



PORTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PORTLAND, CONNECTICUT

NEWS & NOTES

This is to remind all our members that The Portland Historical Society, Inc., will resume meetings and activities with the September meeting.

FALL PROGRAMS

- September 10 - "Pottery" with David Rynick of Wesleyan Potters
- October 8 - "Arrowheads" with Gerald Neninger - Members may bring a few arrowheads to be identified
- November 12 - Possibly a Pot-Luck Supper. Reports of officers; installation of new officers.

The first paragraph of our constitution by-laws gives the purpose of the Society - to bring together persons interested in history, and especially the history of the Town of Portland.

The second paragraph states that a major function of the Society is to discover and collect all sorts of memorabilia.

The third paragraph urges us to arouse interest in our work through newspapers and the marking of homes and historic sites.

The fourth paragraph says we will cooperate with the State Historical Society and will make these materials available to schools and scholars.

Copies of these by-laws are available.

The last paragraph makes us realize that we are the only Society in this area without a home. We are so grateful to Mrs. Flood for the use of the room in the library and we are thankful for the room in the Senior Center; but it is very difficult to handle our growing materials in two different locations. We also need space to prepare exhibits, restore and catalog them. A recent newspaper article tells us how The Glastonbury Historical Society was awarded \$30,000 from the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. They needed \$40,000 to renovate the Old Town Hall Museum on Hubbard Street green. The society had to come up with an additional \$10,000. This is the reason The Portland Historical Society, Inc., is endeavoring to save money. If we ever have the opportunity to obtain a historical building, we hope to be able to match the grant available.

The Museum Committee is looking for monitors for our Museum Room. It must be kept open one day a week for two hours. Pat Csere mans it herself for one-half hour before each meeting.

"Remember When Booklets" with old newspaper clippings and photographs make for interesting reading in our Museum Room.

The Museum Committee changes the exhibit in our Museum Room periodically. This fall they will feature schools. The Society has numerous class pictures, graduation programs, pictures of schools, etc. Does anyone have a picture of The Freestone School they can loan to us so that we may make a copy for our collection?

Does everyone know that Gildersleeve School originally had both elementary and high school classes? It was built in 1876 and was the first public high school conducted in any town in the state. The original school was destroyed by fire in 1889. During the rebuilding, classes were held in the old Town Hall on the corner of Bartlett and High Streets. Classes resumed until 1899 when the students were transferred to Central School.

Originally, the town was divided into districts. The first school was out in the Rose Hill District. Each district had its own school committee who saw to the hiring of the teachers and the up-keep of the school. Rose Hill School, which closed in 1936, was the last country school in town.

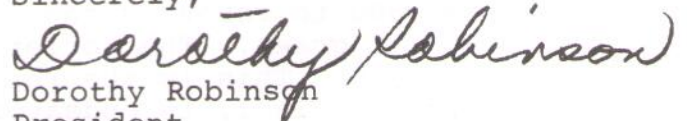
The Calendar Committee is looking for pictures for the 1987 calendar. If you have interesting old pictures pertaining to Portland, we would appreciate your sharing them with us.

Keeping this in mind, a committee is working on a major project. Carolyn Robinson Johnson, a charter member of the Society, has generously donated her time and talents to sketching historic scenes and buildings in Portland. These may be used for place mats, postcards, or individual prints suitable for framing. Further information will be given at the meetings.

The new President of the society will be looking for volunteers for committees. The society can do so much more with more workers. Also, we are interested in your ideas for future meetings and projects.

We hope you all had an enjoyable summer and look forward to seeing you at our meeting on Wednesday, September 10, 1986.

Sincerely,



Dorothy Robinson
President
Portland Historical Society