



# The FERRYMAN

VOLUME VII No. 1

DOBBS FERRY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MARCH 1986

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY EXPANDS HOURS

The Trustees of the Dobbs Ferry Historical Society are pleased to announce an expansion of hours, which will allow the Historical Society office to be open every week day (Mon.-Fri.) from 9am-2pm.

Director Tema Harnik will be on hand to administer our unique projects and coordinate oral history, archival and microfilming work, thanks in part to \$1000 "administrative development" grant support from the Westchester Arts Fund of the Council for the Arts in Westchester for 1986.

Members and the public are welcome to stop in downstairs in the library, or call us (693-7766) with research questions, or donations to the photo archives which document Dobbs Ferry History.

Volunteer help is especially welcome to assist archivist Kathleen Brennan and research assistant Pat Magnani in identifying and cataloguing village archive materials. Training is available to learn oral history transcribing or newspaper microfilming preparation techniques.

## STOREFRONT HISTORY THEATRE

By now we bet you've seen the Gatehouses & Gazebos Storefront History Theatre slide show for yourselves, either in January at the Dobbs Ferry Post Office on Main Street, or in the Cedar Street windows of Hudson Valley Realty, Inc. and T.J.'s Home Video, during snowy February.

One of several programs in honor of Architectural Heritage Year:86, Gatehouses was researched and written by Karen Morey Kennedy and edited by Virginia Barton; the outstanding photography is by Cathy Polgreen.

In the works is a study of Dobbs Ferry Street Furniture, while the final touches are put on Through Stained Glass, an inside look at 125 years of glass in our residential, religious and public buildings. Researched by Pat Magnani, this Storefront episode showcases the stunning slide photography work of Evelyn Fitzgerald.

## COOPERATIVE ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCY LINKS ART, HISTORY AND ARCHITECTURE

The Historical Society's New York Foundation for the Arts-funded Artist-in-Residence program, in cooperation with the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District is under way!

From February through June 1986, our collaborative efforts have developed a multi-faceted program which "draws" from Dobbs Ferry streets and photo archives in honor of Architectural Heritage Year: 86. Artist-in-Residence, painter/printmaker Lynn Margileth, was selected to teach drawing and press-less printmaking from local architectural sources (present and past) to 6th and 8th grade art classes at Dobbs Ferry Middle/High Schools, during February, under the auspices of the district's Cultural Arts Program.

While the Historical Society's Storefront History Theatre architectural slide shows are exhibited throughout March in the school library, artist Lynn Margileth will be working on her own Dobbs Ferry paintings and drawings and making selections of student works to be exhibited in the spring. Visiting artist, Stephen Yarabek, will present his illustrated concepts of Dobbs Ferry "Village Landscapes" to Middle/High School audiences this month.

In April, the residency project moves into the adult community, with an Inter-Village Continuing Education walk/sketch course entitled "Drawing from Dobbs Ferry for Architectural Heritage Year", taught by Lynn Margileth on the weekends of April 5-6 and 13th. Explorations of Main Street architecture and river vistas are the focus of this special offering for all ages and artistic talents. (Continued on p.7)



# Time to Join~ Time to Renew Membership

## IN SEARCH OF IRISH ROOTS: ORAL HISTORY IN DOBBS FERRY (County Westchester)

The Historical Society is inaugurating an oral history study of Dobbs Ferry residents whose families had roots in Ireland.

We'd like to list the names of your Irish ancestors who came to Dobbs Ferry and vicinity, whether they were among the village's earliest residents in the 19th century, or they came here in the era of jet-age immigration.

We'd like to talk with you, on tape, about your Irish forebears' experiences upon arrival here- what Dobbs Ferry was like when they arrived (whether in 1870 or 1970); what skills, schooling and family traditions they carried along to these shores.

Please enhance our knowledge of Dobbs Ferry by joining us in search of Irish roots.

[I]/[My ancestor]: \_\_\_\_\_  
Came here from County \_\_\_\_\_, Ireland,  
in the year \_\_\_\_\_. My name and phone#: \_\_\_\_\_

Please fill in and mail to 153 Main Street.

FASANELLA'S VIEWS OF DOBBS FERRY  
NOW AVAILABLE TO ALL: SPECIAL MARCH OFFER  
FOR MEMBERS ON FULL-COLOR LITHOGRAPH

Ardsley resident (and Dobbs Ferry friend) Ralph Fasanella's art work was exhibited last fall at the Herbert F. Johnson Museum in Ithaca, where an impressive catalog and a great New York City poster were published by the Museum in connection with the touring exhibition of folk-art works.

Here in Dobbs Ferry, we celebrated Ralph's art with the publication, as note cards, of his Main Street-USA and RailRoad Station-Dobbs Ferry paintings. The cards were published by the Historical Society and printed in full color, 5"x7", by Morgan Press.

Tremendously popular in the village for holiday and New Year's greetings, these cards are available for your use and enjoyment year-round, in packages of ten of each scene, with envelopes, and may be ordered through the Historical Society (call 693-7766).

From March 23- May 11, you can see several of Fasanella's paintings in an exhibit of French and American "naive" art, at The Gallery at Hastings.

## HISTORICAL SOCIETY TEACHES ORAL HISTORY IN WORKSHOPS FOR WESTCHESTER STUDENTS

This spring, as in years past, Director Tema Harnik will pass along the exciting skills of oral history interviewing to youngsters studying local history and local government in our county's classrooms.

Using oral history to develop skills of communication, language arts, group cooperation and social studies research, 4th grade students in Coman Hills Elementary School (Armonk) and Concord Road Elementary School (Ardsley), along with students in Woodlands High School (Greenburgh), will learn how to interview for a purpose, to develop their own questions, and actually interview (individually or in teams) members of their families, schools and communities this spring.

Two years ago, a historical society oral history workshop team (Martha Bial, Tahnee Neill and Tema Harnik) conducted a similar oral history workshop series for Dobbs Ferry Middle School's 6th graders.



"Main Street-USA" by Ralph Fasanella

A MEMBERS SPECIAL offering is made to you in celebration of Ralph Fasanella's art on view in our region: during March only the signed, numbered Fasanella color lithograph, "Waterfront" (on view at the Dobbs Ferry Library), can be purchased for \$200 (unframed). A ragged-matted, ash wood framed print, also signed and numbered, is available from the Historical Society this month for \$250.

You can order the note cards and lithograph only by calling, writing or visiting the Historical Society, downstairs in the library at 153 Main Street.

Our thanks to Ralph and Eve Fasanella for their generous support in this effort.

# PROGRAMS INTO SPRING <sup>3</sup>

## March



continuing

Mon.- Fri.

° Artist-in-Residency at Dobbs Ferry Middle/High School

° Storefront History Theatre architectural slide episodes on view at the Middle School Library

## April

5-6, 13

° "Drawing from Dobbs Ferry for Architectural Heritage Year", taught by resident artist Lynn Margileth, for the Inter-Village Continuing Education Program as a special course offering to neighbors of all ages and talents.



15

° Celebrate Lady Liberty- a free evening at the Masters Theatre in honor of the Statue of Liberty Centennial, presented by the Dobbs Ferry Garden Club and co-sponsoring Garden Clubs and Historical Societies of Hastings, Dobbs Ferry and Ardsley. Program begins at 8pm and features "From Ellis Island to Hastings", "Stucco & Stones: The Look of Italy in Dobbs Ferry", a photo exhibit on the Lewison Estate in Ardsley, and songs by the Masters Glee Club. All Welcome- Free.

## May

6

° "Lawn Shrines and Sidewalk Altars of New York's Italian-Americans", an illustrated talk by Folklorist Joseph Sciorra, at Our Lady of Pompeii Church, 95 Palisade Street. Co-sponsored by the Pompeii Society and the Dobbs Ferry Historical Society. 7:30pm



12-18

° Preservation Week

° "Through Stained Glass" slide lecture in honor of the 100th anniversary of Zion Episcopal Church Parish House. (call for exact date and time.)

18

° Today is Museum Day- plan a visit to your favorite one. Continuous Storefront Slide Shows at the Dobbs Ferry Library.

## June

8

° "We Love Dobbs Ferry", especially at a village-wide river-front celebration coordinated by the Dobbs Ferry Umbrella Committee and co-sponsored by participating village organizations. Join the Historical Society in an afternoon of oral history taping at the park and railroad station.

22

° Opening Reception of the exhibit "Drawn from Dobbs Ferry" at the Dobbs Ferry Library Community Room Gallery, 3-5 pm, to honor the students, residents and artists who participated in the New York Foundation for the Arts Artist-in-Residence Project. Exhibit will be on display through July 31.



# 1986

# Time to Renew Membership

# 86

# 4

\* An asterisk next to your name means that you have already contributed your support for 1986 membership. All others are due to be renewed.

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## ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCY (continued from pg.1)

By Preservation Week (mid-May), the Historical Society plans to shift the emphasis of the project to the architectural element of stained glass. There will be a visiting artist demonstration of techniques at the school by glass artist Charles Woodward. Slide talks on 125 years of Dobbs Ferry's stained glass will be offered by researcher Pat Magnani, in honor of the 100th anniversary of Zion Episcopal Church's Parish House.

A storefront History Theatre slide exhibit, "Through Stained Glass", will be shown throughout the village (made possible in part with support from the Westchester Arts Funds of the Council for the Arts in Westchester).

May is Art Month in the Dobbs Ferry Schools-- and therefore it is the month when student works will be exhibited at the Middle/High School. With assistance from Morgan Press Inc., student, adult and artist works "drawn from Dobbs Ferry" will be combined in color poster format and printed in a limited edition for exhibit and sale to the community.

A final show, documenting the project and celebrating the resulting artworks, will open at the Dobbs Ferry Library Community Room Gallery on June 22, and will remain on exhibit there, adjacent to the Historical Society's office, through July.

## SPECIAL THANKS DEPARTMENT



The Historical Society is grateful to enthusiastic and knowledgeable residents Mark and Jeff Anbinder, who have been of valuable assistance in transcribing oral history tapes in our collection. Mark, a student at Cornell University, spent part of his winter vacation at the computer-word processor, with headphones on, turning out printed transcriptions of interviews-- and he is continuing the project on his free time at college this semester.

Jeff Anbinder, a junior at Dobbs Ferry High School, has also volunteered to tackle the difficult (but fascinating) process. Special thanks to Mark and Jeff, sons of members Paul and Helen Anbinder of Dobbs Ferry.

## ARCHIVES DONATIONS RECEIVED IN 85-86

Since the publication of our September 1985 Ferryman newsletter, we have received the following welcome donations to our village archives:

- \*From Gino Conti: a Dobbs Ferry 75th Anniversary poster, featuring the Girls' Softball Team of July, 1948.
- \*From Stan & Joan Gelber: a videotape of The Ferryman performance of September, 1985.
- \*From Mary C. Grande: 8 black & white early 20th century photos of Dobbs Ferry, including the paving of Broadway. and views of the junction of Broadway and Ashford Avenue (before gas stations and supermarkets).
- \*From Mayor Knight: a cassette, sheet music and original script of The Ferryman musical play.
- \*From Mrs. C. Springsteel: issues of the Dobbs Ferry Register newspaper and a listing of early Main Street businesses.
- \*From Carol Storms: genealogies and papers relating to the King, Ackerman, Dobbs and Storms families of Dobbs Ferry.
- \*From Zion Church: various church records and ledgers, 1906-(30-32)-1961.

## ASKING FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE



Our wish list reflects several tangible needs for volunteer time and donations of equipment (new or used). Please let us know if you can help by donating any of the following:

slide sorter; microfilm reader (or better-- a reader/printer); printing-out, desk-top calculator; collapsable camera tripod and copy stand; 4-drawer legal sized file cabinet; portable typing table with fold-down side. (Call the director at 693-7766).



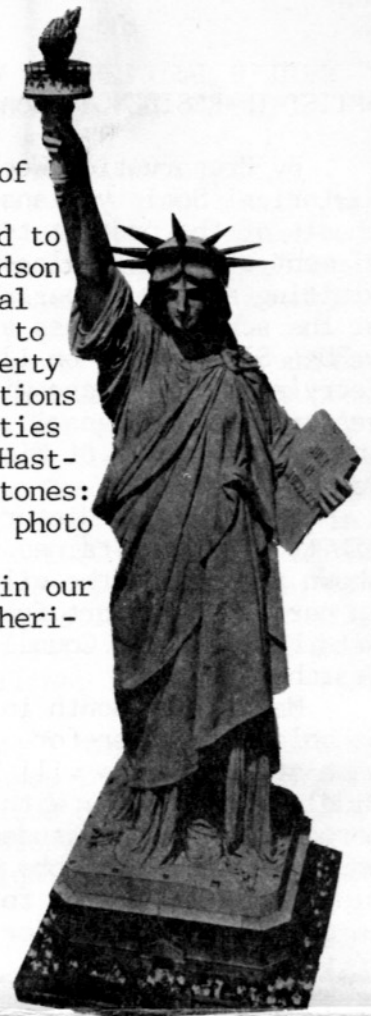
All are welcome to a free program at the Masters School Theatre on Clinton Avenue, 8pm April 15, 1986, to celebrate the anniversary and restoration of the Statue of Liberty.

In a program honoring "Lady Liberty", we are pleased to act as co-sponsors, with the Dobbs Ferry, Ardsley and Hudson River Garden Clubs, the Masters School, and the historical societies of Ardsley, Dobbs Ferry and Hastings, in order to present a brief film from the Ellis Island/Statue of Liberty Foundation, and songs by the Masters Glee Club. Presentations on the theme of immigration to our Hudson Valley communities will include: an illustrated talk "From Ellis Island to Hastings", by Karolyn Wrightson, a slide lecture "Stucco & Stones: The Look of Italy in Dobbs Ferry", by Tema Harnik, and a photo exhibit of historic Ardsley and the Lewison estate.

Admission is free-- all are welcome! Be sure to join our neighbors for a multi-community celebration of American heritage and history.

*April 15, 1986*

*Celebrate Lady Liberty*



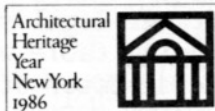
LETTERS FROM THE STOREFRONT:

"'Thank You' for the recent pleasant visit of the Storefront History Theatre at the Dobbs Ferry Post Office. Aside from it being historical and very informative, it certainly assisted us at holiday time to calm the fast pace of customers that were waiting in line for stamps. I was particularly impressed with the children as they watched so intently. Certain programs on TV should be as informative as yours."

"You are more than welcome to return again. Keep up the good work."

Sincerely, Frank P. Vitalone, Postmaster

Dobbs Ferry Historical Society  
153 Main Street  
Dobbs Ferry, New York 10522



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