



PORTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PORTLAND, CONNECTICUT

NEWS & NOTES

April 1989

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- April 25 Our speaker will be Professor John Pfeiffer of Wesleyan who will give a program on archaeological digs last summer at Steamboat Dock (Connecticut River Museum in Essex). They unearthed parts of a pier and dock dating back to the 1600's.
- May 23 Russell Becker, a retired school teacher from Old Saybrook, will present a program on gravestones. He has researched and taken slides of many historical gravestones in Connecticut.
- June 27 "Two Community Treasures: Church & Organ" will be the subject of a talk by Professor LeRoy Barnes of Middlesex Community College. Barnes, who is one of several organists at the Portland United Methodist Church will discuss the restoration of the Church and organ. Meeting will be held at the METHODIST CHURCH ON MAIN STREET, PORTLAND.
- July 25 Society Potluck Picnic planned for the Firemens' Picnic Grounds.
- September Program to be announced.
- October Program to be announced.
- November 28 Annual Potluck Supper and Installation of Officers.
- December 19 Program to be announced. Note the change of meeting night due to the Christmas Holiday.

We have been averaging 50 or more people at each meeting. The programs have been very interesting and the refreshments after the program provide a pleasant atmosphere for socializing. Guests are welcome.

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

We hope to enter the Memorial Day Parade this year and would appreciate ideas from members. Call Rick Gildersleeve.

BONDING

A motion was made and passed to purchase Bonding for the positions of Treasurer and President; this has been arranged.

CALENDARS

1989 calendars are still available. We are already thinking about 1990 -- old pictures are welcome! The collection of photos on the calendars the past six years have been great and we expect to do as well in the future. They are becoming local collector's items. We printed 400 calendars and thus far have sold 307 calendars earning a profit of \$479.50. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed to making this project a success.

MUSEUM ROOM

The Society Museum Room is open to the public from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday afternoons with a society member in attendance or by appointment. Our most recent acquisition in the clothing department is a lovely black silk Mourning Bonnet from about 1830. Vivien Dower has an interesting display of children's and adult's clothing from the past. Permanent displays of brownstone, shipbuilding, Indian arrowheads and other memorabilia are also in the room. A few booklets containing newsclippings from the past are interesting to browse through - some of the clippings are as early as the 1800's. Librarian Helen Hanson has been busy placing bookplates in books with the name of the donor of the book. We have recently received cookbooks from local churches and organizations - one is a 1916 Methodist Church cookbook.

Vivien Dower is planning a display of wedding pictures for June - the older the better! Please stop by the Museum Room or contact Vivien if you have pictures for the display.

HISTORY OF PORTLAND BOOKLET

We have a few copies of the History of Portland printed in 1976 available in the Museum Room. This book is a good buy for \$3.00.

PRESERVATION

The preservation of the Portland Town Hall was discussed at a meeting recently. The Town Hall is on the State Historic Register and the Society is pursuing the possibility of applying for National Register Status.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership Chairperson, Chris Sullivan, reports that we have 314 paid members and 20 members still owing this year's dues. New members are always welcome!

Rick

Rick Gildersleeve
President,
The Portland Historical Society