

# PORTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY



PO Box 98, Portland, Connecticut 06480

President: George V. Johnson Jr. Secretary: Regina Woltmann  
Vice President: Dorothy K. Robinson Treasurer: Charles J. Woltmann

Directors: Richard Gildersleeve, Janet Mitchell, Hazel Robinson

## SPRING 1991 NEWSLETTER

### Committee Reports

Museum Room - Pat Csere - Our museum room, located in the southwest wing of the Portland Library, is open for viewing on Tuesdays from 1 - 3 PM, and one hour before meetings - the fourth Tuesday of each month, except for July and August. We would like to have the room open more - it would make Portland's history more visible, especially this anniversary year, if volunteers were willing to give an hour in the evening or a Saturday afternoon to reminisce with visitors.

To honor Portland's 150th anniversary this year, we are planning exhibits of early history to stir the memories of our older citizens and show the younger generation what Portland was like before they were born.

### Recent Acquisitions

1936/38 Flood & Hurricane Photos Books: "Our Strickland Family"  
1877 Ledger of H.W. Ellsworth & Sons, Plumbers "History of Eastern Conn."  
Straw Cloche, c. 1900 "Taking Off with Flying Black Geese"  
Unique Indian Artifact donated Framed Collection of R. Mulcahy WW1  
by Chet Wrichrowski family medals  
Military Artifacts and reading materials about other wars.

Membership - Chris Sullivan - A special 150th Anniversary membership drive starts in May with a letter and return envelope being sent to prospective new members. To encourage people to join, we are keeping the individual annual dues at \$5, offering a new family rate of \$10, and offering a one-time 18-month membership for new members. To suggest a prospective member, call Chris Sullivan at 342-4105 or write PO Box 98.

Memorial Fund - Harold L. Krieger - On March 14, 1977, a memorial book was begun for our Historical Society as a means to obtain funds for the purchase and/or restoration of a permanent home for our Society. Gifts can be given in memory of someone or to honor someone living.

Unfortunately, not many have made use of this opportunity. Over a 14-year period, only \$1270 has been given.

Part of the problem could be that at the time an Obituary is prepared by those surviving, they may not be aware of the importance to the deceased of such a donation. At least two recent instances of obituaries of dedicated members come to mind where the Society was not mentioned. To avoid this, we suggest you follow "The Krieger Plan" - Leave a note attached to your will or other important papers giving directions to your heirs listing the groups you would like to receive donations "in lieu of flowers" and please include the Portland Historical Memorial Fund.

The Search for a Permanent Home - George V. Johnson Jr. - The small museum room at the Library has been a good display place for the smaller artifacts donated to the Society but anything large, such as Quarry tools, school furniture, etc. has to be kept in storage until the Society finds an appropriate, affordable building.

This year, we have toured the Carlson house and 5 Waverly Avenue, both either too expensive or too costly to bring up to code. We are open to suggestions of a suitable building, preferably with an income producing area to absorb some of the annual maintenance costs. Ideas, anyone?

Cornwall House - Chris Sullivan - The completion, February 28, of the Society's 1990 campaign to add a Town Demolition Delay Ordinance to delay the demolition of historic buildings has raised questions from some owners about ways to save particular buildings. Practically speaking, only three options exist - integrating the building into the development, moving it, or selling it piecemeal to restorers. Keeping a building on site is most historic, but not always possible.

For instance, the Thomas Cornwall house, believed to be the oldest in Town, is in an area zoned for light industry on Route 17 opposite the Town Garage. The house has been vacant for some time and the owner wishes to sell his property without the house on it. Is it possible to keep the house intact, and in Town by finding a new site/owner for it? Any suggestions-call Chris Sullivan 342-4205?

Commemorative Crocks - Eleanor Crowther - A new order of commemorative crocks, hot out of the kiln, are resting with Rick Gildersleeve 342-5195 and Eleanor Crowther 342-2907. Remember Arbor Day, May Day, Mothers Day, Fathers Day, graduation or name your own holiday and use one of these collector crocks for a gift. Spread the word, Rick and Eleanor are happy to take orders anytime--\$20. each or 5 for \$100!!

Tour of Portland Homes - Rick Gildersleeve - The Historical Society has been chosen by the Greater Middletown Preservation Trust to sponsor the annual house tour on Sunday, November 17, 1991. The project is still in the planning stage. More details and volunteer opportunities will be announced in the fall by the committee, which includes Eleanor Crowther, Betty Scott, Chris Sullivan and Rick Gildersleeve.

Coming Events -

April 23 - Betty H. Stevens - "Herbs and the Colonial Housewife"  
May 28 - (Proposed) - "Inside the Arrigoni Bridge"  
June 25 - Annual Picnic - Watch for details.

Newsletter - Phyllis & Bill Frisbie - 04/22/91

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