



PORTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PORTLAND, CONNECTICUT

NEWS & NOTES

October 1989

UPCOMING MEETINGS

November 29

ANNUAL POTLUCK SUPPER AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS
Entertainment by Everett Berndtson and his group.
Program to be held at the Zion Lutheran Church on
William Street beginning at 6:30 p.m. Committee
members are Yvonne & John Cozzi, Edith Hyjek,
Hilda and Frank Sullivan and Ray and Marian
Anderson. Each member attending should bring
a food item or salad to serve six (6). Bring
your own utensils. The committee will furnish
dessert. Please note change in meeting date.

December 19

CHRISTMAS PAST - All members of the Society are
invited to attend and share anecdotes, remembrances
of Christmas in the past (3-5 minutes per speaker).
Members may call Rick Gildersleeve in advance if
they would like to speak; if not, you may volunteer
that night. Please note that this is not our
regular meeting night as this program will be on
the THIRD Tuesday of the month.

January 23

THE BUILDING OF THE MIDDLETOWN-PORTLAND BRIDGE
IN 1938- Movie to be shown.

February 27

ANNE STREET OF THE GREATER MIDDLETOWN PRESERVATION
TRUST - Program on historic preservation work
in the greater Middletown area.

March 27

SOCIETY MEMBER HERB ELLSWORTH WILL SPEAK ON
PORTLAND HISTORY

Our September and October meetings were both very interesting and
enjoyed by all in attendance. In September, Lois Horbal discussed
quilting and in October Stanley Schuler from Old Lyme presented
a slide show and talk on New England doorways.

CALENDARS

The 1990 calendars were available at our October meeting and will
also be sold at our upcoming meetings. Special advertised sales
will be held about town. Anyone who is willing to help sell the
calendars should call Society President, Rick Gildersleeve.

A reminder - if each of our 300+ members bought one calendar, it would be showing support for our Society. Rick Gildersleeve will also be selling the calendars on Monday nights at the Portland Library.

1991 CALENDARS

Portland will be 150 years old in 1991! We hope to have a SPECIAL CALENDAR of photos showing the town decorated with flags for town celebrations from the past. We would appreciate borrowing photos any members might have in order to make copies for the event.

MUSEUM ROOM

The Portland Historical Society Museum Room at the Portland Library is open on Tuesdays from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. Vivian Dower and Dorothy Robinson have arranged a new display on local Indians and their culture. Chet Wichrowski has loaned us his bifacial black flint blade that he found in 1958 at the Portland High School construction site.

What you can see in the Museum Room:

- 1) Brownstone carving tools used in the early 1900's. Original photograph, given to us by Irving Bell, of the James B. Flood Mansion built in the 1800's in San Francisco of Portland brownstone. The mansion survived the 1906 and 1989 earthquakes. Photo was shown in recent Hartford Courant article on 10/20/89.
- 2) Arrowhead collection found on Indian Hill Avenue by Daniel Kelsey and other Indian artifacts are also available for viewing.
- 3) Beautiful oil painting of the first house in Portland. Picture donated by Helen Carlson.
- 4) Scrapbooks of newsclipping from the mid 1800's and early 1900's - stop by and read them.
- 5) Photo booklet showing all approaches to town and each Main Street intersection, and local business establishments. Booklet prepared by Society member, Harold Krieger.
- 6) Large drum of the First Portland Fife and Drum Corps- donated by Elsie Hale.
- 7) Many framed photos of local historical interest - bridge openings, Brownstone and Mica quarries, Railroad station.
- 8) History of Portland (1976), historic photo calendars, notepads and placemats available for purchase.
- 9) In addition to ongoing displays of Portland memorabilia, Vivian Dower and committee present new arrangements from items we sometimes have in storage since our space is limited.

- 10) 1800's scrapbooks - donated by the Kuskey girls.
- 11) Book on Connecticut Notable Trees - donated by Ralph Gibbs.

Vivian Dower would like to do a display for the Christmas season on "Christmas Past" and would appreciate any items for display - toys, etc.

MEMBERSHIP

According to Chris Sullivan, Membership Chairperson, we have 306 members. New members are always welcome!

Have a happy holiday season!



Rick Gildersleeve
President
The Portland Historical Society