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- ECHOES -

Winter 1995

Please Join Us For

- CHRISTMAS at the **ELMENDORPH INN** -

6th Annual Family Christmas Open House

Sunday, December 3, 1 - 5 p.m.

8th Annual Old Dutch Village Garden Club Greens Show

Saturday, December 9, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

See article inside for more details

Dear Friends,

For some reason I associate the Elmendorph Inn and all that goes with it as a seasonal thing despite our year-round operation and activities. I guess much of it has to do with the majority of events being held in the spring, summer and fall; but I guess the main cause for this seasonal approach in my mind is the Elmendorph Etc. shop.

Starting in April, the shop regulars (and may I dare say there are also a few "irregulars") start off the season and carry the ball until the end of October. Each member with their own special forte has been the backbone of our fundraising efforts since the Friends of Elmendorph inception. Our debt of gratitude for their unselfish sacrifice, hard work and insight in the operation of the shop is certainly not seasonal, but present in our minds the year round. Thanks so much.

Also—be sure to attend the Dutch Christmas Celebration at the Inn this December. Record numbers attended last year's special event! This, in my heart, has always been the highlight of the year and a grand way to celebrate the ending of another "Elmendorph Season." The laughter of the children, the warmth of the hot chocolate, and the warm baked bread from the beehive oven make the event a cherished family event. I hope to enjoy it with all of you this year!

Sincerely,

David Brown
President

FRIENDS OF ELMENDORPH, INC.

As of October 31, 1995

DONATIONS

John Jay Chapman - wallpaper fund
Richard Coons
Dr. and Mrs. Gregory Leach and Family
- in memory of Ruth Zipser
Joan Morrison
Marj Wheeler - art show

NEW MEMBERS

Ruth Bornschlegel
The James Dunn Family
Barbara and Walter Harris
Mr. and Mrs. G. Carl Pack, Jr.
Joelle Trachta

LIFE MEMBER:

Florence Squibb

Elmendorph Etc. Shop

- Shirley Brown

Thrift shop activity is winding down for the season. We will conclude with the traditional half-price sale the last week in October, a three-day lawn sale (weather permitting) and a Christmas Sale in the Inn in early November.

Our veteran staff worked with their usual dedication. Thank you, Elvira Nuccio, Elsa Krieder, Dorothy Wegman, Edith Kennedy, Richard Coons, Bill Johnson, Dorothy Blauvelt, Barbara Bruckert, Edith Michael, Betty Franklin and Gussie Townsend. Board members Joan Lewis, Betsey Wacker, Dave Brown, Faith Compo and Bob Bielenberg were there to "lend a hand" and we appreciated Mary Cioffi's taking over the stamp packaging project!

Thanks to members and friends for the generous donations of items to sell. Please think about donating time as well next year. We feel it's important for the success of our Restoration Project.

Thank You!

The Pat Merrill bookshelf has received several wonderful additions! Elvira Nuccio donated a copy of *Colonial Interiors Federal and Greek Revival*, which will be invaluable to the restoration committee. Richard Coons donated over thirty volumes of local history, Hudson Valley history, and books on Colonial Inns in memory of our Rosemary Coons. As soon as this collection is properly catalogued, it will be available for research by our members, local teachers or students doing research. We will make arrangements for this research to be done at the Inn, as too many of the volumes are out of print or not sturdy enough to be part of a lending library. Many thanks to Elvira and Richard for their continued dedication to the endeavors of the Friends of Elmendorph.

Volunteers in the News!

Thanks to all who helped with the successful Hardscrabble night opera (Thieves Times Two at Bard), which brought us a pretty penny (over a thousand dollars), and was made possible by the generosity of Bard College who gave us the use of the prestigious Olin Auditorium, and the talents of Katharine Aldrich and her colleague, Natalie Lunn, with members of their Annandale Troupe, plus the good-natured participation of the Honorable Woody Klose and his handsome son Nicky, the Bielenbergs and their amazing harmonica-playing son Reid, and what about our Joe Zalenski? We are busting our buttons with pride. That man can write, sing and play a beautiful song!! We have to think up another project for "Joe the Troubadour" and soon. And about Paul Fredricks and Lottie Kittner's family...did you realize that scene-stealing baby horse was Lottie's grandchild Caegan Quimby?

We got a write-up in the *Gazette Advertiser* and the reviewer even praised the refreshments! I know the cider he loved was pressed by Larry Thetford, and the brownie he enjoyed was baked by one of you. The delicious selection of food and drink was provided and coordinated by Ellen Phelan and Joe Kavaky. Thanks to them and to Betsey Wacker for handling the tickets.

The next weekend, back at the Inn, Joan Lewis made a stupendous buffet for the visitors on the Eighth Annual Hudson Valley Country Seats Tours. Two receptions were held with the help of many people. Joan reports:

Thanks to the many people helping to make the Country Seats Tours
Elmendorph Receptions a huge success.

Bakers:

Joelle Trachta
Mary Cioffi
Barbara Bielenberg
Joyce Cole
Elvira Nuccio
Marilyn Heuer
Joan Lewis

Hostesses:

Mary Cioffi, Greeter
Irene Castle
Betsey Wacker
Barbara and Bob Bielenberg
Joelle Trachta

Richard Coons - donated 3 hams and cooked them

We are very grateful to Joan. She sets high standards and brings out the best in all of us—and also the best goodies!

The FIFTH ANNUAL ART SHOW followed on Columbus Day Weekend, and once again many newcomers enjoyed seeing the Inn for the first time. The Guest Book in the hall tells all. When we lost Ruth Zipser in August we really wondered how we could do without her. You will be pleased to know that on the day the art arrived at the Inn, Theresa Docherty also appeared. It was love at first sight. She not only volunteered to help us with the hanging this year but has also agreed to serve as Chair person for next year's show. Theresa has wonderful new ideas. The art went up in record time with the help of Joe Kavaky patiently standing on the ladder with the drill and hooks. Thanks to David Brown, Joe Kavaky and Larry Thetford for setting up and taking down the flats.

In addition, we are very grateful to those who helped during the Art Show weekend representing us and serving as our hostesses, including several new members. Eugenia King was incredibly generous and stayed with us for the entire weekend. Christine Foreacre gave her Monday morning, and our new neighbor Joelle Trachta came, plus our wonderful "regulars," Joyce Riffenburg, Harriet Norton, Doreen Alexander and (out of the shop for a change) the talented artist, Elvira Bonavia-Nuccio. Last and first, we thank Fred Zipser for keeping the art show mailing list in his computer and giving us yearly updates and mailing labels to put on the brochures sent to the artists each August. To our joy, "Dr. Fred" has agreed to do it again next year.

6TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FAMILY OPEN HOUSE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3RD, 1 - 5 PM

Please join us for this wonderful afternoon in the Inn. Once again the rooms will be decorated by in the traditional Dutch Christmas 18th century manner with greens and fruits by our dedicated Restoration Committee members Barbara and Bob Bielenberg. There will be wooden shoes filled with hay and carrots for St. Nicholas' horse placed by the fireplace. The fresh Christmas Tree in the South Meeting Room will be decorated that afternoon with garlands of cranberries and popcorn as soon as they are strung by the children at the big table, once again under the supervision of those super volunteer school teachers.

Meanwhile, from the Brick Bake Oven in the historic kitchen a great stream of delicious breads will come forth to complement the mulled cider and hot cocoa faithfully coming from the stalwarts in the adjacent new kitchen. And there will be the home baked cookies from our volunteer bakers, so good, which magically appear each year from you.

The Elmendorph Annual Christmas Open House is coordinated with the Red Hook Village Children's Parade and Tree Lighting across the street in the little park and we expect many chilled and hungry visitors late in the afternoon.

We are sorry The Old Dutch Village Garden Club Annual Show and Sale will not share the same weekend with us this year, but please do come to the Inn the following Saturday, December 9, 10-4 to visit the club members, to see their greens arrangements and do some Christmas shopping.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

We enclose a book of raffle tickets which we hope you will be pleased to receive. The prizes are: (1) a charming Victorian Doll House donated by Bill Johnson and enhanced by Old Post Miniatures complete with furniture and a Victorian family; (2) a Basket of Gourmet Goodies; (3) a Dutchess County Fair first-prize-winning Crocheted Afghan made of floral squares, each depicting an anemone, donated by Peggy Love; and (4) a seven-piece porcelain Dickens Miniature Village complete with accessories. The first-prize winner may select the prize of choice among these treasures. The raffle held two Christmases ago raised \$1,400.00 for the restoration fund. This time, let's see if we can raise twice that! The tickets are a dollar each or 6 for \$5.00. Additional tickets may be purchased at the Christmas Open House before the drawing.

SHOP WORKERS HONORED

As we prepare this Christmas Newsletter plans are afoot for a luncheon party on Saturday, November 11th to be held in the Inn to honor our wonder workers in the shop. They are indeed our Christmas Angels and serve us all by faithfully staffing the Elmendorph Etc. Shop, rain or shine, six months of each year. You know them; their names are listed in Shirley Brown's article in this issue. And their work provides the financial backbone for the restoration and maintenance of the Inn. (Although it is true, if YOU don't bring us your items to sell, they will be out of a job.) If you wish to celebrate the work of these dear people, you might make a small donation in "the shop-workers honor" at Christmas time.

Spinning Group to Meet at Elmendorph

- Barbara W. Bielenberg

Although spinning wheels were not usually found in early 19th century inns, an informal group of modern day "spinsters" is taking advantage of the gracious interiors of the Elmendorph to enjoy Friday evening "spinning bees." The activity grew out of the spinning demonstration Mary Kelly and I did on Hardscrabble Day on the lawn outside the building. Several people expressed interest in learning to spin and/or sharing their interest in the craft. Spinners of all abilities are welcome. Experience is not necessary and we'll be happy to provide equipment and materials if you don't have your own. If you are interested in joining us, please call me at (914) 758-2923 for times and dates.

Restoration Committee

Each December, on the occasion of our traditional Family Christmas Open House, the unrestored tap room and historic kitchen of the Elmendorph are temporarily brought back to life. Sheets of plywood patch weakened floorboards and borrowed furnishings mask the cracked or missing plaster. Guests of all ages sit at worn old tavern tables enjoying mulled cider and cocoa and the smell of spicy loaves of bread pulled fresh from the giant brick bake oven draws a crowd to the glowing kitchen hearth.

Imagine our surprise in discovering that Historic Deerfield, with its impeccably restored and furnished house museums and civic buildings lining an ancient road through the fertile Connecticut River Valley in Massachusetts, has opted to furnish one of its two taverns so that, as at the Elmendorph, visitors can be invited to relax in the tap room and play authentic period board games such as Checkers and Nine Man Morris or try their hand at table bowling. The Hall Tavern is fitted out with reproduction cooking utensils and crockery and visiting school groups can, by special arrangement, practice 18th century cooking methods. Although food and drink are not usually served, a real effort has been made to allow visitors, and especially school children, to experience the conviviality and good-natured competition enjoyed before taverns became dominated by the giant TV screen and professional sports. We hope that, before another holiday season rolls around, the Elmendorph tap room and kitchen will be as well restored and furnished.

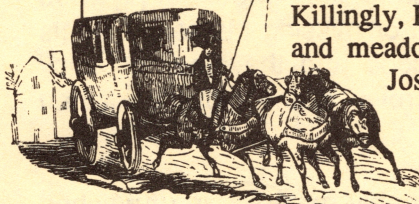
As mentioned in our last newsletter, our visit to Historic Deerfield resulted in the discovery that the first wallpaper installed in the "best parlor," or middle room, of the Elmendorph had been restored by Historic Deerfield and was still available on special order from the noted wallpaper and textile firm, Scalamandre, whose Restoration and Archives Department has been extremely helpful to us. A section of the Deerfield reproduction has been installed over the mantle and donations are being received to fund a special run in colors to match our original sample.

Some of you may have noticed scaffolding around the north chimney of the Inn. Weather had taken its toll of the ancient bricks and mortar, so Ray Merrihew has been employed to take the chimney down to the roof line and rebuild before the frosts or winter work into the cracks and crevices and cause dangerous failure of the structure. The custodians of a significant historic structure such as the Elmendorph Inn face constant challenges and assaults. This fall Dave Brown has been battling an energetic pair of squirrels determined to store their hoard of walnuts in the shelter of the Elmendorph attic. Thank you, Dave, for yet another service to the Elmendorph.

Historic Note

The Elmendorph Inn has on display reproductions of hand-drawn 18th century maps of the Town of Rhinebeck, showing the roads, streams and buildings between the Town of Clermont on the north and Clinton Town on the south. "Elmendorph's Inn" and other taverns along the Post Road are labelled. Edward Field in his volume, *The Colonial Tavern, a Glimpse of New England Town Life in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries*, published in 1897, explains:

About the middle of the eighteenth century public stage coaches began to run regularly between Boston and other towns in the New England colonies....The tavern in those days was to these lines what the depot is to the modern railway systems. Distances were always reckoned from tavern to tavern, the town in which the house was located being merely noted for convenience. The early editions of various almanacks contain these old stage routes, with the various tavern stops against which will be found the distance between each in miles. Thus, in the *New England Almanack or Lady's and Gentlemen's Diary* for the year 1765, the "Road to Hartford, through Killingly, Pomfret, &c....wound snake-like over hill and dale, through thick woods and meadow land to Jonathan Olney's tavern in Johnston, two miles; then to Joseph Fenner's tavern, one mile farther."



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