

NEWTOWN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

NOVEMBER 1989 NEWSLETTER

CHRISTMAS IN HISTORIC NEWTOWN

Our annual Open House tour is slated for December 2nd. Please consult the enclosed flyer for a description of the tour and for advanced ticket orders. Concentrated for the most part in the borough, this year's tour promises to be one of the most exciting in history.

The Association depends on volunteer support to successfully field events throughout the year. The Open House is no exception. If you are in a position to do so, please leave greens to be used for decorative purposes at the Court Inn after November 26. Our preference is for holly and non-shedding evergreens. If nobody is around the Inn when you stop by, just leave the greens in the back yard. We appreciate your help.

Preceding the Open House, there will be a Reception to honor the homeowners and hostesses who will be involved in the tour this year. The date is November 26th, and the time is 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. This will be a special opportunity to get ready, in a pleasant social way, for the tour itself. Also, those at the reception will be able to purchase in advance of everybody else the merchandise which will be sold at the Court Inn on December 2nd.

Margaret Danese reports that the merchandise this year is outstanding. It will include Christmas decorations such as Noah's Ark paper garland, shadowdancer tin Santas, wooden, ceramic and twig ornaments, Noah's Ark sweatshirts, doll size wooden furniture, Beaumont saltglaze pottery, reproductions of historic jewelry, the Hicks poster, postercars, notecards, and many, many more items of interest. The reception is open to all members and friends.

Finally, one perennial feature of the Open House is the sale of home baked items for which the Association is justly famous. Again, we need your culinary input in the form of baked delicacies. Please, we need your baked goods this year. Just leave them at the Court Inn at 9 a.m. on December 2nd.

MARKET DAY WASHOUT

As you all know, the weatherman gave us a particularly tough time on Market Day in September. As much as everyone wanted the show to go on, there was just too much in the way of torrential rainfall for the successful staging of Market Day, and in the end Elizabeth Mayer had to reluctantly call the whole thing off at about mid-morning. Exhibitors vowed to return next year. Association volunteers echoed that refrain. We lost some money, but we hope to recoup it all next year. Meanwhile, if you care to help, all monetary contributions will be gratefully received. Newtown missed Market Day this year. Association coffers attest to that!

COURT STREET SIDEWALK

Thanks to the unflagging efforts of Association members Ernie Millard and Dave Callahan, the newly restored and rebuilt Court Street sidewalk will be brought to completion this month. The Association wants to thank everyone who generously purchased bricks for this project. Once the trees are planted and growing, the enhanced Court Street byway will join the list of important public improvements made in Newtown in recent years.

NOVEMBER MEETING

The general meeting of the Association will be held on November 20th. The featured speaker will be Jeff Marshall who is the Historic Site Director of the Bucks County Conservancy. Jeff is expert on the subject of historical American architecture and for us will speak on "Victorian Architecture in Newtown." Time: 8:00 p.m. Place: Court Inn.

OPEN HOUSE SLIDE SHOW

Slides of the homes and hostesses of the Christmas Open House Tour will be shown at the Court Inn on Monday, ^{1/17} January 3rd at 8:00 p.m. Members and friends are indeed welcome. President Francella Smith promises excellent rain/snow-free weather for this always happy occasion.

ACCESSION NOTE

Among other gifts received by the Association lately is a very well-preserved farm map of Northampton Township dated 1859. Thanks to Mrs. Ann Sodano for this addition to our historic map collection.

TOLL HOUSE FURNISHINGS ALERT

Dolly Gish has another project, that of furnishing the newly restored Toll House which now rests proudly behind the Goodnoe Restaurant along Durham Road. Dolly welcomes all contributions of late Victorian furnishings for the Toll House. If you do not have any such furnishings, Dolly will be happy to accept financial contributions made for the purposes of completing the furnishing of that refurbished building.

ROSE BOWL ENTRY

Eleanor Janney reports that two of our colorful Peaceable Kingdom T-shirts were sent by the Association to Rotary International for use on their 1989 Rose Bowl float. Naturally, the theme of the Rotary float is "The Peaceable Kingdom" which will help put Newtown on the map at the Rose Bowl parade. Look for our T-shirts on television January 1st.