The Official Journal of the Organization

The Hoboken Historical Museum Newsletter

OF BY And FOR Museum Members.

JANUARY 1990 HOBOKEN, N.J. NO. 34

OUR FIRST FIVE YEARS

As we move into the last decade of this century we cannot help but reflect on the progress of the Hoboken Historical Museum since its founding five years ago.

As our 1989 Annual Report shows, it has been an eventful time. All those who have helped the enterprise grow deserve congratulations.

Although now in our fifth year, it seems like only yesterday that we began with nothing but faith, optimism, a dream, and a Haven Savings Bank account of $178.

Despite hectic deadlines and momentary frustrations in meeting our self-imposed demands, the satisfactions and accomplishments have been many.

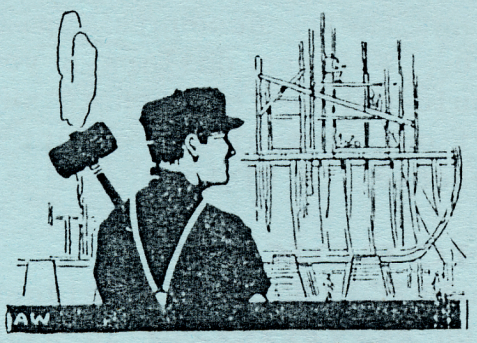
In general, we can say happily that everything is progressing nicely. By the way, it has been said that the definition of "progress" is one's faith that the future is going to be better than the present, and the present is better than the past.

Although we may now think a great deal about the new century coming up, we should keep in mind that the past is never over and done with.

Speaking of the past, more and more longer articles on Hoboken's fascinating history are planned to appear this year in the Newsletter.

Other plans for the new year include a balanced budget and assurance from the Board of Trustees that we will do everything possible to secure the Museum's financial future.

Our fifth annual major exhibition at City Hall will debut in November, titled "Hoboken Shipyards Past and Present."



Tietjen & Lang Dry Dock Co.
Marine Repairs, Hoboken, New Jersey

A committee is actively at work scheduling guest speakers for our public meetings in April, June, and October.

[Continued next page]

Topics will relate to Hoboken's colorful past, and to preservation of its architectural heritage.

Volume III of "The History of Theatre, Vaudeville and Movies in Hoboken" is scheduled to appear in August.

This spring our annual big night of entertainment to raise funds for the Museum will be presented as the "Hoboken Follies."

Scheduled for February 28, as part of the Wednesday Night Film Series at Maxwell's restaurant, Projected Images of Hudson County will screen the Museum's collection of rare vintage film.

We'll keep you posted on all these events as they develop.

Although we have been successful in reaching many of our goals, we still need all the physical and financial help we can get.

May we take this opportunity to remind our delinquent (shame, shame!) members to bring their accounts up to date. Fifteen dollars a year should not be too much to support our community's effort to preserve its history.

HOBOKEN HERITAGE AWARDS

Three of the Museum's members were honored with the Hoboken Heritage Award "for outstanding contribution to the preservation of our city's past." They are:

Jim Hans, President; Bob Foster, Vice President; and Trustee John DePalma.

Presentation was made by the Hoboken Historic District Commission at City Hall on November 28th, 1989.

J P MORGAN DONATES $500

Through the efforts of Museum Corresponding Secretary Kathleen McBrady, the Morgan Guarantee Trust Company of New York bestowed upon the Museum a grant of $500 to help cover the cost of publishing Volume III of "The History of Theatre, Vaudeville, and Movies in Hoboken," expected to be completed in August.

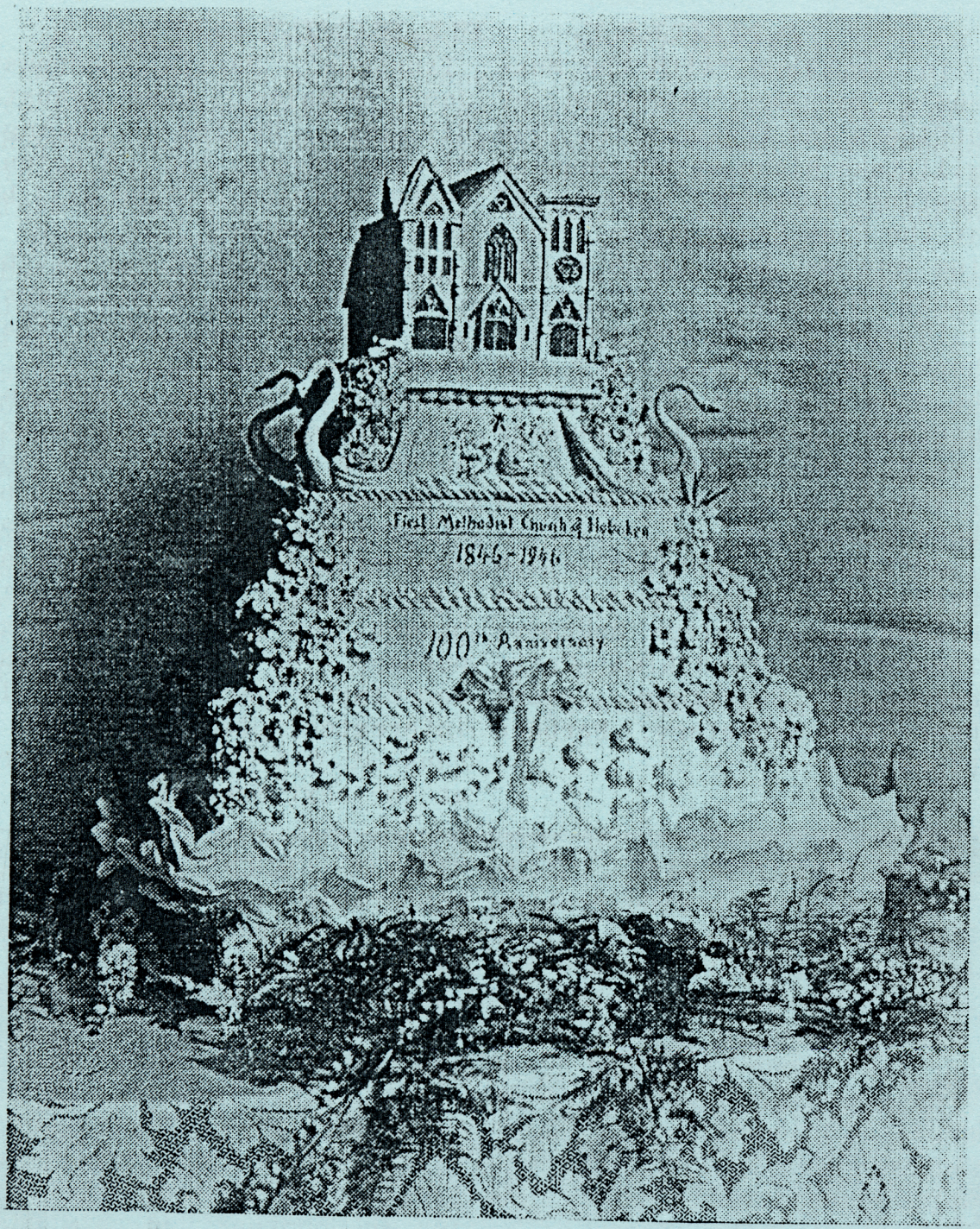
Morgan made the contribution to honor Kathleen's volunteer work with the Museum. She's an employee of Morgan Guarantee.

MUSEUM TEE-SHIRTS

Our ever-popular tee-shirts, seen adorning some of the finest bodies in Hoboken--"The First Baseball Game," "The Great Ocean Liners," and "Delaware, Lackawanna Railroad," once available only at Hoboken's festivals, are now on sale by long-time active member Vinni Rossi at his Literary Shop bookstore, 736 Washington Street.

Also from Bob Foster by appointment, at 656-2240.

For the convenience of out-of-town members yearning to wear our shirts, a price list and mail order form is being prepared.



MYSTERY CAKE

Found among family photos was this picture, donated to the Museum by Dorothy A. Vogel, of a 100th Anniversary cake of the First Methodist Church of Hoboken (Washington Street between 7th and 8th Streets, now Mount Olive Baptist). Nothing is known here of the event, and no one in Dorothy's family is a Methodist who can help. Any information will be greatly appreciated.

Those who recall the church in its original state will agree it is a fine replica.

ANNUAL ELECTION

In compliance with the Museum's by-laws, election of officers and trustees for 1990 will take place at the January meeting, Tuesday, January 23 at the Clam Broth House. Voting may be done there or by proxy and mail.

In addition to the nominees here listed, nominations may be made from the floor at the meeting. Only paid-up members are eligible to vote.

The following members have been nominated:

Officers: President, Jim Hans; Vice President, Hugh Kilmer and Kathleen McBrady; Treasurer, Gerard Lisa; Corresponding Secretary, open; Recording Secretary, Barbara Lippman.

Trustees: Martin Andrews, John DePalma, Luke Faust, Stephen Hefler, George Kirchgessner, Ann O'Brien, Perry Robinson (Voting will be for six trustees.)

Absentee Ballots To be valid, absentee ballots must be received no later than January 23, 1990.

Note: Our present Corresponding Secretary is not actually leaving, but for personal reasons will be otherwise occupied for a time, beginning June 1. This is an opportunity for someone to become an active member, perhaps as an assistant secretary part-time. If interested, please call Jim Hans at 643-7392, or inquire at the next meeting.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Many people outside Hoboken continue to take an active interest in the Museum and its activities via the Newsletter.

In response to a mention in our last issue of having heard from a great-granddaughter of Edwin A. Stevens, noted son of John Stevens, founder of Hoboken, we received a Membership renewal in the form of a Lifetime Membership from Samuel Reckford of Hoboken, who informed us that he is a great-great-great-grandson of Edwin A. Stevens!

Elizabeth Leddy Roake, who grew up in Hoboken and now lives in San Mateo, California, also pledged a Lifetime Membership for herself and gift memberships for her sister and a cousin.

Wrote Mrs. Roake: while reading a list of Museum members she found the names of "my first little girlfriends in kindergarten; my first little girlfriend on my street; my first girlfriend on my first job in Hoboken; and this year I got my first boyfriend in Hoboken to join, among others!"

Her enthusiastic letter honored us by saying, "You folks are fantastic -- you've come a long way, baby -- indeed!" You're fantastic, too, Mrs. Roake.

A BIT MORE

We receive too many letters to publish them all; but the Hoboken information contained in many here eventually in one form or another.

Museum member Dr. Francis R. Dolan of Monrovia, California informed us recently that his father, John J. Dolan, was superintendent of the North German Lloyd Line, from whose piers the AEF sailed in World War I.

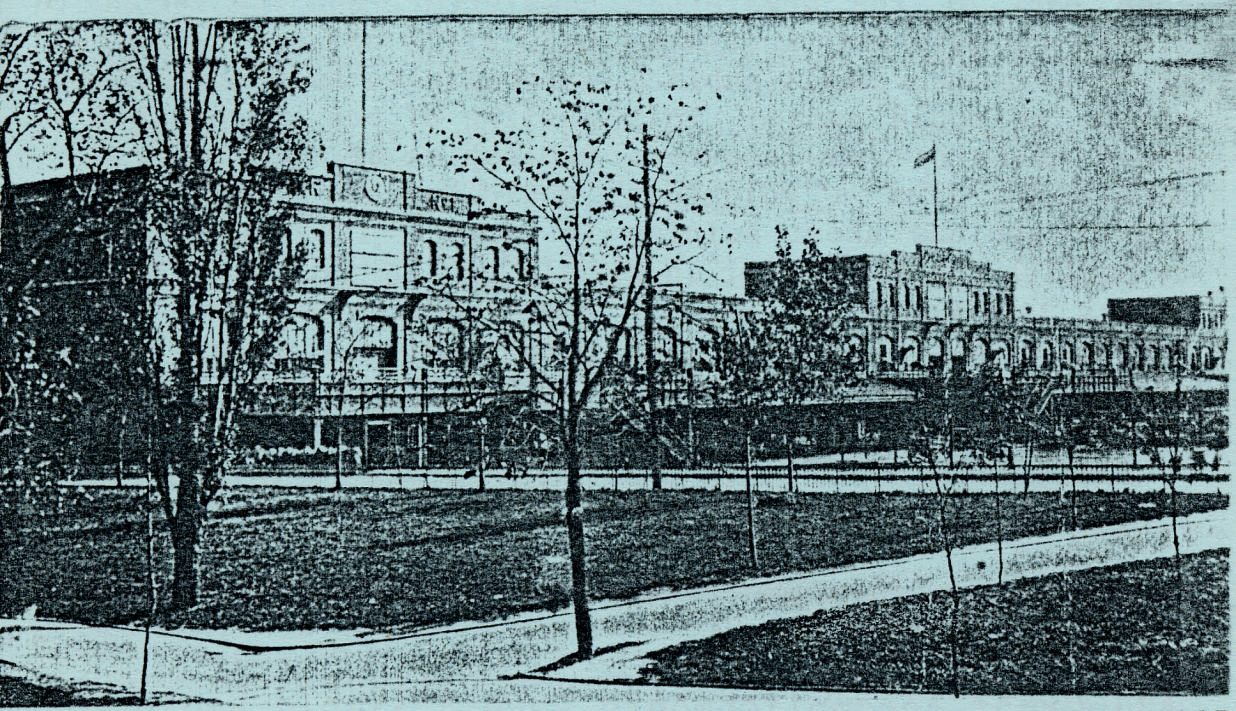
Sadly, the historic North German Lloyd Lines buildings and piers are scheduled to be demolished soon to make way for the new waterfront project.

~(((and)))~

Also in the letter from Dr. Dolan, a resident of Hoboken back in 1916, are reminiscences of his family during the 1930s and 1940s.

He writes: "My brother Ken became a theatrical agent, starting as Rudy Vallee's personal rep at the Hi-Ho Club in New York, and the Fleischmann's Yeast radio program. Ken opened his own agency in California with Mary Martin, Dennis Day, and other clients. Ken's wife was Shirley Ross, still remembered singing 'Thanks for the Memory' with Bob Hope."

[Continued on next page.]



Hoboken, N. J. North German lloyd Piers Ca. 1905

One of Dr. Dolan's own memories is of a visit to the Clam Broth House. "Can you imagine after three and a half years in the armed forces of World War II my one desire after seeing family was to visit the Clam Broth House -- which I did -- and naturally what it did -- with a stomach not familiar with such rich delicacies. I was so sick I couldn't die, not the fault of the Clam Broth House, but of my K-ration stomach!"



A CHALLENGE FOR SOMEBODY

We can now afford to enlarge the **Newsletter** on a regular basis, and would like to, if we had the time.

But if someone would help us a couple of days a month, become part of the **Newsletter** staff, and gain some knowledge of working on a small publication, we could expand. This would require a long-term commitment from a volunteer who is serious about helping us publish the **Newsletter**, now in its 34th month!

Help would be needed for about three hours or less on each of two days (or evenings) of <u>every month</u> except July. We emphasize <u>every month</u> for it is not long hours but consistency that we need.

One of the sessions would be to help paste-up the dummy of the four or eight pages of the newsletter, and the second to help affix address labels and generally to help prepare the mailing of our roughly 600 to 800 copies of each issue.

Would someone who would like to accept the challenge to help out in this most important function of the Museum please phone Jim Hans during the day at 653-7392. (He's the fellow with rubber cement on his eyebrows.)

All Great Accomplishments Have A Simple Beginning

HOBOKEN HISTORICAL MUSEUM
ANNUAL REPORT 1989

During a very active 1989 we took in almost the amount that we spent, which was the largest ever, slightly over $17,000 (see monthly expenses breakdown below).

MONTHLY EXPENSES 1989

Jan.	$ 438.26	May	$1,703.50	Sept.	$1,185.06
Feb.	399.88	June	779.19	Oct.	1,838.64
Mar.	588.06	July	865.84	Nov.	4,263.79
April	1,652.59	August	704.43	Dec.	2,628.75
				Total	$17,043.59

Although our expenses have increased each year, so has our activities and our ability to keep pace with all the expenses and balance the books at the end of the year. As of our December bank account statement our balance is $1,652.27, a couple of thousand ($2,268.92) under what we started with at the beginning of the year, however, we expect within a month's time, a check from the New Jersey Historical Commission for $1,391.00, the balance of a $5,557 grant awarded to the Museum in August to underwrite our major exhibition at City Hall in November.

Early in February representatives of the Museum attended the dedication and rebirth of 77 River Street, originally the Second National Bank building dating from 1889. For a few months the Museum had a prominent display of historic Hoboken in one of the unoccupied offices on the street level, all of which was highly covered by the press.

On April 29th over forty volunteer musicians performed at the Museum's annual benefit which earned $2700.00 at the Hoboken Elks Club Lodge. Another twenty volunteers helped in various ways to make the evening an enjoyable one. Vintage pictures of the area were on display and slides were shown to a packed house.

The Museum had tables set up at the annual Hoboken Waterfront Arts Festival on June 4th, offering information and good public relations to hundreds of people who attended. The sale of T-shirts and other Hoboken items were good.

Also in June, the Museum published Volume II of "The History of Theatre, Vaudeville and Movies in Hoboken", which had favorable press and is selling well.

The Museum had tables set up again at the River City Fair, August 19th and 20th. Our new T-shirt design, honoring the Delaware Lackawanna and Western Railroad, which had its terminus in Hoboken for many years, was a big hit there. Our new canapy gave the table displays some class and spared us from the summer heat.

On August 31st the Museum's rare film footage of Hoboken, and other films related to Hoboken were shown aboard the Hudson Waterfront Museum's barge docked at the foot of Newark Street. That was well received.

During the summer of 1989 every Wednesday evening from June 21st through September 6th, the Museum was represented at a table in front of the bandstand during the annual Concerts in the Park series held at Church Square Park.

On September 17th the active members held a membership drive and party at the new A.M.B. Galleries in Hoboken, successfully mixing business with pleasure. The Museum distributed information to hundreds of people and sold many Hoboken items at its space at the Hoboken Terminal Festival on October 7th. It was one of the largest attended ever.

Our biggest event of the year was the opening of the Museum's major exhibition at City Hall entitled "Hoboken Landmarks and Historical Highlights", which will run until October 1990. The Museum's film collection of old Hoboken was shown again at the opening along with some recently acquired footage. Our published history map was successfully introduced at the reception, which was attended by a large and enthusiastic crowd.

Jim Hans, President
December 31, 1989

Hoboken Historical Museum
P.O. Box M-1220
Hoboken NJ 07030



NON PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 6
HOBOKEN, NJ

THE HOBOKEN HISTORICAL MUSEUM

CITY HALL

WASHINGTON AND FIRST STS. HOBOKEN, N.J.

MEETING NOTICE

Our next meeting, open to the public, is Tuesday, January 23, 1990 in the room to the right of the main bar of the Clam Broth House on Newark Street in Hoboken. All members are invited and non-members and guests are welcome to sit in without obligation.

MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

Vol.2,No.34 January 1990
Editor Jim Hans
Typesetting Paul Lippman
Mailing Address
P.O. Box M-1220
Hoboken, NJ 07030
Phone (201) 653-7392
Subscription $15 a year;
Free to Museum Members.