The Official Journal of the Organization

The Hoboken Historical Museum Newsletter

OF BY And FOR MuSeum MemberS.

Published monthly | Hoboken, NJ, Tuesday, June 2, 1987 | Vol. 1, No. 5

TICKETS TO MUSICAL EVENT AVAILABLE NOW

Tickets to the Museum's Musical Event and Benefit to be held at Maxwell's, Saturday and Sunday, June 27 and 28, are now available. The price of admission has been set at $10. per person ($9. for card-carrying members). The tickets for this special event will be distributed at the Tuesday, June 2nd meeting at the Clam Broth House, to be sold by members. (By the way, our meetings will now be on the first Tuesday of each month.) Admission price at the door will be the same. The hours of the weekend event, featuring an array of Hoboken talent will be 8 PM to 2 AM on Saturday and 6 PM to 12 AM on Sunday.

PROCEEDS OF EVENT TO HELP MAP FUND

All proceeds of the upcoming Musical Event at Maxwell's will go towards the non-profit Hoboken Historical Museum project of professionally mounting and preserving, and properly displaying the old maps recently found in the City Hall vaults. We hope to have one of the nine maps (see the last issue of the Newsletter for a detailed description of the maps) mounted in time for display at our 2nd Annual Opening in November.

ASKING CLUBS AND ASSOCIATIONS TO HELP

In addition, plans are being made to appeal to the various clubs and organizations in the city for donations toward this project. Fortunately we had already been invited to talk at a Hoboken Rotary Club luncheon on the 19th of May and are preparing for that as we go to press; we hope to present our plans to other groups in the near future. Trustee Bob Foster will show slides and Director Jim Hans will discuss the Museum and its plans, as well as the Map Fund project.

PERFORMERS FOR MUSICAL EVENT

Among the performers who so far have very graciously agreed to volunteer their time and talent for the Museum's June "Musical Retrospective" at Maxwell's are the following groups and individuals: Cries, The PastElles, The Plumbers, 77 Sunset Strip, Tanaka, Sheldon Biber, Emelio China, Jim Cramer, Jim Dillman, David Greco, Lyell Gressitt, Carl Huffman, Mike Kilmer, Steve Nuding, Perry Robinson, Joe Rudick and Gary Schneider. Watch for our annoucements around town - you won't want to miss this event!



PLEA TO THE READERS

The best friends an organization's newsletter can have are its readers. Any word of praise from them goes further than the editors pleas or promises. If you, the reader, believe in the Museum's worthwhile cause and wish it to grow, please encourage new memberships.

You may also send in a list of names of people you may think would be interested in becoming members. We will send them a couple of complimentary issues of the newsletter and a Museum membership application.

We all don't have to be Hoboken history buffs - as a group we can work together on something we believe in. There is no limit to what can be accomplished.

FILMS SHOT IN HOBOKEN OR IN WHICH HOBOKEN IS MENTIONED CONTINUING SERIES

"Miracle Mile" (late 1950's) Presumably sometime in the late 1950's a movie entitled "Miracle Mile", a documentary on Hoboken, was made. According to a Hoboken Pictorial dated January 22, 1960, it was at that time "viewed by the Sadie Lienkopf School PTA". and that it was borrowed from the film library of Hoboken. To date an existence search has not revealed the whereabouts of this film.

"That Touch of Mink" (1963) Cary Grant and Doris Day team in this romantic farce about a tycoon to tries to seduce a working girl. The goon of the office is set up for a date with Doris Day, for which he borrows his uncle's live poetry truck, and says, "We have to make a delivery for him in Hoboken." Later, the elegant Cary Grant chases them through New Jersey.

"Mafioso - The Man of the Mafia" (1962) An Italian movie company "Cervi Cinema" of Rome finished the picture with scens shot at the Grand Hotel at 3rd and Hudson Streets. An article in the Jersey Journal said, "The lobby, elevator and Room 307, which offers a partial view of the New York City skyline were used." Most of the film was shot on location near Rome; the newspaper article of August 9, 1962 claimed that "members of the cast, virtually all Romans, were kept waiting for the star, Sordi, several hours. Filming began at 1:00 p.m. and ended at 9. Sordi is the highest paid actor in Italy." The plot involves a factory worker who, under the threat of harm by the local Mafia, to his children, is put on a plane and met in New York City by a mobster. They go to a waterfront hotel, which is where the Grand comes in. The movie with dubbed-in English was released in this country January 1963.



Dick Carvello in a scene from *Roger of Miami Beach.*
"Wash-O-Matic"; 14th Street near Washington Street

Joseph Schulman 1971

FILMS SHOT IN HOBOKEN OR IN WHICH HOBOKEN IS MENTIONED

"Funny Girl" (1965?) Barbara Streisand plays Fanny Brice during vaudeville days, shortly after the turn-of-the-century. The film shows Hoboken's Erie-Lackawanna train station all spruced up to fit the part.

"The Road Story" (1960's) With Regina Boff, a New Jersey girl who played Ruthie Tresh with Dustin Hoffman in Herb Gardner's "Who Is Harry Kellerman and Why Is He Saying Those Terrible Things About Me?" She also played in Jack Clayton's film version of F. Scott Fitzgerald's "Great Gatsby." Little is known of this film which was said to have been "made in Hoboken."

"Roger of Miami Beach" (1974) Has been released on TV as "The Stoolie." It starred comedian Jackie Mason in a serious role as a small-time drug hustler who finds it tough to go straight when he meets the right woman. Some scenes filmed in Hoboken during early September 1971 include the Todd Ship Yards; 14th Street near Washington Street in front of the "Wash-O-Matic" and Galkin's cigar store at 106; and downtown on Washington Street between 2nd and 3rd, centering around the J & W Self-Service Laundry at 213 Washington Street (looks the same today.) Hoboken scenes pop up throughout the movie.

"The Drowning Pool" (1975) Paul Newman, as the private eye Lew Harper, in this suspense yarn with Joann Woodward and Tony Franciosa, refers to a ring a New Orleans oil heiress is wearing. After Newman says that the ring would get him a week in Miami, she says, "It wouldn't get you a week in Hoboken." Meaning it's a cheap ring. Ha Ha.

"Three Days of the Condor" (1975) Robert Redford, who plays a CIA researcher, talks with Faye Dunaway in the Erie-Lackawanna station and catches a train there about 2/3 of the way through the movie.

"How To Kill Your Husband" (1977?) The feature length film starring Farrah Fawcett was filmed in Hoboken.

"The Tenth Victim" (197?) Italian feature film with Ursula Andress. Watch and listen for: "I was born in the artificial insemination bank in Hoboken."*

"Voices" (1978) The MGM love story with Michael Ontkean, Amy Irving and Alex Rocco was filmed in Hoboken. Debut director Robert Markowitz exhibited Hoboken in a way worthy of notice. Tom Allen, film critic for the "intellectual" Village Voice, claimed the film was "cut in a style that transforms dingy Hoboken into spectacle."

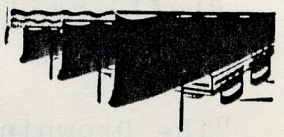
(If I may use my editorial license at this point - Hoboken in 1978 was in its last days before the big change and was like an unpolished antique. If that's dingy, then Hoboken was indeed dingy. Dingy, like a small, old, but heavy piece of furniture, a chest of drawers, perhaps, burnished with years of age, but still sturdy and without self-conciousness And if you want to call a town loaded with $100,000., well-preserved turn-of-the-century brownstones dingy, then, yes, I guess Hoboken was dingy.)

"From Here To Eternity" (1979) TV movie remake from the 1953 Hollywood film that made Frank Sinatra a star again has Hoboken actor Joe Pantoliano, who now lives on the same street (Madison) that Sinatra once lived on, playing "Maggio" in the 2 hour drama.

* Thanks to Chris Winner.

(To be continued)

COMPLIMENTARY COPY



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

THE HOBOKEN HISTORICAL MUSEUM NEWSLETTER
JUNE 1987 Vol. 1, No. 5

Editor . . . . . Jim Hans

Assistant Editor . . . . . Mary Manhardt

Staff Writer . . . . . Sean Devney

Production . . . . . Nick Parslow

Nick, a graphic artist from Pittsburgh, PA and now living in Hoboken, has volunteered his time to help with the production of the Newsletter. His efforts will be a great help.

Office . . . . . 206 3rd St., Hoboken
653-7392

Newsletter Mailing Address . . .

605 Jefferson St., Hoboken

* * * * * * * * *

Subscription Rates

Free to Museum Members

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

MONTHLY MEETING CHANGE

Our monthly meetings will now be held on the first Tuesday of each month. So our next meeting is June 2, 7:30 PM at the Clam Broth House. Notice the date on the Newsletter - it will always be that of the upcoming meeting. All members are encouraged to attend and potential new members and the public are always welcome to sit in without obligation.

HOBOKEN HISTORICAL MUSEUM

CITY HALL

WASHINGTON AND FIRST STS. HOBOKEN, N.J.

MUSEUM HOURS
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
weekdays
6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Wednesday Evenings

A Special Letter From the Museum Director

The Hoboken Historical Museum

Office:
206 3rd.
Street

Mailing Address: P.O. Box M-1220 Hoboken, N.J. 07030

HOBOKEN, N J ..... May 15 ..... 19 87

OLD MAPS DONATED TO MUSEUM

Dear Friend,

When I started as director of the Hoboken Historical Museum in the Spring of last year, little did I suspect that there would soon be a major discovery in the basement of City Hall, the building in which the Museum is located. For someone who's been involved in Hoboken history for as long as I have, the find was particularly fortuitous - it seemed to justify my long-standing belief that our community would benefit greatly from looking into its history. Time worked in our favor - we finally had a place, a Museum, to display such buried treasures. The discovery, gratifyingly publicized in both the local press and the New York Times, put the Museum on the map, so to speak. This was emphasized when the City gave us its vote of confidence by turning the maps over to the Museum.

Now we would like <u>your</u> vote of confidence, as a citizen concerned with preserving your city's very special history.

We need to professionally mount and properly preserve these valuable artifacts. We have received estimates from professionals that it will cost about $1,500 to preserve each one of the maps. With curatorial fees over and above this figure, we will need perhaps $15,000 to properly preserve and exhibit the maps.

To reach this goal, the Museum will hold a benefit Musical Event featuring a smorgasbord of Hoboken talents, from rock groups to Stephen Foster songs. However, in order to meet all our costs, we will need additional support from you at this time. So, we urge you to fill out the form on the back page of this letter, and to make your contribution as generous as possible.

Your contribution or that of your organization will be acknowledged in the catalog when a map (or maps) go on display at our second Annual November opening exhibition. Please take advantage of this opportunity to demonstrate your civic concern and belief that Hoboken history is a valuable resource in building pride in our city. For, as I've often said, in Hoboken there is only one thing more valuable than real estate and that is pride in our city and its history.

Besides helping us with this special project, we need your support for the Museum in general. By becoming a member you will receive an attractive membership card, the Newsletter, our official journal, and will be entitled to a 10% discount on Museum items and on the admission price for fund-raising events.

Some members have already done more than their share, particularly the fifteen or so active members who have worked closely with me to make the Hoboken Historical Museum a reality.

Jim Hans
Director/Curator

Antique maps found in Hoboken

Hoboken City Hall vault yields treasure in maps

By Jim DeRogatis

In the Hoboken of 1851, Park Avenue was called Meadow Street, Observer Highway was known as the Hoboken Turnpike and the newly installed wooden sewers only ran beneath about half of the city streets, according to several antiquated maps unearthed in City Hall yesterday.

Public Works Director Roy Haack found eight maps dating back to the mid-1800s while rummaging through an old vault in the basement of City Hall. Each of the maps is hand-painted on canvas and between four and five feet wide, and local historians considered the find a boon.

Several of the maps depict Hoboken sh rtly after it was founded in 1849. A number are technical maps with diagrams for drainage of the "Hoboken Creek" or the installation of wooden sewers.

There is also an 1860 map of Hudson County, a street map of New York City dated 1850 and a topographical map of the United States circa 1856. The maps were rolled up around wooden posts, and most are in good condition.

Hand-painted on canvas and intricately decorated and detailed, the map of the U.S. is about five feet wide and eight feet long. It predates the Civil War and still designates many of the states in the west and southwest as "Indian Territories."

One of the maps of the city is labelled "Hoboken and Suburbs," apparently referring to West Hoboken, which would eventually become Union City. Dated 1851, the map was comissioned by Edwin Stevens, founder of Stevens Institute of Technology, who died in 1868.



Closeup of the giant map of the United States clearly shows its proud proclamation 'Our Country' and its 1856 date.

Edwin was the son of Col. John Stevens, the famous steamship engineer and founder of Hoboken. The colonel designed Hoboken's orderly street grid pattern, virtually the same on the 1851 map as it is today.

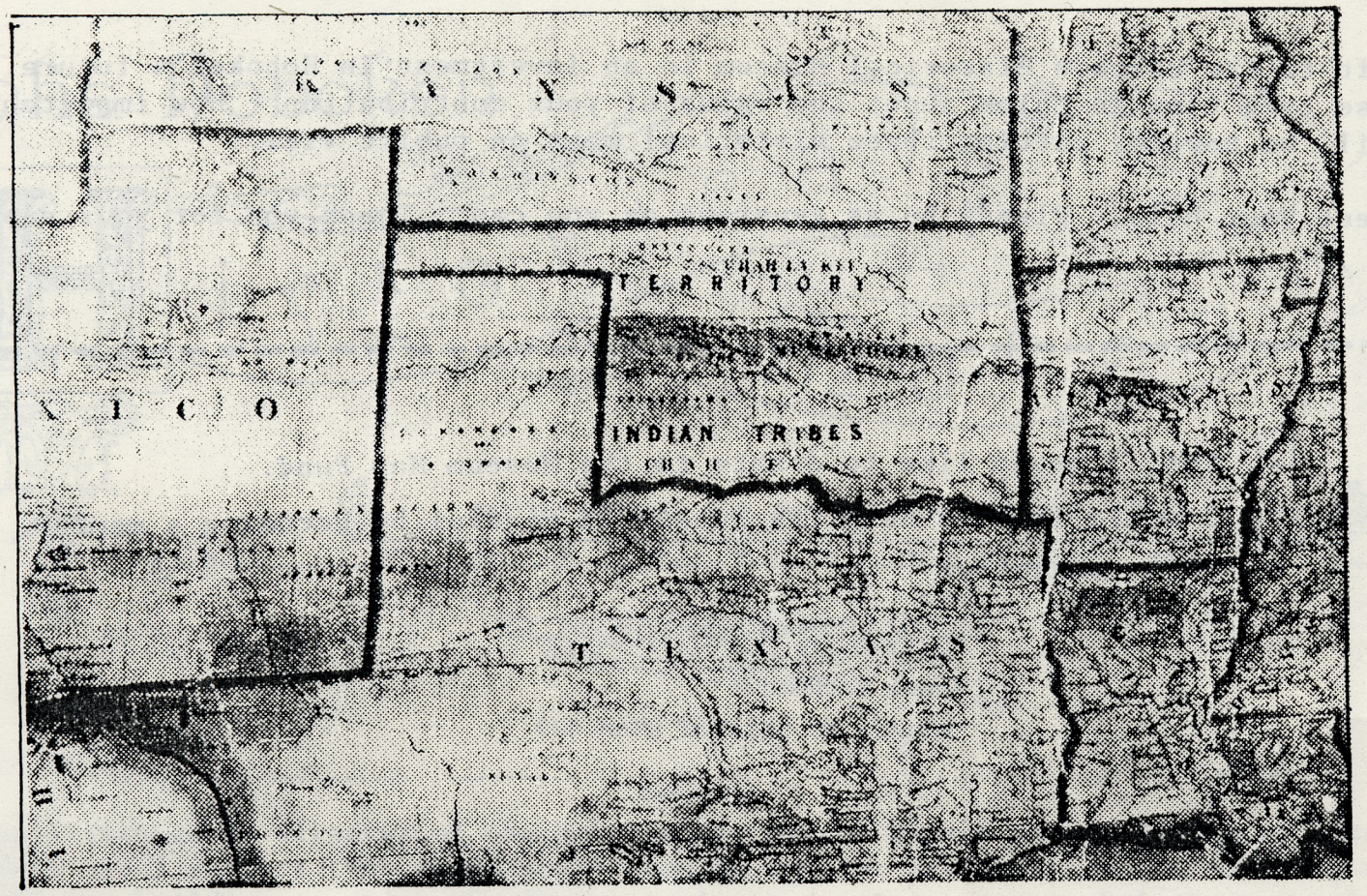
Haack said the vault where the maps were stored "holds about a century's worth of junk" and members of the Public Works Department had been preparing to clean it out to provide storage space. Along with the maps, Haack discovered several dozen volumes of handwritten records from the turn of the 19th century.

"I really don't know what these maps are worth, but we plan on donating them to the Hoboken Historical Museum," Haack said. He said he would also ask representatives of the museum to examine records in the vault.

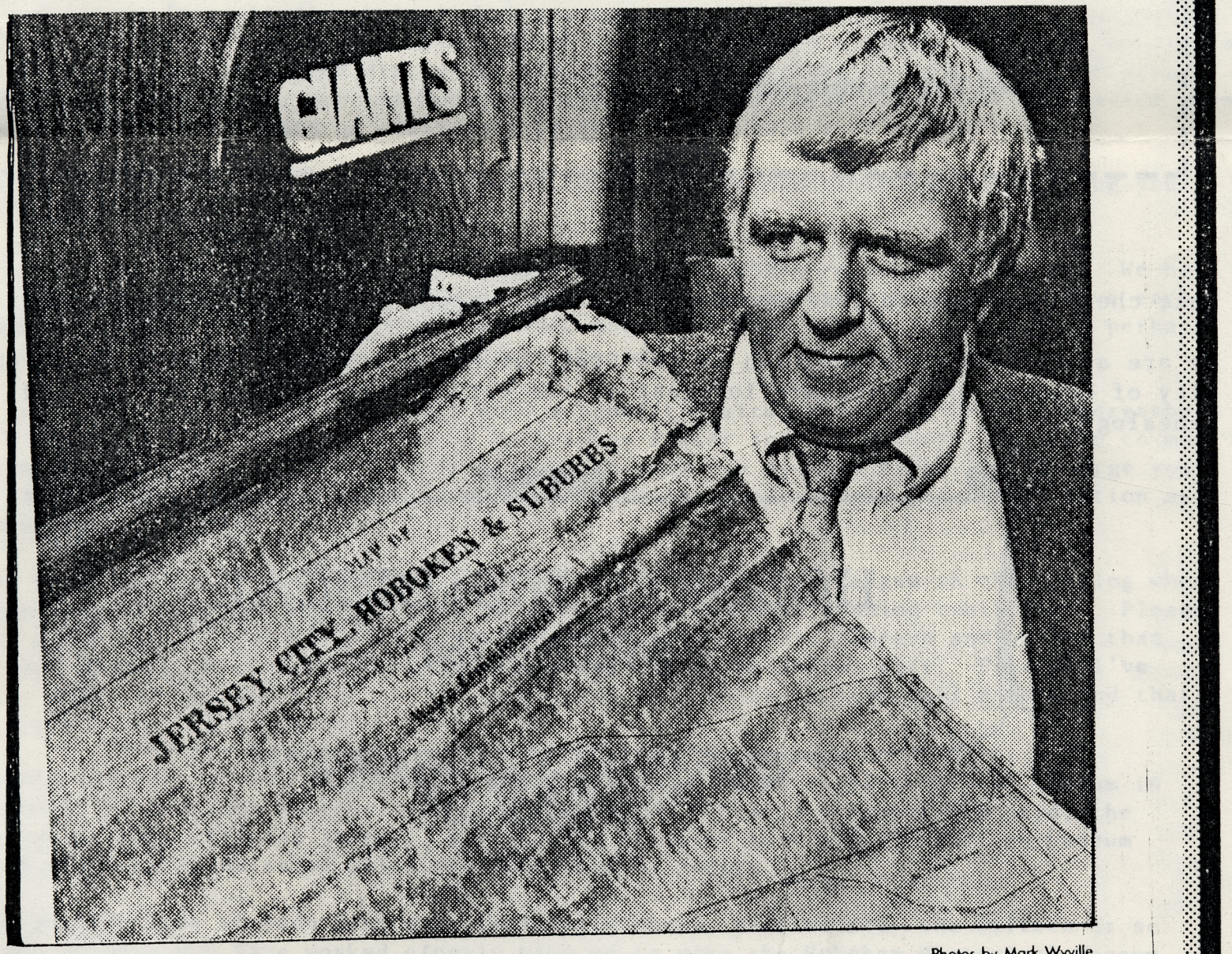
Jim Hans, director of the museum, plans to look at the maps today.

"I really can't say what their value is without seeing them, but they could be worth thousands of dollars depending on their condition and who prepared them," he said.

Both Hans and Haack said they would like to see the maps preserved and displayed in Hoboken.



In this 1856 map found in City Hall, Oklahoma was merely designated as Indian Territory.



Photos by Mark Wyville

Hoboken's director of public works, Roy Haack, holds one of the old maps of the city and its suburbs found yesterday in a City Hall vault.

A gift to the Hoboken Historical Museum is an investment in Hoboken's future. Please take time to think about the value of your contribution - how important it will be towards putting these historical maps on public view.

We need your help. Please be as generous as you can. Thank you for your support.

☐ Yes, I would like to donate to the Museum Map Fund.

☐ I would like to help the Museum in general by becoming a member. ($10 annually)

☐ Check Enclosed

Name.....
(please print)

Street.....

City..... State ..... Zip .....

Grand Total payment enclosed $_____

Make checks payable to the Hoboken Historical Museum, P.O. BOx M-1220, Hoboken, NJ 07030.

We are a non-profit corporation of the State of New Jersey dedicated to serve the City of Hoboken and stimulate interest in the city's history, architecture and genealogy.

HOBOKEN HISTORICAL MUSEUM