The Official Journal of the Organization

The Hoboken Historical Museum

Newsletter

OF BY And FOR Museum Members.

FEBRUARY 1989 HOBOKEN, N.J. No. 24

MUSEUM AT REBIRTH OF 77 RIVER STREET

Representatives of the Museum attended the recent dedication of 77 River Street, Hoboken, across Hudson Place from the PATH terminal, where the former Second National Bank Building reopened as a residential condominium after extensive renovation and restoration by Elysian Financial Services Corp., a subsidiary of Elysian Federal Savings Bank. A branch of the bank is in the building.

During the ceremonies a plaque on the building's facade was unveiled, documenting the historic importance of the structure and citing the Hoboken Historical Museum, the first time our organization has been so honored.

Trustees John DePalma and Marty Andrews helped mount a lobby display of old Hoboken pictures prepared for the occasion by Museum president Jim Hans.

Still visible above the building's main entrance is the weather-worn inscription "Second National Bank" and the date 1889, probably the year in which groundbreaking for the building took place.

The substantial, then five-story, building had the distinction of being the largest in Hoboken, occupying three entire lots, and soon became a center of business activity.

A history of the building is available free to Museum members. Copies may be obtained at the Museum office (call 653-7392), or at Museum tables at future Hoboken festivals.



SECOND NATIONAL BANK OF HOBOKEN, N.J.

MUSEUM SOAKS UP OLD POLICE BLOTTERS

Old Police Department records, no longer mandated by state law to be kept on file, have been made available to the Museum for conservation and study. Police Headquarters, now in the basement of City Hall, is to be relocated, and a house-cleaning now going on brought the files to light.

It is interesting to learn, according to a copy of a city record passed to us by Police Chief George Crimmins, that the current planned move of Police Headquarters is not the first time that the need for a new police station has arisen. As far back as 1908 it was resolved by the Board of Police Commissioners of the City that "we deem it necessary to acquire additional accommodations for the police station house for the use of the police department." The resolution went on: "the rooms in the basement of the City Hall, for many years used as a Police Headquarters, are now entirely inadequate for the needs of the Police Department, and a new police station house in the lower part of the City is absolutely demanded."

The City Hall building, was from the start (1881) erected to be suitable for use as an armory and city prison as well.

The resolution continues: "Be it further resolved that we do hereby indicate to the Mayor and Council of the City of Hoboken that a plot of real estate at least 50 feet wide and 100 feet deep, in that part of the City of Hoboken, or locality which is not more than three city blocks distant from the City Hall, is required for the erection thereon of a new police station house for the use of the Police Department of the City."

In 1911-1912, with major alterations and extensions to City Hall, new prison cells were added to the Bloomfield Street side of the building.

The first call for a new police headquarters was made 80 years ago and the cry is still being made today!

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ADVERTISING

As a service to our members and to help defray the cost of publishing the **Newsletter**, we will accept with our next issue advertisements of a general business nature.

However, since the **Newsletter** is limited in capacity, we must confine the size of any one ad to 1/6th of a page. The advertisement below, and the photograph on page one, each occupy about a 1/6th page.

Restaurant & Bar

LACKAWANNA grille

JOE TORMEY

70 Hudson Street • Hoboken

(201) 963-0619

HOBOKEN HISTORICAL MUSEUM
ANNUAL REPORT 1988

I am very pleased to report that the Museum has progressed much more this past year then in our previous two years. The Museum had about $2,000 in it's bank account this time last year (January 1988). Today, our most recent bank statement dated January 9, reads $3,921.19. The increase is substantial when one considers there are now even higher monthly outlays due to the general rise of Museum activities including higher monthly payments (of $250) towards office rent and utilities, (payments were $150 this time last year), plus telephone bills and many other expenses such as producing the monthly newsletter (eleven issues per year). (We are now planning our 25th issue!) However, $1,375 of our account is spoken for (received from the New Jersey Historical Commission towards producing Volumn II of "The History of Theatre, Vaudeville and Movies in Hoboken" expected to be completed in May).

At the beginning of 1988 the following officers of the organization were elected: Jim Hans, President; Bob Foster, Vice President; Gerard Lisa, Treasurer; Hugh Kilmer, Recording Secretary; Kathleen McBrady, Corresponding Secretary. Museum trustees elected were: Martin Andrews, John DePalma, George M. Kirchgessner, Paul Lippman, Mary Manhardt and Perry Robinson.

Our '88 Fund Raiser in March on the popular theme: "Fun and Fortune Telling", grossed $1800. at a cost of about $600. Publicity for the event was good -- Three Museum trustees and Hoboken hypnotist, Charles L. Sacci, were featured on the Joe Franklin, "Memory Lane", TV show to discuss the fund raiser. Also in March we received a $1500 grant from the Hudson County Division of Cultural Affairs. Around this time we received notification from the State Department of the Treasury that we are exempt from Corporation Business Tax and Business Personal Property Tax.

The Newsletter has increased in the number of copies printed each issue (varying from 600 to 1000) with 200 copies now going to paid members (up from about 150 last year),and afew Honorary members. The remaining being complimentary copies, mailed and given out to encourage new membership. Our dues for membership have remained at $15.00 per year ($25.00 for two years). The Lifetime category, however, was recently added and has proved a success.

During the month of April and part of May, the Museum paid tribute to the late Mayor Tom Vezzetti, with a window display of Vezzetti memorabilia at the United Jersey Commercial Trust Company, on Hudson Place.

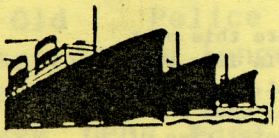
During the year the Museum had tables set up and was represented at the following Hoboken events: The Elysian Park Festival on April 10; the 4th Annual Hoboken Arts Festival May 15; the Our Lady Grace Church Flea Market, June 18; Church Square Park Band Concerts every Wednesday evenings from June 22 to September 7; the River City Fair in August; and the Hoboken train station festival, September 24. In September, the Museum's "Once-Every-Two-Years Appeal letter to corporations and individuals (mostly in Hoboken) asking for cash donations to help support various activities brought in $2,450. Frank Sinatra gave twice during the year, totalling $1,000. At one of our monthly board meetings, Hoboken related films were shown, at another a nautical film on video was presented, and a slide show and lecture on ocean liners (including Hoboken) at still another meeting. A resolution in favor of saving the historic W. & A. Fletcher Company shipyard machine shop and other buildings submitted by the Museum's vice president was unanimously passed at a city hall council meeting in the fall.

On November 18, at City Hall, on the first and second floors, the Museum presented it's third major exhibition, "The Great Ocean Liners of Hoboken". The opening, much more expansive than previous years, was a big success. Many people were turned away from the crowded slide show and lecture on ocean liners, repeated for us by Hoboken school teacher Bill Miller. Museum posters and ocean liner T-shirts were sold that evening for the first time. The attendance, estimated at well over 500, was greater than at last year's opening. The exhibit will run through September, 1989.

Jim Hans

Jim Hans
President

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THE HOBOKEN HISTORICAL MUSEUM

CITY HALL

WASHINGTON AND FIRST STS. HOBOKEN, N.J.

MEETING NOTICE

Our next meeting is **Wednesday, February 15, 1989 at 7:30 PM** in the Clam Broth House on Newark Street in Hoboken. Interesting old Hoboken memorabilia will be brought in for "show and tell." All members are invited, and potential new members and guests are always welcome to sit in without obligation.

MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

Volume 2, No. 24 February 1989
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Office Phone (201) 653-7392

museum hours

9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
weekdays
6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Wednesday evenings

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