



# The FERRYMAN

MEMBERSHIP  
RENEWAL

VOLUME VI NO. 1

DOBBS FERRY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

February 1985

## PROJECT SEED GRANT FROM EXXON COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND RECEIVED



Historical Society member Richard R. Johnson (Research Director of the Exxon Education Foundation) has initiated a community effort through the auspices of the Exxon Community Service Fund, which has resulted in a seed grant of \$1000 towards the production of a booklet on Dobbs Ferry.

The Community Service Fund was established to encourage and support its employees who are contributing their time and talent to non-profit organizations which serve the local community in which they live.

We are grateful to Dr. Johnson for his enthusiastic proposal on behalf of the Historical Society and the entire community.

The Historical Society will be represented on the project Steering Committee by trustees Laurel Frees and John Whiting, and by member Martha Bial.

## PRESIDENT'S GAVEL CHANGES HANDS: JOANNE KAVANAGH ELECTED PRESIDENT



The new year began with the Board of Trustees accepting with regret the resignation of Society president, Hank Walter, caused by the pressing demands of the 1985 work-year forecast. We're delighted, however, that Hank will remain as a Trustee, maintaining his strong interest in the Newspaper Microfilming project.

An election held by the Society's Board of Trustees on January 22, 1985, (according to By-Laws Article IV, section 5), resulted in the election of Joanne R. Kavanagh as President.

Joanne, who served as the Historical Society's Program Coordinator (1978-81), has been a member of the Village-appointed Historical Committee, and a Trustee of the Society since 1982.

## ATTIC AUCTION AND APPRAISAL DAY JUNE 1 TO BENEFIT THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Reminisce or rummage through, but please keep us in mind while you clean out your attics and closets of unwanted "collectible" goods.

The Historical Society is holding its first auction and appraisal day, June 1. Your donations of art, books, textiles, objects and memorabilia (no appliances or post-1950 clothing, please) must be received by May 1. Won't you call and let us know what you will be donating?

An auctioneer and professional appraisers will be on hand to inform and, we're sure, to entertain.

## TIME TO JOIN IN - TIME TO RENEW FOR 1985 HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP APPEAL

Thanks to all our new and longtime friends who took out memberships, we reached a record 312 members in 1984! The Historical Society is growing. We are proud of our community support for public history programming.

In 1985 we are striving to match and to increase our membership roster through your continued support. We want to grow to 400 members this year, and we need your help.

Won't you consider renewing your membership at the next higher category? You can join our expanding list of sustaining and contributing members this year for only \$15 or \$25, and receive in return: reduced admission to films, walking tours, publications, historical gift items and access to research.

A special thank you to those members who remembered us "at work", through their companies' matching corporate employee contributions programs. We are especially grateful to Lucy T. Voulgaris, Alen Lippert, Richard Johnson, Stephen Hunter and Martin Greenfield.

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All memberships are due to be renewed for 1985.  
Starred (\*) names have already sent in their  
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Thank You!

PROJECTS IN PROGRESS: DOCUMENTING  
GLASS, THEATRE AND HISTORY IN  
DOBBS FERRY

"THROUGH STAINED GLASS": This in-progress Storefront History Theatre episode explores the beauty and diversity of stained and tinted glass in public, private and religious buildings in Dobbs Ferry.

You may have glimpsed project photographer Evelyn Fitzgerald window-watching throughout the village, aiming her camera on all manner of glass. Many of you have already graciously allowed her to photograph stained glass windows from within, looking out through to the community.

Do you know of a building (or a single window) which has interesting decorative glass? It need not be historical, or even very old--although we'd like to "look through" those, too.

Just give a call or jot a note to Historical Society Director, Tema Harnik, and let us know where other stained glass windows can be found. (693-7766).

"CURTAIN-UP ON COMMUNITY THEATRE"

Another documentation effort being mounted by the Historical Society focuses on local theatre productions of the 1920's, 30's, 40's, 50's and 60's. We want to photocopy memorabilia such as play bills, cast lists, stage set photos, and your reminiscences of community productions that you'd like to share with us on tape.

Remember the Washington Theatre? (now Caldara Movers) the Civic Theatre? Open Air Productions? All of these, as well as community/school theatre are of interest. Did you act? direct? design stage or costumes? Bradley Bolke has offered to help us write the history of community theatre in Dobbs Ferry.

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



NEW WORKS FROM THE COMMUNITY:



MUSICAL THEATRE 1985: THE FERRYMAN

Dobbs Ferry lyricist-composer, and Historical Society member Stan Gelber has just completed work on an original musical, inspired by the life and times of our William Dobbs, Ferryman!

Stan is actively looking for a performing group in the village to participate in the play in 1985, to benefit the Historical Society and delight the whole community. If you are interested, call us at the historical society (693-7766). We could all enjoy a terrific, original show this summer or fall.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORY:

An elegant booklet, Norcross House: A History of Its Construction, has been published in January, 1985, by the present owners, Edmund J. and Suzanne McCormick. The book features Carl and Elizabeth Norcross's account of the building's conception and design by John deKoven Hill, president of the Frank Lloyd Wright Foundation, as well as excerpts from Oswald G. Villard's 1939 book, Fighting Years, Memoirs of a Liberal Editor, and an addendum by the McCormicks regarding the restoration of the house between 1968-82.

Edited by Dr. Susan P. Casteras of Yale's British Art Museum, and designed and printed by Sue and Greer Allen of Yale University, this lovely local architectural history now resides in the archives of the Dobbs Ferry Historical Society.

"NOVEL" ARCHAEOLOGY:

Dobbs Ferry author Bette Pesetsky's 1984 fiction, Digs (Alfred A. Knopf), had our director chuckling! It's rare to find a novel which weaves a local historical society into its plot. Luckily, this **one's located** "two and a half hours up the Hudson" from New York. That alone provided us with comic relief!

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