The Official Journal of the Organization

The Hoboken Historical Museum Newsletter

OF BY And FOR MuSeum MemberS.

OCTOBER 1990 HOBOKEN, NJ No. 42

Public Announcement

☆ MUSEUM PARTY ☆

Sunday October 21st

Our annual Party/Membership Drive will take place at the Jefferson Trust Culture Space, 313 First Street at Clinton, starting at 3pm and expected to run to 9pm.

We hope to see many non-members at the party. The annual year-end roster of members will soon be printed, so now is the time to add your name to the list. We now have more than 200 paid members, mostly residents of Hoboken, but also from 13 different states, Canada, and Belgium, home of the original Hoboken. Dues are only $15 a year. Two-year memberships are $25, and a bargain lifetime membership is only $100, a logical gift for the youngest member of your family!

Live entertainment for the evening will be provided by The Rajahs of Rhythm with internationally acclaimed clarinetist Perry Robinson and all-time great drummer Frankie Fame, plus their musical friends and local musicians who are expected to sit in for a jam session.

Doors open to everyone at 3pm, with free admission. Refreshments will be served. The Museum's collection of vintage films of Hoboken at the turn of the century, will be shown until 6pm by Geri Fallo, director of Projected Images of Hudson County.

The Gold Coast Artists Studio Tour takes place at the same time as the Museum party, so you can make a gala day of it. Ask your friends to join you!



"Rajahs" Frankie Fame and Perry Robinson

The Walls Bulge

Seventeen people attended our September meeting in the Clam Broth House, including Lifetime Member Elizabeth Liddy Rourke and her daughter, from San Mateo, California.

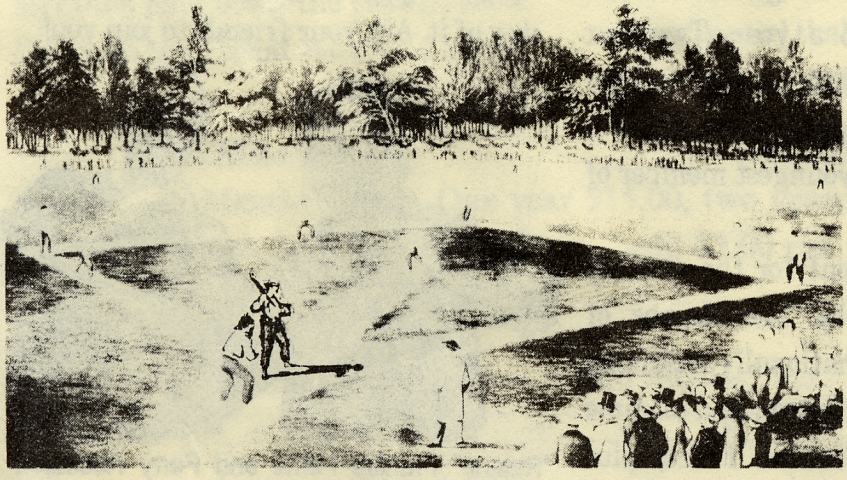
We invite everyone to come to our meetings and share the fun of these sociable gatherings. This month we meet at City Hall on Monday, October 15, to dismantle our 1989-1990 exhibition.

Hoboken Scores In Baseball

As the current season closes, we pass on some interesting baseball lore from Dr. Nathaniel J. Coyne, a dentist in Hoboken for many years. The good doctor tells us that the great auction house, Christie's in New York, placed at auction on January 19th a print of the famous Currier & Ives scene of "The American National Game of Base Ball, Grand Match for the Championship at the Elysian Fields, Hoboken, N.J."

The print appeared in Christie's International Magazine with a value of $10,000 to $15,000 placed upon the original. Dr. Coyne reports that the print sold at auction for $30,000, double the anticipated estimate! We thank Dr. Coyne for the news.

A good color reproduction of the original print, probably the most important baseball art in existence, has been on display at the Hoboken Historical Museum's gallery in City Hall since last November. It is part of an exhibition of Hoboken landmarks past and present which will be removed on October 15 to make way for our next exhibition, on Hoboken shipyards. Active members and any others who may wish to help us with taking down the old exhibit will meet at City



THE AMERICAN NATIONAL GAME OF BASE BALL

Hall on Oct. 15 at 7:30pm.

The historic print, shown here, does not depict America's first official baseball game as some of our local newspapers and so many others believe. Clearly visible on the Christie's print and on the Museum's reproduction is 1866 not 1846, the year of the first game, also played in Hoboken.

By 1866 baseball had indeed become the "American National Game." According to Frederic Conningham, a noted authority on Currier & Ives prints, the Christie's print shows a championship game between the Eckfords and the Atlantics, both of Brooklyn, as described on page 50 of Conningham's book "Currier & Ives," 1950. He writes, "Baseball rules of the time are well illustrated by the print; not one of the players is wearing a glove, the pitcher is throwing underhand, and the catcher doesn't wear a chest protector or mask. Masks came in use in 1875 and chest protectors in 1885."

So far as we know, there are only four views depicting early baseball played in Hoboken, none of which is the first match of June 19, 1846 between the Knickerbockers and the New York Nine (not the name of an actual team, but nine players chosen on the spot on that historic day).

If we are to show the world that Hoboken, not Cooperstown or New York, is the Birthplace of Baseball, we should keep the facts straight, or people will have reason to dispute Hoboken's claim.

2nd HOBOKEN HISTORICAL MUSEUM

FLEA MARKET

& ANTIQUES - COLLECTIBLES - CRAFTS

Saturday, Oct. 27th, 1990

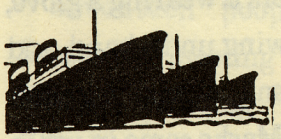
CHURCH SQ. PARK

4th & GARDEN STs.

9:00 a.m. til 6:00 p.m.

The Museum's first flea market was so successful, we're having another, on Saturday, October 27, from 9am to 6pm in Church Square Park (rain date: Sunday, October 28). Loads of fun and lots of good stuff for sale, including toys, vintage clothing, baskets, books, jewelry, pottery, and much, much more from Hoboken's best closets and attics. Available at the Museum's table will be our popular baseball and Lackawanna Rail Road T-shirts, maps, and photos of old Hoboken. If you have something you want to sell at the flea market, phone Ann at 653-7602 or John at 963-3105 and reserve your table.

Hoboken Historical Museum
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THE HOBOKEN HISTORICAL MUSEUM

CITY HALL

WASHINGTON AND FIRST STS. HOBOKEN, N.J.

SPECIAL MEETING

The Hoboken Historical Museum will conduct its October meeting at City Hall at 7:30pm on Monday, October 15 to set plans in motion for the new 1990-1991 Shipyards Past and Present exhibition. All members and non-members are invited to attend a brief business session and then haul down the present show. Please bring a friend. We need a hand.

MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

September 1990 No. 41

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Nina Flanagan & Billy "G", Dena Reynolds, John DePalma, Ron Bezick, John Calligy, Steve Kilnisnan, and others. Special thanks to Ann O'Brien, our gracious hostess.

Office Phone: (201) 653-7392

Membership: One year $15.00, two years $25.00

Out-of-town Membership: add $3.00 per person

Lifetime Membership: $100.00

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