



PORTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PORTLAND, CONNECTICUT

NEWS & NOTES

July 1990

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- July 24 ANNUAL PICNIC - 6:00 p.m. at the Firemens' Picnic Grounds off of Indian Hill Avenue. The Chatham Historical Society has been invited to join us at our picnic which will be held rain or shine. PLEASE BRING - a casserole, salad or dessert, utensils and a lawn chair (optional). Committee members: Bill and Pat Csere, John and Yvonne Cozzi, Virginia McKeen, Barbara Ives, Edie Hyjek, Lynn and Rick Gildersleeve, Hazel Robinson, and Don and ~~Irene~~ Kelsey and Regina Woltmann.
JEAN
- September 25 NOTABLE TREES OF CONNECTICUT - slide show by Glenn Dreyer of Connecticut College. The program will feature Connecticut's great trees.
- October 23 GEOLOGY OF PORTLAND - Kathy Hill will be our speaker.
- November 28 ANNUAL MEETING AND POT LUCK SUPPER - Installation of officers at Zion Lutheran Church on William St. Dinner begins at 6:30 p.m. Please note change in meeting night to Wednesday.
- December Date and program to be announced.
- January 22 ANNIVERSARY YEAR PROGRAM - Herb Ellsworth will kick off Portland's 150th Anniversary Year with a talk on Portland.

Our most recent meeting was attended by approximately 75 people. These June "field trips" have proved to be successful undertakings. Last year we had a tour of the Methodist Church. This year we gathered at Trinity Episcopal Church to hear Ruth Callender's discussion on the stained glass windows. We would like to thank Father Curry, Ruth Callender and Don Berke, the organist, for a great evening.

If any members have ideas for future programs, please contact Rick Gildersleeve.

FOR SALE

Crocks/jugs commemorating the 150th anniversary of Portland next year are now for sale. These jugs are attractive colonial grey with blue trim and indicate "Portland, CT. 1841-1991."

CALENDAR

The Calendar Committee is finalizing work on the 1991 calendar which will be for sale later this year.

TOWN MEETING

Several members of the Society recently attended a Town Meeting to express desire for the old Buck Library for our Museum since we need more space for storage and displays.

MUSEUM ROOM

Vivian Dower, our special exhibit chairman for the Museum Room, welcomes ideas for displays that you would like to see in the Museum Room. At this time, she has a collection of hats from different periods of time, including one Buster Brown worn by E. I. Bell in 1905 as a child visiting Washington, D.C. for President Theodore Roosevelt's inauguration.

The Portland Historical Society Museum, located in the southwest wing of the Portland Library is open Tuesday from 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. and before each meeting. The Museum Room is also open by appointment.

Available for sale in the Museum Room are: The William Van Beynum Chronological History Booklet, the 1976 Portland History Book, and we still have a few calendars for 1988 featuring historic scenes of Portland.

Walter Olsen of Haddam presented the Society with a beautiful collection of 50 photographs of construction of the Arrigoni Bridge. They are set in plastic sheets in a notebook and may be reviewed in the Museum Room. Our thanks to Walter for his generosity!

Superintendent of Schools, Lee Dyer, presented antique books of Portland School records dating from 1839 to the Society at our May meeting. We are delighted to have these records as part of our collection of Portland's past.

A lady mannequin was donated to the Society. She needed new hands and a few other repairs; Walt Dower did a great job making new hands and "she" is now modeling in our Museum. Now we need a male mannequin to model some male clothing fashions.

The Society is looking for a full picture of the old Freestone School - a copy of it would complete our photo collection of all the old schools in town.

ARRIGONI BRIDGE

A copy of the Arrigoni Bridge Construction Film has been made and will soon be presented to the Portland Library for the public to borrow.

FROM THE PAST

A notebook in the Museum has interesting personal reports by local residents telling what living in Portland was like in the late 1800's and early 1900's. Kate Ames speaks of her childhood activities and Dr. Alexander Grower relates the story about his family buying the store that is now Anderson's Feed Store.

If you have memories of some special time, place or event, what a certain neighborhood was like - even a few years ago - write a little report - it could be helpful to future historians.

SCHOLARSHIP

At the awards ceremony for underclassmen, held at Portland High School in June, the Portland Historical Society Annual Scholarship Award for excellence in History was presented to Andy Probolus, a member of the freshmen class, and son of James and Catherine Probolus of Fairview Street. Keep up the good work, Andy! Our congratulations to him.

MEMBERSHIP

New members are always welcome. See Chris Sullivan, Membership Chairperson. The public is invited to all meetings. We hope to see more of you at our upcoming meetings - come and bring a friend!

MEMORIAL FUND

A donation has been made to the Memorial Fund in memory of Helen C. Foley.



Rick Gildersleeve
President,
The Portland Historical Society