



## THE HAMDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER FALL 2001

Dear Members,

Our Society had a busy summer. The Dickerman House property was visited by 108 people; as well Lois Casey gave tours to 224 Hamden school children. She and Nancy Faughnan gave of their time so Hamden students could appreciate our historic site and learn of early American living in a house museum "in their Hamden backyard". The Spring Glen Garden Club, led by Fran Milroy and our in-house garden expert Terry Deshefy-Longhi, kept the herb garden healthy and attractive all summer. This is a labor of love which the Society and public appreciate. Property manager, Joe Pepe kept the gardens well watered. We had extra work sessions this summer at the J.D. House; installing steps to our "outhouse", brick walk work, electrical work, trimming and chip spreading, and Bob Zoni repairing of damaged clapboards and beam. We thank all of you who volunteered extra time this summer.

O yes! The summer docents... Thank you all... Ginny and Werner Zukunft, Eleanor Devine, Marcy McKeon, John and Marlene Carolla, Virginia Spillane, Charles Kortsep, Sue Colesanto, Linda and Roger Rovero, Jack Connolly, Barbara Hogan, Betty Osgood, Pam and Chris Rendiero, Betsy Gorman, Joe Pepe, Martha Becker and Stella Johnson. It is because of you that we can share the Dickerman House with the public.

Please add to your calendars:

**NOVEMBER 8TH, Thursday...At the Social Hall of the Miller Cultural Center** (entrance rear of building), a talk "In the Steps of the Leatherman" by Steve Grant, a Hartford Courant writer, who has walked the 360 mile route of the legendary Leatherman. **7:30-9:30 P.M.** This presentation is co-sponsored by the Hamden Land Trust, the West Rock Ridge Park Association and your Society.

**NOVEMBER 17TH & 18TH, Saturday and Sunday...At the Miller Cultural Center, the 40th Annual Giant Valley Dealers Antique Show.** The Dealers support the Society with this show; it is our only fund-raiser. Please attend for us. Doors open at **10:00 A.M.**

**NOVEMBER 19TH, Monday...At Hamden Memorial Town Hall,** the Hamden Thanksgiving Festival. Your Society is the co-sponsor; please attend and share the spirit. Refreshments will be served. The program begins at **7:00 P.M.**

**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME SOCIAL, Sunday, October 28th, 4 to 6 P.M....At the Dickerman/Talmadge Cider Mill.** By special invitation, members and guests were invited to a reception for wine, cheese and cheer. Our thanks to Linda Rovero for helping with the invitations; J.D. House Docents and Spring Glen Garden Club members were invited.

## Sharing Reminiscences

We are pleased to print the words of Bob Williams, a society member now living in St. Augustine, Florida. Formerly of Lincoln Street, he responded to our request for personal narratives. In the *Winter Newsletter* we will publish Ethel Fulton's recollections of her youth in Hamden. Here are Bob's memories.

### OLD CENTERVILLE EARLY 1950'S

Walking down Washington Ave., you notice the Elm trees are still alive. On the right hand side at School Street is the Hamden Packing Co., which makes processed meats. At the next corner is Dixwell Ave. and on the right hand side of the street is the home where Ernest Borgnine was supposed to have been born. An Italian family who has chickens and a nice vegetable garden now owns it. In the summer time we get our tomatoes there. Going down Dixwell Ave. there is a used car dealer on the right. Across the street is Post 88 of the American Legion and the Hamden Chronicle headquarters. Just a bit further is a small luncheonette that serves a good breakfast. On the left hand corner intersection of Dixwell and Whitney Ave., is Charley Crook's Pharmacy. Inside you can get a great ice cream cone at their soda fountain. If I am lucky I am with one of my older sisters and the counter guy will give me an extra dip.

At bit down Whitney Ave. is Kimler's Headwear Store. It is a great place to get things like fishing lures and traps to catch muskrats in the wintertime. Across the street is the Citgo gas station and across from that is the Town Hall. It is an exciting time there as Herbert Hume has been elected. He is a Democrat and lives just a few blocks away from me on Washington Ave. I will have my singing debut at the Town Hall's yearly Christmas show. I will be up on the stage singing Jingle Bells. The Police Department is also located in the Town Hall, but it is only a small portion of the building. Across from the Town Hall is the Brownstone Restaurant. I believe the stone used there was quarried at Sleeping Giant. From Dixwell Ave. to School Street there is a pastry shop and two barber shops owned by Harry and Aldo. I believe they are cousins. When I go into Harry's for a haircut with my father, we have to sit in the back of the shop on a platform unit until we are called. Next to Harry's is a saloon, calling it a bar would be stretching the truth I am afraid. Across the street is Reilly's Restaurant.

Up Whitney Ave. just past School Street is the Pepsi-Cola bottling company. You can walk up the front door and watch the bottles on the assembly line as they are being readied for use.

**MEETINGS:** The Historical Society's Board of Directors meets monthly September to June on the second Thursday of the month. Meeting sites rotate among Board members homes. If any member is interested in attending, call Al Gorman at 288-0017 for the time and place.

**AVAILABLE:** Our membership card for the Connecticut Historical Society is available for member's use. Exhibition hours are Tuesday through Sunday, 12:00 to 5:00. Please call 288-0017 for the card.

## SAVE THIS DATE

### ANNUAL GIANT VALLEY ANTIQUES SHOW

**Saturday November 17, 10:00-5:00 & Sunday November 18, 10:00-4:00**

This annual event will be held at the Miller Memorial Cultural Center, 2901 Dixwell Avenue, Hamden, Ct. The gate receipts and kitchen profits directly benefit the projects and programs of the Hamden Historical Society.

Each day, Society members provide luncheon in the kitchen. Please deliver to our kitchen your contributions of food/baked goods, cans of coffee, cans of tuna or quarts of ice cream. Donated homemade pies are especially welcomed. What we do not have to purchase, increases our profits. You may drop off donations either Saturday or Sunday morning or when you attend the show. BUT PLEASE, call us FIRST to let us know so that we can PLAN.

Help us by calling Al or Betsy Gorman at 299-0017 no later than November 9<sup>th</sup>, to let them know what you would like to donate.

Assistance in the kitchen is needed. We need more people during the noon rush, so if you can help, call Al or Betsy as soon as possible.

Tell your friends and relatives. Better yet, bring them with you. Browse around and visit with the dealers. Unlike other antique shows, this one receives rave reviews for congeniality and ambience. You might find that special Christmas or Chanukah gift. We will be selling our newly revised 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, *Hamden Our Architectural Heritage*, a perennial bestseller and perfect gift for current or former Hamden residents, family members or friends. Treat yourself and buy two. We will also sell the Jonathan Dickerman House and Rectory School Barn ornaments. Our kitchen serves modestly priced breakfast, lunch and drinks. Come join us, enjoy the day, eat some good food, see old friends and meet some new ones as well.

BE AN ANGEL.. BELOW IS OUR POPULAR CHILI RECIPE.

Try it and make a batch for our kitchen.

2 lbs hamburger, 1 large onion  
3 or 4 garlic cloves, 2 green peppers  
1 large can of stewed tomatoes  
½ bottle chili powder, 1 tsp. oregano  
2 large cans of red kidney beans  
salt and pepper to taste, ½ bottle cumin.  
Chop onion, garlic and peppers, saute.  
Brown hamburger. Add remaining ingredients. Simmer, the longer the better.

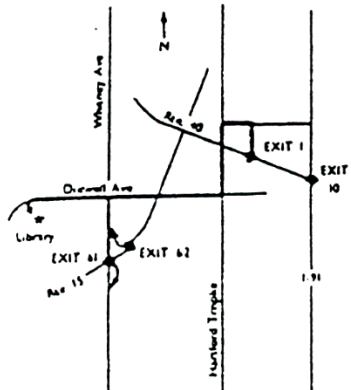


# NEWSLETTER

THE HAMDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 5512 - HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT 06518

## 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL GIANT VALLEY ANTIQUES SHOW NOVEMBER 17<sup>th</sup> and NOVEMBER 18<sup>th</sup>, 2001



SATURDAY 10 A.M. to 5 P.M.  
SUNDAY 10 A.M. to 4 P.M.

**MILLER LIBRARY - CULTURAL CENTER**  
2901 DIXWELL AVE. HAMDEN, CT

Admission \$3.00 With this card \$2.50 each  
FREE PARKING - REFRESHMENTS

**A BENEFIT FOR THE HAMDEN HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
Sponsored by the Giant Valley Association of Antiques Dealers

