



# Newsletter

of

## The Van Voorhees Association

ORGANIZED 1932

Volume 7, Number 1

FEBRUARY 1989

### From the President

I recently had the privilege of writing to Mr. Richard V. Beitler of Aurora, Colorado, to thank him for a generous donation to the Association. And why do I mention this? Because Mr. Beitler is a Life Member! His brief comment was that he has "enjoyed each issue of the Newsletter" and that we should "keep up the good work" set me to thinking. If a Life Member whose dues are paid for life demonstrates his appreciation of the Association's progress in this manner, we must be on the right track. And not only that, he probably is representative of a larger group of members who feel similarly. At least that is the way I tend to view it.

To what can we attribute this? Mr. Beitler himself has fingered the most obvious answer -- the Newsletter. Pat and George Davis have done a truly outstanding job of presenting the Newsletter opportunity for two-way communication within the Association. I wish I had kept a list of all compliments I personally have heard or received in writing on our Newsletter. It is well to remind ourselves, however, that part of the Newsletter's success stems from the wide range of Association activities that it depicts from issue to

issue.

When I think of how difficult it is for our Executive Committee to cover all of the interesting business coming before each of our meetings these days, I can't help but reflect back to how it was just before our 50th Anniversary meeting as a few of us set about making that historic event both memorable for those participating and meaningful in terms of Association growth. Certainly the event itself was memorable for the 150 who were there, but I think it is also reasonable to say that we are where we are today as a result of the momentum coming out of that occasion. Our Executive Committee grew to be about double the earlier size, while the productivity from the Committee probably quadrupled! Now our problem is to coordinate all of the many facets of this activity. That's the kind of problem I like!

I know that many of you feel as Mr. Beitler does, and I encourage you to find your own way of expressing that feeling. I'm not asking that you necessarily follow his example and make a special donation to the Association. I'm more interested in encouraging individual expression -- by volunteering to serve on one or more of our commit-



tees, by attending the annual meeting, by recruiting new members, or by simply dropping an appropriate line to us when you feel so inclined. We always enjoy hearing from members and appreciate any suggestions and comments on what the Association is doing or might be doing.

Many of you will recall my repeated statements of concern for having a viable Association when we enter the 21st century. Well, we are still a good way

from that landmark date but I feel that the need for my concern is certainly diminishing. If we continue in the dynamic manner of recent years, we shall all feel pride and satisfaction in our Association as we enter the new century just eleven years from now. Thank you for your continued interest in and support for the Association.

Don Vorhis  
December 1988

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### 56th Annual Meeting

Saturday, October 8, 1988 marked the occasion of the 56th annual meeting of the Van Voorhees Association, held at the First Reformed Church in New Brunswick, NJ. Seventy five members and friends of the Association attended the meeting.

A delicious luncheon was provided by the ladies of the church, with numerous requests from those in attendance for recipes for some of the specialties that were served, including the appropriately named "Dutch soup". (Ed. note: we hope to print some of these in an upcoming issue of the Newsletter.)

Following the luncheon, a brief business meeting was conducted. President Don Vorhis thanked those in attendance for their support of the Association. An informal poll was taken and found that many areas of the country were represented. Mildred and Harold Bird from Palm Desert CA were recognized as the

members who traveled the furthest to attend. Guest (Prospective member) Marilyn Babcock came from Madrid Spain. Mildred Kavanaugh, at the young age of 85 was recognized as the oldest member in attendance, and Thomas Vorhies, at five months, was the youngest member (his siblings Jimmy



l-r Mary, Thomas, Elizabeth, James and Jimmy Vorhies

and Elizabeth, also in attendance with their parents, Jim and Mary Vorhies, have previously held this honor).

The committee chairmen presented their reports (see committee



reports elsewhere in this Newsletter). Vice president Art Voorhees was re-elected by unanimous vote of the members in attendance, plus another good turnout of absentee ballots from members who could not attend the meeting.

Larry and Hazel Voris of Springfield, MO reported on the Iowa reunion which they had attended (see reunion report elsewhere in this Newsletter).



Larry Voris recounting the Iowa Reunion

Guest speaker Harriet Stryker-Rodda gave an interesting talk encouraging us to try a new approach to genealogy, by deliberately leaving clues to future researchers about ourselves. (see below).

Following the meeting, Rev. Muyskens, minister at the Church, gave a tour of the church and churchyard, for those interested. Steve Shyers provided a demonstration of our computer genealogy system, as well as sharing of genealogical information for several of the members. And the ladies of the church came through again with a host of delicious goodies which disappeared during the post-meeting renewal of family ties which has become the traditional closeout of our annual meetings in recent years.

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### YOU

In her talk at the annual meeting, guest speaker Harriet Stryker-Rodda pointed out that each of us is an historical person. Just as we today seek to find information about our ancestors, our descendants will do the same, and the people they will be looking for is us i.e. YOU. Why not start a new approach to genealogy by deliberately leaving clues to your descendants, so they will be able to know you?

Picture your hand as a genealogical tree, with your fingers representing five generations. With your middle finger representing yourself, your index finger is your parents, and

your thumb is your grandparents. Similarly, your ring finger is your children, and the little finger is your grandchildren. What do you know about your parents and



Harriet Stryker-Rodda

grandparents? If you think about it you will probably find that it is very little, mostly what your parents could or wanted to tell you. Based on that, what will your children and grandchildren know about them -- or even yourself? In just 8 generations, you are descended from more than 500 people. Where will you show up if you haven't done anything about it. This is particularly so today, where our society has become so mobile.

Pass on your experiences!  
Leave clues!

What should you leave? This will depend on you, but here are a few suggestions:

- Photographs (be sure to label them - who, when, where)
- Documents - deeds, service certificates, membership certificates, school honors, diplomas
- Precious letters
- Newspaper clippings
- Furniture and other items which are important to you
- Fabrics, shawls, etc.

Consider keeping a diary. It does not have to be fancy, or in a bound book. Entries can be very brief, or more extensive if you prefer. Diaries can provide a wealth of information for future generations. As an example, Mrs. Stryker-Rodda cited the diaries of John Baxter, which were written in the years following the American Revolution. Many years later, they turned up on Long Island, and were transcribed to typescript by Mrs. Stryker-Rodda. Among other things, there are over 200 references to Van Voorhees in book 1 alone, some of which are cited below.

To be sure that the items you want preserved are passed to those you want to receive them, label the documents, books, and artifacts with a label stating.. "I want this book (or whatever) to go to ...".

Instead of (or in addition to) being a searcher, turn yourself into someone who will be searched for!

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#### SAMPLE ENTRIES from JOHN BAXTER'S JOURNALS

Volume 1		
<u>Page</u>	<u>Date</u>	
	1790	
2	20 Apr.	Went to Court in Flatbush with Abraham Voorhees, no Business done
3	16 May	Went to Amblerstrand with B. Johnston & A. Voorhees; we had 2 drums
4	1 July	Raised John P. Lott's barn. had a fine dance, stayed up all night, went the next day for eels with peter Voorhees & Tunis Van Pelt we had 240 eels
	8 July	Went to York with R. Voorhees Altie & Debby Stoothoff bought a striped trowsers and 14 yds linen for



- shirts Altie brought home a large looking glass  
An old tinker called Tom Bennit has pitched his  
tent under a tree & is busy mending kettles, etc.
- 13 " Planted 240 hills of beans on my large farm by the  
school house
- 26 " Altie went to York brought me my watch Roeluf  
Voorhees wife had a young daughter her first child
- 8 25 Dec Went to Brooklin along with Gibson, P. Wyckoff &  
Derrick Ammerman and more. Fell out of the sleigh  
coming back. in Gowanus lane met with Jacob Voor-  
hees and Bart. Wyckoff at Jim Van Beuren's Sat  
up all night with John P. Lott's child which was  
dead, Barent Wyckoff in the company.
- 26 Helped to bear the child to the graveyard along  
with B. Wyckoff and Bill and C. Stoothoff A deep  
snow blew all night. Fulkert Sprong arrived from  
Chileaur's Bay in Canada being absent from here 9  
years.
- 1791
- 9 1 Jan Went to Flatland Town in hard Gale slept with  
Jacob Voorhees Sunday preaching here by Schoon-  
maker The Flatlanders met concerning the church  
in the School Room intending to build a new one
- 4 " Began school after new year
- 9 Albert Voorhees mill burned
- 3 Feb A high n.w. wind and very cold; The Rev. Domine  
Schoonmaker sent flax to the girls of Flatlands;  
Rimey Wyckoff was at Maria Stoothoff with her  
wheel James Tod's child died at Erasmus Hall  
John Voorhees very bad with the rheumatism
- 17 Feb Amazing cold & clear. Domine Schoonmaker's Spin-  
ning Frolic- there were 32 girls
- 21 Got one bushel of apples from William Kowenhovens  
Abraham Voorhees had a young child died his first
- 10 10 Apr Barent Johnson's house pulled down. Roelof Kou-  
wenhoven from Jersey came here. Tinbrook and  
Bateman here from Jersey. Betsy Van der Bilt  
married of Flatbush to C. Clarkson B. Wyckoff and  
R. Voorhees made their fortunes at the Beach. Shad  
running
- May 1 Went to York for Deb Kouwenhoven and her daughter  
Polly brot liquor up for Sn. Voris John Voorhees  
from Jersey here and his step son Demunn
- 27 Made Stephen Voorhees an account book

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## DUES NOTICE

Dues for 1989 are due and payable January 1. The Dues Notice is located at the inside of the back page of this Newsletter. Members whose dues are not up to date will be dropped from the mailing list after this Newsletter.



## IOWA REUNION

Darlene Vorhies reported another successful Iowa reunion, held on Sept.4, 1988 at the Lockridge, IA Community Hall. Sixty-six people attended this year. In addition to Darlene's report, Larry and Hazel Voris, who attended both the Iowa and New Jersey meetings, reported that a good time was had by all.

Harry & Harriet Baker and Roberta (Harry's sister) & Ed Swiatek, all of California, shared the honors of coming the furthest to attend the reunion--- and enjoyed their own little family reunion with Iowa kin at the same time. Caleb Waters was the youngest present at just under a year. Harold and Pauline Vorhies won a "Do Not Disturb" door knob sign for being married the least length of time. Verne Vorhies won a prize for being the oldest at age 94, and also for having the most descendants present. Verne was the eldest of five generations present -- Winetta Vorhies Harwood, Shirley Harwood Johnson, Bonita Johnson Waters, and Caleb Waters are the other four generations.

In addition to the entertainment and food, a genealogical exchange was held. The Vorhies Cemetery project continues, with a goal for this year of mapping all the stones, to coincide with the 1964 stones list. Darlene notes that most of the OLD stones are spelled VorhEIs, not VorhIEs.

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## NEWS FROM CAJUN COUNTRY

Our Louisiana cousins have produced a line drawing print showing Judge Felix Voorhies (b. 1839) and his twelve children. Judge Voorhies served in the Confederate Army and was eventually appointed District Judge. On the side, he wrote music, plays and books. The most famous of these is "Acadian Remembrances" which tells, from first hand accounts, the story of the Cajun exile from Nova Scotia, and served as the idea for Longfellow's epic poem "Evangeline". Many of the Judge's descendants left Louisiana, and their descendants must be spread over the country. Anyone who is interested in a copy of the print, or those who are descended from Judge Voorhies and would like to exchange genealogical information should contact:

Donald D. Voorhies, Ph.D.  
301 Donald St.  
New Iberia, LA 70560

The prints were produced in a limited edition of 200 copies, of which 100 were signed and numbered by the artist. Prices for the prints are: Signed and numbered: \$40.00 Regular: \$20.00 Accompanying the print is a copy of the original photograph and identification of the individuals in the print. All proceeds beyond production expenses will go to a scholarship fund at the University of Southwestern Louisiana which has been established in honor of Judge Voorhies, and is awarded to a student for creative writing.



## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Historical Committee

Chairman Manning Voorhees reported that the draft of the final report on the Dutch records research has been received from Drs. Folkerts, and is being reviewed by the research oversight committee members. The report runs about 120 doublespaced typed pages, plus genealogical charts, maps, copies of important documents and other appendices. Possibilities for publication of the report are being investigated.

Manning also recognized Marie (Mrs. Theodore B.) Voorhees of Tulsa, OK, in attendance at the meeting, for her contribution of the recent Newsletter article about Domine Polhemus (Jul-Aug 1988 issue), as well as a much more extensive report on Domine Polhemus which she gave to the Association for its archives.

### Publications Committee

Chairman Bob Voris reported that an errata sheet is being prepared for Volume I of the Genealogy, to be published and distributed, with the full name index prepared by Hazel Voris, to all holders of the work. Anyone who is aware of any errors in the genealogy is requested to send them to:

Robert Voris  
802 Berkeley Rd.,  
Westover Hills  
Wilmington, DE 19807

### Membership Committee

Chairman Art Voorhees reported the addition of new members since the last meeting as

follows:

Regular	44
Contributing	1
Junior	2
Sustaining	4
Life	5

In addition, there were 5 members who converted their membership to life status, making a total of 10 new life members for the year.

### Program Committee

Planning for the 57th Annual Meeting of the Association is indefinite at this time. We are attempting to have Drs. Jan Folkerts (see Historical Committee report above) as the guest speaker, but this will be dependant on whether Drs. Folkerts will be in the U.S. in September or October. If so, the meeting date will be arranged to fit into his schedule. The program should be defined in time to announce in the Spring Newsletter.

The committee is considering alternate sites and extended program for future meetings. Please answer the few questions on the Dues Notice to help in making this decision. Note that the Bergen County sites being considered are located about the same distance and time from New York City and Newark Airport as our recent meeting places in and near New Brunswick. Access by public transportation is also similar. Expanded meeting would extend into Sunday, with additional program items such as tours of local historical sites with family connections, possible bus tour to further sites, genealogy sessions, additional speaker(s), ... YOUR IDEAS PLEASE?



## MILESTONES

Alma Wilkinson Timbrell celebrated her 100th birthday on January 14, 1989. Alma is the mother of former Association secretary Claire Swanson Bonnell.

Betty Andersen wrote to tell us of the birth 6 July 1988, of twin granddaughters Johanne & Kirsten Walleck. They are children of Betty's daughter Astrid and her husband Jeff, and sisters of Anders who was 2 on 1 Sept.

Robert Voorhis married Adrienne Claire Lipscomb at the First Church of Christ, Congregational in Glastonbury, CT on 2 July 1988 (also his 31st birthday).

Norma Fae Voorhees Sheard has been busy collecting awards

for her poetry. Last summer she was one of 200 runners-up (out of 40,000 entries) in a Haiku contest sponsored by Japan Air Lines. She has been named as a 1989 recipient of a fellowship for poetry from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts, and recently won first place on the national level from the General Federation of Women's Clubs for a poem about her grandmother, Edna Augusta Brokaw Voorhees (Mrs. Fred Hughes Voorhees). This poem had previously won a first place from the NJ State Federation of Women's Clubs (the third such award she had received).

Thomas Lawrence Vorhies was born on May 17, 1988. He is the son of James and Mary Vorhies of Tacoma Park, MD.

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## GENEALOGICAL QUERIES

GQ-17 -- Seek contact with Barr and Linderman families, descendants of Margaret McGarvey Voorhies and Calvin Thompson, m. 1844 and living in Basking Ridge, NJ. Son Joseph had son William who m. Louise Voorhees; their daughters Margaret and Frances m. respectively Andrew Barr and Theodore Linderman. S.E. Harris, Jr., Rt 7, Box 80, Carbondale, IL 62901.

GQ-18 -- Seeking info regarding Belinda Secrest Vorhies (1850-1940). Lived in Guernsey / Noble Co. OH area. Wife of (William) Leander Vorhies. Who were her parents? Laura Phelps, 2738 East North Lane, Phoenix, AZ 85028 (602)867-1443.

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## COMPUTERIZED GENEALOGY INFORMATION

As mentioned in previous Newsletters, the genealogical information in the Association's archives is gradually being entered into a computer-based filing system. The primary purpose of this is to speed access to the information to genealogical researchers. Finding individuals and identifying relationships is greatly eased when the computer does the tedious searching, particularly when there are (as in the case of our family) many individuals with the same name. It is our hope that, as the body of informa-

tion in the computer file grows, it will facilitate making connections for those whose lines to our common ancestor are missing a generation or two.

We believe that the file has grown to the point that this effort can be begun. Inquiries to the computer file will be accepted from anyone who has submitted family record and ancestral charts as requested in previous Newsletters. If you haven't yet submitted yours, please do. If you have an inquiry, please send it to:

Stephen LeC. Shyers, IV  
26 Laurel La.  
Newark, DE 19711

Please be as specific as possible in your request. The following types of reports are available:

1. Individual record
2. Family record
3. Ancestor chart (specify number of generations and person to be the youngest (most recent) on the chart)
4. Descendants chart

Please include remittance, payable to the Van Voorhees Association, with your request, as follows:

\$ .50 per four pages (or part), to cover costs of paper, postage, etc.

Please note that individual records and family records require at least one page per record. Ancestor charts have four generations per page, but for a single line of more than four generations, the second and following pages will contain only three generations. Pedigree charts can run several pages, depending on the line and number of generations requested. Most of the information contained in the file has not, at this time, been verified from original sources, and we assume that there are some errors in the file. Until such time as the file has been proofed from original sources, assume that all information MUST be verified before being accepted as historical fact.

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## New Netherlands Project

As previously mentioned in these pages, the New Netherlands Project, under the auspices of the New York State Library, is attempting to translate the Dutch documents of the Nieuw Netherlands colony. This project is financed primarily through grants and private donations. The goal is to eventually translate all of the 12,000 plus pages of documents in the Library's collection, as well as obtain and translate any other documents relating to the Dutch colonial period in the New York area. This work is important in the understanding of the early years of our family history in the New World, as most of the existing history of this period has been written based on the English records, which are prejudicial to the English point of view and incomplete with regard to daily happenings of the common citizen.



You can support this work through direct contributions to the Project, or through membership in the Friends of the New Netherland Project. Membership in the Friends is \$25 per year, and includes the Project Newsletter and a 20% discount on Project publications. Addresses are:

New Netherland Project, NY State Library, CEC 11D35,  
Albany, NY 12230

Friends of the New Netherlands Project, PO Box 2536,  
Empire State Plaza Station, Albany, NY 12220-0536

All donations are tax deductible.

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ABOUT OUR PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

The primary purpose of the Newsletter is to keep the members informed about what is happening within the Association. In addition, we attempt to provide additional information about activities of our members, programs of interest to the members, publications, and to provide historical articles related to the family. The Newsletter is the Association's communications link to the membership. To do this, we are dependant on the input of the members for raw

material and articles. Although we attempt to publish 3 or 4 issues annually, we can only do this if we have enough material to warrant doing so. Please send your articles, milestones, etc. to the editors.

PUBLICATIONS	DEADLINES
<u>Newsletter</u> <u>Issue</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
May 1989	April 15, 1989
July 1989	June 15, 1989



Some of the Annual Meeting attendees

Return completed applications, with remittance to:

The Van Voorhees Association  
Arthur Voorhees  
PO Box 125  
Tuckerton, NJ 33324

Upon acceptance of this application, further information will be requested.

### APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

THE UNDERSIGNED, A DESCENDANT OF  
Steven Coerte Van Voorhees  
HEREBY APPLIES FOR MEMBERSHIP IN

**The Van Voorhees Association**

Leave blank

Letter

Confirm.

Card

#### FEES

Member .....\$ 5.00  
Junior Member ..... 2.00  
Sustaining Member ..... 10.00  
Contributing Member .... 25.00  
Life Member .....150.00

Date .....

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed Name  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address  
\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip

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(tear here)

Dues through December 1989 are payable January 1, 1989. Please check membership desired and note any change of address. Mail to the Treasurer, MR. G. HAROLD BUTTLER, 72 Upland Avenue, Metuchen, New Jersey, 08840. (Envelope Enclosed). Please make checks payable to "The VanVoorhees Association".

Please report below the name and date of any new member of your family, with the names of his or her parents, and the immediate grandparents (Voorhees line).

Also please respond to the questions about Annual Meeting planning.

#### MEMBERSHIP FEES

- Active \$5.00       Contributing \$25.00  
 Junior \$2.00       Life \$150.00  
 Sustaining \$10.00      Dues are tax deductible

#### ANNUAL MEETING PLANNING

Would you be more likely to attend the Annual Meeting if it was held:

- near New Brunswick, NJ       Bergen County, NJ       New York City  
 any of the above       either of the New Jersey locations

Would you attend an extended annual meeting that includes (check all that apply):

- bus tour of historical sites       genealogy session       picnic  
 additional speaker(s)       local tour of historical sites       one day is enough  
 other \_\_\_\_\_



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 1988-1989

President: Donald G. Vorhis 4813 Bradford Dr., Annandale, VA 22003 (703)941-4614  
 Vice President: Arthur R. Voorhees PO Box 125, Tuckerton, NJ 08087 (Apr.-Oct.) (609)296-8937  
 1900 SW 83rd Ave., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33324 (Oct.-Apr.) (305)473-2972  
 Secretary: Ms. Candace Voorhies 1364 Highland Ave., Rochester, NY 14620 (716)244-5868  
 Treasurer: G. Harold Buttler 72 Upland Ave., Metuchen, NJ 08840 (201)548-8869

LINE REPRESENTATIVES

Albert Line: Ms. Cornelia V. Mason 32 Elkan Rd., Larchmont, NY 10538 (914)833-1276  
 Coert Line: Frank J. VanVoorhis 909 Evening St., Worthington, OH 43085  
 Jan Line: Robert S. Voris 802 Berkeley Rd., Westover Hills, Wilmington, DE 19807 (302)652-5833  
 Lucas Line: Mrs. Joseph (Elizabeth V.) Edgar 423 Harrison Ave., Highland Park, NJ 08904 (201)545-6962

MEMBERS-at-LARGE

Mrs. George L. (Alice V.) Adams 24 Redcliffe Ave., Apt. 1-A, Highland Park, NJ 08904  
 Mrs. T.B. (Elisabeth V.) Ripton 242-31 51 Ave., Douglaston, NY 11362  
 Donald A. Sinclair 108 North 2nd Ave., Highland Park, NJ 08904 (201)545-0568  
 Richard L. Voorhees 2116 Swinnen Dr., Westerlo, Wilmington, DE 19810 (302)475-2801  
 Miss Charlotte C. Voorhis Cathedral Village A-320, 8600 Ridge Ave., Philadelphia, PA 19128

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Financial: G. Harold Buttler (see above)  
 Genealogical: Rev. William J.F. Lydecker 19 Oak St., Allendale, NJ 07401 (201)934-9586  
 Historical: Manning W. Voorhees 41 Oaklawn Rd., Fair Haven, NJ 07701 (201)842-0086  
 Membership: Arthur R. Voorhees (see above)  
 Communications: Frank J. VanVoorhis (see above)  
 Program: Scott Voorhees 30 Orchard Ave., Emerson, NJ 07630 (201)967-8474  
 Publications: Robert S. Voris (see above)  
 Publicity: Mrs. Robert (June V.) Wick 69 Wyckoff Ave., Waldwick, NJ 07463 (201)652-6350  
 Planning: George Davis (see below)

Association Genealogist: Albert L. Stokes RD#1 Old Georgetown Rd., Princeton, NJ 08540 (201)297-2438  
 Computer Services: Stephen LeC. Shyers IV 26 Laurel La., Newark, DE 19713 (302)368-7609  
 Newsletter Editors: George and Patricia Davis 310 Rockland Ave., River Vale, NJ 07675 (201)358-0150



The VAN VOORHEES ASSOCIATION  
 310 Rockland Ave.  
 River Vale, NJ 07675

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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Time Dated Material  
 DO NOT DELAY