

THE SKANEATELES HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Sally Holben, Editor Vol. 25, No. 2 March/April 2010

MAGICAL MYSTERY PROGRAM MARCH 23

As we go to the printer, we have several possibilities for the March program, but we haven't been able to confirm any of them. Keep your eyes on the local papers for updates, and plan to be here at 7:30. Whatever the subject, whoever the speaker, it is likely to be of interest to us all.

APRIL PROGRAM

On Tuesday, April 27, at 7:30, we will be honored to have as our speaker Oren Lyons, a Faithkeeper of the Turtle Clan of the Onondaga Nation and a Chief of the Onondaga Nation Council of Chiefs of the Six Nations of the Iroquois Confederation, the Haudenosaunee or "People of the Long House." We look forward to what he calls a "conversation" on the history of his people in Central New York. Everyone is welcome to what promises to be a very special evening.

The purpose of the Skaneateles Historical Society is to conduct and encourage historical research and to collect, preserve, and exhibit historical material in connection with the Town of Skaneateles.

The Historical Society has been accepted for the 2010 Conservation Assessment Program, run by Heritage Preservation and the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the federal government.

Two assessors will be making an onsite visit in May: one an architect who is familiar with historical structures and one who is familiar with historical collections. This program will provide an overview of all the Historical Society's collections and facilities, as well as environmental conditions and policies and procedures relating to collections care.

This will be extremely important to us as we move ahead with our expansion plans, by providing recommendations and priorities for conservation action, facilitating the development of long-range plans, and serving as a fund-raising tool for future conservation projects. Some grants that provide funding for conservation treatments now require completion of the CAP, so we are looking forward to the end of this lengthy process.

HONORING WITH PAVERS

The walkway that will lead from the Hannum Street sidewalk to the new main entrance in the connecting building will be made up of brick pavers, known as tribute pavers. They will be engraved with whatever names and/or messages you wish, as a lasting tribute to family or friends. There are three sizes: 4" x 8", 8" x 8", and 12" x 12", at costs of \$125, \$200, and \$500 respectively. We have sold a good many of all of them, but there is still time to buy yours.

The Society has decided to use some of the money donated in memory of Virginia Thorne to buy a \$500 paver in honor of Ginnie and her husband, Waller Thorne. There are only a few of this size left, so if you have been thinking that this would be a good way to honor someone, sooner is better than later. You can pick up forms and information at the Creamery.

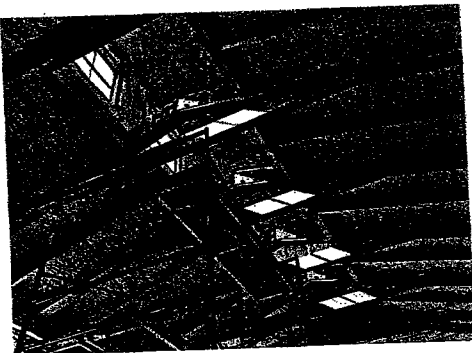
NOMINATIONS REQUESTED FOR SOCIETY BOARD

This June, the following positions will be open: Vice-President, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, and Board member. If you are interested in running for any of these offices or would like to suggest the name of someone else, please call Betsy Foote, chair of the Nominating Committee (685-3297) and leave a message. The Committee's slate will be presented at the May program and the election will be held at the June meeting.

With March upon us, the snow has started to melt, and soon we can get back outside to tie up some loose ends. Major paving and landscaping work needs to be done, but that will have to wait until we are substantially done on the inside and until we find more funds.

After completion of the spray foam we proceeded to rough in all the electrical wiring and completed some initial plumbing work. That enabled our HVAC contractor, Onondaga Heating and Air Conditioning, Inc., to continue with their work. Tubing for our radiant heating system had already been installed in the floor slabs last summer. Now our boiler is in place and operating. The boiler is a Weil-McLain unit. The radiant heat system works extremely well. It is really amazing how a boiler that small can heat the vast spaces within the Connecting Wing and the Old Boiler Plant.

The ductwork for air-conditioning has also been installed. The outside condensing unit will be located near the creek bank east of the Old Boiler Plant. Before that can be installed we need to complete stabilization work on about a 50-foot stretch of the over-steep and debris-littered slope behind the building. Landscape architect Salvins Strods generously donated his time and expertise to develop drawings for this work and to obtain the required permit from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. Timing restrictions dictated by the permit will not allow us to start this work until May 15. In the meantime we have been obtaining proposals from qualified contractors. Currently, on the inside, Herrtronic, Inc. is in the process of installing an extensive fire alarm system, generously donated by Jorge Battle. The next focus inside will be to complete the steel mezzanine in the Old Boiler Plant and to install the final fiberglass insulation and wall coverings. After that we can start to occupy the building and work on our new exhibits.



Spray foam



A BOAT COMES HOME TO SKANEATELES

As the expansion creeps ever closer to completion, it is time to let you know of some of the artifacts that will be housed in the former boiler plant. In the words of John Wilson, of the Home Shop in Charlotte, Michigan, here is a history and description of one of them:

"Sometime between 1905 and 1929, a 15' double-ended rowboat was built at the Skaneateles Boat & Canoe Company. My family purchased

the boat for our cottage on Otisco Lake....When I was a child, this rowboat was my introduction to watercraft. I watched my father paint and patch each spring, saw it fill with water when first launched, and learned that three days would see it serviceable for another summer.

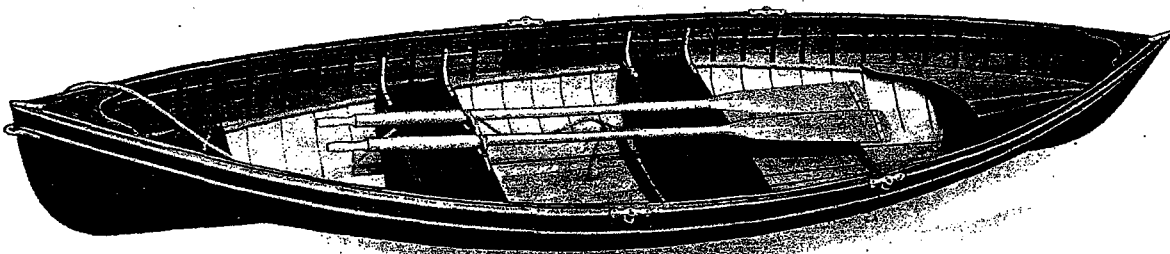
By 1975, the rowboat needed repairs beyond the skills of amateurs, so it was slated to be filled with topsoil and planted with petunias. It did not seem right. I asked the family if I could take it home to Michigan. Between 2001 and 2005, I completed the time-consuming task of documenting the boat, recording dimensions, reconstructing the original shape, and drawing up plans.

Now a new chapter is being written. The boat is going home, where as a classic example from the golden age of small craft she'll be housed in a new facility being completed by the Skaneateles Historical Society."

We are enormously indebted to Mr. Wilson for this fine gift. In addition to the above information, he pointed out that the bow plate identifying the boat's builders says, "Skaneateles Boat & Canoe Co., Builders, Skaneateles, New York, U.S.A., indicating, as he says, "the international clientele of the boatyard."

We look forward to having this part of Skaneateles history in our collection.

MODEL No. 5



GOT ROOM FOR BOATS?

We have the promise of several boats to be added to our museum, but until the expansion is completed, we need temporary storage space for them. If you have an available shed, barn, garage, etc. that would serve this purpose, please call the Creamery to find out more details.

ONLINE SHOPPERS, TAKE NOTE!

We have recently learned about a wonderful web site, shopformuseums.com, that has been created to be a source of online fundraising for museums and related organizations. After registering at their secure web site, you can go to the tool bar and select Museum Partners. Then scroll down to find the Skaneateles Historical Society as the museum you'd like to help. When you shop through this web site, using their extensive list of participating stores (including Amazon!), the Society will receive a percentage of all sales--the amount varies by store. Special discounts, coupons, unique to this site, are also sometimes available.

In this climate of tight budgets and declining grant funds available to non-profit organizations, this is an easy way to contribute to our museum to help with our general operating expenses. If you're going to shop online anyway, why not take advantage of this wonderful partnership?

For more information, go to shopformuseums.com and look at the section About Us. Then follow the registration procedures, and start shopping! They send out our earnings quarterly, and we'll keep you informed about how much we're earning.

"A SUMMER PLACE"

This is the name and the theme of a house tour and standard flower show presented by the Skaneateles Garden Club and the Historical Society, to benefit community projects. It will feature floral designs, horticulture, and educational exhibits. Save the dates: Friday, June 25, 1-5, and Saturday, June 26, 1-10.

If you would like to help as a hostess(host) at this event, please call either Sue Spalding (685-2015) or Pat Blackler (685-7340) and leave a message.

| HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP DUES | |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| Individual membership | \$15.00 |
| Friend | " \$50.00 |
| Patron | " \$100.00 |
| Sponsor | " \$250.00 |
| Benefactor | " \$500.00 |
| Life | " \$1000.00 |

The "Small Jobs Fund" allows for payment of small jobs our volunteers cannot do.

Membership means a 10% discount at the Gift Shop.

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| E-Mail address _____ | Memberships \$ _____ |
| | Small Jobs Fund \$ _____ |
| | TOTAL \$ _____ |

Please make your check payable to Skaneateles Historical Society and mail it to David Bates 5623 Mack Road Skaneateles, NY 13152. Thank you very much!