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The Hoboken Historical Museum

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More HOBOKEN FIRSTS ... page 3

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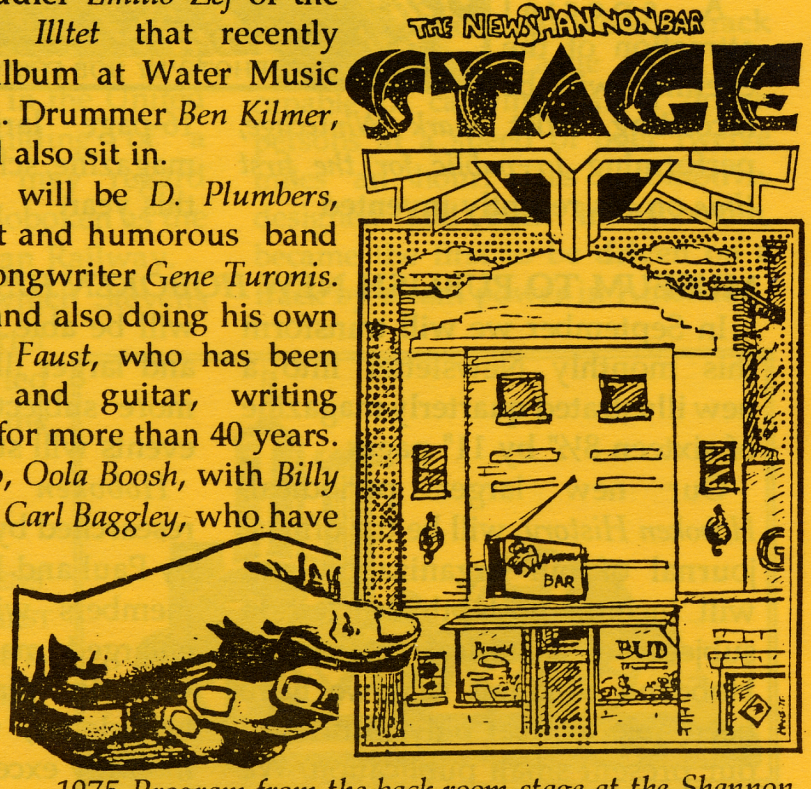
AN OLD HOBOKEN THEATRE COMES BACK TO LIFE FOR MUSEUM'S BENEFIT

A former Hoboken movie theatre once again will attract an audience and a stageful of entertainers when the rear room of the Shannon Lounge at 106 First Street will be the scene of a Music Talent Night to benefit the Hoboken Historical Museum on **Saturday, May 25.**

Some of Hoboken's most talented musicians will perform in one of the largest entertainment spaces in the city, capacity 200 persons.

Heading the bill will be *Perry Robinson's Rajahs of Rhythm*, starring swing drummer *Frankie Fame* and jazz clarinetist Robinson. Sitting in with the Rajahs and performing their own funky jazz will be bass player *Mike Kilmer* and fiddler *Emilio Zef* of the old Sweet Lizard *Illtet* that recently recorded its first album at Water Music studios in Hoboken. Drummer *Ben Kilmer*, Mike's brother, will also sit in.

Other headliners will be *D. Plumbers*, Hoboken's own hot and humorous band headed by singer-songwriter *Gene Turonis*. joining this group and also doing his own thing will be *Luke Faust*, who has been strumming banjo and guitar, writing songs, and singing for more than 40 years. A new torrid group, *Oola Boosh*, with *Billy Gee, Nina Mars*, and *Carl Baggley*, who have been performing about town a lot lately at Boo Boo's, Harrigan's, and in New York at the Ludlow



1975 Program from the back room stage at the Shannon

Cafe, will sound their best for us as well.

Others on stage that night will include *Suzanne Kliener* singing the blues, *Lisa and Paul Bellam-Boyer* singing swing, *Ivice* of the Hudson River Sloop Singers, and *Rande Harris* playing 12-string guitar folk music. Harris recently performed at a Carnegie Hall 100th Anniversary concert with Pete Seeger. Also *Susie and Marcel*, vocals and guitar with *Wally White* on bass and *Art Desimine*, singer-song writer-guitarist.

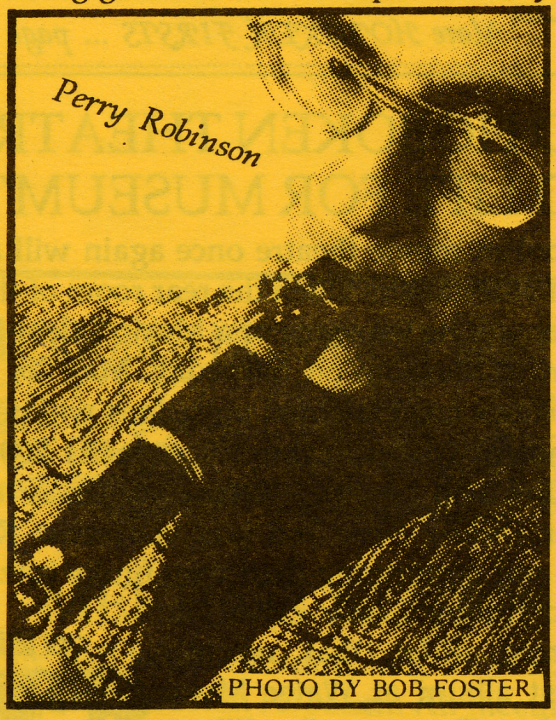


PHOTO BY BOB FOSTER

A special attraction of the evening will be recording artist *Mark Whitecage*, performing *in public for the first time* on his recently invented "electric tenner" string drum, composed of five piano strings and pegs on a polished wood board. Like his old friend Perry Robinson, music director for the evening, Mark has performed the latest in jazz in various clubs here and in Europe for many years. *Jim Cramer* and *Tom Vincent* will be Masters of Ceremonies for the evening. Entertainment begins at 9 pm and is scheduled to end at 2 am. Liquid refreshments will be available.

Admission is $5.00 at the door, with proceeds going towards launching the Museum's new *Hoboken History* 16-page large-format quarterly magazine, scheduled to debut later this year.

MUSEUM TO PUBLISH NEW *HOBOKEN HISTORY* MAGAZINE

In September we will transform this monthly Newsletter into a new illustrated quarterly magazine of sixteen 8½" by 11" pages.

Our new larger periodical, *Hoboken History*, will be the official journal of our organization and will include in-depth articles on subjects of historical interest to Hoboken residents that we have been able to treat only in brief in our present small publication. We will be able also to publish more and larger illustrations and cover more subjects. Current Museum events will still be covered.

Hoboken History will be researched by Jim Hans and edited by Paul and Barbara Lippman. All members will receive the new enlarged magazine four times a year in place of the smaller Newsletter, which has appeared monthly except for July.

Hoboken Firsts

Installment No. 4 of a series compiled by Jim Hans for a future book.

America's First Railroad Charter

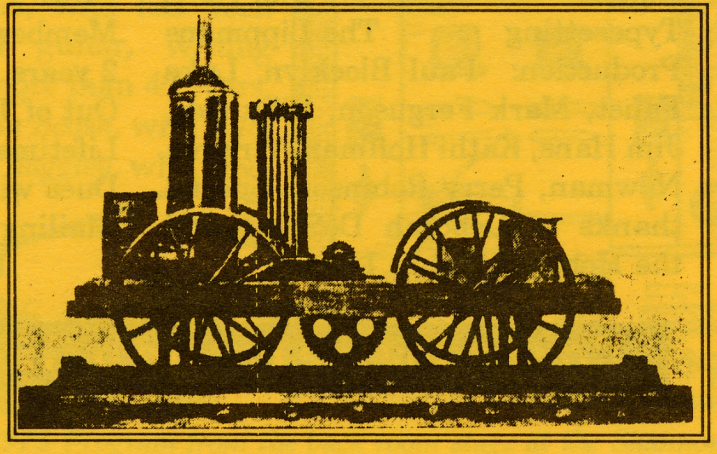
As early as 1812 Colonel John Stevens of Hoboken laid before the New York State legislature a statement of his numerous and protracted researches and declared that he could build a steam railroad at must less cost than the proposed Erie Canal. He urged the construction of the railroad in preference to the more expensive waterway from New York City to Buffalo, which would use the Hudson and Mohawk rivers.

Long before the canal was completed, Stevens turned to the New Jersey legislature and induced that body to grant him a charter in 1815 to construct a railroad from New Brunswick to Trenton to be operated by steam locomotives. This was the first charter ever granted in the United States for the building of a railroad. Thus we may regard Colonel Stevens of Hoboken as the father of the American Railway.

The railroad for which Stevens was granted a charter was never constructed because, as he said, "the public's mind was not sufficiently enlightened to induce moneyed men to embark their funds in a project they considered wild and impracticable."

There was no railroad in existence in the world intended for freight and passenger transportation by steam power when Colonel Stevens was urging the substitution of a railroad for the proposed canal. And there was no charter or design for such a railroad in human conception except the one for which he was appealing.

In 1825 Colonel Stevens, finding himself unable to obtain public support for his several proposed railroad ventures, built his locomotive with a multi-tubular boiler upon a circular wooden track on his estate at Castle Point and capable of carrying half a dozen persons at a speed of over twelve miles an hour. This locomotive, designed and built in Hoboken, became the first to be driven on a track by steam power in America.



MODEL OF JOHN STEVENS' LOCOMOTIVE, THE FIRST TO RUN ON A TRACK IN AMERICA, AT HOBOKEN.

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MEETING NOTICE

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 21 at 7:30 pm in the Clam Broth House on Newark Street in Hoboken. All meetings are open to the public, no obligation, no funds will be solicited. Sit in and listen to cheerful trustees debate points of order! Drink free clam broth! Watch Jim Hans try to get motions seconded! Enjoy a bowl of the Clam Broth House's chowder!

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2 years $25
Out of Town add $3/year
Lifetime Membership $100
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Preserving the Future by Honoring the Past