

THE STOCKADE SPY



Stockade Calendar

Stockade

General Meeting

Thurs., May 16

7:00 PM Social

7:30 Meeting

Park/Neighborhood

Cleanup Day

May 18, 9AM (see p. 10)

Stockade Sidewalk Sale

June 1, 9 AM -3 PM

(see p. 9)

Secret Gardens of the

Stockade Tour

June 14th, 3 - 8 PM

& June 15th, 10AM -4PM

"London Suite"

Sch'dy Civic Players

May 3, 4, 5 & 8- 12, 8:00

PM; 2:30 PM, Sun.

12 South Church St., \$12.

Call 382-2081.

"C. Featherstonehaugh:

Mariaville Farmer,

”

and Man of All Seasons

Speaker: Bill Massoth

Sat., May 11

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"Secret Gardens of the Stockade" Tour Friday, June 14 and Saturday, June 15

Pssst, have you seen the garden behind that house? It's a space that explodes with color from the first breath of spring, blooms all summer and keeps getting better right on through to the flaming colors of the fall. They have coffee under the fragrant grape arbor and sip drinks by the gurgling fountain. It's a secluded, no, a secret place.

Actually, this is not just the description of one place. There are many such gardens and hidden yards behind the homes of the Stockade. Lucky for us, once every two years, some of these hard working and proud gardeners agree to share these spaces with others to enjoy.

2:00 PM Program,
1:30 PM Refreshments
Historical Society
32 Wash. Ave.

Third Saturday Poetry

At Arthur's

May 18, 7:30 PM sign-up
8 PM reading

"Welcome to Spring Day"

May 9, 3:30 to 6:30 PM

at the Sch'dy County

Horticultural

Education Facility,

180 Courtside Lane

in Central Park

At The Open Door

Bookstore

128 Jay St., 346-2719

Chef Armann Vander

Stigchel will prepare

tasting samples from his

new book,

Adirondack Cuisine which

he will also autograph,

Sat.. May 11, 1-2:30 PM

Local musician,

Peter Van Keuren

will perform selections

from his newly released CD,

Sat., May 18, 1-2:30 PM

Holy Cross Church Events

Two years ago, a group of gardeners in the Stockade, who had been working for years on their own gardens and also on the garden in Riverside Park, decided to organize a tour. What a success it was! Hundreds of people bought pre-sale tickets and hundreds more came the days of the tour. A dozen gardens were open and it was a wonderful experience for all. The group made some money and decided to coordinate with Re-Tree Schenectady to invest in planting more trees at the Stockade Gateway and throughout the neighborhood. In addition, they decided they should use some of the money to have another tour.

This year the Secret Gardens of the Stockade tour will be held on Friday, June 14th, from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday, June 15th from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Eight private gardens will be open as well as the Riverside Park Garden and the plantings around Lawrence the Indian. New this year will be a plant sale to benefit more Stockade neighborhood improvements.

Tickets may be reserved at a special pre-sale price by phone or at Arthur's Market and at the Historical Society. The day of the sale they will be available at the Schenectady Historical Society and also at Arthur's. Prices are \$15 per person for pre-sale tickets and \$20 per person either day of the tour Call 346-5735 to reserve your tickets now.

Come and smell the flowers and share in another of our neighborhood's secret joys.

Brad Fisher

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STOCKADE ASSOCIATION

Bob Briber
Recording Secretary

Stockade website: www.historicstockade.com.

Stockade Association

Officers & Directors
2001-2002

President 5/03

Joseph Fava
27 Ferry Street
374-6190

Vice President 5/02

Susanna Sherwood
142 Front Street
346-5735

Treasurer 5/03

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4 Washington Ave.
347-2742

Recording Sec. 5/02

Bob Briber
23 Wash. Ave.
377-0469

Corres. Secretary 5/02

Brad Fisher
27 Front Street
393-4605

Directors

Emily Klotz 5/02

106 Front Street
374-2207

Connie Colangelo 5/03

111 North Ferry St.
374-7355

Peter Rumora 5/03

31 Front Street
374-4883

Diane DeMeo 5/02

232 Union Street
372-0642

Ruth Harvey 5/03

20 Washington Ave.
377-2628

Colleen MacAulay 5/02

113 Front Street
381-6829

Stockade Association Board Meeting April 2, 2002

President Joseph Fava called the meeting to order at 7 PM April 2 at Feibes and Schmitt offices. Board Members present: Meredith Anker, Bob Briber, Connie Colangelo, Diane DeMeo, Brad Fisher, Ruth Harvey, Emily Klotz, Peter Rumora, Susanna Sherwood.

Sylvia Briber and Kim Mabee were present with a proposal regarding the Walkabout, which stimulated a long discussion of admissions charges, attendance, revenue sharing and show houses. Their proposal was accepted by a vote of 9 to 1, for one year only. Each of the three cooperating organizations (The Stockade Association, the Historical Society, and the Downtown Schenectady Improvement District) will contribute \$300 as start-up money, and other suggestions, such as enlisting the Folklore Society to demonstrate early crafts, were made. The distribution of responsibilities was accepted as follows:

- The Stockade Association will take major responsibility for securing the tour houses and all that entails. The Historical Society will take major responsibility for management of the finances, including the generation of documents and reports necessary to meet grant requirements. The DSIC will take major responsibility for expanded fund raising sponsorship, publicity, and coordination of "A Taste of Schenectady's Best" gourmet restaurants.

The provisions regarding revenue sharing were accepted as follows:

- Baseline revenues up to \$8000 (after all expenses are paid) will be split equally between the Stockade Association and the Historical Society, and will be used for projects within the Stockade. Revenue after expenses in excess of \$8000 and up to \$12,000 will go entirely to DSIC. Any revenue over \$12,000 after expenses will be split equally among the

three groups.

After discussion, it was moved by a vote of 6 in favor and 3 opposed that the admission charge for the Walkabout should be set at \$20 per ticket. The group expressed concern, too, about effect of traffic in the houses, and discussed the use of plastic shoe-covers or asking visitors to remove their shoes.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. Meredith gave a treasurer's report, that we have \$4792.37 in our checking and the same CD balance as previously. The successful Stockade breakfast at the Civic Players was discussed. Total costs were \$385.66. Joe asked Brad to write SCP thanking them for the use of the hall.

Brad reported on a meeting that the "Infrastructure committee" (Brad, Joe Fava, Janie Hayner, Richard Eats from Synthesis Architects and Milt Mitchell, Commissioner of Public Works) held about the infrastructure proposal approved at the January general meeting. The group considered the proposal favorably, but made one change: To move the improvement of Front St. from Washington to the Indian to first priority and reduce improvement of No. Ferry St. from the Indian to the Park to second. Brad said next steps would be to ask Metroplex to fund a detailed study of the infrastructure plan, with costs of the various improvements quantified, scheduled, etc. Milt Mitchell said that the funding sources are very interested in helping the Stockade. It is Schenectady's major tourist draw. Brad quoted him as saying several times, regarding preparation of the plan, "Guys, all you've gotta do is do it."

Milt Mitchell described the work on the Pump House, which is scheduled to begin shortly. Brad gave him a letter authorizing \$2000, as previously OKed by the Board, to install a water line to the Washington Ave. gar-

(continued on page 2)

Birds of the Stockade

Stupendous Stoop Awards

It's time to think about flowers and your front entrance. The Stockade Garden Group will give stoop awards again this year. In late summer monetary awards will be made for First and Second places, and Honorable Mention. Winners will be announced in *The Spy*. Call Susanna Sherwood for more details at 346-5735.



---T i d i n g s ---

•Welcome to:

• Kathy Delong who recently moved to North College Street.

•Congratulations to:

Dana and Jason Nemeč of Front Street on the birth of their son, Max.

If you know of any items for "Tidings" (neighborhood arrivals, departures, births, deaths, anniversaries) please call The Spy Editor, Sylvie Briber, 377-0469.

One of the birds that I've seen in and around the Stockade is the Northern Mockingbird. It is slender-bodied, has a long tail and legs with distinctive white patches and white outer tail feathers. It is grayish overall. The song is a mixture of original and imitative phrases, each repeated several times. It often sings at night. It imitates other species' songs and calls. Both sexes sing in fall. It is the state bird of many Southern states.

- James L. Taft
AKA Captain Eagle Eyes

The Stockade Spy

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Deadline for entries is the 15th of the previous month.

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The Van Dyck Restaurant, Brewery & Music Club



MUSIC IN THE STOCKADE

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Walkabout 2002 - September 28

“Famous People of Olde Schenectady”

Exciting Additions This Year!

“Famous People of Olde Schenectady” is the theme for this year’s 43rd Stockade Walkabout, which will feature more than just tours of historic homes with their fine 18th and 19th century architecture.

Back by popular demand are carriage rides through our quaint streets and an Antique Car Show, recreating the atmosphere of days gone by. “Famous People of Olde Schenectady,” such as Arent Van Curler, Governor Joseph Yates, and Eliphalet Nott, will come alive and tell their stories.

New this year, The Stockade Association and The Schenectady County Historical Society have partnered with The Downtown Schenectady Improvement Corporation. New ideas being proposed are a Walkabout Food Fest with a diverse selection from Schenectady’s downtown eateries; an Antique Show with free appraisals; and a Stockade archaeological dig.

We already have wonderful com-

munity support with a grant from I LOVE NY and the Schenectady County Chamber of Commerce; media sponsorship and graphic design work from *The Daily Gazette*; and advertising support from *Metroland*.

Also, the Walkabout will join the Schenectady Civic Playhouse in celebrating its 75th anniversary; and The Schenectady County Community College will be on tour with open houses and archaeological exhibits. Other proposed tour sites are Proctor’s Theatre, The Nott Memorial at Union College and The Schenectady Museum.

Anyone who would like to open their home for this event, please call Lyn Gordon at 370-4324 or Sylvie Briber at 377-0469. Or if you own or know someone who owns a car that predates 1970 and would like to exhibit please call Harold or Debbie Schneiderwind at 346-1711. Organizations and businesses interested in becoming partners for this event are invited to call John Samatulski or Gail Kehn at 377-9430.

Welcome New Stockade Association Members

- Ellen Berry
- Gary Potfora
- Gina Potfora
- Mary Jane McFall
- Paul Trinci
- Annette Musler
- Jay Musler
- Aaron Coulture
- Samantha Coulture
- Tamara D’Antoni
- Paula Costello
- Kathy Johnson
- Robert Leuz
- Natalie Lasky
- Van Shanklin
- H. Harlow
- Betty McMath
- Dorothy Musgrove
- William Musgrove
- Arda Jennings
- Robert Naylor
- Arlene Naylor
- Paul Mlodzianowski
- Sue Mlodzianowski
- Evelyn Holmblad
- James Holmblad
- Dana Nemec
- Jason Nemec
- Maxwell Nemec

Music at The Van Dyck

-John Rotundo

Two musicians met at an open mike night in Boston and Aztec Two-Step was born.

That was thirty-one years ago. This past Eastereve, Rex Fowler and Neal Shulman made their Van Dyck debut.

They opened with “War” followed by “Living in America.” These profound and beautifully crafted songs never seemed so important to listen to, than now. It tuned in many friends and fans to a spectacular night.

The acoustic guitars and harmonizing voices of Neal and Rex were joined at times by Marshall Rosenberg on percussion. This created a full and vibrant effect. But the enduring duo sounded equally impressive as well as when they took the stage alone.

Neal reasoned that if Irving Berlin, the son of a cantor, could write “White Christmas,” then he who was born and raised in NYC and who has never been to Texas could write “Tonight I Wish I Was In Texas.” The

song is great and I can’t believe one of the big country western stars hasn’t found it.

The enthusiastic performers never failed their audience who was just as enthusiastic, shouting out requests and salutations. It was especially appreciated when Rex acknowledged the work of Ace the sound man, Peter tending bar, the waitstaff with many thanks to owner Peter Olsen for hosting such eclectic music.

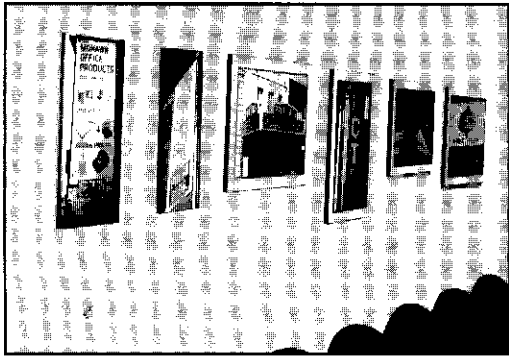
An encore ended the evening. Complete with a long cape with Elvis’ portrait on it, they performed their classic “Velvet Elvis” and then departed with “Brand New.” Ticket price was \$20.

May Pick -The local legend bluesman, Ernie Williams.

May at The Van Dyck

- 5/4 Tony Levin Band with Jerry Marotta, Larry Fast and Jesse Gress \$16
- 5/10 Ernie Williams \$10
- 5/11 Lynne Arriale Trio \$15
- 5/25 ULU \$8

Art At The Doctor's



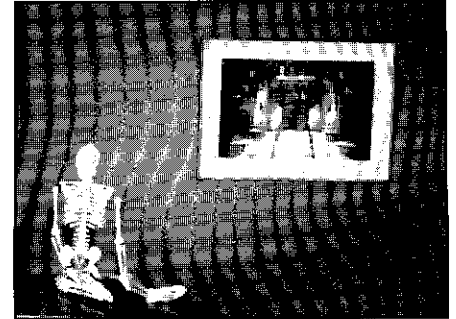
Is it an art gallery in a doctor's office or is it a doctor's office in an art gallery? No, this isn't some tasteless good-news / bad-news joke, but a description of the new Schenectady Regional Orthopedic Associates office on Liberty Street.

One of the 13 MDs in the group, Dr. G. Robert Cooley, has adorned the facility with about 100 of his handsome photographs. Most are Schenectady scenes focused on architectural details, antique eye catchers like building engravings or faded advertising signs, and colorful local landmarks. There are a number from the Stockade, even a couple of our Indian.

Dr. Cooley has been taking photographs for many years, seriously photographing Schenectady's showcase scenes (and some dramatic sports scenes as well) for 4 or 5 years. The doctors moved into the facility – which some will remember as the *Two Guys* auto supply store – in late November, 2001. It currently employs about 60 people.

It's worth your time to visit as an art gallery, and with enough forewarning, an off-hours group tour could even be arranged. If a medical visit is necessary, any discomfort should be reduced by pleasant and artistic surroundings.

- Bob Briber



Have You Heard . . . - Diane Buckley

- Our sidewalk problem is being addressed, the newly pointed houses look exquisite, Arthur's is thriving, *The Spy* has a waiting list of advertisers, The Van Dyck is known as the best jazz club in the area, the Walkabout is escalating in scope and popularity, church bells ring on Sunday morning, two gracious B & B's at 205 Union Street and 109 Front Street, second term president Joe Fava and his board are working hard and getting results, trees have been planted, Riverside Park is looking better and the Pump Station and environs is right now a work in progress, the Gillette House will be utilized and no longer a Gateway eyesore? Even the birds are deciding to live here.

Have You Seen . . .

- Argus, the elegant Great Dane, walking his master Alex Aguila? It's a Stockade sight that will soon disappear. Alex is returning to Cornell for three or four years to study animal surgery. The past year he has been an intern at the Veterinary Specialties Referral Center in Pattersonville with the only two Board Certified surgeons in the Capital District. The closest certified surgeon to the East is in Springfield, MA and Rochester to the West. He and Carrie may return when he graduates. I hope so - he's the kind of neighbor everyone wants; he helps shovel snow.
- A man at Arthur's wearing very patriotic suspenders and a Yankee cap garnished with an American flag pin? That's Al Caswell. He's a non-resident, loves the Stockade and comes several times a week for coffee.

While we chatted he moved a bicycle that was blocking the sidewalk. Say hello to him: he's a delight and a pleasant addition to the sidewalk tables.

Did You Know . . .

- In Waterford there is a set of five locks where boats are lifted to the greatest height in the shortest distance of any canal in the world? The New York State Inland Waterway System, the Erie Champlain, Oswego and Cayuga-Seneca Canals, comprise the world's greatest inland waterway system and the Office of Parks and Recreation and Historic Preservation operates nine canal parks. Travel on the Barge Canal is an interesting vacation concept. You can, of course, use your own boat but there are cruises ranging from one hour to a trip up the Hudson to Buffalo and the Great Lakes - or rent a fully equipped canal boat.

For information call 1-800-4 Canal 4; website www.canals.state.ny.us. The waterway is still quite pristine; I've been told commercialization is coming. I left on a cruise from Waterford to Syracuse. That's three days travel; a bus back. It's not for everyone but remember that in 1825 the canal shortened the time of travel from New York City to Buffalo from six weeks to ten days. On my short trip we passed Riverside Park. The Captain talked of Stockade history, blew the ship's whistle and mentioned there was a resident on board. And I could say with pride, "Yes, I live there."

(This month's column is especially for Stockade residents and those who wish they were.)

Six To Save in the Stockade

Popular perception that the Stockade is a secured historic district was mightily jolted this past month as the Schenectady Heritage Foundation inventory of endangered buildings grew to six!

These "Threatened Six" fall into three categories; Outright demolition, or demolition by neglect or awaiting restoration action:

221 Green Street Owner Thomas Killeen was denied a demolition permit by the Historic Commission. Mr. Killeen has now requested the Board of Zoning Appeals to overturn the Historic Commission on the basis of hardship. BZA meets May 8. Heritage Foundation proposes to buy the building and rehab.

238 Green Street Owner City of Schenectady took title in tax foreclosure. Heritage Foundation is working with City to stabilize roof problems. Building is for sale. Sealed proposals will be accepted through May 24.

#1 Union Street Absentee-owner Miyuki Asano of New Jersey and New York City abandoned building to vagrants who trashed interior. Heritage Foundation sought City aid. City padlocked building, cited owners

and alerted a police watch. Taxes are not in remittance.

28 Ingersoll Avenue Owner City of Schenectady took title in tax foreclosure. Heritage Foundation will provide grant to financially assist purchaser in restoration. Building is for sale. Sealed proposals will be accepted through May 24.

123 North Ferry Street Owner Rita Rocissano of Schenectady County Jail, abandoned building in police drug raid. Taxes are not in remittance.

254 Union Street Owner County of Schenectady purchased this, the Dr. Gillette building, in 2001, after the Heritage Foundation and the Stockade Association campaigned for government involvement. County has secured a NYS Grant for purchase and restoration of the exterior. Architects are preparing restoration drawings for summer 2002 work. County Representative Karen Johnson is heading a "Put to use" committee.

For further information about these six most endangered historic places selected by the Heritage Foundation call Gloria Kishton, vice-chairman, 377-1160. For purchase of City-owned buildings call 372-8067.

-Werner Feibes

Stockade Neighborhood Sidewalk Sale

The 12th Annual Stockade Sidewalk Sale will be Saturday, June 1, from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

(The rain date will be Sunday, June 2, from 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM.)

Your \$10 participation fee pays for your permit and helps to defray the costs of advertising.

Permits will be distributed the morning of the sale, and must be displayed at your table.

The Stockade Association table will be selling coffee and baked goods donated by residents of the neighborhood. Please bring your baked goods to 106 Front Street the morning of the sale. We also need volunteers to work at the Stockade Association table. If you have an hour or two to spare, please call Connie Colangelo at 374-7355.

Yes, I will be participating in the 12th Annual Stockade Sidewalk Sale! Enclosed is my \$10 fee made payable to the Stockade Association. Name _____ Phone _____

I'd like to volunteer at the Stockade Association Table. Address _____

I plan to donate something to the Stockade Association table Please return to: Connie Colangelo
and I will bring it to 106 Front Street the morning of the sale. 111 N. Ferry Street

Due Date: Friday, May 24

Stockade Association General Meeting

Thursday, May 16, 2002 7:00 PM Social 7:30 Meeting

**Schenectady County Historical Society
32 Washington Avenue**

- Election of Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and three Board members for two year terms
- Peter Olsen will speak about the exciting new changes at the Van Dyck Restaurant, Brewery & Music Club

If It Ain't Broke Don't Fix It -Werner Feibes

Finally we can put to rest the perception of public health being compromised by the contamination caused by the former Ladd's gas station. It's been a long time that we've anguished under this cloud of doubt.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has just published its "Record of Decision" regarding "environmental restoration" of the south-west corner of Union Street and Erie Boulevard. The New York State Department of Health, however, has determined that no public health hazard exists at this time! And yet the NYSDEC concludes its Record of Decision with the recommendation of a "remedy" chosen from a list of six remedial alternatives. Hence the headline of this piece.

Let me attempt to summarize the history and facts. The Ladd family operated a gas station for some 65 years causing contamination of soil and groundwater which in turn contaminated the air with vapors. The soil is stable and does not migrate. The groundwater, which is nine to ten feet below grade, has the ability to migrate and is referred to as a plume. This plume has migrated approximately 500 feet west of the former gas station. Public health and the environment were threatened by contamination in the following ways:

1. Petroleum vapors in basements of buildings.
2. Direct contact with contaminated groundwater and saturated sub-surface soils.
3. Ingesting contaminated groundwater.
4. Contaminated groundwater threatening the Schenectady-Niskayuna Aquifer.

These threats have been mitigated as follows:

1. A soil venting system was successful in eliminating any trace of petroleum vapors in all basements.
2. Thirteen underground fuel tanks and 5,300 cubic yards of contaminated soil above the groundwater were removed.
3. The municipal water system makes it unlikely that anyone would drill a well to ingest the contaminated groundwater.
4. A groundwater recovery/treatment system downgradient was successful in stabilizing the plume from further migration and thus mitigating the environmental threat to the Aquifer.

Thus it would seem reasonable to conclude that if we can refrain from digging nine feet down and/or having a sip of the groundwater down there we'll be A.O.K. And this is why, it appears, the City of Schenectady has declined to apply for a grant from the Environmental Restoration Program which would pay 75% of the cost of NYSDEC's recommended "remedy" whose cost is estimated at \$340,000 without any guarantee of success. In case of failure five other "remedial alternatives" could be tried whose costs range from \$980,000 to \$2,135,390. NYSDEC's ambition is to clean up the plume and the contaminated soil below it even though the Department of Health assures us that no threat exists. Under these circumstances the NYSDEC's "remedy" would seem an extravagant exercise.

There may yet be wisdom at City Hall.

Park & Neighborhood Clean Up May 18, 9 AM

Residents will gather on Saturday May 18 at 9 AM for the annual park and neighborhood clean up. Meet in the park at the end of Washington Avenue for task coordination.

Jennifer Wells will be in charge of the plantings in the garden - which have been ordered from the county green house and will be delivered by the Stockade Garden Group.

David Marhafer will once again be in charge of the Union Crew Team. Last year they did a beautiful job painting the guard rails at the end of each street. This year they're focusing on clean up and raking.

Edna Eldridge is in charge of Lawrence the Indian planting this year. Since May 18th is her daughter's birthday she will co-ordinate that project on another date. She's looking for workers so please call her at 393-6901.

If you have clean up or garden projects that face the street and are beyond your abilities, needing a little extra muscle, please call Meredith Anker at 347-2742.

After sweating and flexing together, we'll gather for a provided lunch. This is a great opportunity to meet your neighbors and beautify the neighborhood.

Thanks to Our Stockade Spy Patroons

who have shown their support for *The Spy* and our neighborhood by taking out advertising for the entire year. Please show your support and visit them:

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The Van Dyck Restaurant, Brewery, & Music Club

In the Garden - Jennifer Wells



Daylily

From time to time, some of you may have seen me working in the Riverside Park Garden at Washington Ave. But did you know that this is your community garden? Rescued from neglect by Stockade Association members in the 1990's under the tutelage of Helen Giuliotti and Susanna Sherwood many of our neighbors have

contributed their time, plants and energy to expand the garden to what we see today.

Our garden is home to over 200 varieties or colors of blooming plants. Starting in March with the spring crocus (gold and midnight blue variegated), the garden in the park hosts a constant parade of color with up to forty varieties in bloom at any time. Plants, largely perennial in nature, fall into several categories including bulbs and tubers (crocus, bluebells, tulips, narcissus, iris, lily, and new this year, peonies), trees, bushes and vines (plum, quince, forsythia, lilac, rhododendron, myrtle, holly, euonymus, juniper, saxifrage, soapwort, thymus, rose), grasses or grains (zebra, thrift, savannah, cornflower), several varieties of succulents (sedum, lupine, etc). Add to this mix some biennials (hollyhock, foxglove) and the thirty or so varieties of annuals (impatiens, alyssum, chrysanthemum, petunia, geranium, dusty miller, spikes) and you have a virtual cornucopia of color throughout the planting year.

Work crews gather twice a year (the Saturday before Memorial Day in May and again in mid-September) to clean and plant the garden. The next Park workday is Saturday, May 18; why not plan to *(continued from page 12)* * * *

graceful serpentine rhythm Burr had intended. Penn's 1871 engraving "Schenectady from the West" depicts the crude but quaint picturesqueness that resulted. This contraption, designed more by intuition than by calculation, earned Burr the homage and gratitude of the modern architects of the Golden Gate and the George Washington Bridges.

While one Burr distinguished himself the other Burr disgraced himself. On July 11, 1804 two shots rang out in the most famous duel in American history. Vice President Aaron Burr, having fatally shot Alexander Hamilton, would become a dangerous and desperate fugitive under indictment for murder in New York and New Jersey.

Burr, the Great American Rascal, was politically dead, and it was widely perceived that Burr blood would never flow in the veins of an American president. But fate often runs counter to perception. When, as a rambunctious youth of twenty six years, Aaron was admitted to the New York State Bar and immediately set up his law practice in Albany and his pleasure practice in Kinderhook. Young Aaron frequented the VanBuren Tavern down the Hudson in

meet your neighbors for this work session at 9 AM at the garden? Drinks and lunch are provided by the Stockade Association. Some tools and gloves will be provided, but bring your rakes, garden shovels and gloves. Annuals will again be provided through the Schenectady County Greenhouse program. Last year we made a concerted effort to halt the bamboo invasion and this year it looks like the tannin in the wood chips may have finally killed the bamboo - roots and all! This year, we are looking for angels to either donate or purchase bricks or curbing materials for the garden along the stone wall. Please contact me at 382-1471 if you would like to be an angel.

Oh, don't forget the Stockade Garden Tour on June 14th and 15th, and the next time you find yourself walking through the park, take some time to stop and smell (and count) the roses, and daffodils, and tulips, and hollyhock, and alyssum, and lupines and ...

What's Blooming?

April: crocus, bluebells, narcissus (daffodils), quince, tulip

May: tulip, lily of the valley, blue flag lily, yellow flag lily, forsythia, lilac, plum, rhododendron, geranium, petunia, sedum, myrtle and other assorted annuals.

June: sedum, Japanese iris, thymus, soapwort, rose, geranium, petunia, peony, assorted annuals

July: soapwort, alyssum, rose, thrift, lupine, cornflower, geranium, petunia, hosta, assorted annuals.

August: alyssum, rose, thrift, lupine, hosta, geranium, petunia, foxglove.

September: alyssum, rose, geranium, petunia, foxglove, hollyhock, chrysanthemum, cosmos.

October(barring frost): alyssum, geranium, hollyhock, chrysanthemum, cosmos.



Poppy

Kinderhook where, according to rumor, he got with child the tavern keeper's wife Mary!

During Martin VanBuren's presidency the ugly rumor circulated that he, the President, was the natural son of Aaron!

Well after all, perception may not be the true reality.

- Jim Schmitt, A.I.A.



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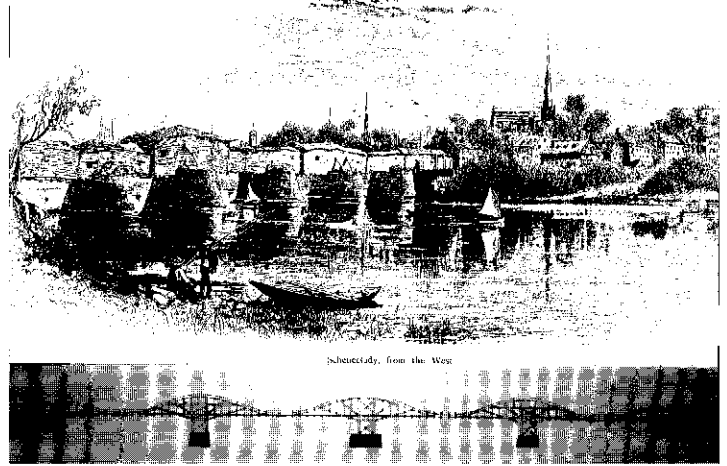
STOCKADE STOPPER - TWO COUSINS BRIDGE PERCEPTIONS

Why do people build bridges?

Like the old vaudeville joke about the chicken crossing the road - to get to the other side. And getting to the other side of the Mohawk from the Stockade was a challenge throughout the 17th and 18th Centuries. Indians crossed in graceful birchbark canoes. Then white man, necessitated by cumbersome articles of trade, produced the flat-boat to ease the crossing. By 1725, due mainly to the sagacity of the Dutch Stockaders' boat building, the first cable-ferry service started crossing from the foot of Ferry Street, which still retains its name. Trade was protected by the 1735 rebuilding of the Queen's Fort where our Laurence the Indian now stands. In this secured environment three more ferries mushroomed at Washington Avenue, Freeman's Road and twelve miles upriver at Hoffman's Ferry. These cable ferries were no more than a cable anchored to opposite banks and run over a pulley on the flat-boat. All the passenger was required to do was pull himself and his boat across 800 feet of swift-current water!

A period of dazzling prosperity at the close of the Revolution caused river navigation to boom but on the other hand rivers stood as the main obstacle to road traffic. Early American inventive genius was called upon to design and construct bridges to span this obstacle.

Well, who could be found to design a construction to span 800 feet of water? The perception at the time in 1800 was that this was an impossible stretch of man's ability. Then, just five years later, a young man of 34 years stepped forward. Enter Theodore Burr, celebrated architect and builder of bridges, cousin of the Vice President of the United States, Aaron Burr. Theodore's uncle was Aaron's father who had been the second president of Princeton University and no American of the time could boast a more distinguished ancestry than the Burrs who could trace their lineage through hundreds of years of English history. These two cousins were destined to impact our upstate Dutch



community of the Mohawk-Hudson Valley.

Theodore came to the Stockade from Waterford, New York where he had just completed a bridge over the Hudson employing his original invention of a king post truss but now he added an arch for further strength. This combined truss and arch, known as the "Burr Arch" is still used today. Stirred by the demanding challenge of bridging the unbridgeable, Burr hit upon the idea of a suspension bridge made of local timbers. Since ancient times short-span suspension bridges supporting a narrow foot path had been constructed of vines, then ropes, and then chains. Such a dramatic long span to be made of wood timbers was not only unheard of but was perceived by conventional wisdom to be impossible.

The first attempt was a daring one. Work began in the Autumn of 1808 with the construction of a huge stone pier in the middle of the river and two massive supports abutting the opposite shores, one at Washington Avenue in the Stockade and the other on the Scotia side. Yes, Burr had set out to leap the 800 feet of water with but two spans! As calculated, Winter brought a surface of ice on the river strong enough to support the scaffolding required for construction of the immense suspenders of bolted together timber planks. Then Nature spoiled the plan. The January thaw rapidly lifted the river, sweeping away the ice and with it all the work except the stone pier and land abutments.

Bitter disappointment gave way to a second and less ambitious plan --- add another pier between the center pier and each land abutment thereby effecting a four-span bridge as shown in the drawing at the bottom of the picture. The main suspension members of this unprecedented bridge were three parallel wooden arch-ribs extending continuously a distance of 1200 feet passing over the tops of the abutments and piers and curving down between them like a massive roller coaster. From this he hung a flat plank roadway. The result proved to be more than was hoped. It was in fact Burr's masterpiece that served as the Gateway to the West for almost seven decades.

Just years after the completion groundless fears that the piers were unsound prompted the addition of four more, ruining the appearance quite unnecessarily. Later a clapboard protective enclosure was added giving a patched-up appearance quite unlike the *(continued on page 11)*

Summer Waste Collection Dates

MAY

Fri., May 3
Fri., May 10
Fri., May 17
Fri., May 24

JULY

Mon., July 1
Tues., July 9
Tues., July 16
Tues., July 23
Tues., July 30

JUNE

Mon., June 3
Mon., June 10
Mon., June 17
Mon., June 24

AUGUST

Tues., Aug. 6
Tues., Aug. 13
Tues., Aug. 20
Tues., Aug. 27

Collection starts at 6:15 AM. Don't put waste on the curb before 2:00 PM the day before.