



PORTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. Box 98, Portland, CT 06480

NOVEMBER 2007 NEWSLETTER

**Ruth Callander House
Museum
492 Main Street, Portland**

PRESIDENT'S LETTER - *Martha Lutecki*

Brownstone Festival - In September we participated in the Brownstone Festival, coordinated by the Brownstone Quorum. An Open House at the Museum was very well attended. Although our main display featured a Military Exhibit, we exhibited some brownstone memorabilia and pictures to showcase Portland's quarrying history. We also had a booth on the Town Green where we sold items from the "Callander Cupboard" including our new cookbook, "Recipes and Reflections."

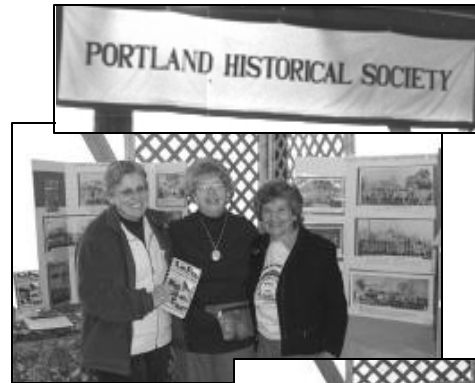
"Growing up in Portland" - Our September program was a huge hit. A large audience enjoyed our panel reminiscing about growing up in Portland. A special thanks to Marion Anderson, Ethel Peltz, Connie and Bill McBrien, Walt Dower, Hazel Robinson, Don Markham, Bob Johnson, Ruth McGowan and Norm Hanson for sharing their memories with us.

The Portland Fair - Thanks to all who helped man our booth at the Fair. We had nice weather for most of the weekend and a good turnout. Fair visitors enjoyed our pictures of Portland farms and school classes.

Bartlett Hill Presentation - On October 15th, Bob McDougall made an informal presentation of Portland history aided by Sue Anderson, Linda Cunningham, Ruth Freeburg, Martha Lutecki and Regina Woltmann for residents of Bartlett Hill. Refreshments featured recipes from our new cookbook and we had an enjoyable time meeting many new Portland residents.

We hope to see you all at our Annual Meeting/Potluck Supper at the Hemlock Grange on Tuesday, November 13th, at 6 p.m! Please bring a salad or casserole to serve 6-8 people and your own setups. The Board will provide dessert and beverages. If you contributed a recipe for the cookbook, consider bringing that dish to share!

Best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season! We look forward to seeing you at our special Holiday exhibit and our meetings in 2008!



Views from the 2008 Portland Fair: Sandy Bourret, Linda Cunningham and Ethel Peltz ; Doll house raffle (donated by Fran DiNatale)



NOVEMBER IS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME!

What does your membership support?

- Museum exhibits (recent ones included 150 years of wedding dresses and over 200 years of military items)
- Ruth Callander House maintenance
- Historical projects and programs
- Artifact preservation & collection requirements

Help keep these great activities going.

A handy renewal envelope is enclosed.

As always, thank you for being a part of
the Portland Historical Society.

Spring Exhibit Opening Sunday, February 3

Early Portland Farms



Cultivating vegetable garden at Larson Farm -
Charles J. Larson driving 1936 John Deere "A" tractor -
Bob Larson, "Bud" Hale, Charles W. Larson cultivating

Cultivating vegetable garden at **Larson Farm**
Charles J. Larson driving 1936 John Deere "A" tractor.
Bob Larson, "Bud" Hale, Charles W. Larson
cultivating.

The Museum will feature an exhibit showcasing early Portland farms. At the Portland Fair, some of you may have seen our exhibit, "Where Did All the Farms go?" which displayed photos of several early farms located in Portland. This was a preview of what will be featured in our upcoming exhibit.

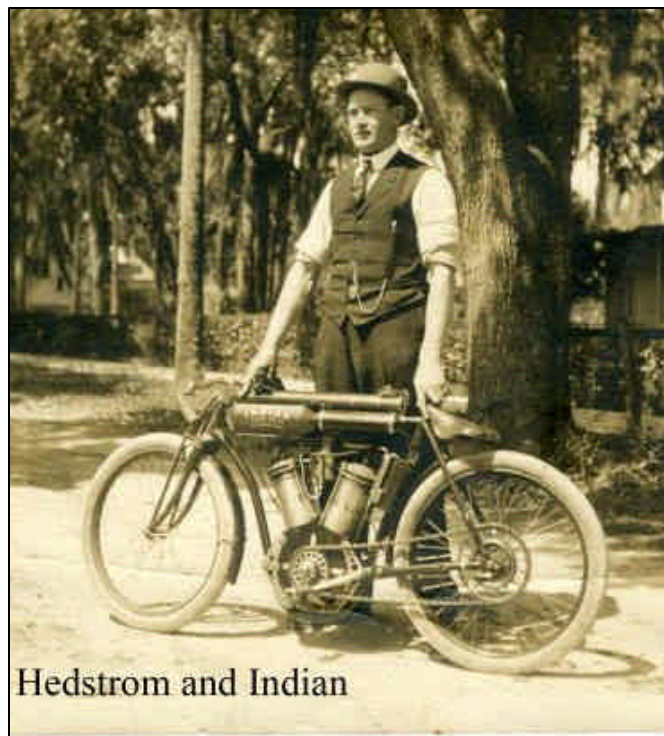
Agriculture played a very important role in the growth and development of our town. Much of the land in Portland was once used for general farming and tobacco production. Today, only one or two farms remain of the many that flourished in Portland years ago.

If you have any pictures of, or articles relating to early Portland farms or any other farm related memorabilia that you would be willing to loan us for this exhibit, please contact Sue at 342-0433 or Phyllis at 342-0303. Original photographs or news items will be copied for the exhibit and returned promptly.

Oscar Hedstrom

In addition, featured in our Spring Exhibit will be new pictures of **Oscar Hedstrom** the inventor of the **Indian Motorcycle** obtained by Sue Anderson working with Maggie Humbertson, head of the Library and Archives at the Connecticut Valley Historical Museum in Springfield, Massachusetts, where the Indian Motorcycle Factory was located. Hedstrom family photographs have also been made available from Lisa Martin, descendent of Oscar, and Charlie Bronson, a nephew of Oscar's daughter, Helen Hedstrom Carlson.

Hedstrom originally came to this area demonstrating his racing bicycles. In the early 1900's he purchased a farm on Lower William Street for his parents. Later after he married, he bought the large house at 533 Main Street and lived there until he died in 1960.



Hedstrom and Indian

Society's New Cookbook: **Portland Recipes and Reflections**

Portland Recipes and Reflections, our new Cookbook, was so popular, we have sold our original supply of 336 copies. We have reordered the book and the new printing is in production. A new supply is scheduled to arrive by December 5th, or possibly earlier, just in time for your holiday gift list.

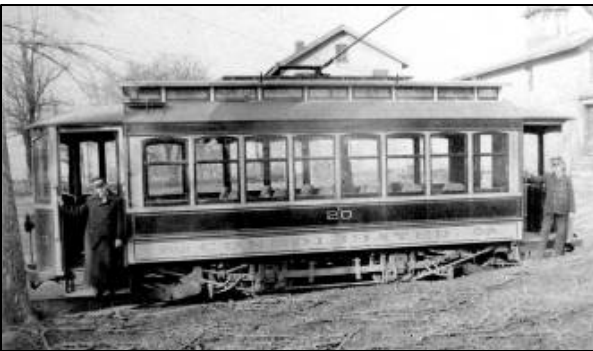
The cookbook is dedicated to the late **Pat Ellsworth Csere**, also features information on Portland's history, the society's Museum, the Betty Keser Scott Garden, and eight divider pages with wonderful historical photos of Portland.

The soft cover spiral bound cookbook costs \$8. It has 200 great recipes for all kinds of dishes and tasty treats from the kitchens of Society members and friends. It's a great gift for friends and family.

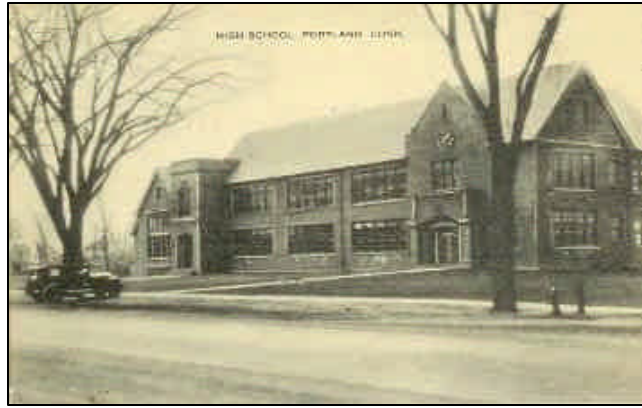
Cookbooks can be ordered at the Ruth Callander House of Portland History, Gotta's Farm on Route 17 in Portland, or by clipping out and mailing the order form provided on Page 5. You can also obtain a copy by calling 342-0433, 342-2847 or 342-3212. Our new supply of 200 copies is anticipated to sell out quickly, so please order soon.

All proceeds from this fundraising endeavor benefit the programs and operation of the Society's museum. We thank you for your generous support.

Cookbook Committee: Sue Anderson, Chairperson; Darren Anderson, Linda Cunningham, Bill, Phyllis and Claire Frisbie, Marie Keser, Martha Lutecki, Chris Sullivan and Regina Woltmann.



PORTLAND TROLLEY



Portland Historical Society **to Co-Sponsor** **75th Anniversary Celebration** **of School**

*****Alumni Panelists Needed*****

As mentioned in the last newsletter, the Brownstone Intermediate School, (formerly Portland High School and Portland Middle School), has welcomed students every September for the past 75 years. The BIS PTO wanted to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the building and approached the Society for some help in planning a celebration. Since the Society's "Growing Up In Portland" panel discussions have been such a success, we suggested that a similar format would be a good way to reminisce about school-life in the building and the many changes over the years.

We are looking for alumni of the building who would be interested in sharing memories of their school years by joining a discussion panel. During the school's 75 years, several generations of your family may have attended the school. It would be interesting to hear their different experiences. We hope to have panelists representing all Brownstone's history. Please call Mary Ann Dolan at 342-0594 with names of those interested in participating. Current BIS students and recent graduates are welcome to join the panel.

Save the date - Tuesday, February 26, 2008 - for a multi-generational celebration of the 75th Anniversary of BIS. The event will take place in the BIS Auditorium and is co-sponsored by the BIS PTO and The Portland Historical Society.

This is the recommended 2008 budget presented to the Annual Meeting, November 13, 2007, by treasurer James McCabe, prepared by the Finance Committee of the Society.

Category Description	2007 Actual	2007 Budget	2008 Budget
Books			
Book	504	500	120
Coloring Books Sales	270	1,000.00	200
Cook Books	2,501.73	0	1,200.00
St Clement's Book	-125	150	0
postage-book	0	-12	-56
printing-Books	-994.55	0	0
TOTAL Books	2,156.18	1,638.00	1,464.00
Calander Sales			
Calender Sales	1,228.00	2,000.00	1500
postage-Cal	-60.29	-120	-100
printing-cal	-2,068.00	-1,700.00	-2100
TOTAL Calander Sales	-900.29	180	-700.00
Callender House			
Interest Inc	0.44	1	1
Memorials	25	0	0
_Divinc	6,037.51	6,200.00	6200
_LT CapGnDst	4,416.58	2,000.00	2,000.00
_ST CapGnDst	417.76	312	0
House Maintaince	-4,151.10	-5,000.00	-3500
Insurance	-2,370.00	-2,880.00	-2880
Landscaping	-920	-900	-900
Misc-ch	-41.96	-365	-300
Repairs	-204.95	-214	-215
Security	-234	-234	-234
Utilities			
Gas & Electric	-589.1	-652	-350
Heating Oil	-3,656.40	-2,000.00	-3,800.00
Telephone	-177.73	-200	-200
Water	-732.16	-700	-700
TOTAL Utilities	-5,155.39	-3,552.00	-5,050.00
TOTAL Callender House	-2,180.11	-4,632.00	-4,878.00
General Operations			
Donation	964	700	700
Dues	3,615.00	2,800.00	3000
Bank Charge	-33	-50	-33
Dues and Subscriptions	-35	-35	-35
Licenses and Permits	-25	-25	-25
Misc-gen	-217.68	-500	-200
News Letters	-348	-1,000.00	-350
Portland Fair Booth	-50	-120	-120
Postage-Gen	-713.01	-700	-750
Printing-Gen	-1,025.00	0	-1,215.50
Programs	-315.79	-1,000.00	-1000
Rent	-450	-50	-250
TOTAL General Operati	1,366.52	20	206.50

Category Description	2007 Actual	2007 Budget	2008 Budget
House Tour	-100	0	-100
TOTAL Income	-100	0	-100
Museum			
Misc-mus	-1,267.21	-1,439.00	-1050
Postage-Mus	0	-10	0
Printing-Mus	0	-500	-250
Supplies, Bus	0	-64	-200
TOTAL Museum	-1,267.21	-2,013.00	-1500
Products			
Products-Misc	156.88	500	500
Yankee Mag	0	32	32
materials	0	-150	-150
postage-prod	-24.11	-50	-50
TOTAL Products	132.77	332	332
Tag sale			
Bake Sale	552.25	300	300
Food Sale	604.9	600	600
Tag Sale Ads	705	775	775
Tag Sale Callander Hou	1,413.49	1,500.00	1500
Tag Sale Fee	2,935.00	3,000.00	3000
Tag Sale Grange	268.8	200	200
Food Expense	-280.91	-280	-280
Misc-Tag Sale	-113.09	-48	-125
Postage-TAG	-49.14	-40	-55
Printing-Tag sale	-280	-300	-300
Rent-Tag Sale	-50	-50	-50
TOTAL Tag sale	5,706.30	5,657.00	5565
OVERALL TOTAL	4,914.16	1,182.00	489.50



Charles G. Larson with son, Charles W. and Elmer Peterson by barn he built.

SELECTED ITEMS FROM THE CALLANDER HOUSE CUPBOARD



Portland Recipes & Reflections
A wonderful collection of recipe favorites compiled by 100 Society members and friends. A must have at \$8.



Robert McDougall's "Images of Portland"- 128 pages illustrating the town's past. Every Portlander's coffee table needs a copy at \$20.



St. Clements - the Chronicle of a Connecticut River Castle.
by Prudence Taylor and T.J. Palmer. Available at \$15.



Callander House Stone-ware Jar - a 1997 memento commemorating the Callander House as Portland's History Museum. Jars are \$25.

COMING SOON

2008 Portland Heritage Calendar celebrating Portland's unique collection of Queen Anne Style Homes. Price: \$8.00/ea.



Sue Anderson's Coloring & Activity Book of Portland History. 56 Pages. Great gift for ages 3 to 9. \$5 each.



Decorative Linen Tea Towel with Portland Scenes in maroon and white available for \$6 each. (Towels have a rod pocket for easy hanging.)



Portland Notepads of 50 pgs. with 5 Town Scenes are \$3 per pad..

John LeShane's Video of Portland's State Forest is \$5.



Magnets (approx. 1-3/4"x 2-5/8") of 40+ views of Portland Postcard Scenes (ferry between Portland and Middletown shown) available at \$2 each, 3 for \$5, and a set of 20 for \$30. Call Sue Anderson, (860) 342-0433 for more details.

To order any of the above items, list here and mail in the enclosed envelope.

Name _____ Address _____ City, ST, ZIP _____ Phone _____ Send to: Portland Historical Society, Inc. P. O. Box 98 Portland, CT 06480-0098 <i>Make check payable to:</i> Portland Historical Society	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 10%;">QUANTITY</th> <th style="width: 50%;">ITEM</th> <th style="width: 15%;">COST</th> <th style="width: 25%;">TOTAL</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td><td> </td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">Postage: Please add \$2 for each \$12 of order</td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">Total cost of order</td> <td> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	QUANTITY	ITEM	COST	TOTAL																									Postage: Please add \$2 for each \$12 of order				Total cost of order			
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CALENDAR

All programs are held at the Portland Library, Mary Flood Room,
at 7:30 pm., unless otherwise indicated.

November 13 - Annual Meeting/Potluck Supper - Hemlock Grange 6 p.m.

December 9, 16, 23, 30 - 2 - 4 p.m.

Museum Holiday Exhibit: TOYS, TRAINS, DOLL HOUSES, etc.

January 22 - Program will be announced in Rivereast

February 3 - Spring Exhibit - 2-4 p.m. - **Ruth Callander House Museum**
Museum open 1st Sunday of most months

February 26 - 75th Anniversary of the Brownstone Intermediate School
(formerly Portland High School and the Jr. High School). It will be held in the school auditorium. Further details will be in Rivereast.

March 25 - "The President did What" Program by Bob Berthelson

April 22 - "Architecture and Landscape Photography" Program by John and Cassidy Olson, photographers

May 27 - "Notable Trees in Connecticut" Program by Glen Dryer of Connecticut College

June 24 - Potluck Picnic



NEWSLETTER - *Phyllis, Bill and Claire Frisbie, 11-13-07*

Newsletter!

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Pat Crowther
George Law

FINANCE BOARD

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Secretary - Ruth Freeburg
Vice President - Mary Ann Dolan
President - Martha Lutecki

2007 SOCIETY OFFICERS



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