



NEWSLETTER

Serving the Allentown Community for Over Thirty Years

AUG 1991

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The Allentown Newsletter is published monthly by the Allentown Association Inc., 234 Allen Street, Buffalo NY 14201.

We regularly solicit articles from our members to be included in the newsletter. If you have any news to be included or ideas about articles please send them to the office address.

I N S I D E

- Membership Meeting 1
- Reader's Forum 1
- Big...Trash 1
- Who's Pub ? 1
- Uncle Allen Needs You 2
- Building of the Month**
- Business of the Month**
- The Empire Returns 2
- Person of the month**
- Herbert Siegel 2
- What Crime ? 3
- News from your President 4
- Crime Prevention Coordinator .. 4

General Members' Meeting

A general meeting (for paid members) will be held on September 9th, 1991, at the First Presbyterian Church, Symphony Circle. Important news is there!JK



Reader's Forum

We'd appreciate hearing from you. Please send your inquiries, concerns, questions and praises to: The Reader's Forum, c/o the Allentown Association. This month's letter comes to us from a concerned citizen who wonders:

What can be done about the ugly building in the city-owned parking lot at the corner of Wadsworth And Allen Streets?

Excellent question! I've wondered that myself. It's a historic, unique, few-of-a-kind gas station which has definitely seen better days. The building has been purchased by a private individual who is attempting to renovate the building using the frame as a possible short-order food establishment. The building is located in the Preservation District and therefore must be restored, not destroyed nor physically altered on its shell. We don't have a time-frame for the finish dateDW

Big, Big, Big TRASH

In the city's continuing efforts to resolve our ever expanding refuse problem, big trash collection is scheduled once again for the City of Buffalo. The next large trash pick-up in Allentown will be held the weeks of September 2nd and October 7th. If you have any questions about the trash situation, please call the Sanitation Department at 851-5971. Their complaint line to resolve resident problems is 851-5956. DW

Who's Pub?

The old McPhearson's Pub at the foot of Allen Street is undergoing a major renovation by the owner of **Founding Father's**, Mike Driscoll. The structural and decorative work is currently on the drawing board pending the Preservation Board's approval. **Clarky's Pub** will undergo a nostalgic transformation into an upscale bar and restaurant. Mike is considering serving a simple deli-and char-broil type menu. Architect David Flower and owner Driscoll returned to the Association with renderings and more details. The Allentown Association appreciates the diligence and cooperation the Pub's owners bring to the community and gives their full supportDW

THE ALLENTOWN ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

THE 7TH ANNUAL
Tour
SUNDAY
of
SEPTEMBER 22ND
Homes
NOON TO FIVE
'91
\$10.00 ADVANCE \$13.00 AT THE DOOR

Ticket outlets in Buffalo...
Positively Main St.
773 Elmwood Avenue
Goody's Parlor
224 Allen Street
Eaton Galleries
115 Elmwood Avenue
Plum Dandy
62 Allen Street

Tickets available by mail through
Allentown Association, Inc
Send a self-addressed stamped envelope

**Allentown Association
Board of Directors'
Meetings:**

September 26, October 24,
November 21, December 19.

Members welcome. All meet-
ings are held at the Association
Office at 7:30 p.m.

**Special thanks to those
who helped assemble
the July Newsletter**

- Richard Gardner
- George Hardy
- Linda Hardy
- Carol Holcberg
- John Kelly
- Alison Kimberly
- Henry Priebe
- Mary Simpson
- Della Sztuk
- Diane Wolinski

**If you would like to
assist in the prepara-
tion of the next News-
letter call Diane at
884-1640.**

Uncle Allen Needs You!

If you saw the ad on the first page you know that the 7th Annual Tour of Homes will be presented by the Allentown Association on **Sunday, September 22, 1991** from noon 'til 5 P.M.. Discover the wealth of the preservation district of Allentown and enjoy the ambiance of its grand homes.

The Tour of Homes committee requests your assistance and know-how in filling the gaps for the home show this year. We could use your help in the areas of tour guides, soliciting ads, manning the office, selling tickets, mailing tickets, etc. All volunteers will receive a FREE ticket to the Tour of Homes '91 and will share in the festivities of the post-tour party! For more info call the Office at 881-1024DW

The Empire Returns

The Second Empire reigns once again on the corner of Franklin and Virginia, thanks to the Law Firm of Siegel, Kelleher and Kahn. The dramatic revival of 420 Franklin, a Second Empire building, crowned with Mansard roof and it's lovely Queen Anne companion, 426 Franklin, enriches all of Buffalo beyond the borders of the Allentown enclave.

fame. Mr. Herbert Siegel says he is waiting for Harry to return to Buffalo to make him an honorary partner in SK&K.

Siegel, Kelleher and Kahn state in their brochure "...we believe that each client deserves a personalized and rapid resolution to legal problems." The goal of personalized practice of law is surely enhanced by the warm and commodious environment in which it takes place. These architectural gems provide a humanizing and dynamic alternative to the current spate of vapid and sterile office structures that mar the modern urban landscape. The art, wall hangings, carpets and furniture in these classic Franklin Street buildings lend a sense of tradition, stability and continuity.

Suitable to the largest Historic Preservation District in the United States, Siegel, Kelleher and Kahn has the largest Matrimonial practice in New York State and is also widely known for personal injury litigation. These two specialties are embedded in a general practice which services the full range of legal matters.

The Allentown Association and the residents and businesses of Allentown admire and appreciate the investment which Siegel, Kelleher and Kahn is making to our urban villagePF

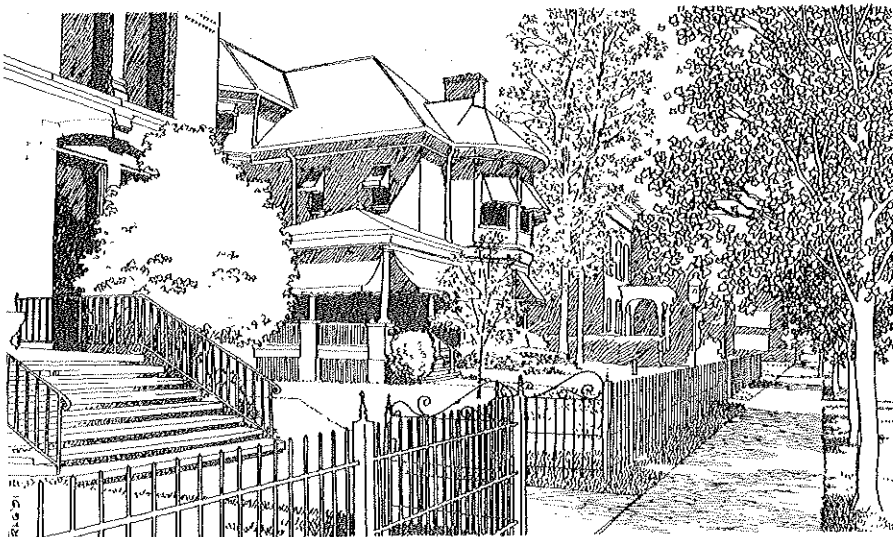
Herbert Siegel

This very important to Allentown person this month is a partner to the firm of the month and works in the building of the month...These people know how to make an impact on the community!

Buffalo born, Herbert Siegel attended area public schools and received his law degree from the University of Buffalo in 1969. In 1971 his practice was located in offices at the Statler hotel where we were to become friends.

Herb specializes in matrimonial law although the practice is very clearly multidisciplined. It was in 1973 that the two buildings on Franklin Street were purchased and are now home to 37 Attorneys. This particular area of Franklin Street used to be referred to as "Pill Alley"; maybe Mr. Siegel wants to change that to "Lawyer Lane"!JK

RICHARD L. GARDNER



*This is the view looking
up Franklin Street. Could
this be Lawyer Lane?*

Built by Frank Hamlin, son of Cicero Hamlin, President of American Grape and Sugar Works, Co., 420 Franklin housed the lineage that eventually produced Harry "Michael Cusak" Hamlin of L. A. Law

What Crime?

In the past we have noticed some confusion on the part of some of our residents as to the type of crime they were reporting. We have asked our Police Liaison Officer, Patrick D. Swain, to provide some guidelines for accurately reporting crime.

So you say you've become a victim of a crime...but just what crime are you a victim of? Hopefully you practice all of the crime prevention measures and your odds against becoming a victim are greatly reduced. But if it does happen, here is a brief description of some of the types of crimes you are likely to encounter. Bear in mind that the following description is a condensed version of a very lengthy New York State Penal Law, and some circumstances not covered here may change the definition of the type of crime committed.

Larceny. Petit Larceny, which is a misdemeanor, is the lowest form of Larceny. "A person is guilty of petit larceny when he steals property." That's not too tough is it? There are a number of factors which increase the degree of larceny to Grand Larceny which is a felony. If the value of the property exceeds \$1,000, or consists of secret scientific material, or consists of credit cards, or is taken from a person (pick-pockets or purse snatchers), or is obtained by extortion, or consists of stolen firearms or motor vehicles valued in excess of \$1,000 (not to be confused with Unauthorized Use of a Motor Vehicle) will also qualify as Grand Larceny.

Robbery. One of the more confusing crimes, robbery involves the use of or threatened use of physical force upon another person in the theft of property. All robberies are felonies. The operative word here is the use of force. Some factors that can increase the degree of robbery are...is aided by another person actually present...causes physical injury...or is armed with a weapon.

Burglary. This last crime to discussed is defined by the NYS Penal Law as "a person is guilty of burglary in the third degree when he knowingly enters or remains unlawfully in a building with the intent to commit a crime therein." All burglaries are felonies. Some of the factors

that can increase the degree of burglary are...is armed with a deadly weapon...causes physical injury...uses or threatens the immediate use of a dangerous instrument...displays a firearm...or the building is a dwelling (someone lives there).

Now that we have some definitions of the various crimes let's give some examples of their day-to-day usage. If a person breaks into your home while you're away, you've not been robbed, you've been burglarized. If you are at home and the burglar punches you, it's still a burglary, just a higher degree. If your bicycle is stolen from your yard it's petit larceny, if the bike was in your garage it's burglary. You're walking down the street and set your purse down on the ground so you can tie your shoe, someone grabs it and runs away. That's petit larceny unless it contains secret scientific material, a credit card, or one of the other factors that elevate the crime to grand larceny. If on the other hand you didn't set it down but it was grabbed from under your arm without injuring you it would be grand larceny because it was taken from your person. However, if the bandit pushes you down to the ground, punches you, displays a weapon or uses some other form of physical force...you've been robbed.

These are just some of the circumstances encountered by the average victim. If you practice crime prevention techniques the odds of becoming a victim are reduced. If after reading this article you do become a crime victim, you will be able to report the crime more accurately to the police.....PS

New Members

The following new members have joined the ranks of Allentown residents and businesses.

The family of Lynne and John Berg.

Western New York Communications, Inc.

The Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural Site (Wilcox Mansion).

Allentown is the largest preservation district in the United States and is listed on the National Historic Register.

If you would like to become a member of the Association or know someone else that would, call the office or better yet call **George Hardy** (Membership Committee Chairman) at 884-0001 during the evenings or 882-3900 day-times.



Think Blizzard Ball!

News from your President

New Development. On August 2nd., 1991 Nanco Development Corporation held ground-breaking ceremonies for four new townhomes located at 69-75 Mariner Street. Present for the event were Assemblyman Hoyt, Councilman Perla and dignitaries from City Hall and the Allentown Association.

Having started the project on August 5th, with a considerable personal investment, Nanco has displayed a faith that the Allentown area is the place to live in Buffalo.

Thanks go to the Nanco Development Corporation for their support in the future of this areaJK

Crime Prevention Coordinator

The Allentown Association has received a grant from the Department of Criminal Justice Services for the purpose of hiring a Crime Prevention Coordinator. We feel very fortunate to have found an exceptional person to head this position. Allow me to introduce Michele Graves. Ms. Graves brings with her several years of experience and expertise to this area of the city. Having worked previously as a civilian employee of the Buffalo Police Department and as a state investigator, Michele now holds the crime prevention position in the Parkside/North Buffalo area

and will continue to hold that position until the grant monies have been exhausted.

Michele will help area block clubs establish themselves as Block Watch Clubs with the Buffalo Police Community Services. For those that are already established, she can provide ideas to keep it active and interesting by arranging special meetings, inviting appropriate guest speakers and providing fliers.

"The 'crime conscience' times that we live in have precipitated the need for neighbors to band together and form Block Watch Clubs, therefore becoming the eyes and ears of the police" says Ms. Graves.

The Association feels that one of her more important roles will be acting in close liaison with the police, disseminating information back to the blocks regarding crime and other issues.

Plans are already in the works to hold Allentown's first "Crime Awareness Day", an idea that was very rewarding in the North Buffalo/Parkside area.

Michele will be in the Association's office approximately 20 hours a week (including some evenings) and is at the community's disposal. Give her a call at 881-1024 (leave a message if she's not there...she promises to return all calls promptly). Ms. Graves and the Association look forward to the challenge of working with our community and welcome your suggestions and input regarding your block businessRG

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