The Official Journal of the Organization

The Hoboken Historical Museum Newsletter

OF BY And FOR MuSeum MemberS.

MARCH 1990 HOBOKEN, NJ No. 36

AN APPEALING SUBJECT

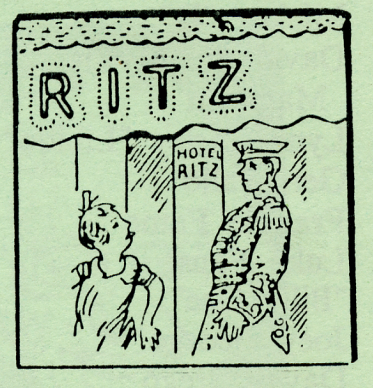


With our fund raising drive for the Museum under way and contributions starting to trickle in, we want to remind all our fellow-members and non-member friends alike that we ask for financial aid from you only every other year.

Next year we hope to be partially supported by a grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission. However, in the present economic climate, with fewer and fewer dollars being allocated at the State and national levels for non-profit organizations such as ours, we must rely increasingly on the generosity and commitment of our members and friends and of the community.

We need to raise $6000 for the preparation of the Museum's November exhibition at City hall; $5000 for preparing for smaller exhibits and displays, historical publications and the Newsletter, and another $5000 at least for general office expenses for the year!

Please give as much as you can afford and please mail in your gift by the end of this month as we would like to list everyone's name as a contributor in the May issue of the News-letter.



The IRS Giveth, the IRS Taketh Away

It has been brought to our attention that the Department of the Treasury, Internal Revenue Service states that "to be deductible as a charitable contribution for Federal income tax purposes under

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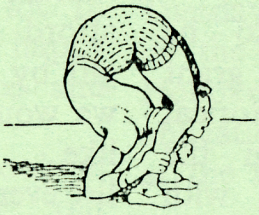
section 170 of the Code, a payment to or for the use of a qualified charitable organization [such as ours] must be a gift." In other words, to be a "gift," there must be a payment of money without adequate consideration in return.

The IRS says, "as a general rule, where a transaction involving a payment is in the form of a purchase of an item of value [such as $100 for a Lifetime Membership], the presumption arises that no gift has been made for charitable contribution purposes, the presumption being that the payment in such case is the purchase price." Likewise, we are sorry to say, we cannot acknowledge a $100 gift as a Lifetime Membership payment. If it is given for a Lifetime Membership, the donor cannot take it as an income tax deduction.

ENTERTAINERS SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 28

The Museum will present its Fourth Annual Fund raising event: under the happy title, Hoboken Follies, it will be an evening of fun-raising, on Saturday, April 28 at Sharky's (River and Newark Streets). A great many volunteers from Hoboken will display their varied talents, among them being:

Lisa and Paul Bellan-Boyer
Helena Berger
Tom Bergin
Steve Buzzby
Richard Cahn
Jim Cramer
Mickey "D"
David the Mystic Magician
Lynn Earley "Libido"
Geri Fallo
Frankie Fame
Luke Faust
"Billy Gee"
Joey George
David Grego
Jim Hans and his wonder dog, Lee
Mahendra Joshi
Ben Kilmer
Hugh Kilmer
Mike Kilmer





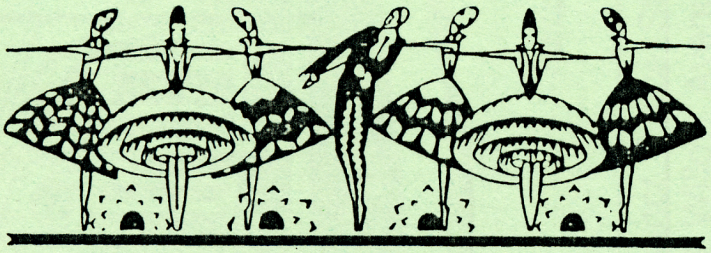
Man playing a banjo

Steve Kilnisan
Nina Mars
Alexander Plewes III
Gene D. Plumber
Tricia Provost
Dena Reynolds
Perry Robinson
Jim Ryan
Gary Schneider
Susan Shaftan
Robin Shamburg
David Sharps and Karen Leslie
Joan Torino
Jeff Trupiano
Miguel Weissman
Mark Whitecage and Rozann Levine
Dennis Yerry and Joan Hern
Emilio Zef

If we can obtain a brief autobiographical sketch from each performer, and perhaps a few photographs for our next issue (to be devoted entirely to the Hoboken Follies), the reader will get a good idea of what to expect at this gala event of the year. To make the event even more gala, although therefore not totally natural to Hoboken, there will be free parking directly across Hudson Street from Sharky's at Pier A.

Attention girls--ladies--women

There is still time to join the Joan Torino (Redheads) Burlesk Dance Team and be, as they say, one of the "Jersey Tomatoes." For more information, call 963-8658.



NEWS FROM THE NORTHWEST.

Distinguished Museum member, folk singer, and composer Earl Robinson, father of Trustee and nationally acclaimed clarinetist Perry Robinson, was honored recently upon his return to his home town of Seattle, Washington.

Listeners may have heard Earl on National Public Radio last Labor Day in a 15-minute interview which featured some of his compositions, or saw and heard him in person here in Hoboken at All Saints Parish on September 29.

This is the welcome he received in Seattle: citations from the State Governor and the Mayor, a solo performance before the combined houses of the Washington State Legislature,

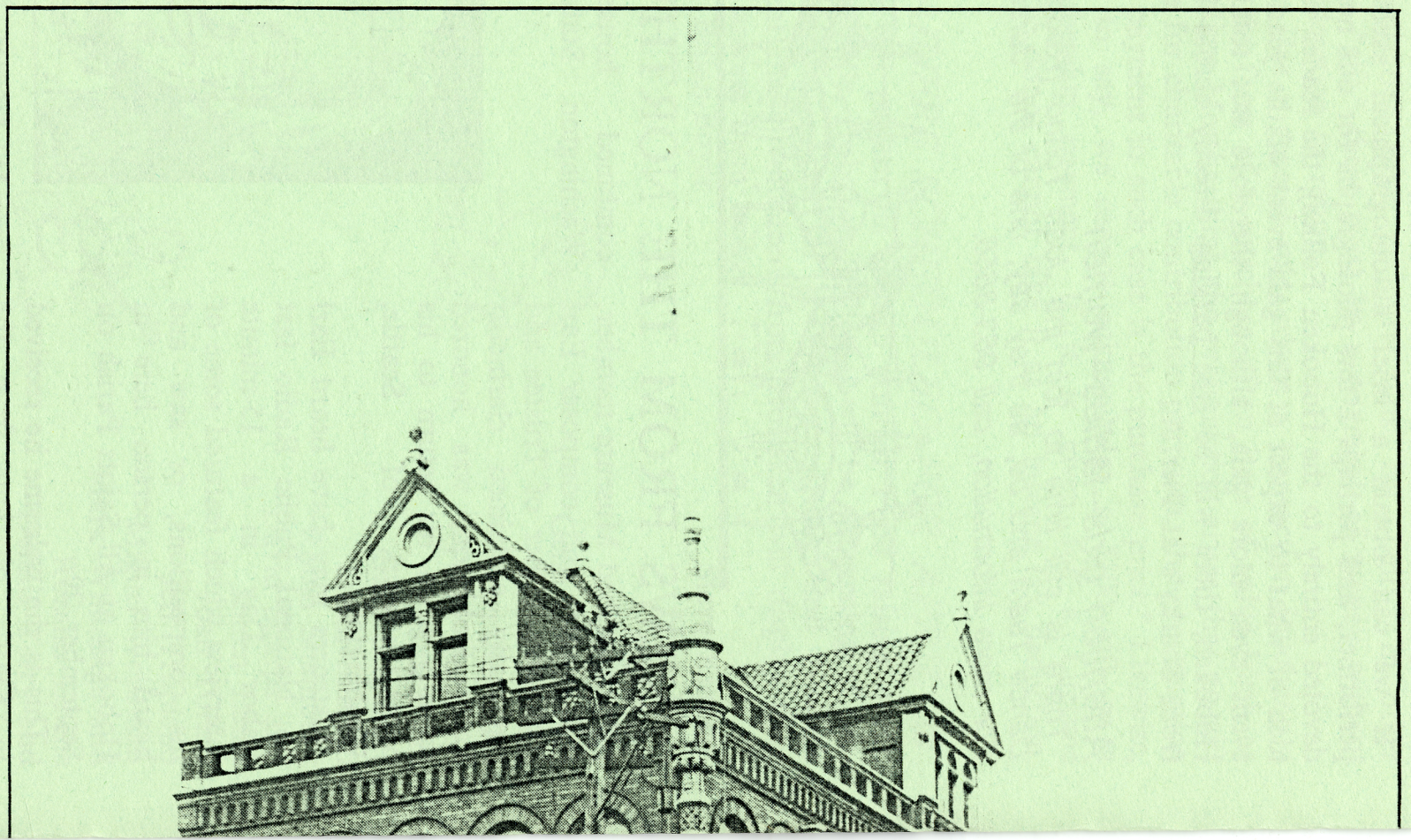


FRED ANDREWS

Earl Robinson, 79, has written some 500 songs.

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The Years Teach Much Which The Days Never Know.





The old Hoboken Second Precinct Police Station in 1890 at 12th Street and Willow Avenue.

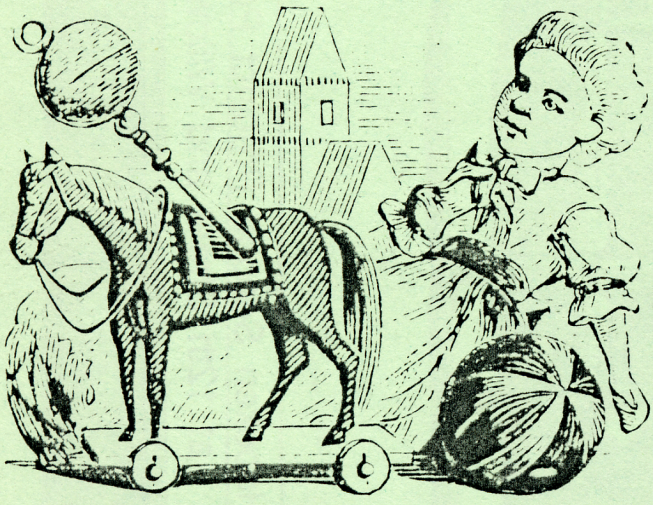
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and a "terrific show" at Seattle's Pioneer Square Theatre called "The Earl Robinson Celebration."

Although the 79-years-young Earl Robinson has composed 500 songs, he is best known for his social and political works including "Joe Hill," the labor anthem he wrote in the 1930s; the ballad "Hurry Sundown;" and "Black and White," a 1950s song celebrating the United States Supreme Court school desegregation decision, later recorded by the rock group Three Dog Night.

For many years Frank Sinatra has sung as his sometime theme-song, Robinson's "The House I Live In." A short film of the same title, made at the peak of Sinatra's popularity, won him an Academy Award in 1945.

A CENTURY AGO



Although Hoboken's population reached its peak in 1910 at more than 70,000, in 1890 it was very much the size it is today with a population of 43,700.

The growing wealth of the United States, and especially of its greatest seaport, was reflected in the increasing number of cabin passengers arriving in New York (including Hoboken). About 80 per cent of these were Americans returning from business or pleasure trips abroad. In 1881 there were 51,299 cabin passengers; in 1886, 68,742; in 1890, 99,189. The large increase in 1890 was due to the opening in that year of Ellis Island to receive immigrants.

Hoboken's uptown section had grown a great deal by this time; the Second Precinct Police Station was erected in 1890 at the northeast corner of Willow Avenue and 12th Street. The building was of brick, two stories in height, with fine wood floors. Today a new residential building is being constructed on the site, which had for many years been a public playground for children.

The Free Public Library of Hoboken was established in 1890, opening in the Second

National Bank Building, 77 River Street, in October of that year with 3,900 books.

Women of the time wore flat-brimmed, high-crowned hats. Men usually wore a derby, a style which had originated earlier in the century, now sometimes gray or brown as well as the usual black. "Sportiness" was also the rage in fashion with bright "blazer" jackets and cricket caps.

1890 was also the year that the great W. A. Fletcher Company left New York and came to Hoboken, establishing itself at 12th and Hudson Streets, where new work shops were built and ample dock space was obtained. Fletcher engines were found on steamers in every part of the globe.

The world-renowned company will be featured in our November exhibition on "Hoboken Shipyards Past and Present." Those who wish to help with the interesting project please contact Bob Foster at 656-2240.

IN PAUL AND PERRY WE TRUST

Two additional Museum Trustees have been elected to the Board, bringing the total to thirteen. It was by unanimous decision that long-time active members Paul Lippman and Perry Robinson are again on the Board of Trustees. Congratulations to them both.

HOBOKEN FILM ITEM

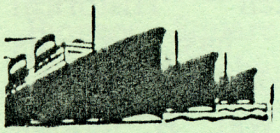
The Hoboken Historical Museum now has in its collection a videotape of the classic World War II motion picture "A Walk in the Sun" (1945) with title music by Earl Robinson, and as a bonus to the attentive viewer the scene half way through the film in which actor Richard Conte jokingly refers to Hoboken's famous sewers. He ought to know, Conte was a native of neighboring Jersey City!

OUR WISH LIST & NEEDS LIST

At the beginning of a new year we begin to adjust our accounts and balance our books. Here at the office of the Museum there are two little pigeon-holes in our writing desk; one is labeled "Things We Want," and the other "Things We Need." Both are overflowing and if we discussed them at length it would fill the Newsletter to bursting and leave no room for more enjoyable topics. So we are going to mention only a couple of Things We Need at the moment:

1. Two persons with typing skill to help relieve the regular workload of our Corresponding Secretary who will be taking a leave of absence for a few months. The volunteer work would consist of typing two or three pages a week, per person.

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CITY HALL
WASHINGTON AND FIRST STS. HOBOKEN, N.J.

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2. The Museum also needs a small-to-medium-size office copier. Since we do a lot of graphics, we will be most happy with one that can reduce and enlarge.

3. We are also on the lookout for storage space for our growing collection of archival material and objects. To start with, perhaps a small room somewhere in Hoboken, secure and dry. That would be helpful. If you can help, please call us at 653-7392 (days or evenings).

PIX PAX MAX

Our film night in the back room at Maxwell's on February 28 attracted a full house. We thank Geri Fallo for the Museum's slice of the receipts and a most enjoyable evening of old films of Hoboken.

MEETING NOTICE

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, March 20, at 7:30 PM in the Clam Broth House in Hoboken. No obligation, no funds are solicited at the meetings.

MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 3, NO. 36
MARCH 1990

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Subscription free to members. Membership dues $15 a year.