

# Greenville Local History Group Newsletter

Winter 1996, Issue #77

Annual Report

Winter's greetings from the suburbs of Greenville! I trust winter (both snow and flood, this year) is treating you well.

This newsletter is a continuation of a routine I've undertaken from our beginning — the making of an annual report. I hope the 1995 Annual Report reminds people what we did this past year and will inspire us to continue the good work we produce each year.

First, a reminder. Your mailing address label's top line is a number representing an expiration date. The first two digits of the four digit number represents the year of expiration; the last two digits represent the month. Thus, any number less than 9601 means your subscription has run out. Many of you have subscriptions that will run out this summer (9607, 9608). Anyone wishing to renew a yearly subscription can send a check (made out to Don Teator) for five dollars to: Don Teator, RD1, Box 147, Freehold, NY 12431.

Second, everyone receives the *annual* newsletter, even if one has no subscription. Since I think it's important that people get updated what we've done, I'm willing to cover the costs of this mailing for the un-subscribed. If for some reason any non-regular-subscriber wishes to stop receiving the annual newsletter, please let me know. I can be reached at (518) 634-2397.

On to the regular part.

A look back at 1995, I think, will be judged a productive year. Our overall membership is consistently in the 75-85 range, as it has for the past few years. Of this number, the regular newsletter reaches about 65. Attendance at our meetings tends to average about fifteen, occasionally edging near twenty, and, if the weather threatens, occasionally dropping to single digits. I tend to see 10 -15 as our "critical mass" number, the number at which a meeting really feels like a meeting.

We will continue to meet the second Monday of April through November. Thus, the winter months represent a good chance to gather information and material for our share sessions. Again, these share sessions alternate with programs. If any of you have ideas for programs, share the idea.

I suspect the most visible part of the GLHG is the local history calendar. The sixth edition (1996) was produced during the summer and distributed by individuals and to some of the key retail areas. A thank you goes

to Bryant's, the Pharmacy, the Library, the Freehold Country Store, and At The Crossroads for taking calendars to sell. We recognize the calendar as a key way to share a small piece of our local history, and hope it makes our community more aware of our history. This year's calendar was printed at the Altamont Enterprise, resulting in about 350 calendars to be sold. The recognition of Stanley Maltzman drew a number of positive comments, as did the the inset pictures of the modern structures.

Another key part of the GLHG are the programs. This year, the programs were V-E Day (May), Stanley Maltzman (June), the Joy & Adams scrapbooks (August), and the Ingalls Diary (October). The V-E program was instigated by Arlene Brown, I believe. The Maltzman program is a continuation of our artist's recognition series; past programs have recognized Rita Hoovler and Rudi Weinlich. If you know an artist who should be recognized, let me know. The scrapbook program came about out of curiosity, especially after seeing Harriet poring over a couple. The Carrie Ingalls diary was my initiative. Thus, the programs come from a variety of directions, and should continue to do so.

In between, the share sessions are as good as we make them, and usually we make them good. Brochures, programs, a few small artifacts, clippings, etc., typically are brought in, shown, sometimes given to the Historian's files, discussed, digressions made, and whatever else we can do for such items.

However, there are a few major strands that keep showing up most of the year. The most noticeable one is Harriet Rasmussen's transcribing the Taylor diary and the regular write-up of certain years. Subscribers in 1995 were treated to Harriet's accounts of 1886, 1888, 1890 - 1893, as portrayed in the diary. I was steadily working on the Carrie Ingalls diary and made that a whole program. Without mentioning by name, several others contributed semi-regularly throughout our season.

One piece missing this year for the first time was contact from the fourth grade teacher. I must confess that I never did follow up to see if any projects were undertaken; this sounds like something to do for the coming year.

Hope to see you at the April meeting (2nd Monday). I have bunches of things to copy but I'll save them for the regular newsletter.

Until then, take care,

