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ECHOS

Christmas 1993

Please Join Us For

- A CHRISTMAS WEEKEND at the ELMENDORPH -

6th Annual Old Dutch Village Garden Club Greens Show
Saturday, December 4, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

4th Annual Family Christmas Open House
Sunday, December 5, 1 - 5 p.m.

See Article Inside for More Details

Friends,

Let me wish you all a glorious and happy Christmas season. And for any skiers out there, may the higher elevations have lots of snow this winter.

Of all of the activities around the Inn, the upcoming Christmas Open House holds a special place in my heart. It was probably the first thing that drew my attention to the Inn. I remember how warm and friendly it was and how much I enjoyed Richard Coon's mulled cider. I volunteered to help him so that I might have easy access to the cider. Now, in addition to mulled cider, we have wonderful breads, pies and other goodies from our 1800's beehive brick bake oven. Guess where I will be? There are other wonderful activities besides the couple that I have just mentioned.*

We will have on display a reproduction of a Gilbert Stuart portrait of Egbert Benson. This is the first of two items in memory of Rosemary Coons. The second item is still being considered and thus can't be reported on. So, when you visit the Inn, be sure to see the portrait.

We have started raising funds for the tap room (the north room) and the kitchen. The first fund-raising event is a drawing for a doll house, which will be on display at the Inn, that can be a lovely Christmas gift for someone's daughter or granddaughter. There will be other prizes besides the doll house.

Let me end by thanking the hard working crew of the Etc. shop for another great year. Thanks to the directors for their continuing effort, and thanks and a Merry Christmas to all of you, our members.

*Joe Kavaky
President*

** Editor's Note: Baked under the gifted surveillance of Catherine Jones, one of our talented board members. See story inside on Catherine's recent cooking course at Eastview.*

FRIENDS OF ELMENDORPH, INC.

November 1, 1993

New Members:

Linda Fell
Mr. & Mrs. Clifford Gubler
Ann Marie and Bill Hennekens
Alba and Gary Kossen
Paul VanEyre Designers
Elsie Quinn
Miner Treat

New Life Members

Richard and Carleen Baright

Chairs

Joe and Ardith St. John
(In Memory of Harriet Johnson and
Rosemary Coons) - IBM Matching)

Donations

Mr. and Mrs. Terence Dewsnap
Barbara Ewing
Mr. and Mrs. John Givison
Mr. and Mrs. Jack McEnroe
Marion Lapinski
Mr. and Mrs. James Maher
Margaret and Joe O'Brien
Aaron and Susan Platkin
Stan and Priscilla Tremper
Dr. and Mrs. Edwin VanValey
Murray VanNess
Kay Verilli
Mr. and Mrs. Ray Wedlake
Marj Wheeler - Art Show
Ethel Wilken
First National Bank of Rhinebeck - Art Show
Hudson River Heritage
Red Hook Lions Club
The Kaplan Fund

Egbert Benson Portrait Reproduced in Memory of Rosemary Coons

- Barbara Bielenberg

Hanging over the South Room mantle will be a reproduction of the Gilbert Stuart portrait of Egbert Benson which is on display at the John Jay House in Katonah, New York. The framed print has been purchased with donations given in memory of **Rosemary Coons**. It was Rosemary who called the community's attention to Egbert Benson, who lived in Red Hook during the American Revolution and rose to become the 1st Attorney General of New York State.

Gala Christmas Weekend at the Elmendorph Inn

- Barbara Bielenberg

Plan to welcome the holiday season by joining us at the Elmendorph for our annual celebrations of the traditional Dutch Christmas. Our very special 4th Annual Family Christmas Open House will be held on Sunday afternoon, December 5th from 1-5 p.m. We're staying open an hour later this year so that families attending the annual Red Hook Christmas Tree Lighting can stroll over to the Inn for a warming glass of mulled cider after the ceremony. There'll be homemade Christmas cookies and hot cocoa as well.

For this traditional celebration, the Elmendorph will be decorated with greens and fruit in the 18th century manner. There'll be bowls of popcorn and cranberries for children to string into garlands to decorate the tall Christmas tree. Again this year guests will be invited to join us in the historic kitchen to sample treats hot from the brick bake oven and fireplace and learn about the plans to complete the restoration of the kitchen and adjacent tap room. This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of the past year and look forward to the future with joy and optimism.

On Saturday, December 4th, the Old Dutch Village Garden Club will hold its 6th Annual Greens Show at the Elmendorph from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Garden Club members will present holiday decorating ideas with displays of wreaths and decorations to inspire your own Christmas preparations. Refreshments will be served. Admission is free to both of these events and all are welcome to attend.

HOLIDAY DRAWING TO BENEFIT RESTORATION OF THE HISTORIC KITCHEN AND TAP ROOM

Thanks to the generosity of some good friends of the Elmendorph, we're able to kick off our fund drive to restore the tap room and historic kitchen by offering you a chance to win valuable gifts in time for your holiday celebration. The grand prize is a beautiful, furnished **6-room Victorian-style dollhouse**, a perfect gift for doll lovers of all ages. The dollhouse was assembled by **Frank and Mary Ann Iaccino** of **Old Post Miniatures** and decorated inside and out by **Annette-Gene Hold**, a friend from Garrison, New York. The furnishings were donated by **Mary Ann and Barbara Bielenberg** and others were donated to the Elmendorph Etc. and saved for this special event.



Theresa and Ed of McCaffrey's Cottage Restaurant on Route 9, north of the Village of Red Hook have donated a **Gift Certificate** for a dinner for two, a perfect way to unwind during the busy holiday season. And for your holiday entertaining, **Sipperley's Grog Shop** and other friends have put together a **Basket of Cheer**.

The dollhouse will be displayed at the Elmendorph during the Greens Show and Family Christmas Open House on December 4th and 5th and tickets will be available for purchase by donation of \$1.00 each, or a book of six tickets for a \$5.00 donation. The Holiday Drawing will take place on December 20th and winners will be notified by telephone and/or mail. All donations will benefit the restoration of the tap room and historic kitchen. We hope all our Friends will take advantage of this chance to win a holiday gift while furthering our restoration program.

Eastfield Hearthside Cooking Course

- Faith Compo

Beautiful Board Member **Catherine Jones** has presided over the hearth and brick bake oven in the "old" Elmendorph kitchen on two occasions since the oven was restored. Last Christmas was the first time the oven was fired up for cooking (see FOE President Joe Kavaky's letter for an endorsement of the results) and, again, last May during the Soup and Salad Luncheon celebrating the inauguration of the "new" working kitchen, Catherine produced more wonders, including mouth-watering apple pies! If you were one of the lucky people who had lunch with us that day, you will perhaps recall a rosy-cheeked vision with a cloud of dark hair pulled fetchingly into a fat braid who wielded the long-handled peel which reached into the depths of the "beehive" and drew forth quantities of bread and pies.

Recently, Catherine, along with several other people interested in history and antiques and cooking, attended an extraordinary "Fireplace and Brick Oven Cooking" course taught by Judith McMillan, Director of Education for Historic Richmondtown on Staten Island, which was held at Don Carpentier's Eastfield Village in Rennselaer County. Catherine told us that there, in that unique period-technology school (no amenities), they prepared meals on four consecutive days for 18 people (tin smiths were there that week) using no electricity, hauling their own water, fetching firewood, churning butter, in fact, cooking over the hearth and in the brick oven as people did in much earlier times. This 1993 triumph of culinary feats included stews, roasts, meat pies, all manner of baked goods and called for the utilization of a waffle iron, a wafer iron, the Dutch oven on the hearth and the bake oven in which Catherine said they created an "inferno."

The greatest benefit of the experience in Catherine's estimation, more than the recipes, was the accomplishment of a sense of timing, in sum, how to pace it out — no small matter given the vagaries of the kitchen's resources — so the meal might be served at the desired hour. Thank you, Catherine, for the anticipated delicious things to come at Christmastime and for the contributions you have previously provided from the Elmendorph's circa 1830s recreated bake oven.

Restoration Committee

- Barbara Bielenberg

As you may have noticed, the Elmendorph has a bright new coat of paint on the front siding, shutters and doors, but much has been going on behind the scenes as well. The attic floor, which forms the ceiling of the historic kitchen has been covered with insulating foamboard and plywood which continues over the new kitchen as an extra layer of protection. **Doug Traudt** has disconnected the old kitchen sink and it has been removed in preparation for the future restoration of the room. Storm windows have been installed in the old and new kitchens and the new office. Our thanks to **Doug** and **Larry Thetford**, Chairman of Building and Grounds and his hard working volunteers. Thanks also to **Robert T. McCarthy and Sons**, electricians, who donated the installation of telephone wiring, bringing service to the new kitchen and office. Our new answering machine will receive messages called into our number (914-758-5887).

Herman Gorgens is finalizing plans for the restoration of the center hall, a project which will also include the installation of much-needed permanent lighting for the outside of the building. Even though no State money will be used in the hallway restoration, our plans are still subject to review by the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation. Thanks to your generous support of our auction, Elmendorph, Etc. and other fund-raising activities, we expect to be able to complete the hallway this winter along with the Middle Room.

Looking further into the future, we have begun research which will guide the restoration of the historic kitchen and tap room. **Don Carpentier**, who reconstructed our brick bake oven and is a recognized authority on historic building technology, **Craig Marchessault** from **Hudson Valley Preservation** and **Stacey Matson-Zuvic**, our State Field Services Representative, spent most of a day studying the two rooms. We hope there will be space in our next newsletter to share their surprising findings with you.

Elmendorph, Etc.

- Shirley Brown

We did it again! This year's Shop and Lawn sales netted \$15,800 toward the next stage of restoration in the Inn.

The weather for our last sale on Halloween was definitely not a treat, consequently we shivered in the Shop surrounded by a large inventory of skates and skis that no one came out in the freezing rain to buy. **Watch for signs of a post-season sale!**

Think of us during the winter. Several of our members keep a box marked "Elmendorph" and pack away items for our first sale in May. (If you got a new "one" for Christmas and the old "one" still works, please save it for us.)

We have constant requests for end tables, book cases, small pieces of furniture. If you know of someone moving, estate sales, etc., let us know.

Heartfelt thanks to all who generously donated items and especially to our volunteers (several of whom have been with us since the 70's!): *Richard Coons - "Saturday Boss," Elvira Nuccio, Helen Garlinghouse, Bill Johnson, Dorothy Wegman, Elsa Krieder, Dorothy Blauvelt, Edith Kennedy, Edith Michael, Gussie Townsend, Blanche Traudt, Betty Franklin* and assists from the *Board of Directors*, especially *Bob and Barbara Bielenberg*.

Think of joining us in the spring!

Third Annual Art Show

- Faith Compo

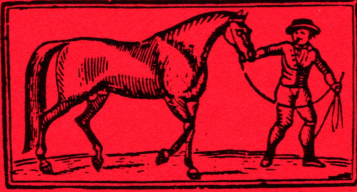
Ed Fisher began this yearly display of local artists' work at The Elmendorph Annual Art Show which has become a special venue indeed! The shy, the novice, those who have known success and have sold their paintings repeatedly, one who at this year's show had the joy of seeing her first painting sold, painters of familiar landmarks — all brought their art to the Inn early in October for the Columbus Day weekend event.

Ruth Zipser graciously directed the entire undertaking while Ed Fisher is recovering from surgery this year. Ruth again skillfully saw the work of 37 artists, including a number of photographers and a sculptor, 96 pieces in all, arranged and hung on the display flats which were hauled out of storage and set up in the South Room.

Many people came to the Inn during the four-day show, and we are very pleased new friends have been made for our project which is not only to lovingly restore our historic structure, but also to have the Inn serve the greater Red Hook community at large. The show also made a hit financially as a fund-raiser for the Inn and we made \$620 in sales and fees.

Our thanks to unsung heroes I may miss, and to new Board Member *Betsey Wacker* for taking on the administrative role, to *Fred Zipser* for making hooks with a 45 degree angle, to *Bill Fitzmaurice* and *Joan Jones* for helping Ruth with the setup, to hostesses *Doreen Alexander, Harriet Norton, Joan Lewis, Linda Keeling, Vera Cole, Val Borges, Phyllis Smith, Mim Brown, Joan Morrison, Elsa Kreider, Brenda Cagle, Susan Ellis*, and to ALL the current and former Elmendorph Board Members including "*Mrs. Red Hook*" *Mary Cioffi*, and the whirlwind that is *Lottie Kittner*, who assisted during the preparations, the opening reception and saw to all the various things that needed doing to make the autumn-weekend Annual Elmendorph Art Show an ongoing reality.

For their communities and neighborhoods, taverns were. . . crucial places for acquiring information. Men came not only to drink but to hear the latest news from teamsters and travelers or to read the latest newspaper. On the taproom's walls they could see a profusion of messages, advertisements and legal notices: the "placards of stage-routes, woodcuts of enormous stallions in prancing attitudes, and notices of sheriff's sales," that Nathaniel Hawthorne recorded, or announcements of town meetings and sessions of county courts, warnings about runaway apprentices or escaped slaves, and handwritten notes offering cotton and corn, livestock and land, houses and shops for sale. The "excessive and impertinent curiosity" for which foreign travelers often criticized Americans was probably rooted in the fact that so much of their contact with ordinary folk inevitably occurred in taverns along the road. Men at taverns were eager for information and felt licensed to inquire.



*A HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON
TO ALL!!*

*See You At Our Open House
Sunday, December 5*

FRIENDS OF ELMENDORPH