



## PORTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 98, Portland, CT 06480

# MAY 2007 NEWSLETTER

### **PRESIDENT'S LETTER - *Martha Lutecki, 342-3212***

Town-Wide Tag Sales - Thanks to all who helped make our 11th Annual Town-Wide Tag Sales a success! It's a lot of work but members of the Tag Sale Committee rose to the occasion, as always, and sorted and priced hundreds of donations in preparation for the big day. Other volunteers delivered the 129 tag sale poles throughout the town and many members baked several items for our ever popular bake sale; again we were sold out by noon and had to turn people away! The hot dog and beverage sale was also successful with over 250 hot dogs sold. The weather cooperated this year and Portland was a busy place to be. Thanks again to everyone who helped in any way!

Historical Society Cookbook - Ways & Means chairperson, Sue Anderson, is busy compiling recipes for a cookbook to be published and ready for sale this fall in time for the holiday season as another major fundraiser for the Society.

Military Exhibit - Will be held on Monday, May 28, 2007 (Memorial Day), from 11 am - 1 pm at The Ruth Callander House Museum of Portland History. In conjunction with the dedication of the new veterans monument behind the Town Hall, we decided it would be a good time to feature a military exhibit about veterans with ties to Portland families, past and present. This exhibit, with memorabilia from early wars through the present time, will be on display through Veteran's Day in November and we will accept donations or loans of items at any time. We hope you will all join us at the Dedication Ceremony at 10 a.m. followed by a visit to the Society's Museum.

Potluck Picnic - Mark your calendar for the Annual Potluck Picnic at The Firemen's Picnic Grounds on Indian Hill Avenue. The picnic is scheduled for Tuesday, June 26th at 6 pm, rain or shine. I look forward to seeing you all there!



### **SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP NEWS**

Since our Newsletter of March 9th which listed all the Society members whose dues for 2007 were paid, we've received dues payments from the following:

Janis M. Cummer - new life member

#### Family memberships for:

Faith Fraulino  
Jim & Susan Rau  
David & Myra Finkelstein  
William & Virginia Perruccio  
Walter & Vivian Dower  
David & Marguerite Flanders  
Hector & Sandra Rodriguez

#### Individual memberships for:

Donald W. Goodrich  
Jane Nash  
Susan Squier  
Loraine B. Taylor  
Linda S. Cabral  
Hans Eckert

Thanks to you all for making this a banner year for Society memberships!

## HISTORY . . .

## MEMORIAL DAY 1907

*Excerpts from Penny Press*

### Tuesday, May 28, 1907

Portland - On Thursday, Decoration Day, holiday hours will be observed at the post office, which will be closed from 10 o'clock in the morning to 5 o'clock in the afternoon. The rural carriers will not deliver mail on Memorial day. The bank will be closed for the holiday and most of the stores will close at noon. There will be no sessions at the local schools, and in some of the rooms Wednesday afternoon there will be appropriate exercises.

\* \* \*

### Ad in same paper

Ladies' and Misses' Smart Coats

This is the height of the coat season - of not-very-warm days and chilly nights - when a light weight coat is an absolute necessity for every woman.

Ladies' \$5 to \$15                      Misses' \$1.50 to \$10

Store Closed All Day Thursday - Open Wednesday Evening Late as You Please.

F. Brewer Co., Main and Court Streets, Middletown

\* \* \*

### Wednesday, May 29, 1907

Portland - Although there are few flowers growing in the fields and meadows, it was expected that the townspeople would make up for this deficiency by sending cultivated flowers to the Town Hall, to be made up into bouquets for Memorial Day. It is said that wild flowers are plentiful in the woods however and that columbine, wild honeysuckle, dogwood and wild geraniums can be found in abundance. Very attractive bouquets could be made of these wood blossoms. The veterans will leave the Town Hall at 8 o'clock, tomorrow morning and will then proceed to the various cemeteries.

\* \* \*

The **Penny Press** will not be published Memorial Day, May 30.

\* \* \*

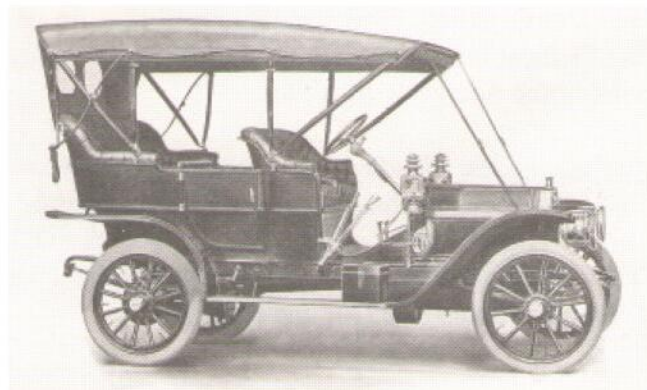
### Friday, May 31, 1907

Portland - The members of the freshman class of the Portland High School met in the assembly hall of the high school this afternoon to hold memorial exercises. The program consisted of addresses, readings and music. The parents of the members of the class were invited to be present.

The exercises on Memorial Day were very complete and successful this year, and the veterans wish to express their gratitude to those who aided in the parade; to the school children who collected flowers, and to the townspeople who generously contributed flowers, of which there was a great abundance at the Town Hall. The veterans went on their rounds this year in automobiles, the following being present with their cars: R. H. Pascall, E. I. Bell, Harry C. Bell, S. S. Hall and William Hall.\* The flowers were carried in a Middletown four horse buss(*sic*). A column of school children formed in front of the Town Hall and accompanied the veterans.

\*[R. H. Pascall was born in 1841 in England, and was Pickering's second-in command at Pickering Governor Co.. He had fought in the Civil War with the New York 71st Volunteer Company. E. I. Bell, organizer of the Steam Brownstone Company, was born in 1848 and his son Harry C. Bell, was born in 1871. S. S. Hall, born in 1864, and William Hall, born in 1867, were brownstone quarry owners.]

researched by Doris Sherrow-Heidenis



## NOTES . . .

**COOKBOOK PROJECT** - Sue Anderson,  
Ways & Means, 342-0433

We plan to publish a cookbook this year as our fund-raising project. Our goal is to collect 200 recipes from our members and friends and to have the cookbook published by October 1st in time to sell at the Portland Fair and for holiday gift giving.

Please consider sharing your favorite recipe(s) for inclusion in our cookbook. It will be a memorial to our member and friend, Pat Csere. She started this project many years ago and we would like to complete it in her honor. Proceeds will benefit the programs and the operation of the Society's museum.

Mail your recipe(s), no later than June 10th, to the following address:

**Attn: Susanne Anderson**  
**The Portland Historical Society, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 98**  
**Portland, CT 06480-0098**

Or Email your recipe(s) to:

**Darren\_Anderson@sbcglobal.net**

*Please include Category, Recipe Name, your name, List of Ingredients and Directions.*

**Let's Get Cooking!**

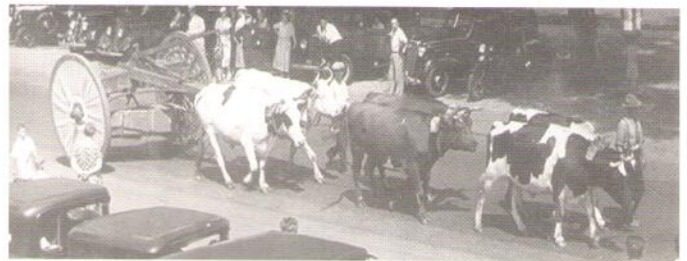
### Question about an earlier resident of 3 Indian Hill Avenue:

*There was once a little girl named Betty who lived at 3 Indian Hill Avenue, probably in the 1930s or -40s. She often turned up next door, at the O'Brien's at 5 Indian Hill Avenue. Katherine O'Brien, who was the Gildersleeve postmistress for a number of years, lived there with her daughter Anna, a long-time Portland school teacher.*

*Betty would look hungrily at the O'Brien ladies' breakfast--until Anna served her a helping! Anna figured she wasn't getting any breakfast at her house. Eventually, though, she found out that there was breakfast at 3 Indian Hill for little Betty--so she was getting double helpings! And Anna said she was a chubby little girl!*

*Her little closet still exists at my house (3 Indian Hill Avenue), though I can't tell her size from it. The closet is a simple, probably-homemade, 3-foot tall box, painted soft green and pink, with large "transfer" letters "B E T T Y" going diagonally down the front.*

*Do any of you remember a chubby little "Betty" from 3 Indian Hill Avenue?*



### Message from Howard Rosenbaum . . .

As a fellow member of the Portland Historical Society, I want to make you aware of the Arch ( or Sling as it is also known) Project to preserve and display this most important element of Portland's quarrying history.

As many of you know, I am Chairman of the Brownstone Quorum Committee which has been designated by the Board of Selectmen to oversee the development of the civic plaza and pavilion which will house and protect the Arch. After four years of painstaking restoration by the Chiabrero brothers at no cost to the town, this historic artifact of our town is ready to be displayed. It will be placed between the Bank of America building and the police station on Main Street where it will get the attention and protection it deserves as a focal point for Portland.

The total cost of the project is expected to be approximately \$55,000. This will include landscaping and interpretive signs. We have received an unrestricted grant from the State for \$25,000 and an initial \$6,000 from the Town. We have had an excellent response from the business community thus far and are beginning the second phase of seeking support from the rest of the community.

In the next two to three weeks you will be receiving a mailing with complete information and the various ways you can help preserve this most unique piece of Portland's history. Thank you.

## CALENDAR . . .

**May 28** - 11 am - 1 pm *Military Exhibit for Memorial Day*

**June 3** - 2 pm - 4 pm *Monthly Open House*

**June 9** - 1 pm - 5 pm *Connecticut Commission on Culture and Tourism Museum Open House Day throughout the state, including The Ruth Callander House Museum*

**June 26** - 6 pm - *Potluck Picnic at Firemen's Picnic Grounds*

**July 1** - 2 pm - 4 pm - *Monthly Open House*

**August 5** - 2 pm - 4 pm - *Monthly Open House*

**September 2** - 2 pm - 4 pm - *Monthly Open House*

**September 15** - *Brownstone Quorum Festival - Museum Open*

### CALLANDER HOUSE CUPBOARD

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| Coloring & Activity Book of Portland History . . . . .  | \$5.  |
| "Images of Portland" book by Bob McDougall . . .  | \$20. |
| Callander House Stoneware Jar . . . . .   | \$25. |
| 2007 Heritage Calendar. . . . .   | \$6.  |
| Previous years calendars . . . . .  | \$3.  |
| Antique Portland Picture Magnets (3/4x2-5/8)<br>picture list available, \$2 ea., 3/\$5, set of 20/\$30. |       |
| Portland Scenes Notepad (50 pgs., 5 scenes) . . .   | \$3.  |
| Portland Scenes Tea Towel . . . . .   | \$6.  |
| Meshomasic Forest Video (John LeShane) . . . . .  | \$5.  |

*Please include \$2. shipping for each \$10 of order.*

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NEWSLETTER - *Phyllis, Bill and Claire Frisbie, 5-24-07*

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## PORTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*Box 98, Portland, CT 06480*

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### SOCIETY OFFICERS

2007

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**Newsletter!**