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PORTLAND, CONN.



PORTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PORTLAND, CONNECTICUT

NEWS & NOTES

SEPTEMBER 1977 ISSUE 2

WELCOME BACK

The summer is rapidly drawing to a close and our thoughts now turn to the busy months ahead. How can we, each of us, more effectively be of service to our Portland Historical Society; what part can we play in preserving Portland's interesting past for the benefit of our community today as well as generations to come? Give it serious thought...it's all up to you and I! We trust that this year will prove even more successful to our Society than our past year.

MEMBERSHIP

At the close of our membership drive we had 210 members. We added four new members. It is a slight decrease over last year's total and we shall work to increase our lists this year. Mrs. Audrey Scheer has done a hard job for us as membership chairman and has been most helpful to your president whenever she was asked to help. Thank you Audrey!

If there is anyone interested in helping her prepare for the coming year, please don't hesitate to call.

It is now time to think ahead to 1977-78! May I urge you to pay your \$2.50 annual dues early as it makes our membership chairman's job easier and saves the Society the cost of mailing the bill. New members are always welcomed. Do you have a friend or neighbor that would be an asset to our Society? Invite them to join. Simply mail \$2.50 to Box 98, Portland, Conn. in care of the Portland Historical Society.

Some of our members might like to be reminded that Lifetime Memberships are available. The cost is \$100. What a nice way to help the Society and to ensure your continued membership, especially those of you who are Charter Members.

PROGRAM

Chairman, Ruth Hale, has announced the following programs for the first three months of the coming year.

September 14, 1977:

Michael Robinson, vice-president of the Valley Railroad and president of the Railroad

Museum, will give a slide presentation portraying the history of railroading. He will tell of the 1871 train service from Fenwick to Hartford, the demise of passenger service in 1933, and the evolution of steam locomotive excursion trips which bring back the flavor of a time long past.

October 12, 1977:

John Unikewicze of Meriden, a collector of and authority on Indian artifacts, will talk on Indian lore and display some of his treasures. Many of his discoveries were made right here in Portland. Mr. Unikewicze is willing that his talk be taped.

November 9, 1977:

Annual Meeting of our Society. The first presentation of the slides taken by Al LeShane will be our program. You won't want to miss this one!

SLIDE TAKING RESULTS EXCELLENT

I've had a chance to review the slides that were taken of pictures, documents, etc. that many of you brought in and can't wait to have all of you see them. It is quite possible that we may be able to make three informative and interesting programs out of the many items you brought to us. It would appear that another such evening devoted to taking slides of your pictures and items of note concerning Portland is not out of order. Of course, we can only do these things with the gracious help of people such as Al LeShane who worked so hard for us (and with excellent results). These slides are the property of our Society and should prove of lasting value and interest.

HISTORIC SITES

We have received official notice that our application for funds from the Community Development Fund has been approved and as soon as the environmental assessment of the program is completed, we will be able to proceed with the demarcation of historically important sites and homes in the development of Portland. Therefore, Phylis Greene as chairman of this Committee could certainly use your help this fall as sites must be selected, signs made or purchased and finally properly placed and maintained.

FUND RAISERS

Chairman Mrs. Martha Johnson is already looking ahead to the coming year and planning ways for us to raise money and enjoy the effort. For those of you who are not aware of it, Martha and her workers last year brought to the Society \$368.75. The Bake Sale and the Flea Market were both successful. Surprisingly, it was the small items of little value that helped bring such a nice total to our Flea Market return. Keep this in mind during the year. Before you throw out an item, think if it couldn't be used at our booth in the Spring. Because we did have some lovely pieces left at the end of this event, we are considering auctioning them off at our meetings. News of this will be in our local paper.

MEMORIAL FUND

This fund, now officially established, is made possible as an appropriate means of supporting the Society as well as honoring those individuals living, as well as those who have died. Monies from this fund will be used as the donor wishes. A separate bank account has been opened for this purpose and a proper and fitting acknowledgement shall be provided. It is expected that most funds will be donated for the future purchase and upkeep of a permanent home for our Society, making possible the storage and display of items from our town's fascinating past, so that they may be readily shared with the public. All donations will be recorded in a special Memorial Book.

What a better way to provide a permanent memorial to someone that was part of our town's past or a loved one, than to make possible the preservation of Portland's past. Give it your serious consideration...send your donation to the Portland Historical Society Memorial Fund, P.O. Box 98, Portland. List the donor, the person who is being honored and the desired use of the donation.

HISTORIAN NEEDED

As the Society continues to grow and to age, our needs grow with it, thus your Board of Directors is considering a position of Historian for our Society. Records of the Society should be filed and a permanent history of our actions should be recorded. Such a position would also be responsible for keeping an ongoing history of our town via clippings of incidents reported in the local newspapers. Today's news will provide us with tomorrow's history. Perhaps one of you might be interested in taking up this job. Don't be hesitant...you're needed.

WHAT ARE YOUR INTERESTS?

Whether active involvement on a committee of our Society, participation and expression of ideas at meetings or simply enjoyment of a program that's of personal interest, we need you. If you're a member, we'd appreciate seeing more of you. If you are not, we'd enjoy having you join us at our meetings, or better still, become a member.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OFFICERS:

President Patricia Aresco
Vice-president Harold Krieger
Secretary Rebecca Robinson
Treasurer Robert Johnson
Chairman, Board of Directors, Roger Hinze
Director Phyllis Peterson
Director Jack Dillon

HISTORY OF PORTLAND AVAILABLE

A 66 page book filled with old photos and fascinating facts about Portland's history from its beginning to 1976 is available for only \$2.50 and can be readily obtained at Buck Library. All Portland residents should own one and they make ideal souvenirs for friends and relatives visiting here. All proceeds go into the treasury of our historical society.

OF INTEREST

For those who might be interested, the Connecticut League of Historical Societies will be holding their quarterly meeting in Granby, Conn. on Sept.24. The League publishes a most interesting bulletin with informative articles pertinent to Conn. and her history four times a year. The League welcomes individual members at a cost of only five dollars annually. Anyone interested should contact Pat Aresco for details.

SEE YOU ALL ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 AT 7:30 AT THE ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HALL ON WILLIAM STREET, FOR THE FIRST MEETING OF THE NEW YEAR!