



PORTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PORTLAND, CONNECTICUT

NEWS & NOTES

FEBRUARY 1979 ISSUE 5

AS I SEE IT

As we begin our sixth year as the Portland Historical Society, and I begin my term as your president, I want to thank all of you for your past support and efforts and ask that you continue with even greater enthusiasm and involvement as we work together to preserve Portland's exciting past and make it available so that others may derive pleasure and educational benefits for years to come.

There are many ways that you and I can accomplish the essential tasks still ahead for our Society. Devoting whatever time we have to service on the committee or committees in which we have particular interest, attending and enjoying our programs, supporting our fund raising efforts and above all expressing your views on any and all matters concerning our Society. I want to hear from all of you at our meetings as well as at any other time (don't hesitate to call me at 342-1760). You may feel that what you have to offer as input is not important, but as a member I feel it is very important and needed. Quite often those views spark important programs and areas of activity for our Society.

As I've previously mentioned, although our meetings start at 7:30 p.m., I will be there at 7 p.m. for those who would like to informally chat and share any thoughts they may have. Stick-on name labels will be available for the first few meetings, so put one on so that we can more readily become acquainted.

This is your Society. I, the other officers, directors and committee chairmen will do our best to provide leadership but the degree to which our Society progresses depends on all of you. If you haven't attended in the past (or not regularly) please come! If you usually attend, keep on coming!

Much has been accomplished by our Society over the past 5 years and there is much yet to be done. With your help, these goals will become a reality. I hope I can count on you!

Harold L. Krieger, President

NEXT MEETING FEB. 14 - PROGRAM on OLD TOYS

We will meet at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 14 in the Fellowship Hall of Zion Lutheran Church on William Street. Bring your Valentine with you, as well as any friends, to enjoy a very interesting program by David Finkelshtein, a collector of old toys for 15 years. He

will talk on and display Old Toys, Cast Iron, Rubber, Tootsie Toys with emphasis on cars and trucks (their history and value). If you have any old toys, be sure to bring them along and he will be glad to appraise them!

A Social Studies teacher for 16 years at Penny High School in East Hartford, he also teaches part time at Loomis Chaffe in Windsor.

YOUR OFFICERS FOR 1979

At our annual meeting in November, the following were elected to serve for the coming year;

President - Harold L. Krieger
Vice-president - Ray Robinson
Secretary - Lucille Cramer
Treasurer - Robert Johnson
Director (serving thru 1980) - Gloria Schneck
Director (serving thru 1981) - Cyril Simpson
Presently serving as Director (1976-79) is Jack Dillon.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEET AND ELECT

On November 29, 1978 the newly elected members of the Board of Directors met, discussed plans for 1979 and elected as their chairman Lucille Cramer. This board meets every other month, serves as the governing body of the Society and decides questions of policy that for any reason cannot be acted upon at a meeting of the Society. Minutes of their meetings are read at regular meetings of the Society by the secretary and an annual report is rendered at the Annual Meeting in November.

POST CARD SURVEY RESULTS

27 members responded by mailing in the postcard that was enclosed in my initial letter in November. Of those, a desire to serve on committees was as follows: Program - 1, Library - 3, Museum - 10, Historic Sites - 10, Membership - 4, and no checks were made for others. Those who indicated that they attend primarily for the program were 7.

Those indicating that more discussion time be allotted were - 4. Those favoring short meetings with most time for the program were - 6. Those satisfied with our present division of time were - 3. Others did not check this portion.

Other points that were made: One member felt meetings should be held year round to pro-

mote summer activities outdoors (good thought). One indicated that we should have coffee and... at every meeting (great idea - I trust we will have volunteers).

IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN - DUES PAYABLE NOW

As previously noted, our fiscal year now runs January through December. If you haven't already paid for 1979, you should find your bill enclosed with this newsletter. Make checks payable to the: Portland Historical Society, Box 98, Portland, CT 06480 or bring them to the February meeting. Don't put it off...you may forget and June 30 is the deadline. Dues are \$3 per person annually. Life-time membership is \$100.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN APPOINTED

Chairmen of all standing committees were appointed by your president and an organizational meeting was held at his home on Jan. 29. A chairman and vice-chairman was appointed to each committee this year so that a more energetic effort could result and so that leadership from every committee could be on hand at every Society meeting to report on progress.

Appointed were: Library Committee - Mary Flood & Rebecca Robinson, Museum Committee - John Dillon & Pat Aresco, Historic Sites - Bill Sullivan & Dorothy Robinson, Program Committee - Doris Sharrow & Everett Berndtson, Membership Committee - Martha Johnson & Sharon Dykas, Oral History - John Conklin & June Forella, Ways & Means - Mandy Krieger & Anita Carlson, Historian will again be Mary Gildersleeve.

SOCIETY PERMANENT HOME PROSPECTS GOOD

For those who are not aware, the Board of Selectmen have charged the Library Building Committee to, as one of their goals, provide the 2nd floor of the Central School (the level you reach by ascending the front steps of the school) for use by our Society. This building program will progress after the building is vacated as a school most likely in 1980.

The building committee has requested that we submit plans for our needs by March 31 of this year. Our Museum Committee has been assigned the responsibility of preparing this report with hopefully the assistance of our whole membership. In addition, either Jack Dillon or Pat Aresco, or both, will endeavor to attend all meetings of the building committee to provide input and to be readily available to answer any questions raised.

With this goal in sight, we have been receiving an increase in donations of historical items as well as promises of donations to be made once our new home is a reality.

TAG SALE TO BE HELD AGAIN...SAVE YOUR STUFF!

Amongst other plans for fund raising by our Ways & Means Committee, Mandy and Anita plan to give a Tag Sale another try (the past two were

quite profitable). Most likely it will be held in April; more word later. So, save your junk and better items when house cleaning in Spring!

IN HONOR OR MEMORY OF A LOVED ONE OR FRIEND

Although I have stressed this many times the subject bears repeating. Our Memorial Fund accepts donations of any size in memory of a loved one or friend who has passed away or to honor someone special still living. These donations are to be used solely for the purchase or upkeep of our Society's permanent home and are recorded in our Memorial Book. All donations are acknowledged in writing.

What better way to show your esteem than to support an organization whose goal is to pre-preserve and promote the memory of Portland's past and the people who have been a part of it? Give it serious thought when you have the opportunity to request donations in someone's memory or desire to honor someone dear to you, in the past or in the days ahead.

DO YOU GET "THE WORD" ON EACH MONTH'S PROGRAM?

Since we can not possibly afford to mail notification of our program for each meeting to all of our membership, a news release giving coverage is placed in the Middletown Press to appear a few days prior to the meeting. We realize that many do not receive this newspaper so some effort is made for coverage in the Hartford Courant but we do not always have success (even the Press doesn't always print all we submit).

So, if you want to be sure of what the program is going to be, call 342-1841 (Buck Library) and this information will be readily provided by Mary Flood our Librarian. She can be reached there until 5 p.m. on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday and until 8 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

WHAT'S YOUR HOBBY - WHAT DO YOU COLLECT?

Most everyone collects something as a hobby and our Program Committee would like to know what your interests are. If at all possible, they would like to plan to have a speaker (an expert hopefully) to present a program on items that our membership collects. If we know your interests we can better plan to have programs on subjects of interest to our membership. Note your hobby and name on the index card enclosed and return it soon.

QUESTION of the MONTH: Who's got the Ding-Dong?

What ever happened to the Rose Hill School bell? James Clark who resides in what formerly was the school raised the question when we were there to plaque his house. Dig down in your memories and pass along to us anything you recall. Or, if you have it, it would be a great donation to our Historical Society.