



- ECHOES -

Summer 1991

Dear Friends,

Our Annual Meeting on March 25 was an historic first. At last, we were able to use the Elmendorph South Room for this event. The reproduction Windsor chairs that so many of you adopted were painted red or green and had brightly colored tags with the names of the donors. Reports were given to the members on our Treasury, Grants, Fundraisers, our Shop, Acquisitions and Restorations. Three Directors were elected in accordance with our By-Laws.

Very special thanks to our retiring Directors--Pat Merrill, who was our excellent secretary, and Elliott Lindsley, who served as Fund Raising Chair. Elliott is an Elmendorph institution--our first Honorary Life Member and the catalyst for the sale of the building to our group. His wife, Barbara, has been a special help to us in our fund raising endeavors. We hope Pat and Elliott will continue to be involved in spite of new responsibilities--Pat as President of the Red Hook Chamber of Commerce and Elliott as President of the Columbia County Historical Society.

Following the formal meeting, a slide program showed 15 years of progress, and then Richard Coons auctioned off items donated by the Board of Directors. Delicious leftover cookies made by attending members were also eagerly purchased.

The new Board then met to elect the following officers: Rosemary Coons, President; Leocadia Kittner, Vice President; Barbara Field, Secretary; and Mary Cioffi, Treasurer.

The annual conference of the Preservation League of NYS held in early April at Bear Mountain was attended by Barbara Bielenberg and your president. It was good to talk to people who share our enthusiasm for preservation.

This newsletter contains some unhappy news about our grants. The good news, however, is that we have had lots of publicity lately in many different publications: a paragraph in the Lower Hudson Conference newsletter, an article in an IBM publication about Dorothy Blauvelt and her Elmendorph volunteerism, and a 3/4-page feature in the Kingston Sunday Freeman have kept our name in the news.

Thanks to Barbara Bielenberg, Lottie Kittner and Norma Liuzza for another excellent newsletter.

Can anyone remember a more beautiful spring? Looking forward to Auction '91.

Rosemary E. Coons
President

MEET YOUR DIRECTORS

We'd like you to know the hardworking folk who serve as Directors of the Friends of Elmendorph. In this issue we are happy to introduce the three who were elected to office at the March annual meeting.

♦ **Robert Bielenberg**, a retired commercial artist, returning for his second term as Director, has been interested in the Elmendorph restoration since 1974 when he and his wife considered purchasing the building as a home and antique shop. Instead they opted for a younger house on a Red Hook village side street where they pursue their interests in folk art, gardening and classical music and entertain four young grandchildren. Born and raised in Detroit, Michigan, Bob fell in love with the Hudson Valley while travelling back and forth to art school in New York City and is delighted to participate in preserving an historic Inn which served the common folk of the region.

♦ **Joe Kavaky** grew up in Ohio and graduated from Ohio University. His career as an IBM Programmer has moved him from Endicott to Hopewell Junction and, in 1978, to Kingston and a home in the Town of Red Hook. Joe believes in actively supporting the community in which he lives and is a member of the Red Hook Conservation Advisory Committee and VFW, serves as Treasurer of St. Christopher's Holy Name Society, and assists in Lions Club activities. In his remaining spare time Joe likes to golf, bowl, and ski.

♦ **Barbara Field's** interest in history was nurtured in Stratford, Connecticut, where her family had lived since 1693, and she passed her enthusiasm on to her fourth grade students at the Mill Road School in Red Hook. In 1975, inspired by a talk by Rosemary Coons and encouraged by their teacher, her students wrote letters to the president of the Grand Union about the historic importance of the Elmendorph Inn and begged him not to tear down the old tavern. The letters helped convince the company to sell the building to the Friends of Elmendorph and inspired Barbara's continuing interest in the Elmendorph. Retired from teaching since 1983, Barbara volunteers at the hospital, her church, and the Adult Day Care Center, reads historical books, gardens and knits for 3 sons and 2 grandchildren.



ELMENDORPH ETC.

- Shirley Brown

The opening day Yard Sale held on Sunday, May 5th, got the Elmendorph Etc. season off to a rousing start. More than \$1,000 was raised in 4 hours. Thanks to the many volunteers who helped move furniture, cartons of books and magazines, and attended to the many customers who made the day such a money maker. With your help, we hope to repeat the success many times this summer; and don't forget our big **AUCTION on June 30th!!**

Mark Your Calendar!

Don't Miss Our 3rd Great Benefit

AUCTION

SUNDAY, JUNE 30TH AT 1 P.M.

Rain or Shine

Bring Your Own Chair

Refreshments Available

MERCHANDISE SOUGHT FOR ELMENDORPH AUCTION

"Going, going . . . gone!" It's time again for the biennial Elmendorph Benefit Auction to be held this year at 1 p.m. on Sunday, June 30th. The Elmendorph Auctions are second only to the Elmendorph Etc. as major fundraisers for our restoration project, so we urge you to scour your attic or cellar for good, usable items to add to our growing collection of saleable merchandise. Shirley Brown and her committee will decide whether your donation will be sold in the shop or at the auction, but either way your donations will earn real money for the Elmendorph restoration. Our last auction raised more than \$10,000 in one afternoon!

What do we need? Antique, new or used furniture, tools, hardware, quilts, sporting goods, linens, prints and paintings. Best sellers in previous auctions have been rocking chairs, dolls, lawn tractors, an antique croquet set and grinding stone, a drop-front desk, oriental rugs, wicker chairs, paintings, and an antique bobsled and coat rack!

What **DON'T** we want? Large appliances, broken TVs and other items that don't work. **Donations should be in good condition and in working order.** By advance request, you can receive a tax receipt for the sale value of your auction donations.

Auction items can be brought to the Elmendorph from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Wednesday, Friday, or Saturday, or at other items by appointment. Evening or weekend pickups can also be arranged. For appointments or pickups call David Brown (876-2000 evenings) or Harold Fell (758-0707 days).

Volunteers Needed:

In addition to merchandise, we're looking for some strong men (or women) to carry and display the sale items. The more volunteers we have, the faster we can turn our donations into cash for the restoration.

We also need a Refreshment Chairperson and workers to manage a food booth selling hot dogs, beverages, and baked goods--always a major fundraiser at an auction.

Volunteers should call Shirley Brown (758-8604) to sign up. We need YOU!

STATE FUNDING CUTS HIT THE ELMENDORPH

The bad news came in a letter from John R. Middlebrooks, Regional Program Specialist with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. Our \$12,300 natural Heritage Trust grant from the New York State legislature has been reduced to \$6,150, a victim of the State's fiscal crisis.

The original grant was to fund the re placement of a partition at the east end of the Middle Room, removed earlier in the 20th century, creating a handicap accessible lavatory and a workroom/archival storage area for our growing collection of archeological artifacts, and books and records of the organization. We have re-submitted our proposal eliminating, for the time being, the plumbing, fixtures and interior finish of the lavatory.

The State's financial difficulties also have severe implications for the funding of the final phase of the exterior restoration of the Elmendorph, scheduled for completion this year with an Environmental quality Bond Act matching grant. Under the terms of the grant, the \$75,000 project must be begun with the Friends of Elmendorph's \$37,500 share and receipted bills and canceled checks submitted to the State for approval and reimbursement. Although the State has not reneged its EQBA commitments, the experience of other organizations demonstrates that the reimbursements are flowing VERY slowly.

This means that we must raise the entire \$75,000 before we begin, in order to insure that the work will not be halted for lack of funds with exterior walls exposed or windows removed. The exterior restoration must be completed this year in order to qualify for State reimbursement.

How can YOU help? Support our benefit auction described elsewhere in the newsletter with donations of merchandise and then join the fun and **BID GENEROUSLY**. Last auction raised more than \$10,000. We need to do even better this year!

Remember the Elmendorph Etc. when disposing of good, used household goods, toys, books, and other attractive merchandise and join the many bargain hunters who shop there regularly. Help the crew of faithful workers who clean the incoming merchandise and cheerfully sell it every Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday and at special Sunday sales.

Renew your membership, and consider a higher level of giving. If you qualify, take advantage of IBM's 2 for 1 match. Encourage your friends and neighbors to join. Volunteer your services. The Friends of Elmendorph is a non-political organization dedicated to the restoration and public use of Red Hook's most significant historic building.

In 1990, we celebrated the completion of the restoration of the South Room. With your help, 1991 will see the exterior completely restored and work beginning on the middle room.

ACQUISITION COMMITTEE

- Barbara Bielenberg

Your response to our Adopt-A-Chair appeal in the last newsletter has been outstanding. As I write this, the South Room now boasts many new painted Windsor chairs donated by generous members. Nine of the chairs were purchased with matching grants from IBM.

Next on our wish list is an American flag and stand. We're also looking for a comfortable Windsor bench to replace the one returned to the Bielenberg front porch and an antique or reproduction meeting house table and panelled-door cabinet to store brochures and supplies.

Our heartfelt thanks go to all the donors listed below and to the volunteers who patiently painted all those many-spindled chairs--Betty Franklin, Helen Garlinghouse, Janet Shattuck and Bob Bielenberg. Very special thanks to Harold Fell and Dutchess Signs for donating and installing the engraved plaques which memorialize each donation.

Mr. & Mrs. Albert Hejnal

Mrs. Ethel Wilken in Memory of Herbert Wilken

Jane Smithers

Mr. & Mrs. Harold Field in Honor of Rosemary Coons

Egbert Benson Historical Society

Patricia Sherman in Honor of Mill Road Elementary Students

Robert and Barbara Bielenberg

Jacqueline Cookingham in Memory of Seymour Austin Potter

Clara Losee in Memory of John Losee

Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth Appell

Joe Kavaky/IBM (7 Chairs)

Sophia Mumford in Memory of Lewis Mumford

Mary E. Willetts in Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Walter R. Willetts

Mary T. Mentz in Memory of Charles H. Gross

Lawrence S. Apsey in Memory of Virginia W. Apsey (2 Chairs)

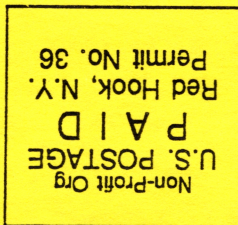
Walter Kerrick in Memory of Barry Krueger

Mr. & Mrs. Dominick Tiberio

Mr. & Mrs. William Johnson/IBM

Dorothy Wegman in Memory of Charles P. Wegman

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



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



"an ELEGANT HOUSE either for a store-keeper or tavern on the public road leading to Albany, and on the road from the Nine Partners . . . about two miles from the landing, with three commodious rooms below stairs, a large entry through the house, a large Room above stairs with a large Garret; the said house has got three Five Places, a good kitchen, a good stable and barrack, a well of very good water in the yard, with about two acres and a half of very good land joining the said house, in exceeding good fence, with about seventy or eighty very good Apple trees, the half bearing this year, and some very good Plumb trees . . . any gentleman that may chose to purchase the same, may apply to the Subscriber, living on the premises, or to G. Martin living near the same, as the proprietor means to make the payment to the purchaser as easy as possible. Signed PHILIP JACOBS, Red Hook Rhinebeck precinct, July 21, 1783."

from an advertisement in the *New York Packet*, 1783.

Description of the Elmdorph Inn before the south wing and kitchen additions

Every Member is Important to Us

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

A check mark on your address label is a reminder to renew your membership. An envelope is enclosed for your convenience. If you're already renewed, encourage a friend to join!!