

Lawrence Historical Society

NEWSLETTER.....WINTER, 1992

OUTHOUSE

We found an outhouse right in our own backyard. The Society is thrilled to announce that an outhouse has been donated to us by Mr. & Mrs. Thomas McHale. The McHale family lives in Glen Cairn here in the Township. When a barn on the property was replaced by the previous owners, who had restored Glen Cairn, an outhouse was brought along with the new barn. The barn was raised on the foundation of the original barn that had been torn down. The outhouse originally came from the old Coleman farm in Dutch Neck and is pre-Civil War. It needs some repair but is generally in good shape. The fact that the outhouse is not original to the property is why the Landmarks Advisory Committee has given their approval to have it moved to the Port Mercer Canal House. Approval has also been gained from the Delaware & Raritan Canal Commission. We are waiting for approval from one other office and then a moving date can be set. The outhouse will be placed on the site of the original outhouse and will be for educational purposes only. Although this is not exactly what the original Port Mercer outhouse looked like, it is in keeping with the area and the time of the Canal House. This project has been three years in the making and many avenues have been pursued. Needless to say, the outhouse will be the highlight of our June Open House 1992.

JUNE OPEN HOUSE -1991

Our June Open House - 1991 - was a success and everyone enjoyed themselves. Pre-industrial crafts were demonstrated and Howell Living History Farm demonstrated corn threshing. The garden was beautiful and the homemade ice cream was delicious.

GRADUATION AWARD

In June, the Historical Society awarded Laura Smith \$150.00 as the outstanding graduating history student from Lawrence High School, Class of 1991.

UPDATE - BENTLEY'S/ JIGGER SHOP

The Lawrenceville School has hired a consultant who will help them come up with an overall concept for the Village of Lawrenceville and their properties - Bentley's and the Jigger Shop in particular. The school has put the idea of destroying the buildings on hold and is pursuing plans that will preserve the buildings.

HISTORICAL SOCIETIES - MEETING

The Fall meeting was hosted by the Hightstown Historical Society. The Hightstown Historical Society recently acquired the freight station that was located in another area of the town. They moved the freight station to property in back of Ely House, their headquarters. They will restore the station and use the extra space for exhibits, lectures and meetings. We congratulate them on their success. It was a long struggle on their part to preserve the station. The next meeting will be held in the Spring and will be hosted by the Jamesburg Historical Society.

BOOK PROJECT

If anyone is interested in working on the book project or has information to contribute, they can contact Ken Rubin at (609) 695-6979 or write to Lawrence Historical Society, P.O. Box 6025, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648. We would also like to hear from people if they would be interested in purchasing the Old Lawrenceville Book once it is reprinted.

NASSAU PARK UPDATE

The Delaware & Raritan Canal Commission has tabled any approval of the pending Nassau Park Project until the traffic issue can be resolved.

D & R CANAL LECTURER

Gordon Keith has been delivering lectures on the D & R Canal to groups throughout the State. Anyone interested can contact him at (609) 987-0418.

HISTORIC
LANDMARK
CERTIFICATE

Doug Sargent presented a Historic Landmark Certificate to Denise Hall for the Society from the Historic Preservation Advisory Committee designating the Port Mercer Canal House as a historic landmark by the Township of Lawrence.

FALL FAIR

The Society had a table at the Fall Fair sponsored by the Lawrenceville Civic Association. This event is held annually at the Lawrenceville Elementary School. Public interest in our organization and the history of Lawrence Township in general has been good.

FUNDRAISER -
ELEGANCE '92

The Lawrence Historical Society and B'nai B'rith are co-sponsoring a craft show Saturday, February 29th and Sunday, March 1st. Hours are 10 - 6 both days. The show will be held at ETS, Carter Road, Lawrence Township. The show will feature a select group of crafters. Admission charges will benefit the Historical Society and B'nai B'rith. Look for further details in local newspaper publicity.

FIFTEENTH
ANNIVERSARY
TOUR

The Historical Society celebrated its fifteenth anniversary by having a lovely house tour and reception at the home of Mr. & Mrs. W.J.B. Stokes II. The day was beautiful and the house superb. The tour was enjoyed by everyone who attended. The Society would like to thank the Stokes for their generosity in offering their home for the tour.

CHRISTMAS
OPEN HOUSE

Our Christmas By The Canal Open House was a success. A steady stream of people from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. made a stop at the Canal House a part of their Christmas season. Everyone took advantage of the handcrafted items for sale from local crafters and did their Christmas shopping. A new addition this year were Christmas trees, wreaths, garlands, sheepskins and maple syrup from Vermont were for sale, courtesy of Bill Manning. Our 1992 Christmas By The Canal Open House will be expanded to two days.

CERAMIC MUG

The Society now has a mug for sale. A picture of the Port Mercer Canal House appears on the front and the Society intends to make this the first mug in a series. The mug is available at our June and December Open House events.

ANNUAL
MEETING

Our annual meeting will be held Sunday, February 9th, 1992 from 2 - 4 p.m. in the Lounge Room, Lawrenceville Presbyterian Church, Main Street, in the Village of Lawrenceville. Parking is available in the north parking lot. Our program will feature Clifford Zink, Executive Director of TRCDC. Mr. Zink will present a slide presentation and talk on the development of the Roebling Complex in Trenton. Most of the buildings are being saved and rehabilitated. This project is a vital revitalization effort and grant monies have recently been received to redevelop the buildings, construct a park along the Delaware & Raritan Canal in Trenton and refurbish the Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex.

Installation of Society Officers and Trustees will take place at 2 p.m. The program will begin at 2:15 p.m. Refreshments will be served. The public is invited.

SLATE OF
OFFICERS &
TRUSTEES
1992

Nominations for the Trustees of the Board of the Lawrence Historical Society for the year 1992 are:

President: Denise Hall
Vice President: Milton Levin
Treasurer: Ruth Barringer
Secretary: Frances G. McCarthy
Assistant Secretary
& Treasurer: Lisa Rubin

Trustees (One Year): Barbara Burnett
Kevin Connell
Robert Glover
Drew Jakubek
Lori Jakubek
Mary McHale
Nicholas Loveless
Lois Richard
Kenneth Rubin

Kenneth Rubin

MEMBERSHIP
DUES

Enclosed is your Membership Dues statement. Your continued loyal support is very much appreciated.

SPRING
NEWSLETTER

Our Spring newsletter will give more details concerning our June and December events and Society goals for 1992.