



October 1997

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Vol. 39 No. 2

Stockade Calendar

SCCC Casola Dining Room
opens with gourmet meals
through-December 5
For reservations,
call 381-1325

Grande Rummage Sale
Saturday, October 4
9:00 AM.
St. George's Church

The Blessing of Pets
In Honor of
St. Francis of Assisi
Saturday, Oct. 4, 4:00 PM
St George's Churchyard

"Princetown:
Portrait of A Town"
Speaker/Author:
Irma Mastrean Princetown
Town Historian
Sunday, Oct. 12 at 2:00 PM
Schenectady County
Historical Society

National Archives Week
October 12 - 18

November Spy Deadline
October 15

Noted Stockade Architects Celebrate 41 Years of Practice



Stockaders with the longest memories know who is meant by "Founders of the Stockade Association" — That's Jim Schmitt and Werner Feibes, (well, co-founders with others).

Werner came to Schenectady as a child with his family, led by his grandmother out of Nazi Germany. From Mt. Pleasant High School, he went on to study architecture at the University of Cincinnati. Jim Schmitt, from Erie, Pennsylvania, went there as well. After their graduation in 1954, Werner persuaded Jim to join him as partner with the Stockade architect, Giles Van der Bogert to form the firm Van der Bogert,

Feibes & Schmitt. Nine years later, upon Van der Bogert's death, the firm became Feibes & Schmitt Architects and moved in 1969 to the Victorian Carriage House behind 217 Union Street.

Rallying a core of activists to save the Stockade's rich architectural and historic fabric, Jim convened a meeting of sixteen Stockade householders in 1957 at the Shanklin's "reputed olded house," 109 Union Street. Thus was the Stockade Association launched to protect the neighborhood's historic and economic values by promoting preservation as sound business as well as for conservation of our cultural heritage. Supporting this emphasis on the Stockade's historic worth, the Schenectady County Historical Society approved date-markers for Stockade historic buildings, a committee Werner chaired for five years. As five-term Stockade Association president, Jim in 1961 began the Stockade Spy, which still carries Werner's masthead.

Under Jim's leadership, in 1962 the Stockade became the first Historic District in New York State, dedicated to preserving

(continued on page 2)

National Archives Week: Bridge to Schenectady's Heritage Oct. 12-18

Get ready for a weeklong celebration of exhibits, lectures, tours, open houses, and door prizes. Here are some highlights that may interest Stockaders.

Monday, October 13 at 1:00 PM
"The 1690 Massacre: Why? When? How?"
Speaker: Donald A. Hulett

Schenectady History Center, City Hall on Jay Street, Top floor

(continued on page 5)

Agatha Christie's
"A Murder Is Announced"
 October 17, 18, 19 & 22-26
 8:00 PM
 Schenectady Civic Theatre
 12 South Church Street
 Call 382-2081

**National YWCA
 Week Without Violence**

October 19 - 25

Sunday

A Day of Remembranc

Monday

Protecting Our Children

Tuesday

Making Our Schools Safe

Wednesday

Confronting Violence

Against Women

Thursday

Facing Violence Against Men

Friday

Eliminating Racism
 and Hate Crimes

Saturday

Replacing Violence
 with Sports & Fitness
 Call the YWCA for details

374-3394

The Stockade Spy

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 6 Front Street

buildings and places through zoning. "The 850 families in the Stockade must join together or the Stockade will die," Jim wrote. He focused the Association's effort on preserving and planning in order to stabilize and improve property values, and to enhance its use "for education, pleasure, and the welfare of the people."

By 1979 Jim and Werner had brainstormed another preservation organization along with Greg Sauer, Rich Brown, and John-Elsbree. They founded the Schenectady Heritage Foundation. The Foundation sponsors architectural and neighborhood preservation through advocacy and education: for example, it sponsors the annual historic preservation awards at City Hall and convenes meetings of the four historic districts in Schenectady to support their preservation and restoration efforts.

Werner and Jim have served as consultants to and members of local and State Historic Preservation Commissions and on the boards of the County Historical Society and Schenectady Museum and chaired professional architectural association committees. Werner was a charter member of the Schenectady Historic District Commission and served as its chairman for nine years.

Much has been written about their work, and they themselves have written and lectured around the region and the country on architectural design and historic preservation.

But Jim and Werner are best known for their elegant designs, which link together all aspects of a building and its furnishings. Among their architectural accomplishments Jim and Werner created the Schenectady County Public Library (1970) and others in the region. They designed the new-door Schenectady Police Headquarters (1974 NYS Building of the Year) and other Public Safety Buildings and they refashioned and added to the Schenectady County Jail. Their historical retrofitting includes not only 22 historic homes such as the Teller House (built ca. 1740), but also the N.Y. State Capitol Assembly Chambers (1978), Oneonta's City Hall, and the Saratoga Springs Broadway Historic Facades project. The Schenectady's Albany Savings Bank on State Street (1975 design winner) and the redesign of the old ALCO building for

Power Technologies on Erie Boulevard are their work, and so are the Yates Village refurbishing, the new wing of the Glendale Home, Carver Community Center (1972 Eastern NY Architects' Grand Award), Four Winds Psychiatric Hospital in Saratoga Springs, as well as the Mid-Hudson Psychiatric Center, schools, nursing homes, adult care facilities, and senior housing, all part of their large practice in human-scale service agency projects.

They are also responsible for 79 new or remodeled churches and synagogues in the region. They have just completed new buildings and renovations to The Provincial House campus of The Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent DePaul in Menands.

Outstanding residences in a four-state area have been designed by Werner and Jim, including their own and others' on Block Island. Jim and Werner themselves refurbished 17 North Ferry Street, which holds their significant collection of modern art, on loan to museums around the world. George Rickey and Ellsworth Kelly have exchanged their internationally recognized work for Feibes & Schmitt architectural services. Werner, himself, is an accomplished hard-edge painter and skillful sketcher and watercolorist.

They are winding down 41 years of architectural practice, while still acting as consultants to various old and new clients with exciting projects.

In 1993, Werner was elected a National Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, the first from this region in two decades. Both Jim and Werner have been widely honored locally and nationally for their work, and *The Stockade Spy* joins in the applause for their many services to our City and our neighborhood, and for their presence among us.

Malcolm Willison

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Waterfront Development Plan

At a September 10 public hearing on Schenectady Waterfront Revitalization attended by many Stockade residents, the Stockade Association presented a Waterfront plan for Schenectady County. The plan proposes development of one of three potential sites, the Iroquois Peninsula west of the Western Gateway Bridge, and the Isles of the Cayugas or Onondaga in the Mohawk River. Also included in the plan is the dredging of the Binnecill inlet, noise reduction on the Western Gateway Bridge, and upgrade of the Riverside Park infrastructure. Several residents volunteered for subcommittees that will be established to investigate an overall plan.

Riverside/Rotundo Park

The Association has learned that the children's playground equipment may not be ordered this year due to some uncertainty regarding State grant funds. The resurfacing of the tennis courts was accomplished with FEMA funds.

Gateway Project Update

Work is progressing after an initial delay due to a gas line relocation. It is anticipated that except for planting trees and scrubs which will be done next spring, the Project will be completed by December 1, 1997. The Task Force is working on the inscriptions for the monuments. A formal dedication of the Gateway will be held in the spring.

Schenectady United Neighborhoods Meeting

At the September 16 "SUN" meeting, neighborhood representatives, including the Stockade, presented their lists of three major crime concerns. These will be sent to the Police Chief for review and comment at the October meeting. Mitch Ellis and Nick Buzzo discussed exterior building code enforcement measures by the Department of Neighborhood Revitalization. Any complaints about property trash, noxious weeds, and litter should be referred to the Waste Department, City Hall, Schenectady, NY 12305, Attention Nick Buzzo or call Nick directly at 382-5145.

The Stockade Association Membership Drive - 1997

A Special Thank You Starting in November, *The Stockade Spy* will publish a list of those Stockaders who have become members, with a special acknowledgement for new members, and a special thank you for those who have contributed extra to *The Stockade Spy*. Join a great community association.

Please support the Association and become a member by returning the coupon below.

Membership dues (10/1/97 to 9/30/98) are \$10.00, \$15.00 per household, tax deductible. Contributions above that amount would be appreciated and will be applied to *Spy* publication. Please make checks payable to:

The Stockade Association

Send To:	David Marhafer, Treasurer 3 Washington Avenue Schenectady, NY 12305	Additional Spy Contribution	(circle one)		
		\$5	\$10	\$15	\$20

Thank you!

Name(s) (Please print:) _____

Address: _____ Tel. No. _____

Slick's Is Slick

Slick's Restaurant has the best view of any corner in the Stockade to people-watch from. And, why not? Look at the many memorable and insightful photographs that adorn the Liberty Street side wall and you get a sense that Slick's holds a lot of history. The building's been around since 1804!

I heard about Slick's mile-high sandwiches through a friend. To get my appetite going I ran a mile and ended up at - you guessed - Slick's. I set myself at the bar. It's so shiny it's edible. Since I don't eat wood I settled instead for the ham and cheese on rye. Salad is optional but, a pickle added does just fine. Delicious and nourishing to say the least. No cheesy deal there!

To really whet the appetite Slick's offers a "Beer of the Month." September's flavor of the month was Sam Adams' "Summer Ale." Mike Nanmoff who's been proprietor for the last 22 years sure wouldn't mind if you drop by any weekday - yes, Slick's is open seven days a week. Hmm. I wonder what the "Beer of the Month" will be for October? Harvest Ale? Let me know. In the meantime, ask Mike what "Repeal the 18th" means. Hopefully it doesn't have anything to do with getting rid of "Beer of the Month." Bon Appetit!

Gerald Plante

(Archives Week continued from page 1)

Tuesday and Thursday, October 14 & 16 at 3:00 PM

"Trolley Tour." Tour the historic sites of the immediate downtown area with a tour guide on Schenectady's new trolley. Limited to 26 people. Cost: 25 cents.

Wednesday, October 15 at 1:30 PM.

"Schenectady's Railroads." An illustrated lecture on where they were, when they were built and what happened to them.

Speaker: Don Hulett.

Schenectady History Center, City Hall on Jay Street, Top floor.

Friday, October 17 at 1:00 PM.

"The Bridges of Schenectady." An illustrated lecture centering on the first bridge to span the Mohawk between the city and Scotia.

Speaker: Don Hulett.

Schenectady History Center, City Hall on Jay Street, Top floor.

Stockade Garden Club Beautifies Riverside Park

On your Stockade strolls, take a moment to smell the flowers in the charming terraced garden by the entrance to the Park on Washington Avenue. This spot of beauty has been lovingly cared for by several Stockade residents. On a September Saturday morning Betty and Jim Lane, Susanna Sherwood, Lidia Pasamanick, Janie and Bob Hayner, Greg Sauer, Alan Brown, Helen and Al Giulietti, and Jean and Jack Zegger planted 12 large chrysanthemums with monies from the Stockade Association, while gardeners donated some extra plants from their own gardens. Call Betty at 372-500 or Susanna at 346-5735, to join them, or if you need to thin out your garden and can donate plants.

The Lost One

When I looked at a tree,
and saw only a tree I knew some-
thing was wrong
I recalled the words of a friend,
"As the world speeds up,
we must slow down."
As I did the tree looked different.
The leaves sparkled with warm
sunlight,
they swayed slowly and softly,
fueled by a cool gentle breeze.
"This is a tree," I thought.

Scott Wyrwa

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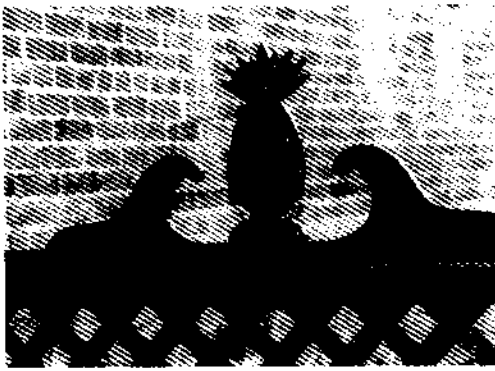
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Stockade Stopper



This Pineapple Gate guards the car-court at the elegant Federalist house built in 1827 by John Rosa at 118 Front Street.


In architecture and decoration of the Colonial and Federal periods, the Pineapple motif became the symbol of hospitality and welcome and was used extensively as a finial on furniture, fence posts and pilasters and as the center focus of a broken pediment over doorways. This present example is a naive adaptation of those elegant doorway pediments.

The Pineapple motif resembles the pinecone which was originally the cone of the Italian Stone Pine (*Pinus Pinea*) which inspired ornament throughout the Classic period in Italy. The pineapple was introduced to the Mediterranean area by the Portuguese from its native habitat in tropical South America at the end of the 15th Century.

Similarity in shape of the pine cone and the pineapple has led to a confusion of the two so that most references denote them as the "pineapple or pinecone finial." The pineapple design on Front Street is definitely and absolutely a Hospitality Pineapple!

Jim Schmitt A.I.A.

Editor's Note: Blaine Johnson of 118 Front Street, a former art teacher, designed the Pineapple and finials. He found the gate design at the Library of the Historical Society. Craftsmanship was done by Don Oakley of Amsterdam and his nephew, Gordon.



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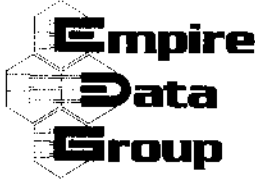
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October Waste Collection Dates Wed. Oct. 1, Wed. Oct. 8, Thurs. Oct. 16, Thurs. Oct. 23, Thurs. Oct. 30