



PORTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PORTLAND, CONNECTICUT

NEWS & NOTES

FEBRUARY 1980 ISSUE 8

AS I SEE IT

An issue that is before us as we enter 1980 is one that some of us have worked hard at trying to resolve, others have taken side-line concern and yet others have read about without too much interest. It's an issue that we, as a Historical Society have not discussed nor taken action on. And yet who, if not we, should be actively concerned about the preservation of Indian Hill Avenue and of the Indian burial grounds?

I'm sure, like in every subject, there are varied views. Some may feel this is a problem for those who reside in the immediate area, but is it? Isn't the preservation of anything of historical value in any part of our town a concern for us all as a Society? I feel it is and feel that we should be willing to provide whatever assistance and leadership we are able. The Committee to Save Historic Indian Hill has worked long and hard for this area. Construction that would destroy the character of this historic setting and desecrate the sacred Indian burial grounds, this would be morally wrong.

I, and others in Portland, have long felt that this area should be listed on the National Historic Register. But it took a threat such as this to open our eyes and set wheels in motion. Hopefully, we did not wait too long. It would be a shame if another piece of Portland's historic past fell victim to "progress".

Harold L. Krieger, President

DUES NOW PAYABLE...DON'T ACCIDENTALLY ALLOW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TO LAPSE!

Hazel Robinson has graciously agreed to be chairman of our Membership Committee. Two things that should be made clear to avoid some difficulties experienced last year are: Dues are \$3.00 per member. Our fiscal year runs January through December.

It is so easy to put off writing that check and before you know it, you're delinquent. We want our membership to grow. We want you to continue with us in active membership. Your renewal bill is enclosed. Please send your check today to the: Portland Historical Society, Box 98, Portland, CT. 06480 or bring it to the February meeting.

NEXT MEETING FEB. 13 - "CONNECTICUT RIVER MARINERS, LIFE AT SEA, 'FORE AND AFT'"



On Wednesday, February 13 at 7:30 P.M. we will hold our first meeting of the 1980 season at our meeting room in the Community Center on Lower Main Street (past the Brownstone Industrial Park under the bridge). We will have as our program what should be a fascinating presentation by Brenda Milkofsky, director, of the Connecticut River Foundation at Steamboat Dock in Essex.

Following a brief illustrated talk on the Foundation and the restoration of the Steamboat Dock at Essex Landing, we will be treated to the recently completed filmstrip entitled, "Connecticut River Mariners, Life at Sea, 'Fore and Aft'". This sound color piece is narrated by John Dando and was produced by Ellsworth Grant of Fenwick Productions.

Don't miss this opportunity. It should be a night well spent.

THANKS BOB & JACK

Two of our officers stepped down due to the expiration of their terms. Bob Johnson, who has served us well as Treasurer for three consecutive terms had to step down (according to our Constitution and Bylaws). Jack Dillon has served us with dedication as a Director of our Society for three years. Both deserve our sincere thanks. We know they will continue their interest in the work of our Society in other areas of leadership.

YOUR OFFICERS FOR 1980

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 - Martha Johnson
Director (serving thru 1982) - William McBrien
Presently serving as Directors are:
Gloria Schneck (thru 1980)
Cyril Simpson (thru 1981)

The Board of Directors consists of three Directors plus the Society Officers. This board shall "decide questions of policy that for any reason cannot be acted upon at a meeting of the Society and perform such other functions as designated in the by laws or otherwise assigned to it". It is hoped that they would provide direction and spearhead the ongoing work of the Society.

The board will meet, elect a chairman and organize in February. The present chairman will set the meeting date.

SURPRISE CONTACT ADDS TO OUR HISTORIC TREASURE

On November 13, 1979 we received a letter from Mrs. Margaret Wixted, Antiquarian of the Redding (Conn.) Historical Society. She stated, "About fifteen years ago, I was in charge of the Museum at the Israel Putnam Memorial State Park here in Redding. At that time, Mr. William Miller, the head of the Parks Division asked me to go over the old saltbox house at the Gay City State Park and see if there was anything there that might be added to the Putnam Museum. There were many very nice pieces which we lacked, and the Park Ranger subsequently brought them to Redding. Included unintentionally were these papers: Caroline Shepard's Book 1826-27, (a school exercise book; two similar books of Amy Bushnell Shepard, Chatham, CT 1835). A ledger of records of goods shipped by boat 1827. A day-book of Franklin Pratt, Portland 1857. Several notebook type books entitled "Journal to Winchester's New Method of Teaching-Bookkeeping by Single Entry", dated 1855 and owned by Franklin Pratt of Portland".

How these items originally got there from Portland we may never know but I responded to her that "yes, we would like to have them" and arranged to pick them up. They are now in our possession. These unexpected gifts are great.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN APPOINTED...YOUR ASSISTANCE NEEDED...PLEASE VOLUNTEER NOW

Committee Chairmen have been appointed for 1980 but if our Society is to move ahead, we must have not only good leadership but good assistance from our membership. How about taking a little of your time and using it to help your Society grow. Call one of the below:

Library Committee - Mary Flood, Chmn. 342-0484
Rebecca Robinson, Vice-chmn 342-4921
Historic Sites - William Sullivan, Chmn. 342-4105
Dorothy Robinson, Vice-chmn. 342-0079
Program Committee - Bill Hartig, Chmn. 347-0366
Membership Committee - Hazel Robinson, Chmn.
342-3766
Oral History - Marion Anderson, Chmn. 342-2209
John Conklin, Vice-chmn. 1989
Ways & Means - Mandy Krieger, Chmn. 342-1760
Anita Carlson, Vice-chmn. 342-2804
Museum Committee - William Csere, Chmn. 342-2168
John M. Dillon, Vice-chmn. 342-3657
Working in conjunction with the Museum Committee are:
Office Committee - Pat Aresco, Chmn. 342-1569
Historian - Mary Gildersleeve 342-0591

HOW ABOUT SOME FUND-RAISING IDEAS?

Ways & Means chairman Mandy Krieger and Anita Carlson are looking for some suggestions for Fund-raising events. If you have any, please let them know. At present, another Tag Sale is being considered in conjunction with the Jr. Women so save your odds and ends, anything you don't need...more on that later.

A LASTING REMEMBRANCE...CONSIDER IT

When we find ourselves in a position to recommend a meaningful remembrance for a loved one, church memorial funds and charities are recognized as worthwhile. At the same time a donation to the Historical Society Memorial Fund is a way to perpetuate the memory of a family member or friend. The funds will be used to secure or restore a permanent home for our Society, the organization that's in the business of preserving the past. At the same time their name will be inscribed in our permanent record Memorial Book.

SOCIETY OFFICE NEEDS EQUIPMENT TO OPERATE

Now that our Society has an office, it needs the equipment to make it functional. Pat Aresco is looking for any equipment you may have or know of (typewriter, mimeo machine, bookcase, etc.) A fireproof file was given to us by Town Hall and is in our office waiting use. Give Pat a call at 342-1569. She also needs volunteers for her committee to do cataloging, filing, etc.