

The
Official
Journal
of the
Organization

The Hoboken Historical Museum Newsletter

OF
BY
And FOR
Museum
Members.

Published monthly

Hoboken, NJ, Wednesday, May 6, 1987

Vol.1, No. 4

MUSEUM RECEIVES \$5,500. GRANT

Good news! The Hoboken Historical Museum has been awarded a \$5,500. grant from the New Jersey Historical Commission. The money will be used to prepare our major exhibition "The History of Theatre, Vaudeville and Motion Pictures in Hoboken." The Museum is looking for additional Hoboken material on this popular subject - pass the word.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Our drive to acquire new members is gaining momentum. We now have 92 paid members, as tallied on our membership indicator illustrated here. The yearly membership rate will soon be raised to \$15. so sign up that new member today!

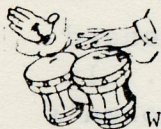


OLD MAPS DONATED TO MUSEUM

The old maps recently found in the City Hall vaults have been donated to the Museum. Roy Haack, Hoboken's Director of Public Works, discovered the nine maps, which dated from the mid-1800's to the 1870's. They measure from four and five feet to seven feet wide. All are the original paper prints, some in color, mounted on canvas and varnished.

The maps depict a variety of locales. Among them are "Jersey City, Hoboken, and the surrounding suburbs" and "Hudson County", both dating from 1851; one entitled "Our Country", dated 1856 and showing the United States and the Indian Territories; another, "Drainage of the Hoboken Meadows", dating from around 1874. A map dated 1870's (?) is an "Assessment Map for sewer in Bloomfield Street." There are also a map of "New York and its Environs", showing the metropolitan area of 1860, and a map of the State of New Jersey, from the 1870's.

The maps were not found in good condition but are still of enormous historical value. The Museum will photograph all of them; we are also researching the cost of having them professionally restored, a project for which we may be able to get grant funding.

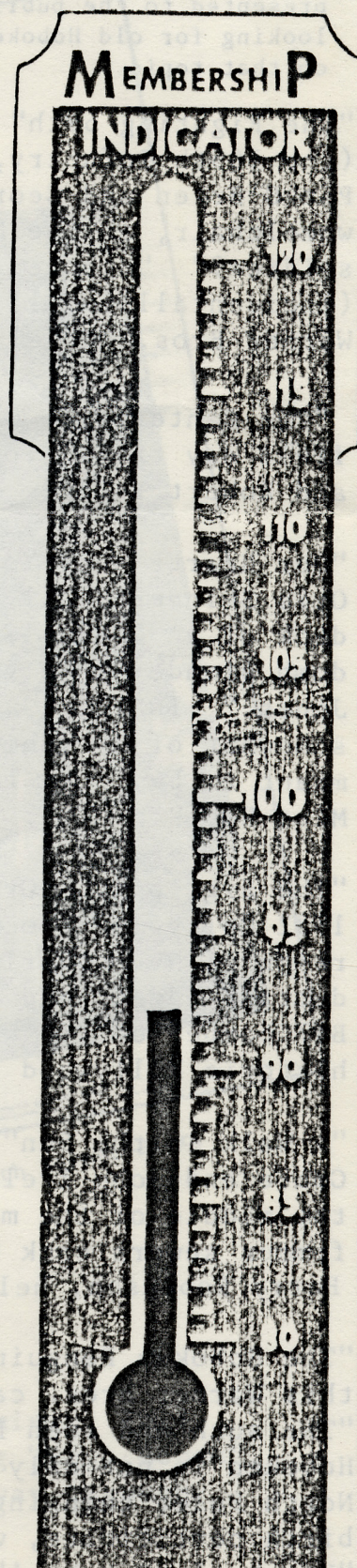


DATE SET FOR MUSICAL BENEFIT

We've rescheduled the Museum's musical benefit show from the end of May to the end of June. Steve Fallon of Maxwell's has reserved two dates for us: Saturday and Sunday, June 27th and 28th. Anyone interested in participating in this special Hoboken music event or helping to prepare it, please contact Perry Robinson, Benefit Chairman, at 795-9081.

MEMBERSHIP LIST

In a forthcoming issue of the newsletter we will publish a list of all the members' names. Names only will be printed. If for some reason you prefer to remain anonymous please let us know by writing or calling the Museum office.



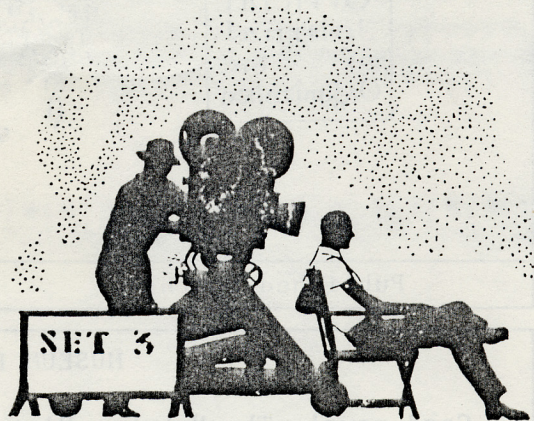


FILMS SHOT IN HOBOKEN OR FILMS IN WHICH HOBOKEN IS MENTIONED 1934 - 1984

Written and compiled by Hoboken Historian
Jim Hans

CONTINUING SERIES

Articles on the history of Theatre, Vaudeville and Motion Pictures in Hoboken will be presented here in the newsletter between now and the opening of the exhibit on that theme in November at the Museum. At that time a booklet on that interesting topic, with additional photographs, illustrations and updated text, will be published and presented to the public. The Museum is looking for old Hoboken items and stories on that topic.



"The Fighting 69th" (1940) Rousing World War I saga of New York's famed Irish Regiment (the 165th Infantry, AEF), from training camp to battlefields. Featuring James Cagney, Pat O'Brien and George Brent, with popular supporting actor Frank McHugh, who in a wheelchair, at the New York City parade after the war was asked: "Where were you wounded, soldier?" "Hoboken." "Hoboken?" "Yea, I sprained my ankle getting off the boat." (Incidentally, selling of the Brooklyn Bridge is mentioned in this highly successful Warner Bros. movie.)

"The Canterville Ghost" (1944) The ghost is played by Charles Laughton, who has a field day trying to spook some American soldiers in his castle. With Margaret O'Brien and Robert Young. The "Hoboken Indian" is mentioned after a dance with Margaret O'Brien.

"Our Hearts Were Young and Gay" (1944) The misadventures abroad, of young Cornelia Otis Skinner (Gail Russell) and Emily Kimbrough (Diana Lynn). Actor James Brown on deck of an ocean liner, early in the film has a date with a "big", beautiful, but dumb blonde who gives herself away by saying: "I'm Miss Hoboken . . . er . . . Miss Jones." In the 1940's Hoboken was taken as a joke. By this time the name had become somewhat of a mythical legend and was believed to be a "knowwhere place." So it was meant to be funny that the beautiful blonde in the movie was not Miss America but Miss Hoboken.

"The Sign of the Cross" (WWII Re-release) During World War II, Cecil B. DeMille's 1932 Hollywood spectacular saga of Christian persecution in ancient Rome during the reign of Nero (Charles Laughton), was re-released with a ten or twelve minute introduction added, and it is within this intro during scenes that take place aboard a B17 bomber off to war, that Hoboken is included. The Sergeant Gunner, on that historic Hollywood flight, a friendly, good-hearted, simple man, is called "Hoboken."

"A Walk in the Sun" (1945) The classic World War II film with Dana Andrews, Richard Conte and John Ireland, about a U.S. platoon in Italy trying to take a farmhouse. In the middle of the movie, shortly before they attack, Richard Conte mentions Hoboken's famous sewers back home. Earl Robinson, father of Hoboken musician and Museum member Perry Robinson, helped compose the score for this fine film.

"The Hoboken Penguin" Bugs Bunny Cartoon (Exact name?) (Ca. 1950) I have yet to see this Warner Bros. cartoon, but was told by Francis Ferrante of Hoboken that in it is: "The such and such Follies are proud to present the world's only Hoboken-born penguin." Hoboken is not only mentioned, but is the punchline when Bugs takes the penguin to the North Pole, thinking that is his home. When they arrive, the penguin shows Bugs his birth certificate, which reads: "Bred in Hoboken". At that an exasperated Bugs yells: "Hoboken! Hoboken!"



Woody Woodpecker Cartoon (Name?) (1950's) I've never seen the very beginning of this cartoon, but I did see somewhere before the middle the large ocean steamship "Hoboken" docked at what appears to be some far off place. If you're into watching early morning or afternoon cartoons on TV, watch for this one - it's on all the time.

"Abbott and Costello Go to Mars" (1953) A Bud Abbott and Lou Costello slapstick farce poking fun at space travel. Early in the movie, after accidentally being shot to Mars, someone says: "Mars? Is that anywhere near Hoboken?"

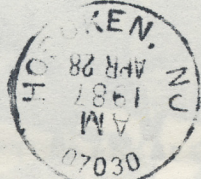
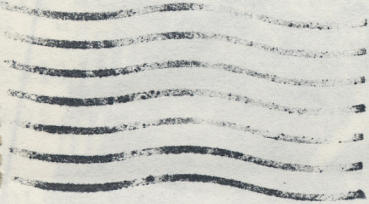
"On the Waterfront" (1954) Elia Kazan's classic black and white Academy Award winning film with Marlon Brando, Eva Marie Saint, Karl Malden and Rod Steiger was filmed in Hoboken, with many local sites appearing in the film. Many of the parks and churches were used, as well as some bars along Hudson and River Streets. Court Street and the waterfront at the foot of 5th Street are featured. No mention of Hoboken is made in the film.



"Lucky Me" (1954) Top Hollywood musical featuring Doris Day, Robert Cummings, Phil Silvers and Nancy Walker. Hoboken is mentioned in the lyrics of the song "High Hopes", sung by Doris Day, Phil Silvers and Nancy Walker about a quarter of the way through the movie. (Soundtrack might be available on lp.)

(To be continued in next issue)

Hoboken, NJ 07030
227 Grand St.
Robert Foster
*Foste



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

THE HOBOKEN HISTORICAL MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

MAY 1987 Vol. 1, No. 4
Editor Jim Hans
Assistant Editor Mary Manhardt
Staff Writer Sean Devney
Sean, a new Museum member living in Hoboken,
has volunteered his time to help with the
Museum and to write for the Newsletter. He
is a fine artist and a serious photographer.
Office 206 3rd St., Hoboken
653-7392

Newsletter Mailing Address . . .
605 Jefferson St., Hoboken

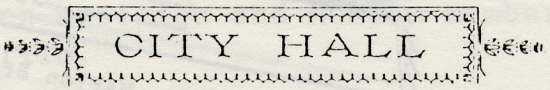
Subscription Rates

Free to Museum Members

PLEASE NOTE

Our next meeting is Wednesday, May 6,
7:30 - 9:30 p.m. All members are invited
and potential new members are always welcome
to sit in without obligation. The date on
the masthead of this newsletter will cor-
respond with our monthly meetings, which
are held, for the time being, on the first
Wednesday of the month at the Clam Broth
House. The date on the masthead will
always be that of the upcoming meeting.

HOBOKEN HISTORICAL
MUSEUM



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