

Lawrence Historical Society

P.O. Box 6025, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648



FALL NEWSLETTER -- 1993

Coming Events

Christmas at the Canal House

This year, once again, Bill Manning will be at the Canal House selling trees, sheepskins, yarn, maple syrup, bird houses and other Vermont products. He will be open from the first weekend in December. Open House at the Canal House will be on December 11 and 12, from 12:00 to 4:00 each day. Wassail and punch, decorated gingerbread people and holiday crafts will be available. When you come in, be sure to notice the restored furniture; almost all the pieces generously donated by the estate of Ethel Dettman are glowing afresh. If the weather during the next few weeks is cooperative, and the workmen's schedules permit, the outhouse will acquire a new roof, a window and perhaps one coat of paint. It will certainly be sporting a fresh, bright wreath by December 11.

Annual Meeting, February 13

The annual meeting of the society will be held on February 13, from 2:00 to 4:00 at the Lawrence Library, Darrah Lane at Route One. After a brief business meeting, our speaker will be Dr. William Guthrie, Dean of Graduate Education at Rider College; he will speak on "Who Lived in Lawrence Township 600 Years Ago?" Dr. Guthrie is an expert on New Jersey Indian history and culture. His talk should be of interest to young and old. There will be refreshments and plenty of opportunity to ask questions.

The society board of trustees for 1994:

President: Robert Glover

Treasurer: Milton Levin

Corresponding Secretary and Archivist: Frances McCarthy

Asst. Secretary and Treasurer: David Kimzey

Board members:

Denise Hall

Ruth Barringer

Kevin Connell

Nick Loveless

(There are some vacancies on the board; if you are interested in being a trustee, call Denise Hall at 396-3925.)

Garden Award

The Garden Gate Garden Club of the Lawrence Road Presbyterian Church has chosen the garden at the Canal House for an award. The presentation will be at the first town council meeting in December. The society joins with the garden Club in recognizing that the garden is primarily the product of many hours of dedicated work by Frances McCarthy, Denise Hall and Kevin Connell (former caretaker) with able assistance from the house caretaker, David Kimzey.

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Looking Back

June 13
Open House

The June 13 Open House was an enormous success. A sunny day, the garden in full bloom, fresh ice cream, the high school jazz band, and a splendid crowd all contributed to a memorable event. A fine band of canoers joined in the festivities. The climax was Mayor Teti's dedication of the pre-Civil War outhouse which had been given to the society by Mary and Thomas McHale. Mayor Teti was joined by the other township council members in cutting the ribbon and welcoming this addition to the township's historic attractions.

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Senior Award

This year the society's award to the best history student in the high school graduating class went to Jonathan Bojarski. Nick Loveless presented the award.

Nassau Park
Port Mercer
and
Port Mercer
Village

The board has grown increasingly concerned about the planned developments in the area around the Canal House. Port Mercer will be immensely impacted by the building of a Wal-Mart and other stores at Nassau Park, and then by the building of some 500 units of housing in Port Mercer Village (originally called Yorkshire Village). Wal-Mart has agreed to build the new bridge south of the Canal House and the township has agreed to a new alignment of Province Line Road. The present bridge will serve traffic to and from Princeton while the new bridge will carry traffic to and from Princeton Pike. These changes will eventually provide some traffic relief, but the many months, perhaps years, required for construction are bound to be difficult. Frances McCarthy has followed these developments very closely and decided to write to Governor Florio, inviting him to visit. On September 20, Mr. Richard Fleming, a project specialist in the governor's office, met with Frances, Robert Glover, Milton Levin, Denise Hall and Gordon Keith. Mr. Fleming was very impressed by the area and the Canal House and very sympathetic. He offered his help when problems arose.

Bentley's

Other problems of preservation include Bentley's Market and the Hill House. Unfortunately, permission has been granted to demolish the market and replace it with a larger building, part retail and part offices. Winona Nash, the township historian, has recommended that the building be fully documented, including a video tape, before it is razed.

Hill House

The future of the Hill House is more hopeful. The two attorneys who agreed to buy it have decided that it cannot be successfully converted into office space. They have agreed to donate the house to the Lawrence Historical Society if we can move it. The township's Historic Preservation Advisory Committee has approved this action. Denise Hall, on behalf of the society, has been largely instrumental in proposing the arrangement; she has received the approval of the D & R Canal Commission to move the house to a site near the Canal House. All of this is, of course, contingent on funds. As of this writing, a number of possibilities are being pursued and we should have more to report at the annual meeting. The Lawrence Ledger will, of course, be following this story.

The Lawrence Township Tricentennial Committee has begun to plan for 1997. Milton Levin represents the society on this committee.

Volunteers
Needed

Frances McCarthy has organized a docent committee, people who would enjoy acting as house guides and hosts. We welcome volunteers for this committee and for other activities.

If you are interested in the docent committee, call Frances McCarthy at 882-9032.

If you are interested in working on specific programs or projects, including the tri-centennial, call Milton Levin, 882-8099.

CHRISTMAS BY THE CANAL.....

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11th, 1993

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12th, 1993

12 - 4 p.m.

For Purchase....

From December 3rd to December 23rd

Christmas Trees, Wreaths,

Garland, Cheese, Wool,

Sheepskins, Bird Houses,

Maple Syrup... from Vermont

Weekend of December 11th & 12th

Decorated Gingerbread Men

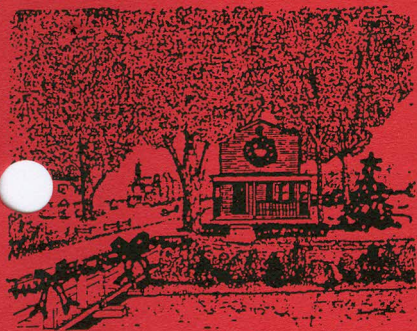
Handcrafted Jewelry & Scarves

Society Gift Items

* House beautifully decorated for
the holidays and open for tour.

* Refreshments served.

* Admission free.



Port Mercer Canal House Museum

circa 1830

Lawrenceville, New Jersey

