

Bayside Historical Preservation Society

P.O Box 304, Belfast Maine 04915

NEWSLETTER

January 1996

HAPPY NEW YEAR from the Officers and Directors of the BHPS. It's the beginning of a new year and half-way to summer (our sympathy to the skiers among us), so it seems like a good time to bring you up to date on the progress of the BHPS.

We had a wonderful first year. We ended up the season with a total of 131 members and \$1248 in our treasury. We decided at our September Directors meeting to designate first-year members as Charter members. You helped the BHPS get started and we thank each of you for your support and enthusiasm.

We've received notification from the IRS that the BHPS has been given tax-exempt status. This means that starting with 1995, all donations (including dues) paid to the Society can be taken as a charitable deduction on your Federal Income Tax.

Our garden party in August was deemed a big success by the 60 or so people who attended. The day was perfect, the setting was lovely and the desserts were delicious. Thanks to Jeanne-Marie Robinson who organized the party, Beverly Crofoot for the use of her house and for the attractive table arrangements, Joanne Coughlin for the beautiful flower arrangements and all the people who brought those wonderful desserts. Thanks also to the Northport Yacht Club for donating the use of its tent. It turned out we didn't need it, but it was comforting to have it on hand in case it rained. At the party we added 14 new members and received a total of almost \$300 in donations and dues.

Next summer when you're in the Community Hall, take a look over the front door. You'll see the Bayside sign which once stood at the Route 1 intersection pointing the way to Bayside. At some time or other it was removed from its Route 1 location and stored over the rafters of the small building on Griffin Street, which several years ago was used as the recycling shed. Bill and Gina Cressey spotted it there and suggested that the BHPS should take steps to preserve it, giving us a generous donation to do so. With the permission of the Board of Overseers, the sign was moved to the Community Hall (by Joanne Coughlin and Richard Horowitz) and hung over the front door of the Hall (by Dick Tardif). Joanne, Richard and Dick volunteered their services for this so

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we have the sign and the donation which can be used to preserve something else, if need be.

Speaking of preserving things, I should mention that the BHPS has given top priority to establishing a safe, secure place to store archival material. First we have to find out what environmental conditions are needed, then decide on a location, and, if necessary, build a facility. Ellie Lagner attended a lecture the "Conservation, Preservation and Storage Historic Photos" given at the Fall Conference of the Maine Association of Museums. Beverly and Meg Crofoot have agreed to be the BHPS archivists. They are currently involved in cleaning and storing in acid-free wrappers, Janet Pattee's collection of glass negatives. With Janet's permission, contact prints will be made of some of these negatives before they are returned to her.

In September, representing the BHPS, Jean and Bob Witherill and Zeima and Jo Huntoon attended a joint meeting of the Levant and Hermon Historical Societies. Representatives of at least 10 historical societies were present and it was interesting to hear about their programs (and problems). The main event of the evening was a concert by The River City Harmonizers, a group of women who sing barber-shop style music. Alice Strong, her daughter Susan, and Jeannette Tardif's daughter Pam are members of the group.

This winter the BHPS is applying for a grant from the Maine Humanities Council under its Century Project. The focus of the grants being offered is the period from 1890 to 1930 and its influence on modern times. These years were the most dynamic in Bayside's history. A grant from the Council will give the BHPS the opportunity to research this exciting period of Bayside's life and to give our community a better understanding of the influences that shaped us.

We have tentatively set up the BHPS program for 1996. We hope to have Earle Shettleworth (Director, Maine Historic Preservation Commission) speak and perhaps, show pictures of early Bayside at our Annual Meeting. We're talking with Keith Robinson about the Robinson Ballet Company presenting Lojosis, the ballet based on the Indian legend about Bayside. The BHPS is sponsoring the Maine Sailing School reunion in August and we've agreed to run a food booth at the Bayside Arts Festival. If there's sufficient interest we'll put on a "house" hunt for young people; the challenge will be to locate cottages in Bayside from old photos of them.

Watch for the Spring Newsletter (maybe in April) for the schedule of BHPS events along with the membership renewal application.

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NEWSLETTER

May 1996

In June, the Bayside Historical Preservation Society begins its second year. We hope each of you will renew your membership and that we'll be able to add some new members this year. Enclosed is a membership renewal form. We've lowered the dues a bit. Rather than asking \$10 for each adult member of a household, we are asking \$10 for the first member and \$5 for each additional member in a household. (There's still no charge for children under 18.) We've planned the following events for the summer. Please make a note of the dates on your calendar.

BHPS Annual Meeting July 13, 1996, 7:30 P.M., Community Hall

We've asked Earle Shettleworth, Director of the Maine Historical Preservation Commission to speak and show photos of early Bayside.

Robinson Ballet Company July 20, 1996, 7:30 P.M., Community Hall

The Robinson Ballet Company will present two ballets: The Little Tailor based on the Grimms fairy tale and performed by children and Lojosis based on an Indian Legend about Bayside. Dessert will be served following the performance. Keith Robinson, Director of the Robinson Ballet Company, is a summer resident of Bayside and a member of the BHPS.

Bayside Arts Festival August 3, 1996, Bluff Road

The BHPS will run the food concession at the Bayside Arts Festival.

Maine Sailing School Days Reunion August 10,11, 1996 Community Hall

The BHPS is sponsoring a reunion of the Maine Sailing School alumni and their Bayside friends. Anyone who would like to attend and renew old friendships, please contact Eleanor Lagner , P.O. Box 59, Woolwich, ME 04759; Tel: (207) 443-6343

We've completed the application for a grant offered by the Maine Humanities Council under their Century Project. The Council is offering grants up to \$750 and requires that the amount be matched in cash or services by the organization receiving the grant. We will probably request a grant of \$300. The period being studied under the

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Century Project is 1890-1930. This was a significant period in Bayside history. During it, the community went from being religious based to non-sectarian. We've proposed preparing an annotated and illustrated timeline in poster form (for convenient viewing by the public) tracing the events during those years. A Final report summarizing the timeline information will be prepared. If we receive a grant we plan to start the program this summer and submit the Final Report in October 1998, giving us 28 months to complete the project. We originally intended to submit the application to meet a March 15th deadline, but then decided that we better find out if there are members of the BHPS interested in working on this project. There are any number of topics which can be investigated. Some are listed on the back of the enclosed membership renewal form. The research would involve assembling information which is readily available and searching out new information from sources such as the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, newspapers of the period, collectors of Bayside memorabilia, local historians, and long term Baysiders. If you are interested in working on one (or more) of these topics, please indicate it on the renewal form and send it in by June 1st so we can submit our application in time to meet a June 15th deadline.

The winter was rough on the Bayside wharf. Heavy ice in the Bay did significant damage to its underpinnings. Since early in its history, Bayside has had a wharf and it's always played a major role in Bayside's life. The Overseers of the Northport Village Corporation are planning to replace the wharf as soon as possible. I've asked the Overseers to donate the carved walls of the wharf windbreak to the BHPS if they are salvageable. If you have photos, postcards or other memorabilia pertaining to the present wharf or its predecessors, please indicate this on the renewal form. If enough material is available, the BHPS will put on a Wharf Retrospective exhibit sometime this summer.

We're looking forward to summer and to the second year of the BHPS. We hope to see each of you sometime during the summer. If you have any suggestions for things you'd like the Society to do, please use the space on the back of the renewal form to let us know.