

AROUND PINE PLAINS

by Sue Berkman and Constance Young

The Lions must be purring

The Lions Club had their fund-raising auction last Saturday – and by the look of it there is now probably more purring than roaring going on among the membership.

The event was no doubt a financial as well as social success. There was considerable fun and laughter as people bid on about 300 lots of assorted items – from dishes, to paintings, to furniture, to – you name it! The item that probably got the best price was an old spinet. After a bidding war between two people the piano went for under \$1,000, a bargain. That also seemed to be the opinion of the winning bidder who apparently was quite happy judging by the big smile.

There was a little bit of everything for sale and lots of wonderful bargains. Among the many lots opened for bidding were hundreds of items gathered together in boxes filled to overflowing with a dozen or more items, usually on a theme (glassware, metal, kitchen items, etc.). The way it worked: you bought a box and got everything in it. When I (the Connie half of this column) looked through some of these boxes (this was a daunting task as there were so many of them) I found at least one terrific item I coveted in each of maybe a dozen boxes. I am sure someone found a huge treasure amidst the profusion of stuff that had been donated by individuals and from two estates – that of Patty Fletcher and Floyd and Dorothy Parleman.

I unfortunately had to leave and by the time I returned the two items I most wanted to bid on (two paintings) had already been sold. I was told for very little. I am now looking forward to

the next Lions Club fund-raiser.

Incidentally, the auctioneers were wonderful. There was Bill Fletcher, who led the show and continued with gusto despite the beginnings of a sore throat. Dave Luther, of Luther's Livestock Auction, who does not live in Pine Plains, also donated his services as auctioneer – and he was funny and very professional. To top this, Craig Murphy added his voice to the proceedings.

Elaine Fletcher, who clerked the event, couldn't yet tell exactly how much the Lions Club had taken in (since there still were some consignments to be figured out) but she agreed that they did well. This is good because the money goes to a good cause. The Lions Club does a great deal for the community, for eye charities that help kids with "lazy eye," and for other good causes.

Win a prize at the library

In addition to its many activities, the busy Pine Plains Free Library has launched a Summer Reading Program for preschool children.

For every book the child reads (with or without a parents' help), he/she has a chance to guess how many items are in the jar sitting on the librarians' desk. At the end of the summer there will be a drawing for prizes which have been donated by local businesses. Each week there will also be another prize (a coloring book) given to winning preschoolers.

As the saying goes, "You have to be in it to win it," so take your little girl and/or boy to the library, look at the many new books available, and join the Summer Reading Program.

Summer bible school

In last week's column we mentioned that the Vacation Bible School will soon start and it is open to children from all over the area free of charge. But we didn't give the starting date – which is July 20.

Although the Bible School will be held at St. Anthony's Church in Pine Plains, the Vacation Bible School is sponsored by Pine Plains Council of Churches, which encompasses all denominations. For further information contact Jim Dykeman at (518) 398-7938.

Danger for pets: riding in pickup trucks

Florida veterinarian Randy Fullerton is quoted on the Internet (from the Tallahassee Democrat Online) as cautioning that dogs [columnists' note: this also applies to other animals] "don't have opposable thumbs and so they cannot hold on." When a dog is riding in the back of a pickup truck, he/she cannot hold on if the driver brakes or turns suddenly, and the animal is propelled out of the truck onto the pavement – sometimes being hit by passing cars.

Dr. Fullerton claims that he sees several dogs every month who have been victims of such accidents – "typically suffering multiple fractures, abdominal trauma, and severe thoracic trauma....Frantic truck owners carry in their injured dogs, and the majority of them die," he warns.

Because of this danger, several states have introduced laws to protect animals riding in pickups. Such laws usually state that dogs must be protected by a container, cage, cross-tethering, or other device to prevent the animal from falling out. Florida Sen. Howard Forman urges that "Pickup truck beds are for cargo, not for pets or people."



Summer fun

Kids beat the heat by going for a swim at the Stanford Recreation Park last week. (Photo by Jason Ziemniak.)

Over the Back Fence

News not quite ready for the front page



Julia Finley

Finley honored

Julia Finley of Pine Plains, who was ranked among the top five percent of the senior class at SUNY Cortland, was honored by the Communication Studies Department with the Ann Allen Memorial Award. This honor was presented to the outstanding graduating

senior in mass communication.

A member of the interdisciplinary honor society Phi Kappa Phi, she was recognized by the Cortland chapter as its Scholar of the Month for February 1998. Finley has served as co-station manager of the campus television station CSTV and was co-producer and director of its "Real World" show. She acted in several SUNY Cortland theatre productions. Finley plans to become a television news anchorperson. — J.Z.

Community service award

Luke Osborne of Pine Plains received a \$150 award from Barns and Farms Realty LLC as part of their community service awards. The program recognizes graduating high school students for extraordinary service to their communities. Osborne, an Eagle Scout, is particularly interested in preserving ecological balance

and completed the clearing of a hiking trail to provide better public access to local scenic beauty. — J.Z.

Pottery demonstrations

Muddywaters Pottery will be open for demonstrations, classes, picnicking, and relaxation in the serene environment of Crailo Gardens every Saturday from July through August from noon to 4 p.m.

Call ahead for class information and schedules or to make a special appointment. Muddywaters is located in Ancram on Route 82, approximately three miles west of Ancramdale. Call (518) 329-1612. — J.Z.

Raffle tickets

Raffle tickets are available from the Pine Plains Hose Company for a drawing on October 28. First prize is \$500. Tickets are \$1 and are available from Robert Cahill, 12 Bethel Place, Pine Plains, NY 12567. — J.Z.

Youth baseball:

Amenia Mackers extend winning streak

by Bob Posey

The Amenia Mackers of the North-west Connecticut Connie Mack Baseball League increased their current winning streak to five games last week and solidified their hold on first-place in the process.

As of July 11, Amenia had posted a mark of 9-2, good for sole possession of the top spot in the Northern Division with a total of 18 points. Winsted and Torrington were tied for second-place, each with seven wins and a total of 14 points. Washington was leading the Southern Division with the league's best record at 10-1, good for 20 points and far ahead of second-place Naugatuck at 5-5. The top three teams in each division will qualify for the playoffs at the end of the 16-game regular season schedule.

Extra inning win

In what was probably the most exciting game of the season in Amenia, the home town club battled to a 5-4, 10-inning win over Torrington on July 9.

Matt Mittelstadt (4-0) continued his impressive campaign on the hill, going the distance to chalk up the victory. Paul Scott pitched a fine game and went all the way for the visitors in a losing effort.

Torrington got on the scoreboard first with two runs in the opening inning, but Amenia countered with three runs in the home half of the fourth. Ryan McEnroe's two-run double was the key blow in the rally that put the Mackers ahead, 3-2.

The visitors tied the game at 3-3 in the sixth on an Amenia error and an RBI double off the bat of Chris Judson.

Torrington put four singles together in the top of the ninth to go ahead 4-3. But Amenia knotted the count at 4-4 when Mark McEathron reached base on a fielder's choice and scored on a clutch triple by Mittelstadt.

The Mackers put an end to the contest in the 10th. Justin Speranzo reached first base when Torrington catcher Chris Judson allowed the ball to get away on a third strike. Matt Judson's single then sent Speranzo to third. After an intentional walk loaded the

bases, Jamie Selfridge singled sharply through a drawn-in infield to score Speranzo with the winning run.

Amenia was out in the contest, 10-7, but put their hits together when they counted. The Mackers also got an outstanding defensive effort from McEathron as the standout shortstop recorded seven putouts.

The beat goes on

Amenia followed its exciting win over Torrington with another home victory on July 10, turning back Winsted, 5-3.

Josh Fontaine (2-0) allowed just five hits in hurling the complete game victory. The Amenia offense was led by Speranzo's two hits, including a fifth inning home run, while teammate Grant Ross also chipped in with a couple of hits and scored a run.

According to Amenia Coach Pat Fontaine, his club apparently had some difficulty in getting up for the game, following the extra inning win of the previous night. Fontaine said his squad struggled, but still managed to come away with a win.

MTA releases new station stop names

In a letter to Amenia Town Supervisor Arlene Iuliano, MTA Metro-North Railroad released two preferred names for the Wassaic Extension Project, which will add about six miles of new tracks north of Dover Plains by 2000.

"Based on your input, Metro-North believes that Wassaic is the most appropriate name for the northerly sta-

tion and Tenmile River for the station that is located near the Taconic DDSO," stated John Kennard, the director of capital and long range planning for Metro-North. "Kindly review these names with your town board and community," Kennard said.

The suggested names are likely to be submitted to the full MTA board for

approval in July. Kennard stated in his letter. The town board will take up the matter at its regular meeting July 16.

In a separate development, Kathleen Schibanoff, the executive director of the Harlem Valley Partnership, announced a design workshop on the Wassaic Extension Project for Saturday, July 25, at the Wassaic Fire House. — M.H.

Bordewich campaign coffers top \$105G

Jean Bordewich, the Democratic candidate for Congress in New York's 22nd District, has raised more than \$105,000 for her campaign to succeed the retiring incumbent Gerald Solomon.

The total is contained in Bordewich's first report to the Federal Election

Commission (FEC) showing her campaign's financial results as of the June 30 reporting deadline. According to a Bordewich campaign press release, the report will have been submitted to the FEC by the July 15 filing deadline. "Many people are contributing what

they can to help Jean reach out to the voters," said Campaign Treasurer Paul Weiner of Red Hook. "The raising of more than \$100,000 - mostly in the last two weeks of June - shows the kind of support that Jean can attract in a short period of time."



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