



PASSAIC COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



P. O. BOX 1729, PATERSON, NEW JERSEY 07509

Volume 4, Number 3

July - 1972

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:

- President - Alfred Cappio
- Vice Presidents - Jerome Nathans
Andrew Derrom
James De Mario
- Treasurer - Helen Malcolm
- Secretary - George Maseker

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With great pleasure, the Board of Trustees announce the appointment of Mr. Robert Masiello as Trustee. Mr. Masiello will fill the vacancy left by the late Trustee, Mrs. Gracie Stickney.

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The Passaic County Historical Society is planning three special public programs to follow the successful "Oldtimers Film Festival" held on June 28th.

In conjunction with the Passaic County Park Commission, the Society has arranged a showing of the New Jersey Bank - mobile Historical Exhibit to follow the Commission's outdoor concert at 2 p.m., July 16, on the Lambert Castle lawn. Concert-goers will be invited to visit the historical exhibit, a museum on wheels, and then to enter the Castle to view two early films made in the area - "The Great Train Robbery" and "Rescued from an Eagle's Nest" - which are also being provided by the New Jersey Bank.

On Wednesday, September 27th, a program about the role of northern New Jersey in the development of aviation is tentatively planned. We hope to have some of the early flying pioneers from the area describe their aeronautical exploits in Lavros, Jennies, and Sopwith Camels, as well as their self-made raft, and an aeronautical exhibit.

A very special event planned for October 25th, will feature Mr. James Lee, perhaps the leading authority on the subject, who will discuss the history of the Morris Canal and present a slide show of 19th and early 20th century views along the famous channel that connected the Hudson and Delaware Rivers.

There will be no admission charge for any of these events which are being made available through a grant from the New Jersey Bank. As in the past, seating will be limited and by reservation only.

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Alexander Hamilton, the great Federalist, the friend and counsellor of Washington, and the father of our National financial system and of much else that is best in our National life, laid the foundation where succeeding generations have

built so broad and high. One of his strong convictions was that the young republic must have its own factories and make its own wares. His keen eye saw the possibilities that lay in the vast water power of the Passaic Falls, and here he recognized an ideal site for a manufacturing town. He formed a company that was incorporated by act of the New Jersey Legislature of November 22, 1791, as "the Society for Establishing Useful Manufactures." Its capital stock was put at \$100,000, a princely sum for those days. It was allowed to hold \$4,000,000 in real estate. Extensive privileges were granted, including the right to control water power, build canals and dams, and charge tolls. Although the Passaic Falls had been virtually decided upon as the site for the enterprise, a meeting was held in New Brunswick and proposals were solicited and received from the owners of a number of water powers in New Jersey. The thunder of the Passaic Falls drowned all other voices offering their petty cascades or rapids, and in July, 1792, the society bought 760 acres of land, including the cataract. It was decided to call the new settlement in honor of William Paterson, governor of New Jersey, whose pen had inscribed the approving word on the charter of the corporation. C.T. Grover, surveyor of New York, estimated the power of the falls as equal to 247 undershot wheels. Active work was at once begun. A channel was blasted through the rocks and the raceway made that still runs three tiers of factories. But they did not wait for the water power. The pioneer industry of Paterson was the spinning of cotton. The Society put up a cotton mill, and the first cotton yarn by machinery in the state of New Jersey was the product of the "Bull Mill", so called because the power of oxen was used. In 1796 disaster overtook the enterprise. The society lost heavily and decided to give up manufacturing on its own account, retaining its organization and its franchises and confining its business to selling the water rights to individuals. At this time of depression, it is related, the population of the young town, which had reached 500, was suddenly reduced to 43. The failure of the "S.U.M." - the abbreviated colloquial title by which the society is generally known - as a manufacturing corporation was, however, not the severe blow to the new village that it seemed . . .

Paterson was founded in 1792, was a part of the Township of Acquackanock, then in Essex County. It was made a separate town in 1831, and the county of Passaic, of which it is now the seat, was set off from Essex in 1837. The city of Paterson was incorporated in 1851 by act of the New Jersey legislature. It contains 5,357 acres of ground, having been enlarged several times by the incorporation of parts of adjacent townships. The charter was accepted by the people of the town, voting 772 to 330, and a president and Council were elected. The first President of the Council was Philemon Dickerson, who had been Governor of New Jersey and a representative in Congress, and at that time was a judge of the United States District Court . . .

Available to members and friends of the Passaic County Historical Society . . . and those who wish to quickly qualify themselves as members . . . is a series of highly-sophisticated, museum oriented AAM authorized cultural travel programs around the world. The destinations are Eastern Europe & Russia, Turkey & Greece, Israel & Africa and The Orient. The first departure of the series is August 17th, 1972 and each trip will be conducted by a distinguished authority on fine arts and objets d'art in that particular part of the world.

The programs are fairly priced, outstanding in design and we urge you to support your local museum with your participation. Descriptive material is available by writing or calling the Society Museum.

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Letter to the Editor -

Dear Editor,

It seems rather presumptuous of me to be writing an article about Passaic County because my physical links with the area covered such a relatively brief period - from 1913 to 1941. But, thinking back, the stimuli I received there have accompanied me through the years. There were many contributors - my parents, boyhood neighborhood, teachers, early employers and friends.

Growing up in Paterson, in what was called the Hillcrest section, was itself an enriching experience. There always seemed to be almost too many things to do in one day, one week, one year.

In the summer we went swimming (can anyone now imagine that?) in the nearby Passaic River. Occasionally, there were canoe trips as far as Little Falls. Or we played ball at Totowa Oval. In the spring and fall, we enjoyed hiking trips and picnics in the Preakness "Mountains". It was only years later that I realized how miniscule were those gentle hills. Winter means sledding and skating in West Side Park. We even built a miniature ski-run from near the top of Preakness Avenue down to the river.

Marbles, soccer, baseball, football, kite flying, trapping muskrats in Molly Ann's brook (does that still meander?). When all else palled, there was always someone available for a game of "peggy" on Burlington Avenue, where a passing car was a noteworthy event. Groceries, ice, coal and laundry were delivered by horse-drawn wagons.

Who needed radio or television?

Then there was walking. Trolley cars and buses carried us from Hillcrest to downtown, but otherwise we always seemed to be walking somewhere - to play, to school, to church, to visit relatives and friends. Many Saturdays we walked to the Plaza Theater on Union Avenue with 12 cents for admission and a tiny bag of hard candy.

Indelible reminders of history can be recalled. Watching the excavation for a new home one day, I saw the workers uncover the skeletons of two persons who later were identified by bits of metal from their boots and knapsacks as having been British "Redcoats". How had they come to their end and been buried on the banks of the Passaic? Later, I witnessed the daily drama of the exhumation of the famous Holland submarine from the river's muck. And one freezing February afternoon, I made my first plane flight in the open cockpit of a two-seater World War I fighter plane from Murchio's Airport (now a shopping center and housing development). As I recall, the pilot was Vic Brooks, then a State Highway patrolman, but my mind is misty about that.

In primary and high schools, my teachers - and I had a host of good ones - recognized my inadaptability to math and science and stimulated my interest in literature and history. By the time I was in my early teens, I considered as wasted any day in which I didn't read at least one average book, or half of a longer one.

Passaic County Historical Society Newsletter
July 1972
Vol. 4, No. 3

Alfred Cappio, *President*
Helen Malcolm, *Treasurer*
George Maseker, *Secretary*
Edward M. Graf, *Curator*
Jerome Nathans, *Editor*

Membership Categories:
General, \$5.00 annually
Sustaining, \$10.00 annually
Contributing, \$25.00 annually
Special Student, \$2.00 annually

MUSEUM HOURS:

Wednesday, Thursday and Friday
1 - 4:45 P.M.
Saturday and Sunday
11 A.M. - 4:45 P.M.
Admission is free at all times
Telephone: (201) 523-9883.

My introduction to the fascination of news work came while I was midway through high school — a job as a copy boy on the old "Morning Call". It paid \$12 a week, Sunday through Friday from 4 to 11 p.m. — a little more than 25 cents an hour. It also brought me this counsel from my first "boss", managing Editor Ferdinand Friedrich, who told me: "Whatever you are doing, always keep preparing for your next job." I did, and after a few years of running copy, reporting and writing and a stint as wire-copy editor, I broke my ties with Passaic County. I joined the Associated Press at Newark.

Looking ahead, I focused on New York and soon was working in the AP bureau there. In time, I was writing a nightly radio-news program that was broadcast by more than 400 stations from New York to Los Angeles.

The "great adventure" of my life must have been when, after the end of World War II, AP sent me to Europe as a foreign correspondent. No voyage by sea or air has ever equalled the thrill of sailing from New York to Southampton with my wife and two small children aboard the magnificent Queen Mary.

London was still wartorn when we arrived, but it grew more and more exciting during the years that we lived there. My assignments carried me to places I'd never dreamed of seeing when I was a boy and a trip to Palisades Park or Lake Hopatcong was an event long remembered.

Some remembrances:

Sitting in the press section of the House of Commons and hearing Winston Churchill, then leader of the Conservative opposition, scathingly deride the Labor Government, including then Prime Minister Clement Attlee whom Churchill once called "a modest little man, but one who has so much to be modest about." Frequent personal attacks on "cads", "rogues" and "scoundrels" in Parliamentary debate were a delight to an American used to the more sober speeches in the U.S. Congress.

Interviewing actor John Gielgud in his dressing room of the Shakespeare Theater at Stratford-on-Avon before, during and after his performance in "The Taming of the Shrew."

Flying in a chartered light plane to cover a mine disaster in a fog so thick that the pilot used a road map and telephone wires as navigation aids at times. Stepping off the curb and walking smack into the side of a bus in another London "pea-souper."

Watching and writing about some of the world's best golfers at the formidable Royal and Ancient course in St. Andrews, Scotland. Doing the same, only with tennis stars, at lovely Wimbledon.

Covering the sensational Klaus Fuchs spy trial in Old Bailey, a courtroom straight out of old English history.

Crossing the Irish Sea on the night ferry with, as chance shipmates, a band of Irish horse breeders who had just pulled some shady but lucrative deals on their British "cousins" and wouldn't let a "Yank" buy a drink. Arriving in Dublin next morning with a king-sized headache after my first encounter with potent Irish whiskey.

Flying in an aged airliner over the awesome Alps and observing with horror, when the cabin door swung open, that the two young French pilots had an open bottle of champagne in a bucket of ice perched between them in the cockpit.

Going to Finland to cover the Olympic Games expecting to find a backwoods country and discovering that Helsinki is one of the most beautiful cities with some of the friendliest people in the world.

Looking on, dumbfounded, as our daughter, Judy — after a year or so in an English school — balanced my checkbook in pounds, shillings and pence, something I never mastered. Hearing our son, Rick, develop over the years a proper British accent. Exultantly!

Paris, Cannes, Rome, Genoa, Florence, Montreux, Venice, Stockholm and many other places — just a few hours away by plane at most. The White Cliffs of Dover on a sunny day, the unspoiled beaches in Cornwall in southwestern England — except for a stray, spiked naval mine, relic of the war, that washed ashore one day. Oxford, Edinburgh, Porthcawl in Wales — I came to know them all.

Returning to the United States was a wrench, for we had made many enduring friends in Europe and had shared with them unforgettable experiences. My wife cried soft tears on the boat train all the way from London to Southampton.

But, it seemed to be time for that "next job" my first editor had advised me always to keep in mind. Opportunity came quickly with an offer to become editor of an English-language newspaper published in New Delhi, India, by the U.S. Information Agency. That was followed almost immediately with a bid to join the editorial staff of the news magazine, "U.S. News & World Report", just hitting its stride as one of the most influential publications in America and abroad.

India was appealing, but I chose the magazine as the more interesting challenge and we settled in Washington, where we have been since 1955. It was a happy choice.

My work since has taken me to all but a few of the 50 states and has given me a knowledge of the diverse character of the American people that can only be achieved by close observation and long discussion.

I watched America's first manned space ship rise with agonizing slowness from Cape Canaveral, and trembled with excitement along with other newsmen long known for their icy contempt of any show of emotion. Later, on the flight deck of an aircraft carrier in the Atlantic, I witnessed the heart-stopping rescue of the second U.S. spaceman as his tiny craft sank into the deep after splashdown when an open hatch permitted it to fill with water.

In the South, I reported the first risings of the civil-rights demonstrations — in Montgomery, Birmingham and Selma. I was there when Gov. George Wallace made his stand "in the schoolhouse door" in a futile effort to keep black students out of the University of Alabama. A hard-bitten sheriff's deputy tried to throw me into jail as a "Yankee instigator", but I was saved by the intervention of a police commissioner who I had interviewed earlier in the day.

After a somewhat apprehensive tour of the black ghettos of Chicago and Detroit, I put together the first comprehensive account of the origins and rise of the Black Muslim movement.

Political campaigns took me around the country with John F. Kennedy in 1960 and Barry Goldwater in 1964. Despite their divergent viewpoints, I found that I admired them both.

In San Juan, my assignment was to develop and write the wide-ranging story of "Operation Bootstrap", the change-over of a rustic, impoverished island into an industrialized society. Unaccountably, that visit to a sunny clime came in February. Many of my mid-winter trips have been to such places as New Hampshire and South Dakota.

All in all, despite some long hours and tedious trips, it's all been fun. I guess I'm a lucky guy.

Yours truly,
Charles E. (Bud) Whiting

(Mr. Whiting was born in Paterson to Robert E. and Jessie Whiting, one of three children. He now lives in Chevy Chase, Md. with his wife the former Ruth Anne Cornforth, of Ridgewood and Paterson. The Whitings have two children and three grandchildren. Mr. Whiting is presently Associate Editor of "U.S. News & World Report". The preceding letter was written at the request of President Cappio).

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GORDON CANFIELD – A TRIBUTE

The death of Gordon Canfield on Tuesday, June 20, 1972, takes from our membership rolls a long time member of the Society who, during his tenure among us, has quietly and effectively by words and deeds served the Society well. On numerous occasions, both as a public official and as a private citizen, Mr. Canfield had opportunities to further the aims of the Society. Each time he performed the services needed and the Society will ever be grateful to him for these actions.

Gordon Canfield, son of Carl and Florence Canfield,, was born in Salamanco, New York, seventy-four years ago. Following service in the regular Army during World War I, he became a reporter for the Passaic Daily News. He left the paper to become secretary to Congressman George H. Seger, serving him for seventeen years. Following Mr. Seger's death, he was elected to Congress in 1940, serving ten terms (1941-1961). On his retirement from Congress, Mr. Canfield became Director of Public Relations of The First National Bank and Trust Company.

While in Congress, Mr. Canfield served primarily as a member of the Appropriations Committee working on legislation concerning the Treasury, Post Office and Merchant Marine. But, dearest to his heart, was the Coast Guard, a branch of the Treasury. For his work in the fight to secure funds to activate the Coast Guard Reserve program, he became known as the "Father of the Coast Guard Reserve."

The condolences and sympathy of the officers and members of the Passaic County Historical Society are extended to his widow Dorothy, his sons, Allen and Carl, and to his five grandchildren.

We have lost a good member!

A.C.

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**PASSAIC COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Treasurer's Annual Report –
1971**

INCOME

Passaic County Park Comm.	\$ 8000.00
Interest & Dividends	2196.76
Sales	723.00
Donations	1777.50
New Members & Dues	680.00
Miscellaneous	132.50

Total Annual Income	\$ 13509.76
Plus check book balance 12/31/70	3704.94

	\$ 17214.70
Less disbursements	13455.03

Balance per check book 12/31/71	\$ 3759.67
Plus outstanding checks	306.65

Balance per bank statement 12/31/71	\$ 4066.32
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DISBURSEMENTS

Museum Supplies	\$ 2520.25
Salaries	4716.79
Withholding Tax	794.31
Office Supplies	305.92
Telephone	139.35
Library Books	110.30
Flowers	39.48
Insurance	732.11
Miscellaneous	3740.27
Re-sale Items	356.25

\$ 13455.03

*Miscellaneous above includes \$840.00 for Sonic Alarm system and \$2000.00 dep. in Prospect Park savings account 8/23/71.

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Due to the sudden illness and confinement of vice president and editor, Jerry Nathans, "Remembrances of Passaic County" will not appear with this issue of the "Newsletter". Mr. Nathans wishes to thank everyone for their kind wishes for a speedy recovery.

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Our deepest sympathies are extended to the family of Mrs. Elizabeth D. Garnar, daughter of Capt. Andrew Derrom. Mrs. Garnar passed away June 8th at her home in Ridgewood, N.J.

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