

THISTLE



Millburn-
Short Hills
Historical Society

Vol. I, No. 2

October, 1976

You Are Cordially Invited to the
Fall Meeting of the Historical Society
Taylor Park Recreation Building
October 13, 1976
8:00 PM

The featured speaker will be SIBYL GROFF, author of New Jersey's Historic Houses, a guide to homes open to the public.

Ms. Groff is a member of the National Trust of England, National Trust for Historic Preservation, New Jersey Historical Society, Princeton Historical Society, and Trent House Association of Trenton. Slides will be used to illustrate the lecture.

\$3500. GRANT RECEIVED - The Millburn-Short Hills Historical Society has received a \$3500 grant, administered by the Historic Sites Section of the Division of Parks and Forestry, Dept. of Environmental Protection, State of New Jersey (awarded under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966) for a comprehensive historic preservation survey of Millburn Township.

The award stipulates that the Society must match the funds with either non-federal dollars or donated services. Historical Society volunteers, led by Barbara Cole Smith, chairman of the Society's Architectural Inventory Committee, will conduct the survey with the guidance of professional consultants Robert B. Heintz, architect, and Melvin P. Windsor, licensed professional engineer.

The purpose of the Survey is to identify, document, and evaluate the architectural, historical, and archaeological resources of the community. The completed Survey will enable us to counter threats to historic sites with force and credibility; prove valuable to township planning authorities as well as state and federal agencies should they plan a project

"The short hills" are mentioned frequently in Revolutionary War dispatches, so the name was in common use by that time. They were strategically important to the defense of the Morristown encampments. The hills overlooked, and therefore guarded, a route the British could take from their base in New York City through "the pass through the Mountain" (now known as Hobart Gap) to Washington's headquarters.

When Stewart Hartshorn began building his ideal community in the 1870's, he adopted the name "Short Hills" because of its apt description of the topography and its familiar designation of the land west of the Second Watchung Mountain.

"NEW JERSEY AS UTOPIA" - An exhibit assembled by professors and students at the School of Architecture, New Jersey Institute of Technology, will feature Short Hills as one of eight planned communities in New Jersey. C. Richard Hatch, an architectural historian, is director of the project. Nelson Benzing, architect, researched our area.

The exhibit will be at Campbell Hall in Newark (High Street) early in May, moving to the State Museum for the summer. Next fall, the exhibit will travel nationwide. Other communities included in the exhibit are: Roosevelt, Patterson, Llewellyn Park, Red Bank, Burlington, North American Phalanx. For information, call 645-5541.

A SINCERE "THANK YOU" TO the Board of Realtors of Maplewood and the Oranges, which once again has chosen the Historical Society to be the recipient of its annual \$125 donation to a local organization.

MILLBURN DAY will be celebrated Saturday and Sunday, April 30 and May 1. Although the township officially became separate from Springfield on March 20, 1857, it was decided to celebrate this landmark occasion at a later date, because of weather (much as the monarchs of Great Britain celebrate their birthdays on what will, it is hoped, be rare days in June!) The highlight of the weekend will be the dedication of the new library at 2:30 pm on Sunday. Some other events will include promotional sales by local merchants, a photography contest sponsored by the Short Hills Mall, a Pinewood Derby contest, musical performances, and screenings of the Society's slide show on the history of Millburn.

THE 1977 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE is now underway. We hope our present members will re-join and those of you who have yet to join will do so now, in order to participate in the various activities and projects of the Society.

Enclosed is an application form. Please check areas of special interest to you. The Historical Society needs your support!

RESERVATIONS ARE STILL AVAILABLE for the tour of the Ballantine House, adjacent to the Newark Museum. Mr. Phillip Curtis, Curator of Decorative Arts, will conduct members through this recently restored example of late Victorian architecture. In addition, we may view the current special exhibit, Survival--Life and Art of the Alaskan Eskimo, which runs through May 30. On display are 200 objects, prehistoric to present day.

WHEN: Wednesday, April 27, 9 am (back by lunch time).
FEE: \$2.00
Contact: Fran Land, 379-3376, for reservations and carpool information.

A HISTORY PRIZE will be awarded by the Historical Society to a Millburn High School student at the annual awards ceremony in June. Sandra Fittin of the Society is discussing criteria for the award with Dana Stivers, chairman of the History Department.

OP-SAIL MOVIE - Mayor Lyon has generously offered to share with the Society his copy of the new Op-Sail movie, produced by IBM and just released. A speaker will describe some of the events before and after Op-Sail. Immediately following the program, there will be a wine-and-cheese party for Society members and their guests at the Lyons' and Lands' homes on Hardwell Road, Short Hills.

WHEN: Sunday, May 15, 4:30 pm.
WHERE: Taylor Park Recreation Center
DONATIONS TO SOCIETY: \$4.00 for adults, \$1.50, children.
Contact: Mrs. Lillian Lyon, 379-4720, or mail reservations with membership form.

A COMMEMORATIVE TRIVET will be available during the Millburn Day celebration of our 125th anniversary. This will be in the form of a very attractive hand-painted tile. Price, \$3.50.

WALK (Cont.)

forms, such as Victorian embellishments - curious overhangs, triangular roofs, fish scale shingles, etc.

Many owners of homes on the tour offered personal information and anecdotes. As Mr. Ward of 91 Highland Avenue said: "I am as curious as anybody and would love to listen." One of the highlights of the afternoon came at 15 Wells Lane, when Mr. Shoemaker, who says his house is one of the oldest in the area, showed pictures of the original structure and gave an interesting history of how it has changed over the years.

The Architectural Inventory Committee is planning more tours. Watch for dates.

The Rotary Club gave the three Millburn A.F.S. students slides from the Historical Society collection for them to show in their host countries.

Editors: Aline Coles, Jeanne O'Donnell



Non-Profit
U. S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 21
Short Hills
NJ 07078
