sylvester Pulver of Danbury, New Hampshire, a Charter Member of the group, died recently. He was a source of much information about the Inn and often expressed the wish that he could work on the restoration. We will miss him and should always remember the contributions he made to Red Hook's history.

## OFFERS OF HELP

The FRIENDS have a long list of businessmen who have offered their services in the restoration -- carpenters, electricians, plumbers, etc.

Thanks to the many organizations who have stepped forward and wrote letters in behalf of our cause and offered help. We appreciate your support.

## ELMENDORPH CARDS

There are a few packages of Elmendorph notepaper left for sale at \$1.25. We will bring them to the meeting and perhaps decide if we should order more.

## AWARD

The Board of Directors will make the first Annual Award to the person who has done the most for VISUAL IMPROVEMENT of Red Hook in 1976. Be at the meeting to find out who gets it.

## MEMBERSHIP FEES

We will vote on a membership fee at the time of the Annual Meeting. It has been proposed by the Board that \$3.00 per person and \$5.00 per family; \$1.00 for students under 18 and \$10.00 for organizations be collected to help pay for operating expenses. Of course, DONATIONS are always welcome.

## DONATION DAY AT A & P

The FRIENDS OF ELMENDORPH really turned out for the shopping at the A & P. We made \$56.11 which meant our shoppers spent over \$1,000. in behalf of the Elmendorph.



PLEASE FEEL FREE TO BRING A FRIEND TO THE ANNUAL MEETING. WE WILL SERVE REFRESHMENTS AND CHERYL GOLD, SITE MANAGER OF CLERMONT STATE HISTORIC SITE WILL PRESENT AN EXCITING PROGRAM OF THE ON-GOING RESTORATION OF CLERMONT.

Some of you who will be getting this Newsletter are not members of the Corporation. We will include an application which you may mail in or bring to the meeting with you.

A Proxy Card is included for members. If you cannot make the meeting, please send in your proxy so that we are sure to have a quorum.

Keep your spirts up -- we will appreciate the building much more because we have had to work so hard for it.

SEE YOU ON MARCH 1ST AT THE GRANGE HALL!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 1976 to 1977

Rosemary E. Coons, President  
Herman J. Gorgens, Vice President  
Lillian Gorgens, Secretary/Treasurer  
Robert Bielenberg  
Helen Garlinghouse  
Patsy Walsh  
Joe Zalenski