



The FERRYMAN

Vol. I, Number 2

DOBBS FERRY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FALL 1980

"ART IN THE PRISON" TALK
BY ED MARTIN ON NOV. 21

Ed Martin, artist-filmmaker, will talk on "The Creative Response: Art in the Prison" on Friday, Nov. 21, at 8 p.m. The program, presented by the Historical Society and co-sponsored by the Dobbs Ferry Council for the Arts, will be held in the library area of the Dobbs Ferry Middle School.

He will illustrate his talk with slides and a videotape which he made while working at the Department of Corrections at Grasslands, Valhalla, during the past year.

Mr. Martin will discuss the use of art and film workshops as a therapeutic tool to create a more positive orientation, and to help nullify the dehumanization of the correctional environment.

The prison project was made possible by a grant to the Film and Video Workshop of Westchester by the American Correctional Association's "Project Culture."

There will be no admission charge. Refreshments will be served. ---JK

"STUCCO AND STONES" BEGINS —
THE LOOK OF ITALY IN DOBBS FERRY

Work is underway on a new architectural project on "The Look of Italy" in the village of Dobbs Ferry.

In this project, "Stucco and Stones," the Historical Society will research the influence of the lifestyle, customs and cultural heritage of the village's ethnic Italian immigrant community on the architectural development of Dobbs Ferry.

Karen Kennedy of Rye, an architectural historian and preservationist, will collaborate with Cathleen Polgreen of Dobbs Ferry, author and photographer, in documenting structures and landscape by research and photography. They will consult with a social historian, still to be selected.

The researchers will identify the Italian precedent for the forms, details, and usages of buildings and landscapes in Dobbs Ferry. Working closely with members of local Italian families, they will interpret this information through the historic and contemporary culture of Dobbs Ferry's Italian community.

Three public discussion programs by the two historians, using color slides and a photographic exhibit, will culminate in a slide/tape interpretive program which will circulate throughout the county and state.

As reported in the last newsletter, funding for "Stucco and Stones" has already been received from the Council for the Arts in Westchester. The project has now been awarded \$6,000 in additional funding from the Architectural and Environmental Arts Program of the New York State Council on the Arts.

 * NAME THE NEWSLETTER CONTEST— *
 * AND THE WINNER IS..... *
 * *
 * ...Mrs. LORETTA DELUCA of 413 Ashford *
 * Avenue, Dobbs Ferry, for her prize- *
 * winning entry, THE FERRYMAN. *
 * Mrs. DeLuca and her husband Louis, *
 * a lifelong resident, have owned and *
 * operate DeLuca's Liquor Store at *
 * 411 Ashford Avenue. *
 * Residents submitted 31 names for *
 * this newsletter. The DeLucas picked *
 * up the prize: two Historical T-shirts. *
 * * * * *

LETTERS

DOBBS FERRY '55 CLASS REUNION

On behalf of the Class of 1955 we extend our sincere thanks and appreciation for all you did to help make our reunion week-end a success.

Class of '55 Reunion Committee
Dobbs Ferry High School

ORAL HISTORY HELP

To Joanne Kavanagh:

May I put in writing the profound thanks of the Rye Historical Society's Oral Historical Program as well as my own personal appreciation? Your generosity of time and materials was heartwarming and greatly facilitated my job as instructor of Oral History in the Square House Summer Program.

As you know, I met with approximately 18 eleven- and twelve-year-olds for three weeks. We discussed the mechanics of tape-recording, interviewing techniques, etc., and culminated with a real-live interview with a local resident who told us about Rye in the 1920's and 1930's.

The children were enthusiastic and anxious to continue. My next target is the Middle School which some of my group entered in the Fall.

Of great help in motivating the youngsters were the placards with photos and short quotes that were done by your program in Dobbs Ferry.

Marianne Koerner
Oral History Program
Rye Historical Society

HOUSE RESEARCH WORKSHOPS

Information about your workshop, "How to Research the History of Your House," was printed in the 1980 edition of New York State History Network. We have considered offering something similar in our area.

Do you have any printed material which would be helpful to us? We would be most appreciative of anything you could share with us, including advice.

Shirley Houck
Delaware County Historical Assn.
Delhi, New York

THE FERRYMAN

Editors and writers:
Virginia Barton, Hank Walter, Joanne Kavanagh

FROM CASTLE DOBBS, IRELAND

Thank you very much for all the interesting Dobbs Ferry articles, especially the Centennial medal and the T-shirts.

The children are delighted with the latter, but I feel that when they eventually wear out the medal will be here in the library with a few other 18th Century and 19th Century medals which the family collected over the years.

I read the papers with interest, the newsletter from your Historical Society and the League of Women Voters booklet about Dobbs Ferry. The old photographs in that are fun, especially the first prison---not much use for today's criminals.

I do wish we knew more about the first John Dobbs and whether he came from Yorkshire originally. The first Dobbs to come to Ireland from Yorkshire in the 16th Century was also a John Dobbs, and is my husband's direct ancestor.

Mrs. Richard Dobbs
Castle Dobbs
Carrickfergus

County Antrim, Northern Ireland

NEWSLETTER'S FIRST ISSUE

We received your first newsletter, and I enjoyed reading it. It is well done and chock full of information. I hope that you will continue to send it to us.

Congratulations on your three major grants. I know that you will put the money to good use.

Eda L. Newhouse, President
Scarsdale Historical Society

SOCIETY PASSES 100-MEMBER MARK

For the first time, the Historical Society's annual membership has passed the 100 mark, according to Charles Baiano, membership chairman. A total of 101 family and individual memberships are recorded so far for 1980.

Persons joining or renewing now will receive membership privileges through the end of 1981.

TRUSTEES TO MEET TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2

The Society's Board of Trustees will meet on Tuesday, December 2, at 7:45 in the meeting room of the Public Library.

PHOTO EXHIBIT AT MERCY COLLEGE

A photo exhibit, "The Look of Italy in Dobbs Ferry, New York" was prepared and mounted by Cathleen Polgreen and Barbara Dannenbring for exhibit at the Ninth Annual Local History Conference at Mercy College on October 5th. The theme of this year's conference was "The People of Westchester: the Ethnic Contribution."

Sister Mary Agnes Parrell, a trustee of the Historical Society and a teacher at Mercy College, was conference chairman. Dr. Joseph R. Leahey of Mercy was the conference coordinator.

The framed photographs were taken by local professional photographers Ed Martin, Cathleen Polgreen and Florence Husband Parker. The exhibit stand was designed and executed by Johnny Polgreen, cabinet-maker, and the exhibit lettering done by Brigid Kavanagh.

Dr. Donald Grunewald, president of Mercy College, has requested that an expanded exhibit be mounted in the main building of the college later this year.

A picture of the exhibit, taken by Louis Costanzo, staff photographer, appeared in the October 28th issue of Il Progresso, the Italian language daily, which circulates nationwide and in Canada. As a result of this article, the Historical Society has been contacted by Marina Giordano of Italian Radio-Television who hopes to use some of our material for their television program which is aired every Sunday afternoon from 2:30 until 6:00 p.m. on Channel 47 (seen in Dobbs Ferry on Channel 22).



JANUARY GALA

A Gala Evening, featuring a buffet supper with wine, a musical program, and a tour of the building, is planned for Society members and friends on Saturday, January 17, at 6:30 p.m. at historic Ingleside Mansion, now the administration building at St. Christopher's School. If you can contribute a hot dish, salad, or dessert, please call Mrs. Neill (693-9462)

THE RAVEKES-STORMS PAPERS DONATED

David Ravekes, 96-year-old lifelong resident of Dobbs Ferry and husband of the late Lily Storms, has given the Historical Society the original cast for the bust of George Washington (from the Washington Memorial on Broadway) as well as prized historic books and memorabilia.

A number of historical documents, maps, photographs, records, and family mementos from the Storms and Ravekes families, two of the oldest families in Dobbs Ferry, has been donated by Mr. Ravekes' granddaughter, Mrs. Janine Loescher of New Fairfield, Conn., and his son-in-law, Eugene Campbell of Westport, Conn.

The Society is most grateful to Mr. Ravekes and his family for these important contributions.

Mr. Ravekes recently moved from his house on Bellewood Avenue to Tarrytown Hall, Wood Court, Tarrytown, NY 10591.

The Historical Society now eagerly seeks volunteer help in cataloging and sorting this material for the archives. If you can spend some time working on this interesting project, please phone the history room at 693-7766. ---JK



HISTORICAL T-SHIRTS

Woodcut by Jon Nielsen, deep blue on medium blue short-sleeved T-shirt.

50% cotton, 50% polyester. Machine wash, dry.

Qty.		Amount
___	Child's Size 6-8 @ \$5	_____
___	Child's Size 10-12 @ \$5	_____
___	Youth Size 14-16 @ \$5	_____
___	Men-Small (Women 10-12) @ \$6	_____
___	Men-Medium (Women 14) @ \$6	_____
___	Men-Large (Women 16-18) @ \$6	_____
___	Men X-Large (Women 18 up) @ \$6	_____
	Postage 75¢; 3 shirts, \$1	_____
	OR 693-7766 to arrange pickup	
	TOTAL	_____

Name _____

Address _____
 DOBBS FERRY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, 153 Main St.

REPLACEMENT OF HIGH SCHOOL WINDOWS

Trustee Richard Hazen and Joanne Kavanagh represented the Historical Society at the Board of Education Meeting on Nov. 10, at which time the architect, Mr. Anderson, gave a presentation, reviewing progress on installation of new windows in the high school.

Speaking for the Board of Trustees of the Historical Society, they expressed hope that the stained-glass medallions can be preserved within the new windows as part of the historic heritage of the building.

Joan Pearlman, president of the Board of Education, asked the Historical Society to look into the disposition of the 115 leaded glass windows to be removed; also to research alternate ways to preserve the medallions, possibly as an exhibit.

ORAL HISTORY ON THE ROAD

...AT PUTNAM VALLEY

Virginia Barton and Joanne Kavanagh presented an oral history lecture-demonstration, "Talking History," to 46 members of the Putnam Valley Historical Society at the 1840 Schoolhouse at Adams Corners, NY.

...AT YORKTOWN HEIGHTS

Martha Bial and Joanne Kavanagh spoke to four 8th grade classes (60 students per session, plus their instructors) on Oct. 15 at the Mildred E. Strang Middle School, Yorktown Heights. Each 45-minute class dealt with techniques for interviewing the students' own parents and grandparents, with emphasis on the periods of history through which they have lived.

FOLKLORE CONSULTANT TO VISIT DOBBS FERRY

Robert Baron, Folk Arts Coordinator for the New York State Council on the Arts, will meet with members of the Historical Society on Saturday, Nov. 22, to advise on 2 on-going projects. First, the folk element in the Italian architectural project in Dobbs Ferry. Second, the project on "Folklore of the Tarrytowns," presented to Sleepy Hollow High School seniors by teacher Cecelia Kingston of Hastings with Maria Montero of the Warner Library, and members of the Historical Society of the Tarrytowns. For the past two years, the D.F. Historical Society gave Oral History workshops for this folklore project.

SLIDES FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL EVALUATORS

The Society helped prepare a slide & sound show for the Dobbs Ferry Public Schools and the Board of Education to show a visiting evaluation team some aspects of the community served by the Middle-High School. The team from the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools is evaluating the school for its 10-year re-accreditation.

The program was presented November 11 at the opening banquet for the evaluators. The Society collaborated with Constance Czyszczon of the faculty, coordinator, by request of Dr. Gerson, superintendent.

The slide show was shown to 800 middle school and high school students, faculty and staff at two assemblies on Nov. 6.

The Society also provided a photographic exhibit in the teachers' dining room for the 3-day visit by the Middle States team.

Credits go to the following Historical Society photographers: Harry Frees, Hank Walter, Tom Neill, Charlie Baiano, Cathleen Polgreen, Virginia Barton, Florence Parker, Maria Harris, Bill Blanck, Stanley Daniels, Ed Martin, Jessica Roemischer & Amanda Kavanagh. English teacher Peter McHugh took the in-school pictures.

T-SHIRTS FOR HOLIDAY GIFTS--2 NEW SIZES

Two additional sizes are in the new supply of historical art T-shirts now ready for purchase as holiday gifts: youth size 14-16 and adult extra-large, making three youth sizes and four adult sizes available in all. T-shirts feature a silk-screen of the ferryman Dobbs woodcut.

Order form on Page 3.

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**Nov.
21-**

"Art in the Prison"