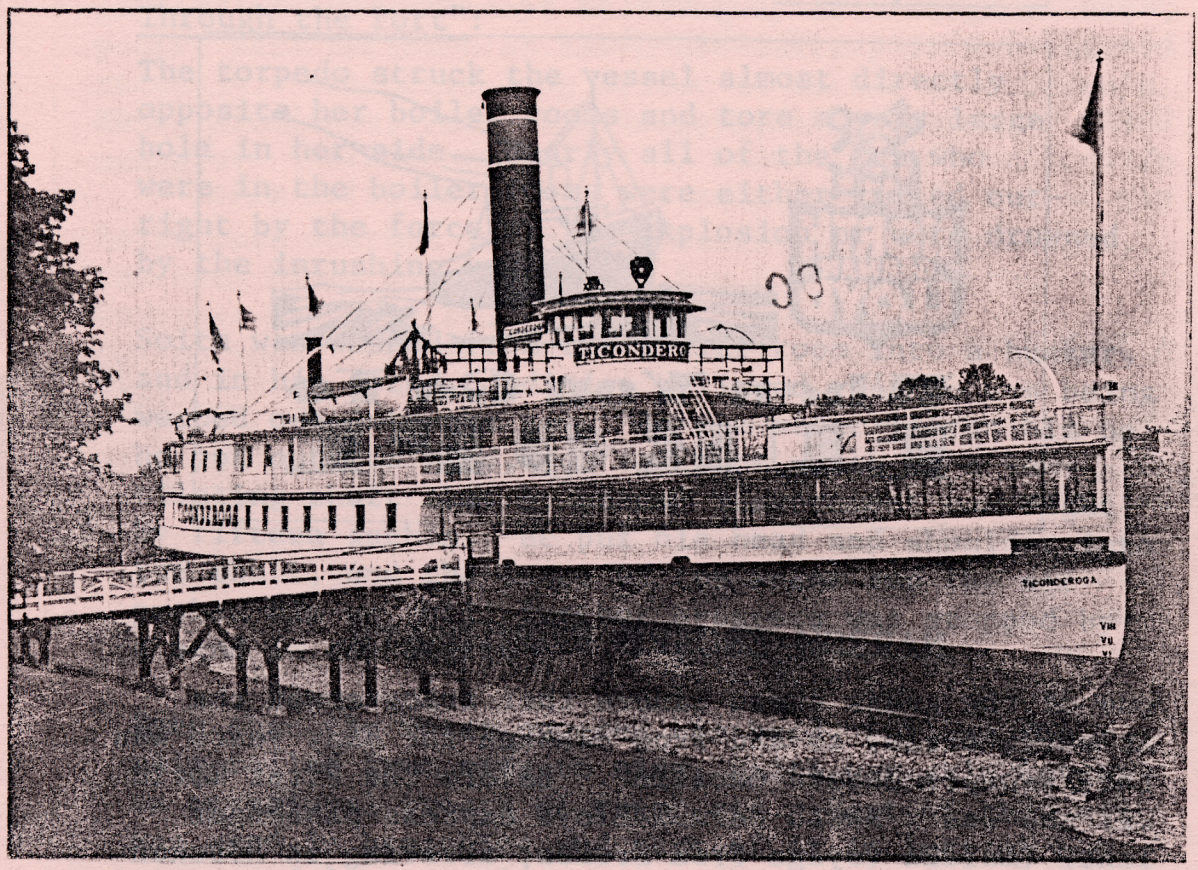
The Official Journal of the Organization

The Hoboken Historical Museum

Newsletter

OF BY And FOR Museum Members.

Tuesday, Sept. 13, 1988 Hoboken, NJ. Volume 2, No. 19



W. & A. FLETCHER CO. SHIPYARD REMINDER

Throughout the summer we all receive postcards from friends, loved ones, whoever may be vacationing somewhere. Museum member Kathy McBrady, our Correspondence Secretary and her husband Ken received such a card recently from Kathy's parents. The card, reporduced above, is from the Shelburne Museum in Shelburne, Vermont, where they visited; it shows the S. S. Ticonderoga who's engine was made in Hoboken by the W.&A. Fletcher Company (a current reminder of the historic machine shop, etc. of which we hope to see saved). Built in 1906, this is the last vertical beam passenger and freight steamer intact in the United States. It's new at the Vermont museum, but was reliable transportation on Lake Champlain for many years.

MUSEUM RECEIVES $1500 GRANT FOR HOBOKEN OCEAN LINER EXHIBIT

The Museum expresses its thanks to the Hudson County Division of Cultural Affairs/ New Jersey State Council of the Arts for a generous grant of $1500 to help with our next major exhibition entitled: "The Great Ocean Liners of Hoboken" scheduled for November 18th at City Hall in the Museum galleries.



NARROW ESCAPE FROM DEATH

One of the great ocean liners that transversed the Atlantic ocean, to and from Hoboken for many years was the "Kronprinzessin Cecilie". Before the First World War she was a North German Lloyd express passenger liner (maiden voyage from Bremen, arriving in Hoboken August 13, 1907). The huge steamer was a former "Gold-Ship", so called from the fact that in the summer of 1914, just before England declared war she started for Germany carrying a large quantity of gold. After being sized at her Hoboken dock when the United States entered the war her name was changed to "Mount Vernon".

As a troop transport for the United States Navy, in September of 1918 having taken over a big load of soldiers was on her way back, and had reached a point some two hundred and fifty miles from the French coast when she was torpedoed. Out of a total of 1,450 men on board there was a loss of but 37 lives. It might have been 38, for it falls to the lot of few men to have as narrow escape from death as did 2nd Class Fireman H. S. Smith.

The story of the escape of Fireman Smith was related to General Shanks back at Hoboken by Commander Stayton who was at that time executive officer of the Mount Vernon.

From Major-General Shanks' book "As They Passed Through the Port":

The torpedo struck the vessel almost directly opposite her boiler rooms and tore a very large hole in her side. Nearly all of the men who were in the boiler rooms were either killed outright by the force of the explosion or were drowned by the inrushing water.

Smith was washed from the boiler room into a bunker, and in his dazed condition believed that he was being washed out into the sea. As the water lifted him up he put out his hand, and felt the mouth of a ventilating shaft that by actual measurement was eight by fifteen inches. He put his head and shoulder into the shaft, and the force of the water and the air pushed him up until further progress was stopped by a bend in the shaft.

Even then the water covered his head, but, as the ship rolled from side to side, Smith was able to get an occasional breath of fresh air. Part of this air was used in breathing and part of it in letting out some good lusty yells. His comrades of the crew heard him, and cut him out just in time to prevent his being drowned.

DONATION TO MUSEUM

A gift of a surveyor's instrument in its original case from the Keuffel & Esser Company, formerly of Hoboken, was donated by Anthony T. Prezioso of Park Avenue. The instrument was manufactured in the Hoboken plant, (not the case). We are most greatful for this and all other donations to the Museum, large and small.

ANNA MOFO IS A DEAR

Once again we were presented with a substantial amount of fine display frames, given to the Museum by the famous opera singer, Anna Mofo. Member Luke Faust and I (Ed.) did the honors of picking up this generous donation (in NYC) and was able to meet Miss Mofo in person. I **must tell you she is as glamorous** as she is beautiful singer. We thank her.

Until we organize a Museum show and sale utilizing these attractive chrome frames (8 x 10 each in size) members may have a choice of them for a nominal price each.

A BUSY SUMMER

We are thankful to the following members, also, one or two non-members and one anonymous, who have recently helped out in various ways. Bob Foster, Paul Lippman, Kathy McBrady, Hugh Kilmer, Carol Huffman, Jeanne Valentin, Fred Pescatore, Perry Robinson, Geri Fallo, Jack O'Brien, Francis Ferrante, Jim Cramer, John DePalma, Gloria Lambson, Larry Von Holland, George Kirchgessner and Arthur Pelaez of the Clam Broth House, who has been a big help to us from our earliest beginnings. We apologize if we missed anyone at this time. We thank also those who continue to express their general support for the Museum.

OLD HOBOKEN ON TV?

Film clips from old Hoboken footage, dating mainly from around 1902-1908, belonging to the Hoboken Museum were recently loaned to Fox Television (Ch. 5) for the morning show, "Good Day, New York". We missed the airing of it on Friday, August 12 between 7-9 A.M., if anyone happened to view the show and see the old Hoboken footage, we would like to know about it, (for the Museum's records). Please call Jim Hans at 653-7392

MUSEUM MEMBER'S TUNE MENTIONED BY GOVERNOR

In New Jersey Governor Thomas Kean's keynote address at the New Orleans Republican National Convention, August 16, he mentioned, actually, emphatically, that when he was young, he often listened to a song about America, called "The House I Live In". Many of our readers might recall that tune as it was written (lyrics by Lewis Allen), and sung by it's original composer, Earl Robinson at the O Roe Gallery in Hoboken recently. The noted song writer is father of Hoboken's own clarinetist, Perry Robinson, both are Museum members.

Regardless whether you are a Democrat or a Republican, the song gives plenty of food for thought, as the Governor would agree. From his speech at the convention, (reported in the Jersey Journal the next day) --



"The song asks the question:
'What is America to Me?"
"It speaks of old Abe Lincoln, of Jefferson and Paine -- of Washington and Douglass and the task that still remains. It says, "America is the right to speak my mind out and the air of feeling free."



And the song concludes very simply, "The town I live in, the street, the house, the room, the pavement of the city or a garden all in bloom: the church, the school, the clubhouse, the million lights I see, but especially the people, that's America to me".

It's nice to have a Governor plug your music on national TV.

In the opinion of many the song is worthy of being nominated for the National Anthem. Frank Sinatra sort of adopted it as his theme song after making a short film in the mid 1940s, for the war effort, in which "The House I Live In" was featured.

Cont. on next page

Earl Robinson is flying in from California and is due to attend a musical tribute to his son on the 17th of September in Hoboken, (see below). We are sure he can be persuaded to play and sing this beautiful song.

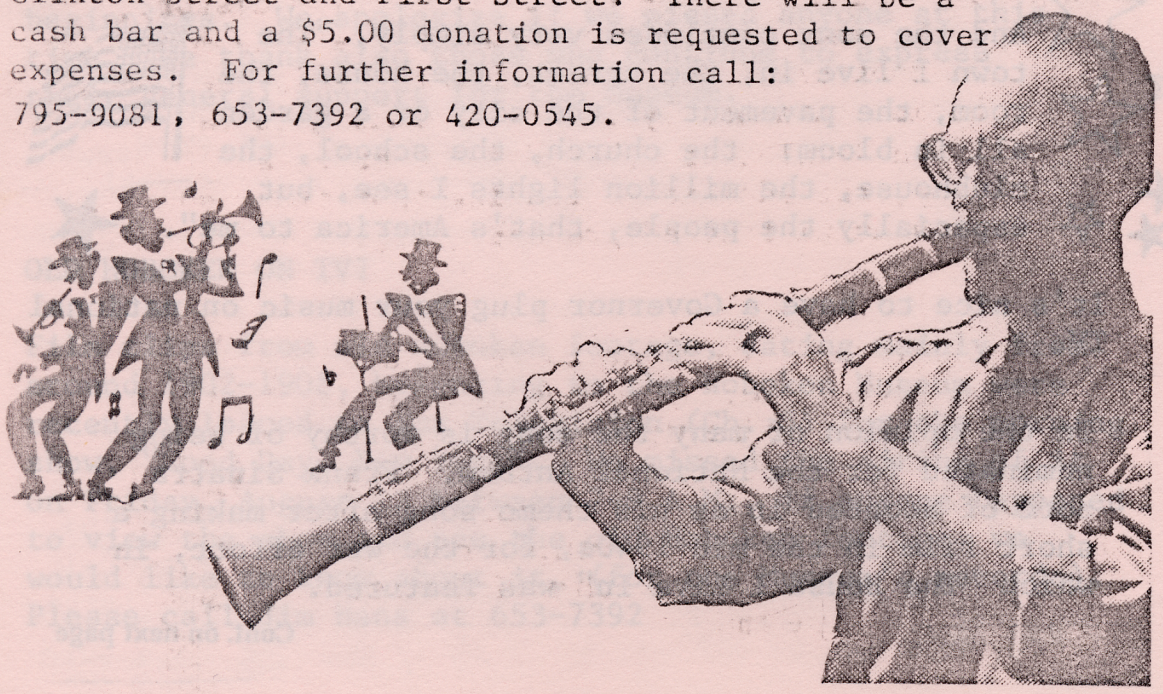
Public Announcement

PERRY ROBINSON TRIBUTE SEPTEMBER 17

The public is invited to a birthday tribute to this special person who will turn 50 on Saturday, September 17. Perry Robinson, Museum Trustee, nationally noted and greatly respected musician, will be on hand to play at his own party, along with Gary Schneider, Founder and Musical Director of The Hoboken Chamber Orchestra, and many other musicians who are being asked to participate in this gala event sponsored jointly by The Hoboken Chamber Orchestra, The O Roe Electric Art Space and The Hoboken Historical Museum.

It has been expressed by Perry's friends and acquaintances that they mean to give him a hearty congratulations as an encouragement for his efforts, and the ambition that has already secured him a permanent place in the ranks of his profession.

Entertainment starts at 9:00 PM at The Jefferson Trust, Clinton Street and First Street. There will be a cash bar and a $5.00 donation is requested to cover expenses. For further information call:
795-9081, 653-7392 or 420-0545.



HOBOKEN TRAIN STATION FESTIVAL

The Hoboken Historical Museum will have tables set up at the 8th Annual Train Station Festival at the old Lackawanna Terminal, Saturday, September 24, from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM. See you there.

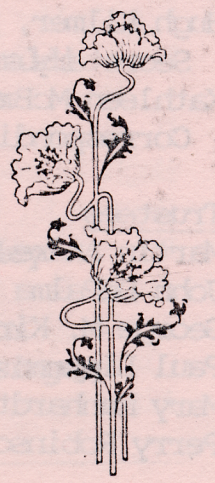
A GOOD IDEA ▲ ▲ LET'S TRY IT!

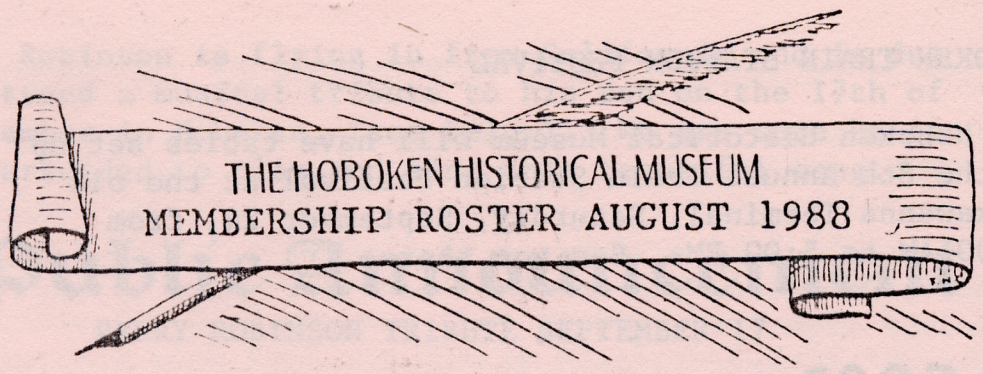
A few people have asked if the Museum has established a Lifetime Membership category, most recently, member, Mrs. Judith S. Stewart. Early-on we did not want to seem presumptuous, but now that we are optimistic about our continued success, we can offer this convenience to our members.

Lifetime Membership is hereby established at $100. (1 year is $15, 2 years is $25.)

We hope that many of you will be able to take advantage of this offering while knowing that you have contributed to a worthy cause, namely that of supporting a non-profit organization dedicated to serve the people of Hoboken and stimulate interest in the city's history, architecture, and geneology. Although the Museum already receives a tangible amount through membership fees on a regular basis, this barely covers operating costs of producing the Newsletter, therefore we must ask, from time to time, for additional funding from other sources to keep this multi-faceted project going.

We realize that everyone is very busy these days with their jobs and personal interests that take up a lot of time. However, you will find it very rewarding to take an active role, even in a limited way, in a young, growing organization such as the Hoboken Historical Museum.





Each year the Museum publishes a roster of the members of the organization. Presently we have over two hundred. Out of alphabetical sequence are those who have joined recently, (after the list was compiled) or who have very recently renewed their membership:

Sally Face
Glenn Hughes
Michael Lenz
John M. Rainier
Donald M. Shachat
Jim and Marie Welsh
Chris & Avery Brighton
Yolanda Latko

Note: If you are a paid member, but for some reason your name is not on the roster, please call the office.

(Unless otherwise shown, residence is Hoboken.)

Officers

Jim Hans, President
Bob Foster, Vice President
Gerard Lisa, Treasurer
Hugh Kilmer, Recording Secretary
Kathleen McBrady, Corresponding Secretary

Trustees

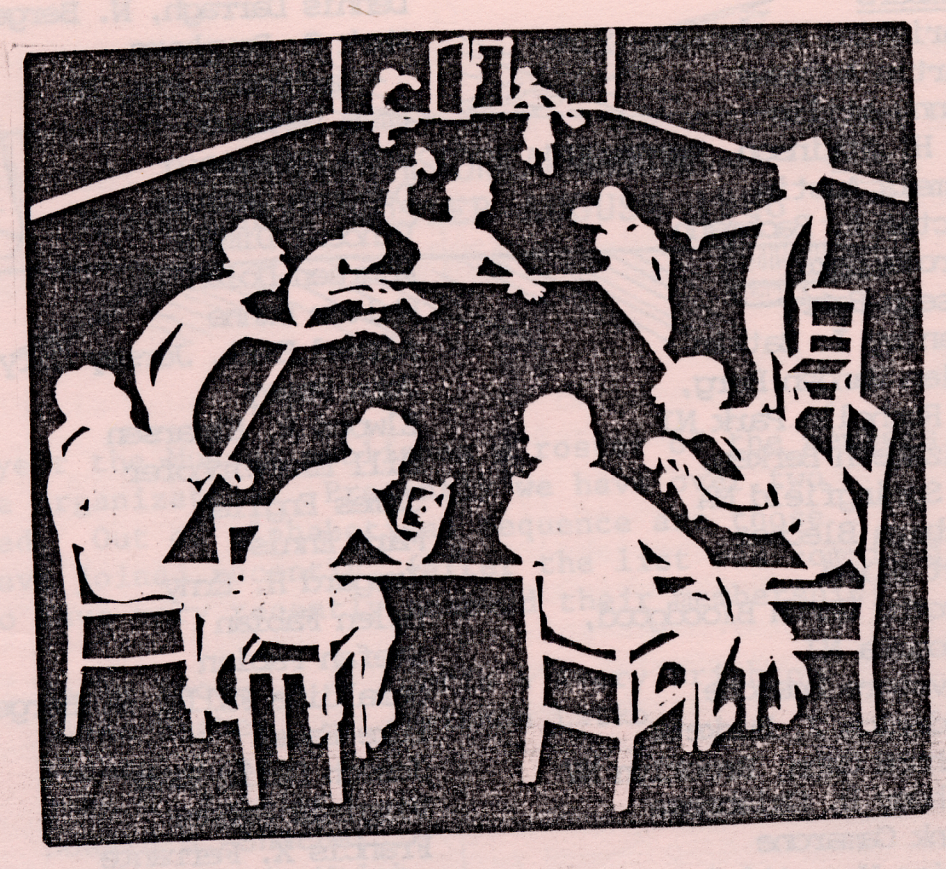
Martin Andrews
John DePalma
George M. Kirchgessner
Paul Lippman
Mary Manhardt
Perry Robinson

Honorary Trustees

His Honor Mayor Patrick Pasculli, Honorary Chairman and Mrs Pasculli Chair
Helen Cunning
Laurie Fabiano
Roy Haack
Beverly Hans
Ross London, Esq.
Helen Manogue
Robert Ranieri
Frank Sinatra, Beverly Hills CA
Joyce Tatom

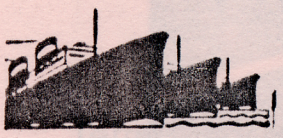
Members

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W. H. Atkinson, Darien CT
Pamela Austin
Victor A. Bachmann
Gerold Baker
Joseph Barry
Stanley I. Batkin
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Doris China
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Mrs Constance Stanton Cooke
Edward Stanton Cooke, Miami Beach FL
Edwin Cooke, Miami FL
Rita Cooke
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David Currier
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Vincent Dimone
Maureen Dolan
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Mrs Phyllis Moretto,
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Kate Smith
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Hoboken Historical Museum
P.O. Box M-1220
Hoboken NJ 07030



MUSEUM HOURS
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
weekdays
6.30 p.m. - 9.00 p.m.
wednesday evenings

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NOTICE

Our next meeting is Tuesday, September 13 at 7:30 P.M. in the Clam Broth House on Newark Street in Hoboken. All members are invited, and potential new members and guests are always welcome to sit in without obligation.

MUSEUM NEWSLETTER

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