



PORTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PORTLAND, CONNECTICUT

NEWS & NOTES

ANOTHER YEAR

The Portland Historical Society started another year at their annual meeting in November. The same officers were re-elected:

Dorothy K. Robinson	-President
Francis Sullivan	-Vice-President
Martha Johnson	-Treasurer
Regina Woltmann	-Secretary
Raymond Robinson	-Director
Clifford Kelsey	- "
William King	- "

MEETINGS

The Portland Historical Society meets the second Wednesday in every month with the exception of July and August. We invite all members to reserve this night and plan to attend these meetings. Programs are interesting and are followed by fellowship and refreshments.

PROGRAMS

Rick and Lynn Gildersleeve are the co-chairmen of this committee. They are planning informative programs and would be happy to hear from any of you if you have any ideas about this. It is your Society and they would like to put on programs that the majority might enjoy.

MEMBERSHIP

Hazel Robinson reports that we have two hundred and thirty five members. She has done this job so very well for several years. Dues are due and payable Jan 1st.

MUSEUM ROOM

The Museum Room in The Portland Library is open on Thursday afternoon 2:30 - 4.30. All are urged to visit it. Bill and Pat Csere are the co-chairmen. We are very proud of this exhibit. The Society would appreciate and care for any memorabilia entrusted to its' care.

CALENDAR

The Society is now selling the 1985 Calendar. Herbert Ellsworth is the chairman of this and we do so appreciate it. The Society makes money with this project. If anyone has pictures of Portland they think would be appropriate for next years calendar, See Mr. Ellsworth.

MEMORIAL FUND

A donation was received recently in the memory of Lawrence Merk. 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, up keep of, or on going program of a permanent home for our Society. Donations are recorded in a Memorial Book and appropriate cards are sent to the donor and the family of the person being honored. These gifts may be in any amount.

ORAL HISTORY

Paul Bartolotta is the new chairman of this committee. He will tape personal recollections of anyone early years in Portland. He will also record our programs for future use.

REFRESHMENTS

Lucy Bartolotta is the chairman of this committee. A collection is taken each meeting to defray expenses and two members bring in goodies each time. There are so many good cooks in the Society we are asking for donations of recipes-both old and favorites. Someday we will publish a cookbook.

SCRAP-BOOK

Anita Carlson is chairman of this committee. She cuts out pictures and articles from newspapers. In this way we hope the on-going history of the town will be recorded.

PROJECTS

1. The Society has voted to install two signs; one at the corner of High - Bartlett Streets were stood the first Episcopal Church. Later this building was the town hall. The second sign will replace the sign at Cox Mill that was stolen.
2. In the spring, on a Saturday, we are planning a bus ride around town. Tickets will be sold to anyone. There will be a commentator to point out places of interest. We have had requests for this.
3. Photograph all sandstone grave-stones in our cemeteries-in black and white film- to be stored by the Society. These gravestones are deteriorating rapidly and little can be done to preserve them.
4. If anyone has photographs of buildings that have been burned or torn down that they would like to donate to the Society they would be appreciated. The memory of a home your family lived in or a school you went to or a factory where Portland folks worked will be preserved via these pictures.
5. Restore an old map of Middlesex County donated by Helen Carlson.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Thank everyone who worked so hard for the Society last year.

In the spring I attended two workshops at The Connecticut Historical Society to learn how to care for our possessions. Last month six members attended another one at The Middlesex Community College. Prof. LeRoy Barnes arranged it and invited all area historical societies to attend. The information at both will be very helpful.

I have enjoyed my year in office and especially that ride down Main Street in the horse and buggy in the Firemen's 100th Anniversary Parade!

Coming Up

Jan. 9th

Nick Naples of Durham will speak on various topics including old time farming.

Feb. 13th.

To be announced

Mar. 13th.

Irish night.

Possibly a return of the Irish girls we enjoyed so much.