

JAN 1974 ?

Jacobsburg Historical Society, Inc.

VOL II #1

P.O. Box 345, Nazareth, PA 18064

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NEWSLETTER

President Mrs. Lewis Beers
Vice President Joseph DiGerlando

Secretary Hilton Rahn
Treasurer: Miss Margaret Taylor

The officers and directors wish to extend a very hearty welcome to all our new members and also offer best wishes for a happy and productive New Year to all members and friends.

Our new year is off to a good start with our membership above 260 at last count. This is mainly due to the hard work and long hours of Mrs. Henry (Kitty) Fluck and her untiring membership committee. They have been working since last spring to make our first membership drive a success. It is gratifying to see that in times as difficult and unsettled as these, our neighbors are concerned enough about our beautiful historic area to join in our Society's work of preservation and education.

The membership committee addressed about 3,000 pieces of mail and will soon be engaged in a telephone follow-up campaign.

Our special thanks go to Barry Jones, advertising artist, for the continuing interest and support he has given us. Barry design our membership brochures, newspaper ads, handouts and the beautiful charter membership certificates which all members of record should be receiving shortly. (NOTE: If you have not received your certificate, please contact Margaret Taylor at 252-1315.) Special mention for the certificate also goes to Albert Toth of Belfast, who donated the entire cost of preparing and printing them.

SORRY we goofed! In the rush and hassle to get the certificates prepared, we inadvertently forgot to print the seal on them. If you want, you may bring them to the Feb. 21 meeting, or mail them to Margaret Taylor, 733 Paxinosa St., Easton, for the seal.

Since we are on the credit line, we must mention all the business people who donated money to help us purchase space in The Express, the Nazareth Key, and the Nazareth Item. The order of mention of the businesses is random: People's Coal & Supply Co,

Stockertown, Pa.; Northampton Farm Bureau Co-op Association, Tatamy, Pa.; Snyder Milling Co., Nazareth Pa.; Trumbower Co., Nazareth, Pa.; Fishburn Realty, Nazareth, Pa.; Speck Plastics, Inc., Belfast, Pa.; Martin Guitar, Inc., Nazareth, Pa.; Lester Fehnel, contractor, Belfast, Pa.; Edwards Farm Equipment, Nazareth, Pa., and Pen Argyl National Bank, Pen Argyl, Pa.

Walk in the Woods

Another success story -- over 500 people this time. Who would have thought...? It was a beautiful October Sunday, just right for a walk into the woods -- Henry's Woods, that is. People came from all over, including a former Easton resident now living in New York. She said she'll be there next year too. Even more astounding is that people are still coming and walking. That's right -- it's cold out, snow on the ground, ice in the trees (and everywhere else, including the cliffs in Henry's Woods), and people are out walking and loving it. The local "Woods Watchers" (and there are many) don't ever remember seeing as many hikers in the winter. We must be doing something right.

Henry Homestead Report

For those of you who are not familiar with it, the Henry Homestead is on the hill overlooking the now defunct Gun Factory at Boulton. It is a very large house, the original log cabin portion predating the 1790 purchase of the property by William Henry. To summarize a long story, the property was offered to the Society by the Pa. Bureau of Parks, its current owner, for the sum of \$1 a year. The board of directors wanted to accept the lease subject to minor revisions and is now waiting for final approval from the state. Future plans for the property include having a historically minded tenant move into the apartment which is being prepared, and utilize the rest of the building for workrooms, offices and a museum.

Albert Toth has agreed to take charge of the care and maintenance of the property. He will be setting up a work crew as necessary to perform any necessary repairs.

This is a major undertaking on our part, but also a very necessary move for our future growth. The directors have attempted to assess the situation and minimize any future difficulties. One of the major problems will be to find a suitable tenant.

The person must be interested in history and our Society, and willing and capable to live with the responsibilities that present themselves. If anyone is interested and wishes more information, contact Mrs. Beers at 253-4547.

History Note

Jacobsburg was known to be the source of some of the finest moonshine in the valley. The community was settled in 1740 by Jacob Hubler, and at its height there were a tannery, store, inn, grist mill, saw mill, livery stable, foundry, forge and many dwellings.

Bicentennial News

J.H.S. is joining the rest of the nation in planning for our Bicentennial celebration. A committee will be formed to organize possible projects.

At the top of the list is restoration of the Colonial Gardens at the Henry Homestead -- not a simple task, but much easier since we have the original plans. Mrs. Lorraine Mineo is in charge of this project and will inform us in future letters about her plans and needs for volunteers. If you have any ideas for other projects, send them in.

Earthly Notes

Our archaeologists, under the direction of Mrs. Virginia Lopresti, have gone into hibernation for the winter. After what C. Walter Tremer, Muhlenberg College archaeologist, calls a very fruitful summer, our diggers have gone indoors to plan for what appears to be a very ambitious 1974 digging season. This will start with a series of classes by Mr. Tremer at Muhlenberg College, in Allentown, from 7:30-9 p.m. March 20 in the archaeology lab. For more details contact Mrs. Lopresti, 759-1580. The college lab is in the science building, adjoining the student union, just off Chew Street.

Notes of Interest

If you think we have inflation problems, in 1780 a barrel of flour cost \$100, and a pair of shoes, \$60. The Moravians had to close their schools because of inflation. AT least it only

took four days for mail between the Lehigh Valley and Philadelphia.

Meeting Notice

Mark your calendars -- Feb. 21 -- 7:30 p.m. College Hill Presbyterian Church. A joint meeting will be held with the Bushkill Watershed Association and the Environmental Education Committee.

Mr. Louis Ritrovato, head of environmental education for the state Bureau of Parks, will be the speaker. His topic will be environmental education with emphasis on the Jacobsburg State Park and surrounding areas. Don't miss this one. Refreshments will be served.

Research Reports

Charles Sandwick and his committee have been working like mad turtles. This may sound strange, but that is what is required to do a good job on the often boring and tedious job of fact finding. A researcher must proceed at a fast snail's pace in order not to miss any important details.

Anyone with a lot of time and patience is requested to call Mr. Sandwick at 252-1290. This can be a very rewarding winter hobby.

Have you wondered why Jacobsburg disappeared? In 1805 stocks were sold in the Easton-Wilkes-Barre Turnpike, which was to bypass Jacobsburg. (That was one of the reasons for its demise.)

Miscellaneous

Board of directors meeting at 8 p.m. FEB. 6.

Speaking of volunteers, (as usual) our committee heads are always looking for new smiling faces, so at the end of the letter we'll list them all. Find your particular interest and call for more info.

Spring Trip

We're going to try again this year. Hopewell Village is a

Membership and Field Trips: Mrs. Henry Fluck -- 253-1146
Research: Charles Sandwick -- 252-1290
Public Information: Joe DiGerlando

Calendar of Events

- Feb. 6: J.H.S. board of directors
Feb. 21: J.H.S. joint meeting with the Bushkill Watershed Association,
7:30 p.m.
Feb. 26: Stream reclamation and preservation workshop, presented
by Mrs. Gertrude Fox. Prosser Auditorium, Moravian
College, Bethlehem.
Mar. 20: J.H.S. archaeology class at Muhlenberg College, Allentown,
with Dr. Tremer. 7 - 9 p.m.
April 20: J.H.S. trip to Hopewell Village

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

JACOBSBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Single membership \$5, Sustaining, \$10, Organization \$25

Check Enclosed -----

Name -----
Street ----- Telephone Number -----
City ----- State -----
Check if interested: Archaeology Research
Restoration Program

Please mail to: Jacobsburg Historical Society
Box 345, Nazareth, PA 18064
