PORTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 98, Portland, CT 06480

WINTER, 1997 NEWSLETTER

FROM THE PRESIDENT

-Christine Sullivan

As your new President I want to thank all those before me who have contributed so much to build the Society to its present stature.

The Society is successfully extending awareness of Portland's history and my hope is to see further growth of our membership. Portland's history is unique. It's a pleasure to be a part of promoting its recognition. By adding new members the Society can become a stronger voice to encourage the valuing of our historic resources.

I hope you will share your own interest in Portland's history with family and neighbors of all ages and ask them to join us!

BUDGET, FUND RAISING AND TAG SALE

For several years the Board has been investigating various fund raising plans for the Society to build the Museum fund. An ideal fund raiser would raise a large amount, be arranged with the least amount of volunteer time, and be something in which we all enjoy taking a part. A number of suggestions have been weighed and discarded - antique shows, house tours, etc. - which for one reason or another have not met the need or the requirements.

The Society's present estimated ANNUAL OPERATING BUDGET of $2806 funds six categories of expense: Membership - printing and postage $200; Publicity - printing and postage (4 Newsletters/year) $506; Programs - speaker's fees $800; Callander House Committee - museum planning and development $200; Museum Room - books and supplies $100; and $1000 for miscellaneous Society memberships and unanticipated expenses (such as seed money for fund-raising). Memberships at about $2000 annually and "boutique" sales presently cover these expenses with some overage.

The MUSEUM TRUST FUND to support a Callander House museum at some later date, (much later, we hope), has been growing nicely, thanks to generous donations from residents and former residents. But to build an endowment that we can depend on, we need to find an annual fund-raiser to keep the fund growing. Hence, our present plan for a town-wide Tag Sale Saturday, May 10, 1997. It is in the nature of an experiment. Can we make it a sufficient success to merit its becoming an annual event?

TAG SALE - MAY 10, 1997

The Tag Sale design is three-fold:

ONE - to ask town residents to hold private tag sales at home, donating a set sum to the Society in exchange for their tag sale being listed on an advertising map with a corresponding marker on their property, and the use of our expert advisers to help neophyte tag-salers.

TWO - having a central location in a church parking lot, the Grange or both, with spaces for rent to which one may bring the sale items; and

THREE - making a direct donation of items to a sale table to be set up at Ruth Callander's house - at her request - on her lawn.

The Tag Sale Planning Committee who would like your help are: Sharon Bergman, Pat & Eleanor Crowther, Pat Csere, Vivian Dower, Jim & Judy Elder, Phyllis & Bill Frisbie, Rick Gildersleeve, Barbara & Don Goodrich, Lee Hart, and Chris Sullivan.

We hope that you will take an active part in the Tag Sale in whichever way interests you. (Have you checked your attic lately?)

MUSEUM - *Pat Csere, 342-2168*

Recent gifts to the Society

From the Agnes Post Estate:
- Large copper kettle
- Wood yarn winder
- Hand crafted large sled
- Two-piece wedding gown (brown satin top) worn in 1880 by Laura Richardson, aunt of Agnes

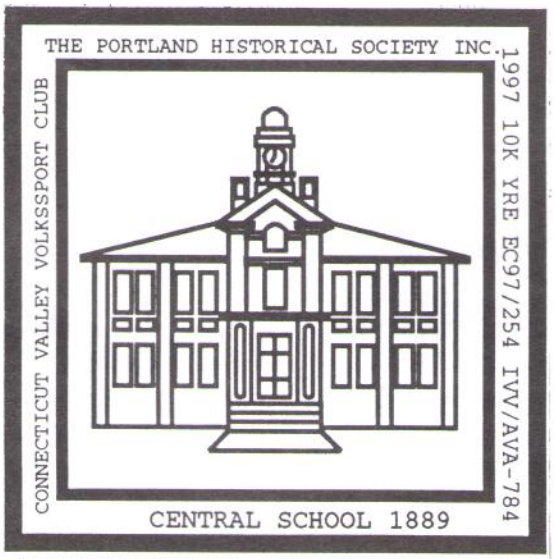
From Marie Keser:
- 1932 Girl Scout Guide Book

From Fred Berggren:
- Letter from Isaac Cox ordering material to make pants from Plymouth Rock Pants Co. (Interesting & fragile, will make copy)
- 1888 Small black diary of weather conditions
- 1960 Portland Citizen - two issues telling about Isaac Cox.

From Warren Strickland Estate:
- Two gold framed photo-prints of Noah Norcott Strickland and Caroline Bliss Strickland

From Elsie Hale:
- Child's tan linen coat worn by Harry T. Hale, made by his mother, Mary S. Hale.
- 1916 Seventy-fifth Anniversary booklet
- 1941 Centennial Celebration booklet
- 1968 Service of Dedication booklet - Zion Lutheran Church
- History of First Congregational Church booklet - preached by Rev. John Bayne
- 1971 History of First Congregational Church - 250th Anniversary
- 1954 Zion Lutheran Church - 80th Anniversary
- History of Trinity Church 1788-1938 by Julia N. McLean
- The Evangel - Sidney W. Wallace Memorial - Issue 2 - 1951.
- 1982 Library Dedication & Open House Program
- Glastonbury Old House Day - May 22, 1948.
- East Hampton Bicentennial 1967
- Portland, CT, 125 Years of Incorporation 1841-1966.
- News clipping - 1975 CT General Assembly
- 1948 Portland Zoning & Planning Regulations
- News clipping - 5/31/66 Grange Memorial Day float.
- News clipping - 1960-61 current expenses/pupil for all towns

MUSEUM DISPLAY - To complement the town's new Main Street Committee discussions, the Museum will display a series of pictures showing Main Street through the years.
The Museum Room in the Library is open every Saturday morning from 10 to 12, and by appointment. Members willing to chat with visitors on an occasional Saturday morning - please call Pat Csere, 342-2168.



Central School will be featured on the award for Portland's 1997, 10 kilometer volksmarch, for information contact: Bob McDougall 342-3062.

MUSEUM WISH LIST *-call Pat Csere, 342-2168*

Electric Typewriter or Word Processor for cataloging

* *

Small copy machine

The Corner Boutique

8-Inch, Blue-gray, Stoneware deep-dish Pie Plates, microsafe - Incised "Portland - 1841" . . . . $25.
Portland Scenic Tea-Towels. . . . . $ 6.
Portland Picture Note Pads (4-1/4x7"), 50 pgs., 5-repeating Portland Scenes . . . . . $ 3.
1997 Heritage Calendar (qty. limited) . . . . $ 6.
(Eleanor Crowther - 342-2907)

MEMBERSHIP - *Sharon Bergman, 342-4065*

Listed below is the Society membership for 1997 as of Jan. 15. This Newsletter has been sent to both 1997 and past members. <u>The number on your address label is the year of your last paid dues</u>. If the records seem wrong in any way or you have a question, please leave your name and number on my answering machine and I will return your call. (Individual: $10.,Family: $20., Lifetime membership: $250.)

LAURA E. ACKERMAN
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LINDA AND BOB AGOGLIATI
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JOAN J. SORENSON
ROBERT & SHERRY STANCLIFF
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DANIEL I. STREETER
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LUCILLE SWANSON
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MR/MRS GEORGE A. WILSON
ROBERT E. WIMLER
CHARLES WOLTMANN
REGINA T. WOLTMANN
JOHN & CATHERINE L ZAMPINI
NANCY CHILD ZIMMER

* = *Lifetime membership*

VOLUNTEER NEEDED - *REFRESHMENT COORDINATOR*

- Signs up tidbit providers for (8) monthly meetings and starts the coffee. Call Chris Sullivan, 342-4105

P.H.S. OFFICERS

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Christine Sullivan
Vice-President
Robert Johnson
Secretary
Ruth Freeburg
Treasurer
Charles Woltmann

Directors
Walter Dower
Donald Kelsey
Regina Woltmann

Finance Directors
Daniel Crowther
James Elder
Donald Goodrich

COMING ATTRACTIONS!

January 28 - **Jim Sarbaugh will present a slide show discussion of pictures from the Greater Middletown Preservation Trust book about the area, "*Long Ago . . .Not so far Away*".**

February 25 - **Celebrating Black History Month, David Coss from the New Haven Colony Historical Society will review the "*Amistad Incident,*" the famous slave ship mutiny and the participants' New Haven trial.**

March 25 - **Tom Callinan, noted Connecticut folk singer, will sing *Irish folk Songs* honoring some of Portland's ancestors. Meeting at SENIOR CENTER, 7:30 PM.**

April 22 - **Barbara Bruce from "*Antiques at Canton Village*" discusses "*Lighting through the years.*"**

The Society meets the fourth Tuesday of each month in the Mary Flood Room of the Portland Library at 7:30 PM, unless otherwise indicated.

PROGRAMS - H-E-L-P! ! Programs are needed for next fall. Have you wanted to hear a particular subject discussed or have you met or read about an expert whose subject would be interesting? Regina Woltmann, who is retiring as Program Chairman, has signed up speakers through June, 1997. Beginning next fall, we will need a new volunteer or volunteers, or we will spend our meetings talking to ourselves. Regina says that many of her ideas came from members or from the Ct. League of Historical Societies master catalogs of speakers/performers, and that six months or a year of programs can be organized quickly by telephone. Juggling speaker availability is the hardest part. Are there 2 volunteers who would like to begin programming for next fall, or - will 3 volunteers each be responsible for a month - September, October and December? Call Regina Woltmann, 342-3092, or Chris Sullivan, 342-4105.

* * * *

NEWSLETTER - ***Phyllis & Bill Frisbie***

PORTLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 98, Portland, CT. 06480

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NEWSLETTER!