

## JF WORKSHOP SUPPORTS COMMUNITY

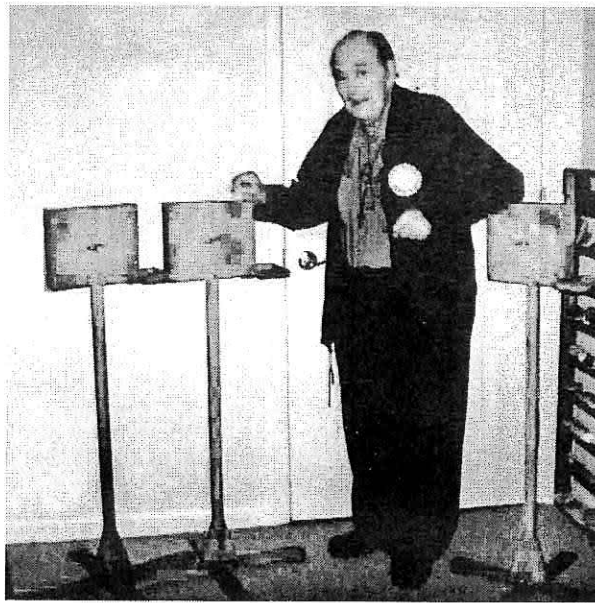
by Marty Petersen

**E**lizabeth Kahn Kaplan of the Three Village Historical Society invited Marty Petersen, Chair of the Woodworking Shop Committee at Jefferson's Ferry, to create three innovative Question Boxes for the Historical Society's brand-new exhibit for children and adults: "Spies! How A Group of Long Island Patriots Helped George Washington Win the Revolution." The exhibit opened on Sunday, last October at the Society's headquarters, located at 93 North Country Road in Setauket, where Marty's Question Boxes were a great success.

Designed and created by Marty, the boxes are approximately 10" x 10" fastened to stands about four feet high. Each has three slots on top, and two doors that open to reveal three clear bud vases, one underneath each slot. The doors remain closed while a child reads a question from a card that has been placed in an open box affixed to the side. Along with the question, three answers are given. Any one of them is correct, but the child is asked to pick the one he or she agrees with most.

For example: "Why do you think Abraham Woodhull agreed to be a spy?" The three answers given are: A: Being a spy would be exciting. B: His friend asked him to be a spy. C: General Washington needed his help.

The child is given a wooden disc to drop into the slot that corresponds to his answer. Then, the doors are opened. The child can see how many people picked his answer, and how many picked other answers. Again, there is no



right or wrong answer. What the Three Village Historical Society wishes to learn is how children and adults may think Based upon results from the opening day, many 4th graders tend to pick B, while 7th graders tend to pick A,

and 10th graders and adults pick answer C.

The Children's Maritime Museum in Port Jefferson has borrowed the three boxes.

They will create their own questions, to help evaluate whether their exhibit is meeting their goals.

Many thanks from the Three Village Historical Society and the Children's Maritime Museum to Marty Petersen for the beautiful job he did in making

the Question Boxes and stands. He worked on them over several weeks, and his efforts are much appreciated by both organizations. Hopefully Jefferson's Ferry residents will visit these exhibits.