

Grand Union reported considering sale of Elmendorph Inn to Red Hook group

The Gazette Advertiser - Thurs. Nov. 6, 1975

The Grand Union Company is actively considering selling the Elmendorph Inn to the Friends of Elmendorph, Inc., a Red Hook citizens group. Donald Vaillancourt, Grand Union public relations director, said a decision will probably be made next week on an offer made by the Friends.

The Friends' offer was described as "modest" by a Friends spokesman. Structural repairs needed by the historic structure and the significance of the building to the community justified the modest price offer, the source said.

The asking price is known to be \$40,000 and the property is listed for sale by the Helen Z. Battant real estate agency.

The agency said it could not disclose whether anyone else was interested in purchasing the building, but Vaillancourt said no other potential buyers were known to his office. The real estate division of Grand Union and not his office is making the decision, he said.

Scores of letters have been sent from local individuals, organizations and government officials asking the Grand Union to either sell or donate the inn to the community.

The large frame building on North Broadway close to the road about opposite Memorial Park, has been neglected, vandalized and some features altered in the past few decades, according to Village Historian

Rosemary Coons.

Built probably in the first half of the 18th Century, it served as a rallying point for revolutionary rebels and as the first seat of town government.

When it is renovated, including the replacement of sills and conforming the facade to the original design, it could house historic records and artifacts and serve some other unspecified public use.

Vaillancourt acknowledged receiving the supporting letters

and said, "We're taking community sensitivity into consideration" in deciding on the Friends offer.

"If you're asking if we have a heart, we do, but we must keep things in perspective," he said cryptically.

Joint effort underway to save Elmendorph Inn

Letters asking the Grand Union Company to sell the Elmendorph Inn and pledging support for its restoration have been sent by Red Hook Mayor Miller D. Magley, Cub Scouts, Masons and various other organizations and individuals, said Rosemary Coons, village historian.

The former inn, now boarded up, is one of Red Hook's oldest structures and would be used partly for display and storage of historic documents, according to the Friends of Elmendorph.

profit corporation and have been receiving donations at Box 1776, Red Hook.

Mayor Magley said Monday he would write a letter to Grand Union president James Wood at Elmwood Park, New Jersey saying "we would appreciate it if the Grand Union doesn't make a big profit."

The frame structure at North Broadway and Cherry Street is assessed at about \$17,400, Mrs. Coons said. The taxes paid, about \$500, would be made up

Elmendorph could appear in a pen sketch by Herman Gorgens, is being sold by the Friends.

\$91 has been collected for the Elmendorph and activities of the Red Hook-Tivoli Bicentennial Committee from boxes placed in stores.

HUDSON REGISTER STAR 4/14/76

Grand Union Doesn't Want Meeting About Elmendorph

RED HOOK - Plans were suspended Monday for a meeting this month in New Jersey of local officials, representatives of Friends of Elmendorph and Grand Union officials after a company spokesman expressed reluctance to hold the meeting, according to Rosemary Coons, vice president of Friends of Elmendorph.

The meeting at the company's headquarters was planned as a means of presenting a response to an offer made by Grand Union March 12 to sell the 200-year-old Elmendorph Inn for \$31,500, Mrs. Coons said. She said Mayor Miller Magley and Supervisor Robert Bowman were planning to attend.

Instead, Mrs. Coons said a company spokesman suggested by telephone that he would prefer a written reply to the sale offer. "They gave us all kinds of reasons why they did not want to meet," Mrs. Coons said. "There was no indication that they wanted to see us," she said.

Donald Vaillancourt, Grand Union public relations director, confirmed Tuesday that the company would prefer a written reply, but he declined com-

ment when asked if the company had refused to meet with the group.

Mrs. Coons said the matter would be discussed at a special directors' meeting tonight in Red Hook.

The Friends of Elmendorph has been trying to acquire the inn from the Grand Union so restoration work can start. The supermarket chain, a British owned company, purchased the building and small lot several years ago from James Woods, Grand Union president, according to Paul Fredericks, public relations director for Friends of Elmendorph, incorporated as a non-profit organization.

Meanwhile, the Teenage Republican Club of Red Hook has volunteered its services in helping to acquire the inn as its Bicentennial project. Fredericks said the youngsters would direct their efforts to informing the public about negotiations with the Grand Union, would gather signatures on supporting petitions and would assist with a letter writing campaign.

Those interested in assisting may contact Mike Ward, Chris Ross, Lorry Kennedy or other club members. (sg)

To the editor:

It seems hypocritical to me that there are people who will celebrate the Bicentennial with pomp and hoopla, and yet not be willing to take a stand against a British company (The Grand Union) that is taking away a Bicentennial landmark right from under our noses.

Where are the Patrick Henrys and Paul Reveres now? Was their fight in vain? We are once again under British oppression.

This same British company will not meet with our public officials to discuss negotiations concerning the Elmendorph Inn. The King George III all over again.

Either we save the oldest building in the Village of Red

Hook, or we ignore it and hope that it tumbles down by itself so that we don't have to worry about it any longer.

If being old is bad, then let's tear down the Martin House (1776), Maizefield (1795), the Tobacco Factory (1830) and the Octagon Library (1864) so that our sons and daughters won't have to worry about old buildings 20 years from now. It's time to take a stand!

Rosemary E. Coons
Village of Red Hook Historian

Thursday April 29 1976 Gazette Advertiser

Restaurateur eyes Elmendorph Inn

There's a good chance Red Hook's historic Elmendorph Inn will be purchased by a Rhinebeck resident for restoration as a restaurant. Theodore Deminski said Monday he was waiting for the Grand Union Company to confirm his offer in writing. He had already heard through his real estate agent Helen Battistoni that the grocery chain favored his purchase proposal.

Deminski had been waiting to see whether the Friends of Elmendorph, Inc. would buy the building, but when Grand Union's \$31,500 price was turned down by the Friends last week, purchase by Deminski became imminent.

"Unless some obstacle arises, it looks pretty good," Deminski said of his tentative purchase. He said he would invest up to \$100,000 to make the deteriorating pre-Revolutionary structure into a fine eating place.

A Grand Union spokesman Tuesday had no comment whatsoever on the possible sale.

Friends' proposal

The Elmendorph Friends had made a counter proposal to buy the inn for \$6,750 the exact amount of an appraisal they obtained last summer, but Rosemary Coons, president, indicated that she didn't realistically expect Grand Union to accept the offer.

Mrs. Coon said the Friends were pleased with Deminski's intentions. "I feel all the work of the past year is well worthwhile," she said. The Friends' effort included research into the building's past as the focus of political life in Red Hook and a public relations campaign to encourage Grand Union to donate the Elmendorph on generous terms.

The campaign included parading with placards at the Rhinebeck Grand Union store. However, Mrs. Coons said Monday, that despite the impression given that the Friends wanted only to restore the inn themselves, "The Friends are (Please Turn To Page 6)

land.

... Elmendorph Inn

(Continued From Page 1)

not and never have been opposed to anyone else restoring the inn."

Careful restoration

She stressed that careful restoration, rather than remodeling without attention to the original details, was what the Friends favored. Friends members who are professionals in architectural restoration have volunteered to advise and help.

Deminski said he was "all for" taking advice from the Friends. Restoration would make it "a charming place for Red Hook. That's what everybody wants," he commented. "It would be impossible to make modern," he added.

His contractor Phil Seymour has designed parking places for enough cars and figured approximate seating. At 10 square feet per person, the 30 by 60 foot

building would seat about 65 persons, leaving spaces for existing partitions and walkways. He said he would hire professional restaurant designers for the functional aspects. An addition in back would house the kitchen.

Deminski was the proprietor of Surry's Restaurant at Sixth Avenue and 16th Street in New York City for nine years.

The Friends turned down the Grand Union offer as too costly. "Money—that is the biggest stumbling block," their letter reads. Restoration costs could be as high as \$70,000 by some estimates, Mrs. Coons said.

They also felt hesitant about Grand Union's conditions of requiring \$1,000 annual rent for five years, a start on restoration in a year and completion within three years. A "question of ultimate ownership" would be discouraging to volunteers, they reasoned. State and federal grants might take too long to obtain for the deadlines, they added.

The Friends, however, "have no intention of disbanding" Mrs. Coon said, but will continue to research the building's history and give encouragement and advice to the new potential owner.



Chimney Capped At Inn

Register-Star Staff Writer Mary H. H. H.
 Herman Gorgens of Red Hook patched atop the historic Elmendorf Inn on Nov. 3 in Red Hook Saturday to cap a chimney that was breaking up because of exposure to the elements. Two other chimneys are in better shape because their stone cappings are still in place. Gorgens, one of the founders of Friends of Elmendorf, donated his labor, while Horton Hearn and Al Condonning of Gailard donated the sheet metal cap. (Register-Star photo by Andy Bradley.)

Friday, December 3, 1976

Poughkeepsie Journal—27

Let Us Maintain Elmendorf Inn, Group Requests Of Grand Union

RED HOOK—The Friends of the Elmendorf are asking the Grand Union for permission to maintain the Elmendorf Inn, that is to provide custodial care.

The directors met last weekend and decided to send a letter to the Grand Union headquarters in New Jersey in which it was also pointed out the Friends of the Elmendorf

"intend to proceed with the application to place the property on the national register of historic places."

Mrs. Rosemary Coons, president of the Friends group, said the group has been responsible for having the lawn mowed and picking up litter on the property.

In the letter, the Grand Union was advised that at the last examination of the building "large rodents" and dampness was noted.

Lately, exterior rotting of sills has been observed and gutters had fallen off the roof, it was pointed out.

In addition to deciding to write to the Grand Union, the directors appointed several committee chairmen. They are Betty B. Eggert, nominating; Herman J. Gorgens, Elmendorf care, and Lottie Hittner, membership.

NOV 1976 ?

Elmendorph fate pending positive proof of its sale

Despite speculation that the sale of the historic Elmendorph Inn might be on again, the Red Hook Village Planning Board this week declined to take action on the application to use it for a restaurant.

The board is waiting definite indication that the building has either been sold to Theodore Deminski or that a sale will definitely take place.

Philip Symour, Deminski's contractor, last month had applied to the board to open a restaurant in Red Hook's historic former meeting and stopping place which dates from before the American Revolution. Deminski had

pledged to spend \$100,000 to restore the facility, now boarded up and decaying.

In the interim, however, negotiations for purchase of the Elmendorph were broken off by its owner, the Grand Union Co., Deminski reported.

John Waryas, village planning chairman remarked, "We took no action because he's not the owner. We would have to have a letter from Grand Union", showing ownership or an intent to purchase it by Deminski.

The friends of Elmendorph, Inc., local volunteer group set up to foster restoration of the now boarded up, wasting structure, has not as yet announced any plans for action.

Permission was given Loretta J. Campagna to open a secretarial and copying service in the former Dillman dental office on the second floor of the Aucock building on the northeast corner of the four-corner area.

A request by Dr. George Michael, Jr. to open a dentist's office at 90 W. Market St., the

present Humphrey chiropractic office, is being studied. Dr. Humphrey has been issued a building permit for a new office and residence on Church Street extension by Acting Zoning Entrant Officer Harold Fell.

Encounter scheduled

A marriage encounter information night will be held at the Spackenkill High School at 8 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 21.

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Friends want inn preserved

Friends of Elmendorph, Inc. Monday asked permission to take "minor custodial care" of the vacant former inn to prevent its destruction by "large rodents and dampness."

In a letter to the Elmendorph Inn's owner, the Grand Union Co., the 100-member Friends group said an external inspection revealed rotting sills and a gutter falling off the back roof. An earlier internal inspection led to a request to cover the cellar floor with plastic to cut down dampness but the move was never authorized.

The Friends' request to maintain Red Hook's oldest building, known to predate the Revolution, came in the wake of the collapse of plans to make the structure into a restaurant.

The Grand Union reportedly broke off negotiations in mid-November on an impending sale of the Elmendorph to restaurateur Theodore Deminski of Rhinebeck for an undisclosed reason.

At one time the Friends had offered Grand Union \$3,750 for the property, the exact amount of an appraisal they had commissioned. That offer was countered with a \$31,500 price tag and the imposition of various conditions for restoring the structure. The Friends turned down Grand Union's proposal and concentrated on a letter writing campaign to try and persuade the chain store to lower its terms. Pickets carried

placards to that effect in front of the Rhinebeck Grand Union store last April.

Waiting in wings The Friends waited in the wings, only offering help in the restoration, while Deminski first announced his intention of rehabilitating the building into a good restaurant, then revealed that the building was withdrawn from the market by Grand Union.

Rosemary Coons, Friends president, said Tuesday that "interest is again building up" for some kind of public action to save the Elmendorph. She said membership had increased to nearly 100 persons.

When asked if the Friends would consider buying the inn, she did not say "no," answering obliquely that it was not on the market at this time. Latent plans for membership and fund drives are still being considered as courses of action by the voluntary group.

Outside help?

In anticipation of getting outside help in preserving the gray, boarded-up, but once stately structure, the Friends have joined the Dutchess County Arts Council, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the America the Beautiful Fund and the Preservation League of New York State.

They have applied to have the property placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

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... Friends

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In addition, they have considered seeking an "angel" to help finance restoration. However, Mrs. Coons said the immediate problem is to "work out an arrangement with Grand Union" that might eventually lead to acquisition of the building.

The deteriorating condition of the Elmendorph is a source of worry, she said. "It cannot sit there another six to 12 months without going beyond the point of no return," she predicted.

Some care was given the structure by a couple who rented it every summer as an antique shop until the past two summers when it has stood vacant. Lack of ventilation and

also heat have combined to cause a serious dampness problem, spokesmen said.

Grand Union did give the Friends permission to cap one of the chimneys and that was done. A member mowed the lawn through the summer and others picked up litter. "It is because we care so much about the oldest building in Red Hook that we have done these things," the letter commented.

Historical Society home

"The community still hopes that this building will become the home of the (future) Red Hook Historical Society and a much needed community center," the Friends wrote.

Records preserved from earlier times show that plotting

against the British prior to the Revolutionary War took place at the inn, a major stopping place between New York and Albany. Later, the first town meetings of the emergent local government were held under roof. Ownership has been traced through a number of local families.

In preparation for their annual meeting in March, the Friends appointed to a nominating committee Betty Blair Eggert, chairman, Clara Losee and Georgia Coon.

Applying to the National Register is being directed by Herman J. Gorgens, chairman, Barbara Bielenberg and Richard Barrett. Lottie Kittner is membership chairman.

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Gazette

Friends honor Baright

3/2/77

Register

Star

RED HOOK - Richard Baright of Red Hook was presented an award Tuesday by the Friends of Elmendorph for making the best visual improvement in the town last year.

Baright was cited for improvements to the building housing his hardware store, Stockenberg's Hardware, and to the Scism Building across the street. His improvements to the Triebel Building on N. Broadway also were mentioned.

That building has received a new coat of paint, and the side bordering the A&P parking lot sports a new facade. Mrs. Rosemary Coons, Friends of Elmendorph president, said the award was presented because the group was interested not only in saving the 200 year-old Elmendorph Inn, but was concerned about preservation in general and also visual improvement. (sgv)

Friends Of Elmendorph To Meet With Builder

By MARILYN STONE

Journal Staff Writer

RED HOOK—Representatives of the Friends of the Elmendorph and Theodore Deminski and Phil Seymour, a builder, have agreed to meet at the Elmendorph Inn to see if they can "work something out," according to Rosemary Coons, president of the Friends.

Deminski has been interested in purchasing the deteriorating historic building to renovate it for a restaurant for about a year.

The Grand Union, owners of the inn, took the property off the market this fall.

The appearance of Deminski and Seymour at the annual meeting Tuesday night of the Friends was unexpected, Mrs. Coons said today.

They had petitions signed by about 100 persons who indicated they favored the restaurant in the inn, she said.

Also approximately 50 persons who attended the meeting in the Grange Hall had heard a presentation by Cheryl Gold, site manager of Clermont State Historic Site, and one member of

the Friends pointed out that restoration is a very specialized field, Mrs. Coons said.

During the discussion between members of the Friends and Seymour, who acted as spokesman for Deminski, the loss of other Red Hook historic buildings, such as the Red Hook Hotel, was emphasized as a reason for the fears the group has expressed over the possibility that someone might later buy the inn from Deminski and then tear it down, Mrs. Coons indicated.

The importance of preserving the Elmendorph Inn, which is the eyes of the members of the Friends is a "rare form of architecture in our state today" and located on the old Kings Highway was also cited, she said.

As presiding officer, Mrs. Coons indicated the annual membership meeting was not the proper occasion for the prospective buyer and the Friends to try to work out their differences.

The meeting will take place in the inn when the weather warms up a little, Mrs. Coons said.

Elmendorph has to be preserved

To the Editor:

Elmendorph Inn has been around for 200 years. The government preserves the forest. We must preserve our heritage for our children.

Rosemary Coons, the president of Friends of Elmendorph, has been trying to do that for two years. Now the Elmendorph is sitting there going into the ground.

The Friends of Elmendorph want to turn it into a type of fun place where young and old can go— you could say a big craft center.

The owner of Elmendorph is the Grand Union company, which wanted \$81,000 for the Elmendorph. They moved to Rhinebeck from Red Hook; they still own the building.

The IGA company might move in their old shop in Red Hook. The Elmendorph can be a center of life of the town Red Hook.

The Friends of Elmendorph I know can do a wonderful thing with the building. They have volunteer labor and \$1,000 for the Elmendorph.

The Elmendorph Inn is slowly falling apart. But we can still do something. Grand Union has been pushing us around; we don't know about it. Like one time the Friends of Elmendorph wanted to see them about buying the Elmendorph they said we cannot see them. Like if they locked us in our room.

The town is asking for \$300,000 in federal community development funds to be used all for the Rec. Park. Senior citizens don't use the park.

I hope the town puts aside some money for the Elmendorph. I sure hope the Elmendorph is saved.

Karl Weyermann

Red Hook Man Honored

RED HOOK—A Red Hook businessman was honored by the Friends of the Elmendorph Tuesday night when he was given the first award for Visual Improvement of Red Hook.

Richard Baright, Apple Ring, who operates Stockenberg's Hardware Store, received a framed hand-printed award which had been executed by Herman Gorgens, a member of the Friends.

Baright was cited for improving the appearance of the commercial district of the village of Red Hook, according to Mrs. Rosemary Coons, president of the Friends.

She said he has painted and

changed the appearance of a number of properties for the better here.

The Friends welcomed several new members to the organization which is now a member of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Preservation League of New York State and the Dutchess County Arts Council.

Members of the board of directors are Richard Barrett, Paul Fredericks, Robert Bielenberg, Herman and Lillian Gorgens, Helen Garlinghouse and Mrs. Coons.

Officers will be elected by the board at a meeting in about two weeks, Mrs. Coons said.

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one cent per \$1,000 of valuation. He said the reduction was not "tremendous," but he drew favorable comparisons with neighboring towns that face increases of 10 cents or more. "This board and the people working in this community have done a terrific job in holding the line," said the supervisor.

Councilman Robert Greig, however, cautioned that the

tax rates next year will be \$2.34 in the town, and 36 cents in the village. The town fire district shows an increase of four cents, to 47 cents per \$1,000, and a three cent increase in Tivoli, to 85 cents per \$1,000. The lighting district shows a five cent increase, to 59 cents per \$1,000.

No Pay Increases

Bowman said there were no changes in the budget since the

of those remaining.

Since then, one worker has retired, and Superintendent Larry Hagen said another retirement was expected.

In discussing the budget, Greig said the tax rate was not reduced by the planned expenditure of surplus funds from this year. The unexpended balance this year is expected to be about \$98,000, and next year about \$95,000. "Our attitude is

working on preliminary budgets in preparation for the Nov. 4 adoption deadline. Bowman said it was a board decision to prepare the budget before the Nov. 2 election, and to release preliminary figures last month as the best way of informing the public. "We've been open with the budget, and we've done the one thing people wanted us to do - keep the taxes down," he said. (sgy)

Jaycees receive grant

RED HOOK - The Red Hook-Rhinebeck Jaycees have received a grant for an alcoholism program in conjunction with the national Operation Threshold program, according to President Herbert Elsomore.

The funds will be used to conduct an awareness campaign during the holiday season. Cards displaying the effect of various amounts of alcohol will be distributed through the Northern Dutchess area.

Bob Fowler is program coordinator, working with the state alcoholism chairman, John Lamoree of Beacon. The grant was one of a dozen awarded in the state. (sgy)

Miss Stash Elks teen of month

RED HOOK - Sandra Stash, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Stash of Red Hook, has been named Teenager of the Month by the Red Hook-Rhinebeck Elks Lodge 2022.

Elmendorph Inn sale expected in 2 weeks

RED HOOK - Theodore Deminski of Rhinebeck said Tuesday he expected a closing in the sale of the Elmendorph Inn by the Grand Union Company could take place within two weeks.

Deminski has been negotiating to buy the 200-year-old inn for more than six months. Although he said he could not be sure of the sale "until the ink is dry," he said he was confident an agreement would be reached soon.

One stumbling block has been Grand Union's insistence on a clause in the sale agreement that would prohibit razing the building, Deminski said. "We've now agreed they're dropping the clause," he said Tuesday. He said he did not want the clause removed to have the building demolished - "That would be ridiculous," he said - but because it could make the building difficult to sell in the future.

Deminski said he was retain-

ing his original idea of converting the historic building into a restaurant. Restoration would follow as "close as possible" the original building plans, although he said some changes would be needed.

A Grand Union spokesman declined comment on the negotiations, but said Deminski was the only person the super-market chain was dealing with. "The negotiations between Mr. Deminski and the Grand Union Company we consider right now to be private negotiations," the spokesman said.

Friends Concerned

Rosemary Coons of the Friends of Elmendorph, a group formed to try to preserve the inn, said she was concerned the clause had been taken out. She said removal of the clause meant the building's future could not be guaranteed.

"I'm really angry," she said. "Preservationists would be very upset to know that Grand Union had done this," she said.

The Friends of Elmendorph have waged a lengthy battle to try to obtain the inn for restoration. Offers and counter offers were exchanged, but Grand Union maintained its price of \$31,500, while the Friends were unwilling to pay more than a fraction of that amount, claiming the building essentially was worthless except as a historical restoration project.

Mrs. Coons also said the prolonged effort to begin restoration work has led to deterioration in the building.

Dampness and rodents are besetting the structure, she said.

Deminski said he saw his plans as a way to satisfy all parties. His repair work would preserve the building, and the removal of the demolition clause would permit him to buy it and the Grand Union to sell. "For myself, I wasn't concerned" about the clause. "I didn't mind one way or the other," she said. He said he just would not buy it with a restriction that, he said, could prohibit his selling, possibly in "five or ten years." (sgy)

Local Briefs

Assertiveness NOW topic

Show will

1977

RHINEBECK - Ground was broken Thursday officially for construction of a two-story addition at Northern Dutchess Hospital.

The addition will allow expansion of the intensive care and cardiac care units on the second floor.

Plans for the first floor are undecided but the space will be used for laboratory extension. Each floor will contain 4,000 square feet.

Construction already is underway, with the ground broken and at least one trench dug.

The addition is in the front of the hospital, in the area formerly used as an out-patient entrance. Entrance to the hospital now will be through the remaining front entrance, although what was described as a confusing situation.

Construction of the new wing joins Northern Dutchess Hospital into its third phase of construction since the original building was completed in 1929. In addition, including the out-patient wing, was constructed in 1959.

The second major renovation of the Skilled Nursing Unit, constructed in 1972.

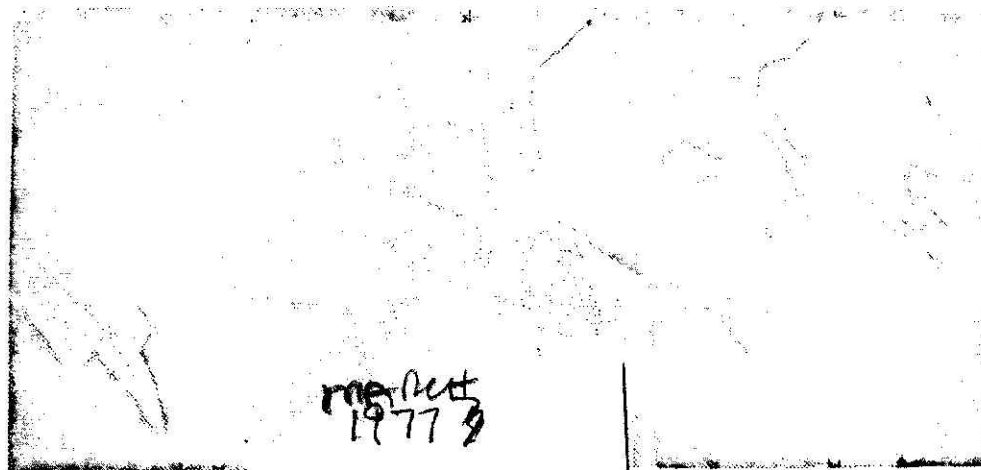
Hollowville area news

Marion Stegmann
784-1421

HOLLOWVILLE - The United Methodist Women held a red dish supper Wednesday night about 60 attending.

Ice movies for children will be held at the Methodist Church Saturday at 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. "Where the Wild Things Are; Up the Creek." and "Day at Teton Marsh" will be shown.

Ms. Lillian Roberts of Pittsford celebrated her 94th birthday Thursday. Mr. and Mrs. Van Tassel, Hollowville, were guests.



Hospital breaks ground

Ground was broken Thursday for a new wing at Northern Dutchess Hospital. The two-story addition will house intensive care and cardiac care units. On hand were Dr. Richard Temple, president of the hospital medical staff

(standing left), and sitting on the back hoe, left to right, Toni Kompass, head nurse, intensive care unit floor; William Allen, Rhinebeck Town supervisor; and Michael C. Mazzarella, hospital administrator. (sgy)

Elmendorph Inn sale off

RED HOOK - The Grand Union Co. has ended months-long negotiations with Theodore Deminski of Rhinebeck for the sale of the historic Elmendorph Inn on Rte. 9 here.

"We are not negotiating with

anyone at the present time," added a company spokesman Thursday. The spokesman said the Grand Union Co. had no plans for the 200 year-old building at present, but said he could not comment on whether

the supermarket chain was still trying to sell the Inn.

Deminski confirmed negotiations had broken off, adding, "My broker is still trying to do something about it." Deminski had "no comment" when asked why the sale talks ended.

Deminski said he had planned to convert the two-story building into a restaurant. The sale was reported to be imminent two weeks ago, when Deminski revealed a clause had been taken out of the proposed sale contract that would have prohibited the new owner from razing the building. Deminski said then that he had no plans to demolish the inn, but that he would not buy the property

RED HOOK - James E. Welch Jr. of Red Hook was sentenced to up to four years in confinement Wednesday for a vandalism spree at Pine Plains High School a year ago.

Rockland County Judge John A. Galucci, sitting in Dutchess County Court, sentenced the 17 year-old former Pine Plains student to five simultaneous zero-to-four year terms, and at the same time granted him youthful offender status.

The grand offender Welch's felony charges include the vandalism of the books, tapes, and poses.

Welch is sentenced to 12 months to be related to the broken typewriter.

Welch is sentenced to prison to see he could be mandatory with state Court. The district asked for denial of status. (s)

Memorial Park will have lights

RED HOOK - Christmas lights will twinkle from Memorial Park again this year through the efforts of Harold T. Fell Sr., Emanuel "Manny" Mangione and Alexander "Chico" Garcia.

The three residents are seeking contributions of unwanted Christmas lights, which they will string on the shrubbery at the park to greet travelers entering the north end of the village. The lights will be placed in early December.

Fell or Mangione may be contacted. (sgy)

Preliminary course at Pine

PINE PLAINS - The hour required for preliminary drivers will be between the first session and p.m.

Further information Dec. 16, Jan. 17, April 21. Registration 6:45 the evening. A registrar valid learn required. (d)

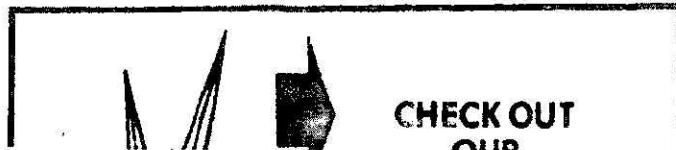
Local Briefs

Tivoli to discuss cable tv rates

TIVOLI - The Village Board will conduct a special meeting Monday at 8 p.m. at the fire house to discuss a rate increase request from Kingston Cablevision.

The board will set a date for a public hearing on the request, which would increase rates from \$6 to \$7 a month. The cablevision company also is asking for revisions in the contract with the village. (sgy)

Pine cones offered for sale



From Red Hook, N.Y., and Grand Union, N.Y. and the Friends of the Elmendorph Inn. The directors are responsible for the swimming and other pool-related summer activities at the Linden Avenue facility. (Photo by Peter Zietz.)

Elmendorph Inn sale halted

Red Hook's historic Elmendorph Inn will not be sold to Theodore Deminski of Rhinebeck, the restaurateur has disclosed.

Negotiations had broken off with the Grand Union Co., owner of the building, he said, but declined to tell the reason for their termination.

The two century old frame structure on Rte. 9 at Cherry Street has been the subject of restoration efforts by the Friends of Elmendorph, Inc., a volunteer group.

Rosemary Coons, Friends president, said the group had recently been waiting for the outcome of Deminski's efforts to acquire the property. They were ready to help him with the restoration, she said.

Now that the deteriorating, dull-gray, boarded-up former

Inn will not be made into a restaurant, the Friends will reconsider their role as its advocate.

"Disappointed"

Deminski, who said he was "disappointed", admitted that he and Grand Union had reached a final agreement on the price, but another contract clause was at issue. The Rhinebeck man said he had been ready to invest \$100,000 in remodeling the building's first floor into a restaurant.

He recently denied rumors that he intended to tear the building down.

He confirmed demanding that Grand Union eliminate from the purchase agreement a stipulation that the building was not to be demolished, but he said that was for several reasons. "One of them is that in

a few years I may want to sell it, and a clause like that in the agreement may affect that situation," he commented.

Historic significance

The Inn has historic significance in Red Hook. Early plotting against the Tories and later the original Red Hook town meetings were held there.

The Inn was surrounded in controversy last spring when the "Friends of the Elmendorph Inn" led a public campaign to get Grand Union to donate it free or sell it on generous terms, as a Bicentennial year gesture.

The Friends offered \$6,750, the exact amount of the appraisal, to obtain it and restore it but Grand Union sought \$31,500, which the Friends rejected.

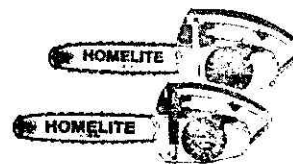
At about the same time, Deminski announced that he

was interested in purchasing the Inn.



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Year

Price tag on sale of inn draws parade of protesters

Sign-carrying Friends of Elmendorph Inn paraded Saturday at the Rhinebeck Grand Union store, protesting its management's alleged refusal to "bargain in good faith", according to Paul Fredericks, a leader of the protest.

In the latest turn in negotiations that have evoked some criticism of Grand Union here, the company last week placed an April 23 deadline on its offer to sell the 200-year old Elmendorph Inn in Red Hook to the Friends for \$31,500. The Friends were expected to decide Wednesday evening on their response to the offer.

The Friends, now chaired by Rosemary Coons, village historian, have led a campaign among school children and the public to get Grand Union to donate free or on generous terms the historic structure as a bicentennial year gesture.

Ironically, the ownership of Grand Union is in Great Britain, against which the patriots rebelled during the American Revolution. Thus, comparing the present tempest to America's first great cause, some of the slogans lettered on the placards Saturday read, "Tory Go Home" and "The Benedict Arnold of 1976".

Historic significance

The inn has historic significance here. Early plotting against the Tories and later the original Red Hook town meetings were held there. The Friends would like to rehabilitate it as a museum and community building.

Last summer the Friends offered Grand Union \$5,000 for the deteriorating structure, after it was appraised at about \$6,500. It is located on a patch of land adjacent to the parking lot of the now vacant Red Hook Grand Union store. Grand

Union owns the Elmendorph but not the vacant Grand Union store. That is owned by a Poughkeepsie agent who is trying to rent it as a restaurant or other business.

Children, civic organizations and local governments wrote letters to Grand Union through the fall and winter. Donna Lown, a pupil at Mill Road School, received a reply from Dennis J. McMullen, real estate manager of Grand Properties

Company, saying "We have a great deal of respect for the history of the building and are reviewing plans to sell or donate the property to the Friends of Elmendorph or the Village of Red Hook."

The Friends incorporated as a non-profit corporation with about 60 charter members and received about \$1,000 in dues and donations.

Grand Union's offer

Then on March 2 Grand Union

made an offer. Peter Young, the company's real estate coordinator, addressed the assembled Friends in Red Hook. He offered the building for \$31,500 at the end of five years if the Friends would rent it for \$1,000 a year until then, begin rehabilitation within a year and complete it in three years. Young said the \$31,500 was about what the building cost and the \$1,000 a year was (Please Turn To Page 3)