

elmendorph echoes

 *Friends*
of **ELMHURST**, inc.
P.O. BOX 1776 / RED HOOK, NEW YORK 12571



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February

1979

DEAR FRIENDS,

We have some very exciting news for you! On January 26, 1978, we received a letter from Orin Lehman, State Historic Preservation Officer, informing us that the ELMENDORPH has been accepted for a \$15,000 Historic Preservation Grant from New York State's share of federal preservation funds. This is a real vote of confidence from our State officials.

This is a MATCHING GRANT. We have committed ourselves to MATCH the \$15,000. The \$30,000 total must be spent on the following essential (and costly) projects:

1. Project Sign (required)
2. Preparation of an Historic Structure Report which will include detailed drawings of the building.
3. Repair of foundation walls
4. Replacement of sills and first floor framing.

At last, we can begin the real work of restoration. The \$15,000 may be matched by fund raising, other grants, donated materials or services-in-kind (donated labor specifically for the above projects).

Within the past week, The Gazette Advertiser had an editorial about us which we are reproducing for you, with the consent of Jean Richards, publisher.

We have important news in this issue about our 4th (would you believe it?) ANNUAL MEETING to be held on Tuesday, March 6.

This issue also marks the second anniversary of our newsletter. MIRACLES DO HAPPEN!

WE ARE GROWING

Since the last newsletter, we have acquired the following new members: John Jay Chapman and Chanler Chapman, both of Barrytown, New York.

On February 12, 1978, a 2700 piece membership mailing went out thanks to Lottie Kittner, Membership Chairman and her crew. All of our current members should be receiving a renewal membership letter, together with an envelope/application. We certainly need you more than ever in 1979 and can't thank you enough for your help in the past year.

Helping Lottie type, collate, sort, count and write were Mary Zalenski, Helen Gergel, Marie Gergel, Henry Wilga, Bud Gayton, Herman Gorgens, Lorraine Seeley, Barbara Bielenberg, Joe Hixon, Lillian Gorgens, Helen Garlinghouse, Caryll Gayton, Finn and Thelma Rennie, Blanche and Doug Traudt, Eriko Sasanuki and Rosemary Coons. What would we ever do without our volunteers?

SPRING CLEANING?

Our shop, "ELMENDORPH ETC." which was so successful last year, will reopen in the early spring, hopefully for two days per week. Don't forget us when you are spring cleaning, for we still need your donated items to sell and can pick up at any time. Just be sure to call Helen (758-6925). We take furniture, bric a brac and just about everything except clothing. The shop is one of our biggest fund raisers. If you know of anyone who is moving, tell them to call us before they throw things away. We recently acquired a room full of furniture etc. from Bill Asip who moved from Bard College. THINK ABOUT VOLUNTEERING A COUPLE OF HOURS AT THE SHOP. PLEASE INDICATE THIS ON YOUR NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION IF YOU HAVE THE TIME.

SQUARE DANCE REPORT

Our Round and Square Dance brought us a \$317.75 profit. Gladys and Mayor Harold Fell had some great volunteers working on their committee. It was a real fun night and we certainly appreciate the Elks Club and merchants who helped to make this a success. Now with our matching grant, this profit multiplies into \$635.50!

WOULD YOU LIKE TO BE A TOUR GUIDE?

We would like to plan a workshop (training session) for volunteer tour guides for the building. America the Beautiful Fund is interested in helping us with this project. If you would like training as a volunteer tour guide, please contact Rosemary Coons (758-6334) or indicate this on your membership application. We would like to have a broad representation of people participating -- High School students, Bard College students, men and women.

LOTS OF THANKS

To Paul Fredricks and Nelson Garlinghouse for serving on a Nominating Committee for the Board of Directors;

To Finn Rennie who audited our books;

To Kent Garlinghouse (Garlinghouse Builders) who has made pedestals for the front porches;

To Don Wise, a New York City member in the advertising business, who will work with Bob Bielenberg on designing and printing a fine quality brochure which will be distributed to visitors to the building.

PLAQUE DONATIONS

In the last newsletter, we mentioned purchasing a plaque to show that we are in the NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES. We would like to mention and thank the following who have contributed to that plaque: Edith Kennedy, Anna Van Wagenen, Helen Garlinghouse, Rosemary Coons, Richard Barrett, Joe St. John; Herman Gorgens, Bob Bielenberg, Mrs. John Rupprecht, Mrs. Charles Buerkert, Sr. and the Egbert Benson Historical Society of Red Hook.

We also appreciate the special donations given recently by Mr. & Mrs. Karl Schoelpple (now living in North Carolina), Evelena Hanlon and David P. Blair.

PEARL MESTA, WHERE ARE YOU?

We are looking for a "Hostess with the Mostess" -- someone who would just love to take charge of a party we are planning to have in the future. If you like to plan parties, this job is for you. You will have loads of help, but we need someone to see that people are comfortable and have a good time. If you are interested, please contact Lottie (758-2491). She will be soooooo happy.

CLERK OF THE WORKS

We also need a clerk (volunteer, of course) who would do some record keeping. This can be done in your home once or twice a month. It involves tabulation of membership (not bookkeeping) and making lists of offers of volunteer help. If you like detail work, you can be a great asset to the Friends by volunteering for this job. You would be working as part of the membership team, and there is no nicer team captain than Lottie. We know you are out there, please let us hear from you.

DID YOU NOTICE?

If you went past the ELMENDORPH after 5 PM during the Christmas season, you couldn't help but notice our building. There was a candle light in every window, and from the comments we heard around town, we know that you liked it. It made the building seem alive and warm. Blanche Traudt and Herman Gorgens are to be thanked for the work involved in making the building so unique. It seems that we hear less and less about "that ugly old building" but more and more about the "historic Elmendorph".

CENTURY CLUB

You may have noticed a new category on our membership application. The "Century Club" means LIFE MEMBERSHIP for contributors of \$100 or more. We want to point out that this applies to families as well as individual contributors.

EDITORIAL OPINION

Historic funds

The effort to preserve and restore Red Hook's Elmendorph Inn has come a long way since that day when it was a gleam in the eye of a few residents.

With enthusiasm and diligence in less than five years, the Friends of the Elmendorph have raised enough money to buy the building and gone through the tangled process of acquisition.

Recently they received their first big financial break with a pledge of \$15,000 from National Historic Preservation.

The one hitch is that the money must be matched by an equal amount of donations in dollars or service.

The restoration effort is a worthy project which has enriched Red Hook's contemporary heritage.

Any financial donation, large or small, will be important to help it along and to make it possible to claim National Historic Preservation's challenge pledge.

In this case, help is as good as cash. Please give.

THIS EDITORIAL APPEARED ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1979. IT IS SO NICE TO KNOW THAT THE NEWSPAPER SUPPORTS OUR EFFORTS, AND WE COULDN'T HAVE SAID IT BETTER OURSELVES.

THANKS SO MUCH, PETER AND JEAN RICHARDS,
PUBLISHERS OF THE GAZETTE ADVERTISER

ANNUAL MEETING

The ANNUAL MEETING of the FRIEND OF ELMENDORPH, INC. will be held on Tuesday, March 6, 1979 at 8 PM at the Elks Club, Route 9 (North) Red Hook. We will have an election of Directors, bring you up to date and look to the future with you. Refreshments will be served. Please be sure to send in your proxy (below) if you cannot attend the meeting.

Our Special Guest Speaker will be Nichol (Nicky) Forsht, Regional Historic Preservation Supervisor, responsible for the following State Historic Sites -- Clermont, Mills Mansion, John Jay Homestead, Clinton House, Phillips Manor and Olana.

Lillian Gorgens is Refreshment Chairman for the Annual Meeting. Please call her (758-9192) if you can help or wish to bring cookies.

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I/We _____ cannot attend the Annual Meeting of the Friends of Elmendorph, Inc. on March 6, 1979, but I/we hereby appoint the Board of Directors to vote in my place.

Date _____

FRIENDS OF ELMENDORPH, INC.
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