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The Blizzard of '77 was an extraordinary event. The world as we knew it stopped. We couldn't work, play, shop, or even drive, but we did indeed survive.

Our city's reputation as the "Snow Capitol of the World" though typically undeserved, became front page headlines around the world as well as the focus of Johnny Carson's attention for nearly a week!

Indeed, it was a time of incredible devastation and economic loss. It was also a time incredible sharing and giving. If you had a four wheel drive, you probably were out delivering food and medicine. If you lived near a Police station or the Red Cross you probably tromped (or cross country skied) over and answered phones or made sandwiches or served as navigators for the hundreds of National Guard members who came to help Buffalo. If you had a shovel you were probably out in the middle of your street with your neighbors. And then when you were finished and ready to sit down with your "six pack"... you shared that too!

How we survived...the Commemoration... the Blizzard Ball...and this year marks the 15th Anniversary...Promising to be the best Blizzard Ball yet! The site: 3rd floor of the Erie County Court Build-

ing at Franklin and Church. The building, formerly Buffalo City Hall, is listed on the National Register of Historic sites. The Blizzard Ball will be in celebration of the completion of the exterior lighting restoration.

The DateJanuary 25, 1992

The time 9:00 in the evening

Music The Barroom Buzzards

Cash bar The Calumet

Gala dessert table

Black Tie optional

Proceeds benefit the Allentown Association, Inc. CH

A city garden

Everyone loves to have a garden full of color and healthy-looking plants! For this to happen, some preparation is needed, and now is one of the best times to do it.

Garden soil, after a few years of use, can get tired, and needs to be amended. Also, many people each spring just dig a hole, stick a plant in it, and wait for it to grow. For a fertile garden, a few simple things need to be done.

First, turn the whole bed to a depth of at least **1 1/2 feet**. (If there are any perennial plants, carefully lift them and set them out of the way). Compact soil discourages good root growth.

Second, mix in some peat moss (be generous, as this will keep your soil loose and hold moisture where it is needed around the roots).

Third, add some composted cattle manure or compost from your compost pile. This will supply nutrients to tired soil. For the average city garden, plan on four or five 40 lb. bags.

When you have mixed this in thoroughly, avoid walking on it - this will pack the soil down and defeat (or de - feet) your labors. Fall is a great time for this task, and you will appreciate it next spring. Suggestion: If you like spring flowers (tulips, daffodils, etc.), but don't like waiting

Allentown Association Board of Directors' Meetings:

January 21, 1992 (Tuesday)

Members welcome. All meetings are held at the Association Office at 7:30 p.m.

for the leaves to die off, try planting the bulbs in pots, then bury the pots in your garden. You can enjoy the blooms, and when they're finished, remove the pots to a sunny location (out of the way) and let them finish storing up food for next year. If you have problems with squirrels (who doesn't in the city, last year I provided some six dozen crocus bulbs for their diets), try placing a piece of chicken wire just below the soil surface. Doing this will protect the bulbs and frustrate the squirrels to no endBF

(Mr. Bob Fink is one of the owners of 24 Park St.- one of our Tour '91 Homes. Perhaps you remember the 'mutant' impatiens in front of their porch. Their backyard was absolutely stunning. Many visitors asked questions of them regarding their gardening techniques, so we've asked them to create a series of tips on their special talents!ed.)

POWER OF THE PRESS...

POWER OF THE PEOPLE...

Crime occurs. Crime occurs **everywhere**. There are muggings, rapes, murders, assaults, car thefts, burglaries, at any given point of time, on any day, in any neighborhood, community or city. For the most part, they do not occur any more frequently in Allentown than they do in Amherst or the Walden Galleria Mall or anywhere else in Western New York. Yet, the *Buffalo News* and T.V. stations *WIVB*, *WGR* and *WKBW* consider Allentown crimes more significant than other area's crimes...we're newsworthy.

So, to people who don't live here, or work here, or shop here, the perceived image of Allentown is the one the media has created...a war zone of wanton crime and lawlessness.

Ask your friends and co-workers who are unfamiliar with Allentown what their perceptions of the neighborhood are. Then listen... then think. **THAT'S THE POWER OF THE PRESS!** To those of us who could live anywhere else but have chosen Allentown, we know our community to be newsworthy. We marvel at the block after block of superbly renovated homes. We look at the numbers of children being raised here and the wonderful quality of life here. We

know the appreciation rate of our housing stock exceeds that of Amherst. We know that a good percentage of our residents are high-powered, influential, involved members of Buffalo's social, political and business hierarchy.

Each time you read an article or see a TV segment that sensationalizes an event that has happened in Allentown while the same event goes unreported elsewhere or is reported with less sensationalism...let the media know. When the media reports a crime as happening in Allentown when it really happened outside the neighborhood...let the media know. Write letters to the editor, call the TV stations.

Perceptions are created. Perceptions can be changed...**THAT'S THE POWER OF THE PEOPLE!** CH

FIRST NIGHT BUFFALO

For the third consecutive year, throngs of Western New Yorkers will be partying straight through the New Year on Main Street in downtown Buffalo. And we do mean straight. There'll be no drugs. No alcohol. No hangovers. No DWFS. No regrets the next morning.

First Night. A Drug and Alcohol-Free Celebration. December 31, 1991 5:30 to midnight, Buffalo Place. It's a fun, healthy celebration the whole family can enjoy. One \$5.00 admission button entitles you to an evening filled with live music and entertainment for all ages, featuring the best performers in Buffalo. The excitement peaks at midnight with the 97 Rock ball drop and fireworks display.

Tired of the same old lang syne? Be a part of First Night. It's an unforgettable New Year's Eve celebration. "First Night showcases the best of Buffalo. From the artists and performers to the volunteers and participants, it's truly a community event that we can all be proud of." *Tom & Betsy Daly First Night Co-Chairs*. For more info., call the hotline at 878-8501. DW

Rick and the Spirits

No, it isn't another new wave group or a religious splinter-group or even a witches haunt.

All Allentowners know Rick Sasala and the Spirits of Allentown. It is hard to

HOLLY FARMS

The Allentown Association Would like to give a very special thanks to Louie at Holly Farms for his very generous donations to the various Association functions.

We encourage the community to give Louie our full support.

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

remember what that corner was like twenty years ago - before Rick.

The premises at 257 Allen Street housed the first liquor store licensed after Prohibition was repealed in 1933. Prior to that, the only "spirits" available for purchase were found at Infantino's Drug Store located at 234 Allen St. - now the offices of the Allentown Association.

When Rick first came to Allentown, he knew nothing about wines and liquors. As he said, "in those days (he) taught Phys. Ed. and stocked seventeen brands of Portuguese rose!" He still teaches, but now knows a lot about all sorts of wine. He stocks very little Portuguese rose! The original Spirits of Allentown opened its doors on March 8, 1973, in the space now occupied by the Laundromat at 253 Allen St. He enlarged the store and moved to the corner in 1980 after Kisses Restauant closed. At the site, there is now an emporium created by Rick Sasala. He owns the Laundromat and gets his change for the liquor store from the machines there. He has talked for years of the Wine Bar on the Wadsworth Street side of the building. We know it will come when the time is right - complete with fancy take-out food.

Nothing has ever caused him to close-up. He was open all during the Blizzard of '77 and was the only liquor store open! Because of that distinction, he was

quoted in the New York Times - the article was brought to him by the late Squire Haskin. Rick has managed to stay competitive with all the bigger stores, and, as many of us know, is open until midnight Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

There is no one more generous than Rick to any number of causes. For the first Allentown Blizzard Ball, a group of us went to him for prices and help with arranging the bar at the Butler Mansion. Rick had just taken over the Wadsworth Street premises around the corner. He had been left with numerous cases of soft drinks and soda. Not only did the Association get a fantastic price for all the liquor, we got a gift of all the pop and mixers - complete with olives, onions and swizzle sticks as I remember! I can't think of an Allentown fundraiser of any sort that hasn't made money due to Rick's generosity. Hats off to a generous neighbor and businessman!!!AK

Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site

The history of 641 Delaware Avenue begins with the Holland Land Company, as do many properties in Western New York. Joseph Ellicott, its surveyor, sold a

Blizzard Ball!

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Name _____

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tract of land to Ebenezer Walden in 1809, which was leased in turn, to the federal government. By 1840, a large military installation was erected with officers' quarters, barracks for enlisted men, and other maintenance-military buildings. The installation was commonly known as the Buffalo Barracks. After the government terminated its lease with Walden in the mid 1840's, parcels were sold off until all that remained was the front portion of the Historic Site.

From 1847 to 1883, the structure was home to prominent Buffalonians, including Dexter Rumsey, his daughter Mary grace and her husband Ansley Wilcox. Previous owners had by this time built a frame addition at the rear of the building, and a brick coach house nearby. By 1901, Wilcox had further improved the property. A Buffalo architect, George Cary, rebuilt the addition and remodeled the interior. The remodeling did not affect the interior of the original part, except for the two first-floor parlors which were made into a large library. The house was transformed into a stately mansion, flavored with both Greek Revival and Adamesque styles, and seasoned with the eclecticism of the 19th century. The Wilcox family held the property for 50 years.

In 1938, Oliver and Kathryn Lawrence leased the property after the Wilcox's deaths from the Rumsey estate. They made extensive renovations to the property, in-

cluding removing most of the interior walls on the first floor. The second floor was totally re-built and the brick carriage house next to the building was demolished. The bricks from that building were used to to construct a small addition. The Kathryn Lawrence Tearoom (one of Buffalo's most fashionable restaurants) was opened. In 1959, the restaurant closed and the mansion began to deteriorate. From 1963 to 1966, efforts were made to declare the site a national historic site. By 1971, the National Site opened its first room to the public on September 14, 1971.

Today, the Theodore Roosevelt National Historic Site remains one of the most prominent architectural and historic statements in the Allentown, if not all of, Western New York, area. Tours and special events are conducted year-round by Ms. Barbara Brandt (director) and her staff. The Victorian Christmas celebration held the second week of December is the highlight of the season events. Guided and self-guided tours of Allentown are also sponsored by the historic site. To find out more, call 884-0095, or better yet, make a visit! The sites hours: Mon-Fri 10a.m. to 5 p.m., Sat-Sun. noon to 5 p.m including all holidays except Jan. 1, Memorial Day, July 4, Sept. 1, Thanksgiving and Dec. 25 DW

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