Feb. 25th: Hidden Histories of New London County’s Indian Communities

The February meeting presentation will focus on the experience of Indians in southeastern Connecticut between 1713 and 1861. The Indians’ individual and collective adjustments to European colonialism have been often misunderstood and misrepresented. Consequently, Indians often have been omitted, excluded and ultimately “vanished” from our shared national history. Today, there remains a great deal of misunderstanding about Indians in this region who “came out of nowhere” to reclaim ancestral rights to land and sovereignty through the Federal Recognition process. The re-emergence of these groups offers a historic opportunity for consideration and contextualization.

The talk will focus not only on the “tribe”, but also the itinerant members of these communities and the transitional labor networks, neighborhoods, structures and institutions that kept these individuals, families, and communities connected.

Spring Trip: NYC Adventure

Henry Hudson sailed into a great harbor and up a mammoth river in 1609 – please join us in celebrating the historic 400th anniversary of his amazing discovery!

For our 2009 spring trip we are offering a two-day adventure in New York City beginning Friday, April 24th. After a 745am departure from Mystic, our first stop will be the South Street Seaport Museum near the Wall Street area. The museum currently has an excellent FDR exhibit in addition to its regular offerings. There will be time to explore the museum at your own pace before we move on to lunch at the South Street Seaport next door. After lunch we will have a tour of the Museum of American Finance on Wall Street, a presentation of American financial history from the Dutch settlers to modern Wall Street, with all its ups-and-downs, panics and recoveries. Our bus will take us to our downtown hotel so that you will have time to put your feet up before the evening activity of your choice. You are on your own for dinner and the theater or an evening in the hotel. Those of you who do not care to make your own plans can join Joyce for dinner at a nearby moderately-priced restaurant.

On Saturday, April 25th we will depart for a full day of exploring with Mr. Frederick Cookinham, a licensed New York tour guide, expert in New York City Revolutionary War history, and author. Following his excellent suggestions, we plan to drive to Washington Heights to explore the James Gordon Bennett Park, built on the site of Fort Washington, Fort Tryon Park, the Morris-Jumel Mansion, headquarters of General Washington, and the Dyckman farmhouse! We will have lunch at Coogan’s, a well-known local restaurant. Mr. Cookinham will accompany us to Pier 83 and the two-hour Circle line tour in the afternoon. In addition to all the NY waterfront sites, the boat and our guide will give us a great view of the tip of the island, the area of the first Dutch settlement, and of the battle sites on the water and on the hills in Brooklyn. We’ll head home to Mystic after the cruise with a short supper stop on the way.

The price for one person sharing a room is $450, the price for a single is $610. A deposit check of $200 sharing and $300 single is due as soon as possible, definitely by February 14, to MRHS, P O Box 245, Mystic CT 06355. We must have 25 people to go, your deposit check will not be cashed until minimum is met. The cost of the trip includes bus and boat transportation, the hotel with all taxes and hotel fees, baggage handling, all admissions and guides, breakfast and both lunches, cancellation insurance, and snacks for the trip.

This is New York City the easy way! Friday’s museums and Saturdays rides will provide seating with only brief walking excursions in between. Questions? Call Joyce Everett, 536-6339.
This month’s issue includes Annual Reports from our Committees. Please take a moment to read them and appreciate all that these volunteer Chairmen and their committees do for MRHS.

Building & Grounds – John Porter
Curatorial – Lou Allyn (Acting)
Education – Tim Evers (Acting)
Finance – David Evans
Information Technology – Stephanie Thorp
Marketing – Sally Halsey
Membership, Hospitality – Cindy Allyn
Program – Paul Ingle
Special Events – Joyce Everett

Annual reports were also submitted by the officers, the 2008 roster of whom includes the following:
President - Lou Allyn
Vice President - John Porter
Treasurer - Bill Everett
Corresponding Secretary - Kit Werner
Recording Secretary - Cathy Marco

More Online from MRHS

A new cyber porthole into MRHS activity is available! Sally Halsey has created an account for MRHS on Zip06, The Day's and the Shoreline Times' on-line website: http://zip06.theday.com/members/Mystic-River-History.aspx You can also access it at www.zip06.com or through www.theday.com and linking at the bottom of the page. Stop by the site to find news, events and images relevant to your favorite Mystic River Historical Society.

Readers’ Notes Nook: Blue Peter, Frosty

While reading the latest Portersville Press and the Memories of Nauyaug article, page 5, I noticed mention made of a Holmes craft named Blue Peter. That rang a bell with me so I looked on my shelves and found a trophy Blue Peter had won in Providence in 1907 at an event Old Home Week. The trophy was in my mother’s possession for years; and she was Rosamond Holmes Smith, niece of Raymond and Charles Holmes. ...I very much enjoy reading about what’s happening at MRHS, and wish I lived closer so I could participate. Keep up the good work!

- Hugh Smith

It just so happens that my dad, Howard L Reichart Jr, a former resident of Masons Island, owned a class B dinghy which he sailed with my Mom (Elisabeth Frost Reichart) in the frostbite fleet at Larchmont YC. Dad actually lived at LYC when he moved to NY from West Virginia in the late thirties. Later he switched to the Inter Club (IC) dinghies when the Larchmont fleet shifted over. His IC was number 34 and naturally was named Frosty!

I think it’s fun that Mom & Dad’s son and grandson raced in the continuation of the Masons Island Frostbite Regatta.

- Lee Reichart

Mystic River Historical Society Mission Statement
The Society exists to collect, arrange, exhibit and preserve records, papers, photographs, artifacts, relics and related archival materials that document the history of the people who lived in the area around the Mystic River from the first settlement in 1634 to the present.

The Newsletter of the Mystic River Historical Society is published monthly, September through May, with a combined issue for November and December, by the Mystic River Historical Society • Box 245 Mystic, CT 06355
Back issues of the newsletter are available for online viewing at www.mystichistory.org
The Curatorial committee of Bettye Noyes, Helen Keith, Judy Hicks, Kit Werner, Dorrie Hanna and Louisa Watrous met twice during 2008. A phone and visitors log was set up, as well as a control system to be used when removing material from boxes. The Street File cards were photocopied and a notebook system was established to replace the card file drawers due to the poor condition of the index cards. Transcription of handwritten original documents is on-going. The furniture was rearranged to better define the area “open to the public”. Long time Office Manager Emily Perkins became unable to work due to health issues. The position was filled by Helen Keith. Louisa Watrous notes that she worked fewer hours in 2008 than she did in 2007.

Requests:
Some requests are “short & sweet” but some are more extensive. For example I had a long exchange with a writer trying to identify the Mystic location depicted in a painting he was researching.

continued on page 4

On November 18th Jane Preston and Dorrie Hanna arrived at Mystic River Congregate to share the events of the 1950’s with the residents there. Dorrie was graciously filling in for Helen Keith who was at home recovering from recent surgery.

This was the last of three Remember When programs covering the 1930’s, the 1940’s and the 1950’s that were presented at the Congregate throughout the fall. Dorrie and Jane distributed booklets which contained information and pictures of events, famous persons, inventions of the ‘50s and cost of living data. Dunkin’ Doughnuts, a snack that had been introduced in the 1950’s, were passed out as treats. Since the missing record player still had not been located we talked about some of our favorites in the music world at that time and it seems that Tony Bennett and Vic Damone among others came up as all time favorites.

It was easy to talk about life in the Fifties as it was the time when most of the residents were young adults either establishing careers or marrying and raising their families. When it was time to leave, the Resident Program Director told us how much our three sessions had been enjoyed by everyone and wondered if we might consider doing something with the 1960’s.

This series of programs has really been successful everywhere it has been presented. It is a fun experience for all involved. Booklets and music are available for all three decades. We hope that some of our members and readers will be interested in sharing these programs with residents of other assisted living communities or with local organizations that might enjoy a trip into the past.

The Tour Committee continues to work diligently on the 2009 Rooms and Blooms: A Mystic House and Garden Tour on June 20th. If you would like to volunteer as a House docent, call Joyce Everett at 536-6339. To help with parking and other operations, call Tim and Callie Evers at 536-0126.

Building & Grounds - John Porter

1. No major repairs or capital expenditures were required to preserve MRHS properties.
2. The Spring Volunteer Ground Cleanup was performed on Saturday, 4/26/09. Numerous volunteers participated.
3. Some peeling of interior paint in PVA was noted. Loose paint was removed & areas were spot sealed with primer.
4. Some minor damage was noted on the NW corner of PVA due to cars using the adjacent driveway. Damaged areas were repainted and cooperation was requested from the neighbors to minimize any further incidents.
5. Routine fire extinguisher, HVAC system maintenance were performed throughout the year. Snow removal and grass cutting were contracted out.
6. The lower north side of PVA was washed with a bleach solution to remove exterior mold.

Collections & Curatorial - Dorrie Hanna

The Curatorial committee of Bettye Noyes, Helen Keith, Judy Hicks, Kit Werner, Dorrie Hanna and Louisa Watrous met twice during 2008. A phone and visitors log was set up, as well as a control system to be used when removing material from boxes. The Street File cards were photocopied and a notebook system was established to replace the card file drawers due to the poor condition of the index cards. Transcription of handwritten original documents is on-going. The furniture was rearranged to better define the area “open to the public”. Long time Office Manager Emily Perkins became unable to work due to health issues. The position was filled by Helen Keith.

Louisa Watrous notes that she worked fewer hours in 2008 than she did in 2007.

Requests:
Some requests are “short & sweet” but some are more extensive. For example I had a long exchange with a writer trying to identify the Mystic location depicted in a painting he was researching.
The Information/Technology (IT) Committee has attempted to keep the web site updated with current information, such as meetings, programs, upcoming events, and the latest newsletters. This has resulted in monthly updates. The website is performing adequately and we have had no reported instances of failure.

The IT Committee has performed regular backups and software updates on the MRHS computer system, including Windows and Past Perfect as well as security and virus protection. The system appears to be working adequately and serving all the purposes of the users.

The IT Committee resolved one Computer System Incident Report filed during the year.

Corresponding Secretary
- Kit Werner

Total of 172 pieces of correspondence sent in 2008:

Thank yous:
- To speakers - 7
- For donations related to membership renewals and to Newsletter patrons - 76
- Miscellaneous donations - 9
+ 1 letter for a stock contribution, as a follow-up on the amount the MRHS had received, upon its sale
- To outgoing trustees - 3

Thanks for help with services to the MRHS:
- Mystic Riverside Walking Tour brochure:
  - For design, development and publication - 3
  - Mystic Woman’s Club, for a donation to be used for printing and production - 1
- Mystic Garden Club, for a holiday wreath - 1
- 2008 Spring Cleanup - 8
- Everett/MRHS trips - 2
- Miscellaneous - 4

2008 Appraisal Day and Patrons’ Party:
- Help with the 2008 Patrons’ Party - 4
- Help with the 2008 Appraisal Preview and Appraisal Day - 21

- Joint letters of thanks for help with both events - 11
- Donations in honor of Paul Ingle’s Birthday:
  - To Paul, for making the MRHS the recipient of donations in his honor - 1
  - To donors - 17
- Cards - 3: 1 sympathy and 2 get well

IT Committee
- Stephanie Thorpe

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Collections & Curatorial continued from page 3

- Image permissions – 3 requests for reproduction for personal use
- Email queries – about 25
- Phone, mail or in person queries exceeded 28
- Number of emails received - 300+, excluding spam.
- Acquisitions: Over 50 items or groups of items were accessioned in 2008. Statistical analysis to quantify progress on adding material to the database was developed by Louisa Watrous. The smaller number of entries for 2008 reflects the completion in 2007 of entries for two large, pre-existing collections. Louisa reports 3,131 total items entered and 119 existing records updated in 2008. A major accession for 2008 was the archives of the Mystic Depot Committee which we received thanks to Brian Rogers.

Collection Projects:
Goals remain the same: improve access to our collections, conserve space, and improve collection care and storage. We continued the following tasks in support of these goals: review and re-shelving of books, reduction of duplicate items in all collections, addition of information to existing PastPerfect Records, consolidation of boxes and re-allocation of existing shelf use. The last of the “mystery material” was sorted and irrelevant items are being inventoried prior to distribution to other groups. Items from this group which are relevant to our collection were sorted and arranged by Lisa Sheely. Four cartons of books were prepared for sale to a dealer. We will divest ourselves of additional books and other printed material in 2009.

Activities:
- Show & Tell for monthly meetings to pique interest in our extensive collection
- Support for setting up the stations for the Family Activities Center
- Research and support for Remember When project and the House & Garden Tour
- Support & guidance for Lisa Sheely, a University of Rhode Island library school student

Meetings:
- Transcription Club met at Portersville Academy four times during the year
- Display for Mystic Depot anniversary celebration

Volunteers:
Over 500 volunteer hours were logged. This includes those who served as docents for the Family Activity Centers. Regular weekly volunteers at the Downes Building are Corinne Breed, Helen Keith and Bettey Noyes, together with new volunteers Jane Preston and Charlotte Smith. Barry Thorp devoted many hours to updating and trouble shooting the computer system and was graciously on-call for the resolution of problems.

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Our membership year runs from May 1 to April 30. Renewals were sent out in April and follow-up reminders in September. Membership remained steady during the year ending at 350. There were 14 new memberships during the year. A list of all active members at the time was published in the September Newsletter. Also, Constant Contact, our email service, has 180 active names.

Dues paid were $13,164 versus a budget of $13,000. Dues and contributions are major sources of revenue; your support is greatly appreciated.

The Program Committee consisting of Paul W. Ingle, reports that the following Membership Programs took place during the calendar year 2008 at the Mystic Congregational Church Parish Hall. Costs do not include rental of the Parish Hall or refreshments following the meeting. Hall rental costs and charges for the Sexton to set up chairs and tables are handled separately. All programs below were presented at no cost to MRHS.

January 23rd - Update on the New Stanton- Davis Homestead Museum, Presented by Frederick E. Burdick, Stonington Town Historian, who is also the Vice President and Treasurer of the Museum.


March 26th - Appraisal Day - No speaker

April 23rd - Groton Landmarks, Presented by Jim Streeter, a member of the Groton Town Council & co-editor (with Carol Kimball & Marilyn Comrie) of the two Images of America books about Groton.

May 28th - “The Stonington Tragedy” Murder at Darling Hill....!, Presented by Judith duPont, Historian with a Masters’ Degree in American History and author of the book by the above name.

September 24th - The Great New England Hurricane of 1938, Presented by Louis Allyn, President of the Mystic River Historical Society.

October 22nd - Frances Caulkin’s “History of New London” Presented by Nancy Steenburg, Historical Researcher and Assistant Professor in Residence at UConn Avery Point.

November 19th - Carved in Stone: The Battle for Local Memory of the Civil War, Presented by Catherine Deichmann, Museum historian & educator with Masters Degree in 19th c. US History at the UConn, Storrs.

The Nominating Committee consisted of Tim Evers (chair), Helen Keith, Betty O’Donnell & Lou Allyn (ex-officio).

The following Board members were nominated at the Board meeting in April and elected at the membership meeting in May: Bettye Noyes, Jane Preston, Stephanie Thorp, and Kit Werner.

The following officers were elected at the Board meeting in June: Lou Allyn, President; John Porter, Vice-President; Bill Everett, Treasurer; Cathy Marco, Recording Secretary; and Kit Werner, Corresponding Secretary.

Two trips were completed in 2008, a trip to Salem and Gloucester on June 11 and 12 and a fall foliage trip to Eastern Pennsylvania on October 21, 22, and 23. Both of these trips were very successful based on the enthusiasm of the participants, the numbers who participated, and financial results. We had scheduled a trip to Key West for the fall which was cancelled for insufficient participants, but the foliage trip replacing it overfilled immediately and on short notice which was very encouraging.

The participants in our 2008 trips provided several pages of suggestions for new explorations which should keep us on the road for as long as we care to continue our tour program. Additional suggestions are always welcome!

Appraisal Day in March netted $370 income for the Society, not a large amount but successful and appreciated by those who brought their items to be appraised. It was decided not to hold the event in 2009 because of the House Tour activity.

This was a year marked by freedom from withdrawals from the endowment for major rebuilding on Portersville or the Downes Building. John Porter was able to meet all needs within our regular income. Joyce Everett at Special Projects contributed a profit of $1506.72 on the Salem Trip in the spring and $1972.47 on the Amish Trip in the fall. The Balance on 12/31/07 was $7146.57, and on 12/31/08 was $5974.42. This actually was an increase, considering that we have a $2000 investment in the House Tour to take place in 2009. All together it was a good year for the Historical Society.
January 2009 Meeting Minutes

Cathy Marco

The Board of Trustees of the Mystic River Historical Society met at the Mystic Chamber of Commerce on Monday, January 12, 2009. Board members present were Lou Allyn, David Evans, Tim Evers, Bill Everett, Joyce Everett, Sally Halsey, Dorrie Hanna, Cathy Marco, Betty O’Donnell, John Porter, Stephanie Thorp and Kit Werner.

President (Lou Allyn): Lou praised Jennifer Pryor and contributors to the January issue on the Portersville Press for a job well done. Lou has retrieved from the files a draft of an article on the history of Ram Island which he would like to publish. Oftentimes people have inquired about its history and this would be a good source of information. Lou will be contacting the author of the article (EB Read) to get permission to publish and also find funds to pay for the printing. It was suggested that a future membership meeting on Ram Island might be of interest. Lou thanked the committee chairs for handing in their 2008 Annual Reports. These will be included in the next newsletter.

On March 14th from 11:00-4:00 the Mormon Stake House (aka Family History Center) on Flanders Road, will have a history exhibition. We have accepted their invitation to have a display table at this event. We have given a gift basket to the Mystic Chamber of Commerce for their annual Silent Auction.

Treasurers Report (Bill Everett): We have met all expenses in 2008 and we also increased our cash. It has been a good year fiscally for us. The biggest difference in the budget (actual versus budgeted) was for Newsletter Ads where we did not meet our expectations. This was because of many past advertisers decided not to continue and the economy causing harsh choices to be made by all. We want to extend a big thanks to Jim Kimenker for a very generous contribution he made to Mystic River Historical Society. It is greatly appreciated!

Corresponding Secretary (Kit Werner): There were seven letters of thanks sent this past month: 3 for donations related to membership renewals and to newsletter patrons; 2 for donations to the MRHS; one to our November speaker, Catherine Deichmann; and one to the Mystic Garden Club for a lovely wreath for PVA.

STANDING COMMITTEES

Buildings & Grounds (John Porter): Nothing to report....except, a new step ladder is a welcome addition to the Downes Building.

Curatorial (Dorrie Hanna, Collection Manager): Helen is back on the job on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Welcome back Helen! Not a lot happened during November and December due to illnesses and weather. We were closed for the weeks of December 22 and December 29. We continue to clean out things that do not meet our mission.

There were a number of books that were cleaned out and Lou took these to dealer Allison Goodsell to see if they could be sold. The next Curatorial Committee meeting will be January 26th. Dorrie will look for something to bring for “Show and Tell” at our next membership meeting on January 28th.

Education (Tim Evers): We intend to correspond with schools in February about coming this spring. If we do not have at least three schools sign up, we will seriously consider “taking our show on the road”. We guess that because of school budget cuts, school field trips have been seriously curtailed. We understand this and want to find a way to help the schools and also share our wealth of local historical information with these young people (primarily 1st and 3rd graders).

Outreach: Lou noted that we may need more publicity for Grandmas’s Attic, American Girl Doll teas, and the Remember When programs. We appear to do much better with our programs when we take them to places rather than having them in-house.

Finance (David Evans): Nothing to report

Hospitality (Cindy Allyn): Nothing to report.

Information/Technology (Stephanie Thorp): In early December, and again on Jan. 3, Barry performed the normal monthly system update and file backup tasks. All systems appeared to be in good operating condition and were functioning normally. He also installed the new McAfee Internet Security software from ATT successfully for all system units (Computers MRHS1, MRHS2, MRHS3).

On January 9, Stephanie updated the website Events page, adding the January 2009 Portersville Press edition, and creating an initial link to the House and Garden Tour coming up in June. It is anticipated that the House and Garden Tour committee will provide text and images to be added to the website, and that a PayPal link will be included for the purpose of ordering tickets online.

Marketing (Sally Halsey): Press releases have been sent and electronic calendars have been updated. Sally is also using www.zip06.com to update the calendar. ZIP06 is the official web site for the Times weekly papers in southeast Connecticut (includes The Day and The Mystic Times) and gives MRHS the opportunity of having our own blog and photo album of our events. Sally has volunteered to oversee this site and the blog for us and report back.

Membership (Cynthia Allyn): We’ve received 5 renewals.

Nominating (Tim Evers): Kit, Jim, Tim and Lou will be meeting in January. We need to elect four board members.

Program (Paul Ingle): Patricia Schaefer is our speaker for the January membership meeting. Her talk will be “the Geographic World of Joshua Hempstead”.

Special Events (Joyce Everett): The trip to New York City for April is moving ahead very nicely. A write up was in the last newsletter and anyone who is interested in coming should contact Joyce.
House Tour (Sally Halsey): A new name (and all agreed, better name) has been given to the event: Rooms and Blooms: A Mystic House and Garden Tour. We have 13 properties: 6 houses and gardens, 1 house only, and 6 garden only. Everything is coming along nicely. On January 15th is a social gathering of Committee Chairpersons and Property Owners at Gail Ettingers. Docents for the houses and gardens have been chosen and we are in the process of gathering information about the properties from the homeowners. We are now working on online ticket sales through PayPal with “Buy Now” buttons on the Garden Club and Historical Society web sites to make it easy for purchase of tickets to the event.

We have been fortunate to get many wonderful volunteers to chair committees and work at the event, we are in great need of volunteers for two very important jobs. First, we need a good program designer – someone with graphic arts skills. If you have this talent or know someone who is who would like to help with this worthwhile community cause, please contact Sally. Second, we need someone to solicit larger Sponsor donations (versus program book ads). This is vital for the financial success of this event!

To complement our event, two of our downtown neighbors are doing special events as well: The Mystic Arts Center has agreed to put on a “Mystic Artists” show in the Schuster Gallery during June, featuring former Mystic artists. They are also generously allowing use of a George Albert Thompson painting of the original Clift home as our signature image. We are asking the Mystic and Noank Library to put up a photographic exhibit of the homes “Then and Now”. Alan Brush has volunteered to do the Now photography. The next meeting of the committee is January 16 at 11:00 at the Chamber Meeting Room.

Walking Tour (David Evans): We will wait until after the Rooms and Blooms event to decide where to go next with another new walking tour brochure.

NEW BUSINESS
No new business.

Next Board meeting is February 9, 2009 (moved up due to the holiday.) The next General Membership Meeting is January 28th followed by one on February 25, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Marco, Recording Secretary
CALENDAR Notables

Membership Meeting Wednesday, Jan. 28, 2009  7:30p
Mystic Congregational Church Hall, 13 Broadway
Patricia Schaefer - “The Geographic World of Joshua Hempstead”

Membership Meeting Wednesday, Feb. 25, 7:30p
Mystic Congregational Church Hall, 13 Broadway
Jason Mancini - “The Hidden Histories of New London County’s Indian Communities”

History Exhibition Wednesday, Mar. 14, 11a - 4p
Mormon Stake House Family History Center, 1230 Flanders Rd., Mystic
MRHS will have a display table at this event.

Membership Meeting Wednesday, Mar. 25, 7:30p
Mystic Congregational Church Hall, 13 Broadway

Membership Meeting Wednesday, April 22, 7:30p
Mystic Congregational Church Hall, 13 Broadway

Membership Meeting
& Annual Pot Luck Wednesday, May. 27, 6p

No Membership Meeting in June

Save the date - June 20, 2009
Rooms & Blooms: A House and Garden Walk! Tickets will be available this spring for $22 in advance, $30 on the day of the event.

Newsletter Patrons

We appreciate the support of our 2008-09 Newsletter Patrons in covering the costs of the Portersville Press.

Louis & Cynthia Allyn  Mr. & Mrs. William Hermann, Jr.
Jane and Dan Brannegan  Ms. Judith Hicks
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Butler  Mr. & Mrs. David Hinkle
Melinda Carlisle  Mr. & Mrs. Robert Krusewski
Densmore Oil Co.  Nancy & Tom McLoughlin
Ms. Sandra Dolan  Frank & Cathy Marco
Mr. & Mrs. David Evans  Marjorie Moore
Mr. & Mrs. William Everett  Louise Pittaway
Sally Halsey  Capt. & Mrs. John Porter
Mr. & Mrs. Doug Hanna  Mr. & Mrs. Brian Thorp

Membership Updates

Membership renewals in January include:

Individual - Rose Corbett Gordon, Jean Mencer • Family - Mr & Mrs. Sandy Van Zandt • Benefactor - Mr & Mrs. Peter Briggs • Contributing - Mr. & Mrs. Frank Sinnett