

Lawrence Historical Society

P.O. Box 6025, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

SPRING, 1990 NEWLETTER

- CHRISTMAS BY THE CANAL:** Our open house held Sunday afternoon, December 10th, 1989, was enjoyed by all who attended. The house was beautifully decorated and special thanks are given to Joe Powers, a Board Trustee, for the beautifully decorated fireplace mantels and wreaths that he created for the house. The gingerbread men decorated by our talented Barbara Burnett and Janet Bickal had individual personalities and quickly found happy homes with the purchasers. Milton Levin is becoming famous for his Wassail Punch. Trustees Ruth Barringer, Mary McHale, Marilyn Sikora, Lois Richard, Denise Hall and Frances McCarthy all did a great job in welcoming all those who came to share a pleasant afternoon at the house. Kevin Connell, our past caretaker, also made sure that the event ran smoothly.
- ANNUAL MEETING:** Our annual meeting held Sunday afternoon, February 11th, was well attended and the program presented by Winnie Nash and Mary Tanner was interesting and informative. The program of our early road system was enjoyed by all.
- CARETAKER:** Kevin Connell, who has been caretaker of the Port Mercer Canal House, for nearly four and one-half years, has moved nearby. He will be a Board Member the beginning of May. We are happy he is able to remain active in the Society.
- Our new caretaker, David Kimzey, will be moving in the end of May. You will have a chance to meet David on June 10th when we have our open house. David is a Senior Designer for CUH2A.
- REFRIGERATOR:** A new frost-free refrigerator was purchased for the new caretaker as the cost of repair for the old refrigerator was not practical to consider.
- BRICK WORK:** The brickwork will be completed in time for our open house. Frances McCarthy will have laid over 4300 bricks to complete this project. P.S. The weather has to become more cooperative on the weekends!
- RETAINING WALL:** John Nordgren extended the retaining wall in the rear yard where the sloping ground meets the brick courtyard area.
- PORCH ROOF:** A new porch roof was installed by John Nordgren. A replacement was necessary as moisture was being trapped between layers of old roofing and was damaging the porch ceiling. New flashing was also installed.
- OUTHOUSE & TOOL SHED:** This project is underway and, hopefully, will be realized next year. Estimates have been received for building new buildings. The committee is also exploring the possibility of locating old buildings that would be suitable. If you have any information that could be helpful, call Frances McCarthy (609) 882-9032 or write her a note in care of the Society.
- PLASTERING AND PAINTING:** Plastering repair has been done upstairs prior to painting and, at a later date, plaster repair to the parlor ceiling will be completed.

SIERRA CLUB
PROJECT:

The Lawrence Historical Society is sharing a sign at the Port Mercer Site with the Cultural & Heritage Committee, the D & R Canal Watch, and Mercer County Friends of New Jersey Wildlife. The interpretive sign is one of many to be erected at different sites along the Canal.

MEMBERSHIP
DUES:

If you have not paid your dues for 1990, it would be appreciated if you would do so. We want to complete our 1990 goals which originally did not include a new porch roof!

MEMORIAL DAY
PARADE:

The Memorial Day Parade will take place Monday, May 28th, at 10 A.M. The parade route will be the same as last year, marching along Princeton Pike and ending up at the park behind the American Legion Post #414. Services will be held at noon at the memorial at the Junior School, Princessville Cemetery and the Lawrenceville Upper Cemetery. Frances McCarthy and Denise Hall will participate in the ceremonies and provide flowers for each site.

Frances read the poem "IN FLANDERS FIELD" at the ceremonies held at Veterans Park and poetry at the memorial and cemetery sites.

GRADUATION
AWARD:

A monetary award of \$150. will be presented at Awards Night, June 6th, at Lawrence High School to the most outstanding graduating history student.

OPEN HOUSE &
GARDEN TOUR:

Our Open House and Garden Tour will take place Sunday afternoon, June 10th, from 1 - 4 P.M. Pre-industrial crafts will be demonstrated and available for sale. A new feature this year will be making homemade ice cream. The Lawrence Township Canoe Event will also take place and those participating in this event, will end their canoe trip at Port Mercer as has been done in the past. All are welcome to join in the festivities at the Canal House. Refreshments will be served.

Thanks to the efforts of Board member, Gordon Keith, who was part of Earth Day, the Whole Earth Center donated a gift certificate for purchase of refreshments for our June 10th Open House.

Thanks to the thoughtfulness of William Hullfish, a special treat is in store for those attending our Open House this year. He has donated a tape of The Canaller's Songbook by The Golden Eagle String Band that will be played that day. In the past, he also donated a copy of the Songbook.

The Howell Living History Farm will participate again this year and demonstrate the threshing of corn. Thanks to Pete and his staff, who showed us how to make ice cream the old fashioned way, samples of the ice cream will be provided to our guests.

Dick Ensminger will demonstrate his skills in model shipbuilding, Rhona Thurman will demonstrate wheat weaving, Mary Ann Heenehan is very artistically skilled in calligraphy, Dr. Moyer will demonstrate broom making. We must make sure it doesn't rain Saturday or Sunday otherwise he will not be able to attend! If Rhona Thurman's name sounds familiar, she and her husband, Gary, are famous for their homemade jams. Unfortunately, they have decided to take a well deserved rest from making jams. Fortunately, Rhona is sharing her talent of wheat weaving and Gary is part of this new underaking as well. Joy Staller who actively got everyone involved in weaving last year just notified us she is unable to participate due to illness. Carlana Sargent is also unable to be part of our program this year. Both are already on notice to participate in our next year's Open House.

Enclosed is a flyer inviting you to come join us on June 10th for an enjoyable and interesting Sunday afternoon.

TRI-CENTENNIAL
CELEBRATION:

The Society will be part of the Tri-Centennial Celebration that begins this Fall and will end in 1997. A Canoe event will be planned and the Port Mercer Canal House will be open. Special plans are underway and more information will be sent out at a later date.

SOCIETY
ANNIVERSARY:

The Society was established in November, 1975 and this year marks our 15th anniversary. A special membership drive will take place in the Fall as well as a special event is being planned. Details will be sent out at a later date.

CHRISTMAS BY
THE CANAL:

Circle the date of Sunday afternoon, December 9th, for our Christmas
Open House. Details will be sent at a later date.

The Trustees of the Board thanks everyone for their loyal support and wishes everyone
a pleasant summer.