

Historic home will take on new life for senior citizens



By Richard Long

that the Athenaeum "will create 20 permanent jobs upon opening."

Also included will be an elevator, a dining room, a library and a beauty spa.

According to the late historian Eva Loyster, William Loney came to Skaneateles in 1863 to visit his daughter, Mrs. Fred Roosevelt. The Roosevelt E. Genesee St. mansion later became the Stella Maris Retreat House. Skaneateles appealed to Loney

and while here he married a young lady by the name of Alice Allen. They built their home at 150 E. Genesee St. Over the years future owners added on to it. A later significant action took place when the extensive property, which went as far as the lake, was sold for building lots to create today's Lakeview Circle.

It was, for a while, a nursing home after World War II until Kennedy purchased it.

Groundbreaking, left to right: Chuck Williams, Chairman of Historic Landmark Commission; Kip Allen, VP of Partners Trust; Ted Kinder, owner of contractor, MCK Construction; Sister Maureen Donofrio; Stephen Bowman, President of Peregrine Properties of Skaneateles, LLC; Mark Farchione, Vice President of Peregrine Health Management Company; Dianne Delfino, Interior Designer.

Library restores Indian

Have you ever walked into the library, wandered to the back and looked up above the fireplace mantle at the large painting of a Native American? The painting, known as "Conflicting Faiths," has hung over the mantle since 1907 and has recently been restored.

"Conflicting Faiths" was painted by DeCost Smith, a Skaneateles native. Before being given to the Library in 1907, it was exhibited in Paris and New York City. In the painting, a Native American holds a rosary in one hand and a wooden mask in the other, symbols of two faiths challenging Native Americans. The mask represents the faith of his ancestors and the rosary and crucifix represent the Jesuit missionaries' christianity. In the background, seated by a small fire, is an old woman of the tribe, indifferent to the problems, which the advance of civilization has thrust upon the younger generation.

DeCost Smith was born in Skaneateles in 1864 and studied art in New York City and Paris. At an early age, he became interested in Native Americans. He lived with various tribes, learned their language and established a rapport with several tribes such that he was accepted and trusted by them. He was adopted by the Onondagas and the man in "Conflicting Faiths" was actually an Onondagan who lived on the nearby reservation.

On your next visit to library, glance down the center aisle and look at the great work over the mantle.

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