



PORTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PORTLAND, CONNECTICUT

NEWS & NOTES

SEPTEMBER 1978 ISSUE 4

WELCOME BACK

Greetings! Another summer is past; we hope it was fulfilled and now you are set to start another year of activity. Business of the Society continues despite the seasons so we hope this newsletter will bring you up to date on progress made.

OUR NEXT MEETING

Wednesday, Sept. 13 at 7:30 at the Zion Luth. fellowship hall will begin the Fall session of our Society. Mr. David Finkelstein of Portland will present a program on old toys. Particular emphasis will be placed on rubber, cast iron and "tootsie" toys. Mr. Finkelstein's collection includes old toy cars and trucks which he has been collecting over 14 years. Plan to bring your old toys as he has agreed to appraise items brought to the meeting.

Speaking of programs, we would like to present an evening of discussion on the Arrigoni Bridge. This year marks the 40th anniversary of the opening of this structure. We know our members have memorabilia concerning that event and we would like them to share it with us. If you're interested in coordinating such a program call Ruth Hale.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

It is with great regret that I must announce the resignation of Roger Hinze as chairman of the Board of Directors. Those of us who have worked with Roger realize how willing he was to undertake projects for the benefit of our Society. It will be difficult to replace such a worker and we hope that in the near future his commitments will allow him to again devote his talents to the Society. The Board of Directors will meet on Sept. 6 to take action on this vacancy.

MEMORIAL FUND

A donation was received in memory of Miss Alice Olson. A reminder to all members that this Memorial Fund was established to honor any living or deceased person. Monies from this fund are deposited in a special account and will only be used for the purchase of, upkeep of, or ongoing program of a permanent home for our Society. Donations are recorded in our Memorial Book and appropriate cards are sent to the don-

or and the family of the person being honored. These gifts may be in any amount. Simply send a note to Memorial Fund, Portland Historical Society, Box 98, Portland, Ct. A special word of thanks to Mrs. Maryon Hale for her continued generous use of this fund.

ANNUAL MEETING - POT LUCK SUPPER

The Annual Meeting of our Society in November will mark the 5th Anniversary of our organization. Special plans are in the works for this occasion. Mr. & Mrs. Everett Berndtson have agreed to chair a committee for a Pot Luck Supper. What a super way to celebrate our 5th Anniversary! Additional workers will be needed for this undertaking, especially volunteers to contact all members. Won't you volunteer? Besides election of officers, a special program of entertainment is planned. Your spouses and friends are welcome of course. Help us celebrate on November 8th!

PROGRAMS

In March, Everett Berndtson of Portland presented a program on old carriage restoration. One of the highlights was a discussion of a Canadian Sidebar and Meadowbrook Cart he had restored and brought to the meeting. Pictures of and tools used in the process of restoration were displayed.

April's program was given by Walter Olson Jr. of Haddam Neck. He showed an interesting slide program he had taken of the casting of bells at the Bevin Bros. Co. of East Hampton, Ct. Various cast bell samples were displayed and discussed.

In May, Earl Woike and Edward Krieger of Middletown presented a program on the art of old bottle collecting. It proved most informative as they brought along most different types of bottles showing the various methods of bottle making and how one could determine the approximate age of a bottle. To close the program they examined and helped identify bottles that members had brought in.

MEMBERSHIP

Chairman Audrey Scheer announces that we have over 200 members again this year. Thanks for another successful drive and all your dedication to this work. We should all make an effort to seek out those who would make good members and ask them to join us; all are welcome.

WAYS & MEANS

The Food Sale and Flea Market again proved very successful thanks to Martha Johnson and all who assisted. The Food Sale raised \$133.25 and Martha would like to thank the many members who baked, and commented on the large number of you donating items. Thanks go to Crystal Johnson, Audrey Scheer, Lu Cramer and Marion Brainerd who worked on the table and the phone committee of Edna Cramer, Pat Csere, Anita Carlson & Gunnie Olson who helped assure this success.

We were fortunate to have a good day for the Flea Market. Although the winds blew and workers got a "little" dirty, the work was not only fun but profitable (we realized \$234.56 profit). Ask Harold Krieger, Jack Dillon, John Conklin, Audrey Scheer, Rebecca Robinson or Martha how much fun this can be. Surprising what items sell: Don McDougal donated a crate of rhubarb plants that sold like hot cakes! Realizing our attics are nearly depleted, we may need a new source of revenue next year. The slides taken by Al LeShane of member's old photos and items of Portland's past could be profitable to our Society and beneficial to members desiring duplicates. We need someone to write a form letter to be sent to the original owners seeking their permission to sell copies (we have the list) and then take reprint orders. Any volunteers? Think about it and then call Pat Aresco at 342-1569. Thanks again, Martha for helping to add \$367.81 to our Society's treasury!

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.

ORAL HISTORY

John Conklin and Harold Krieger were able to take advantage of one more taped discussion with one of Portland's interesting couples before the summer set in. Ed and Ruth Bergeson of 14 William St. provided them with many interesting and little remembered facts about Portland's past that should be beneficial to generations to come. If you know of someone who would be willing to share their personal recollections about Portland's early years with us, please let John know and a session will be arranged at his earliest opportunity.

HISTORIC SITES

At present 6 bronze historic markers and 35 painted wooden plaques for homes are being made with delivery hoped for in the not too distant future. If you know of a home dating prior

to 1850 on which accurate information is available as to original owner and approximate date of construction, please forward this to Phyllis Green or any member of this committee. Help is also needed in the interesting work of researching homes on which we have some but not all information available. If you can help, please let us know. An additional group of home plaques will be ordered as soon as we have this necessary information.

Application has also been made with the Conn. Historical Commission for a sign containing data about the founding of our town as well as significant events in its history. It would be made of heavy cast aluminum 54" x 34" and be rendered in rich blue with white lettering and the state arms in full color, all in baked enamel. It would be erected in the near vicinity of Town Hall. There will be no cost involved to us. Our request is under consideration at this time.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

This newsletter marks the last time I will be speaking to you via this media as President. First let me say a very special thank you to all the officers and committees who served with me. Your help and enthusiasm has made my task so much easier. It has been a pleasure to serve with each of you. A special thanks to Harold Krieger whose advise, help and ideas have been responsible for so many of our projects.

Second, a brief review of my two year terms shows that several projects that I wished to see enacted have been started. We now have a newsletter, we did acquire C.D. Funds to undertake the program of marking historic sites and homes, the Society now has a collection of slides of Portland's past and we will start our new year with a Pot Luck Supper. Nevertheless, there is so much more to be accomplished. There is a great need for more frequent communication with our members. Our slide collection could be increased and there has been talk of preparing a walking map of Portland. Most pressing is the need for a permanent home for the Society to store and display our collections of Portland's past.

None of these objectives can be reached without a lot of people working together. And that is what the Society needs most! More workers and volunteers. Plan to attend a meeting. Bring a friend and volunteer. I've heard rumors that there is a clique in the Society. If this be true, it can only be in appearance caused by the fact that so many of the same faces can be seen working together at all the functions! We need new faces!

Thank you again for all your kindness and support. It has been a satisfying job as your President and I hope in some small way, I have contributed to the ongoing growth of the Society.