

Vol IV Issue 4

## **HISTORIC BURLINGTON COUNTY PRISON MUSEUM ASSOCIATION**

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Gary F. Woodend, Esquire

November 16, 2005

Dear PMA Members and Friends:

I've got lots of news for you, and its ALL GOOD.

The Haunted Prison was a rousing success. The designer/producers, Clark Bish, Frank Cwikla and Jim Webb, did a phenomenal job. The exercise yard was turned into the spookiest cemetery you ever saw, complete with a (real) hearse, coffins, tombstones, fog, zombies rising from the dead and a maze which took 10 minutes to walk through. Those brave enough to go in the maze got lots more surprises, including a creepy clown, a hillbilly straight out of *Deliverance* and a straight-jacketed lunatic. Inside the Jail, unfortunate souls were electrocuted and dismembered, all to the delight of the crowd. You should have heard the screams.

At least 50 volunteers took part, including PMA friends and members, as well as various haunt aficionados, including brothers Pat and Ken O'Rangers of Browns Mills. A special thanks goes to Ken, who not only did a superb job scaring the daylights out of guests with a chainsaw, but who also introduced our organization to his employer, WalMart of Burlington Township, which donated all of its year end Halloween related items to the PMA. I want to take this opportunity to publicly thank WalMart Store No. 2040 for its tremendous generosity.

The County's support of this event was simply extraordinary on all levels. I have written the Freeholders a separate letter commending them and their employees, a copy of which will be made available to any PMA member upon request. Suffice it to

say here that the county employees assigned to this event, including Fire Marshal Bob Rose, Building and Grounds' Stefni Snow and John Panto, and the Sheriff's Officers ALL went well beyond the call of duty. Jail Attendant Marisa Bozarth worked tirelessly for weeks on this project. I was frankly awed by her energy and drive. Oh, to again be that young and daring.

Over 2600 people attended, and we grossed approximately \$15,000. We are still in the process of calculating expenses, but we are confident that the net proceeds will be in excess of \$11,000. It is my personal hope that the proceeds will be used in connection with the display of the Robert Mills' plans, assuming that at some point we obtain possession of same. This will be part of a discussion which I intend to open to our members in the spring of next year.

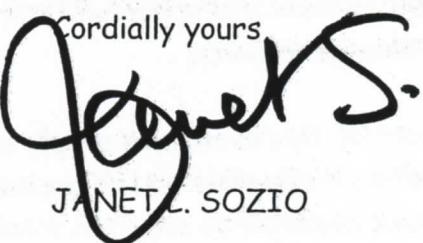
I am happy to report that a new heater is being installed in the Jail and that our postcards are finally done and on sale in the gift shop.

The annual meeting was held pursuant to our by-laws on November 5, 2005. In attendance were John Yetman, Tom Faile, Dave Kimball, Dan Kimball, Janet Sozio, Kay Kline, Rhondi Schwartz, Jeanette Sozio, Edith Freeman and Marisa Bozarth. While we had a quorum, not much business was discussed as we were too pooped out from the haunted event. We held the required election; no changes were made to the Board, however, due mostly to the fact that nobody else wants to be on it.

Attached are some newspaper excerpts from February and March of 1897. You can all look up "euchre".

At the beginning of this letter, I told you that all the news was good. That's not really true, though. I have one piece of bad news, that being the passing of one of our most beloved members, Charlie Holman. Charlie, who worked for years as a guard in our Jail, was a founding member of the PMA. This fine gentleman lived for almost a century and was a tremendous historical source. He will be sorely missed.

That concludes my last newsletter of 2005. I'll write next in the spring. Until then, wishing you a healthy and happy winter and holiday season, I remain,

Cordially yours  
  
JANET L. SOZIO

# **THANK YOU!**

## ***PMA Members/Friends Participating in the Event Included:***

### ***Ticket Takers***

Glen Filippone  
Don Sozio  
Diane Bish  
Randi Rothmel  
Michael Rothmel  
Gary Woodend  
Jill Bryan  
Dan Kimball  
Dave Kimball  
Rhondi Schwartz

### ***Hot Dog Vendors***

Dean Sozio  
Bill Greager

### ***Actors***

Susan Dargay  
Drew Sozio  
Josh Lavenia

### ***Line Man***

Michael Bright

### ***Stair Sitters***

Flo Gomez  
Jeanette Sozio

**PRISON MUSEUM ASSOCIATION  
2005 Members**

Catharine B. Armstrong  
Richard E. Andronici, Esquire  
Timothy E. Annin, Esquire  
Senator Martha Bark  
Joan Boas  
Attendant Marisa Bozarth  
Michael Bright  
Jill T. Bryan, Esquire  
Rich Carty  
David R. Dahan, Esquire  
Susan R. Dargay, Esquire  
Jude Del Preore  
John M. Devlin, Esquire  
Domers & Bonamassa  
Matthew Doonan  
William J. Doyle  
David Edwards  
Thomas Faile  
Freeholder Vince Farias  
Hon. Dominick J. Ferrelli  
Glen Filippone, Esquire  
Edith Freeman  
Kristen & Natalie Freeman  
Kenneth H. Gilbert  
Joyce Goldsmith  
Florence Gomez  
County Clerk Phil Haines  
David Hasson  
Barbara Hatfield  
Charlie Holman  
Michael C. Hovdestad, Esquire  
Marie Del Presto Jerlat  
Warren S. Jones, Esquire  
David A. & Daniel A. Kimball  
Judith L. King  
Kay Kline  
Stewart LaVine  
Hon. Marie E. Lihotz  
Gene R. Mariano, Esquire  
Mazzucco & Co. CPAs  
Michael E. McHale  
Carole Melman & Glenn Kenny  
Joan & Kenneth Milby  
Rocco Minervino, Esquire  
Stacy L. Moore, Esquire  
Ronald C. Morgan, Esquire  
Michael L. Mouber, Esquire  
Mount Holly Business Association  
Stephen J. Mushinski, Esquire  
Janice Myers  
Timothy P. O'Brien, Esquire  
Lynn Pitts  
Joseph Polino, Esquire  
Jeff Rabin, Esq. & Laurie Rabin  
Ivan and Vicky Raymond  
Ronnie J. Reed  
Michael Rothmel, Esquire  
Joseph P. Santoro, Esquire  
Rhondi Schwartz, Esquire  
Robert Silcox  
Delsea Sozio  
Dena & Drew Sozio  
Janet L. Sozio, Esquire  
Jeanette Sozio  
Brooke Tidswell, III  
Traub & Tumaian  
Any Tumaian  
Barbara Westergaard  
Gary Woodend, Esquire  
David Wyche  
John P. Yetman, Jr., Esquire

## MT. HOLLY HERALD 1897

February 6, 1897

**Mt. Holly.** Secretary Lynch, aided by others, has been holding services in the jail on Sundays . . . a social for the benefit of the Catholic Church is to be given at the home of Ella Madden of Bispaine Street. The feature of the evening is Euchre, followed by a dance. Admission: 25 cents... A large company of sporting gentlemen from Burlington and Mt. Holly met at a secluded spot on Monday night for the purpose of seeing a fight to the finish between Lewis, the Bristol terror and Williams, the colored giant of Burlington County. Both men had been just aching to get at each other for a long time. The spot was so secluded that a man could hardly have found it with the aid of a hound dog after dark. Finally everything was arranged and it was agreed to divide the gate receipts between the two pugilists, who thereupon proceeded to fan the air and perform all sorts of gyrations without doing each other the least possible damage. Finally, one of the spectators, who had been breathing very hard through his nose, said: "See, here! What's the use of all this. I can get a scrapping match up to beat this in broad daylight in any street in Mt. Holly and nobody'd disturb me. You'd better call the show off. These fellers can't spar fast enough to keep themselves warm." The crowd waited a little longer and then concluded that it was the worst shakedown they ever had, and they started for home.

**Jacobstown.** Revival meetings are being held here, but only a few have taken the right step. For some time all the boys around here have been going down to Cold Springs to Snubb's and having a good time playing cards and other things not considered the proper things for boys. They seem to have no respect for Sunday.

**Beverly.** A lot of middle-aged girls met at Ridgeway Hall last Thursday and organized a bicycle club. When they appear in bloomers next summer Marshall Kiple will have to put an a pair himself and ride at the head of the line to preserve order.

**February 13, 1897**

**Mt. Holly.** The annual charity ball in aid of the Burlington County Hospital was given at the Mt. Holly Opera House on Friday evening, and was the most successful one ever given in the town. The decorations were very attractive, the ladies was doubly so and the men looked as well as it was possible for them to do . . . On Thursday afternoon, George Scott of Masonville, committed suicide by shooting himself in the head with a shotgun. He got the gun down and informed his wife that he was going out to shoot himself, but she thought he was joking and made no attention to the remark. He was about 22 years of age and had only been married a few months. No cause is assigned for the act . . . The regular meeting of the Freeholders was held in the courthouse on Wednesday. Application was received for a new McAdam Road in Moorestown from the Mt. Laurel Road to the Haddonfield Road through the main street of the town. This is part of the Moorestown Turnpike.

**Burlington City.** A few minutes after the noon hour on Friday, the employees of Budd's Shoe Factory were eyewitnesses of a terrible tragedy. Mrs. Nicholas Schaffer, who had just come out of the factory, where she was employed, and was hurrying home for dinner, was shot by her husband, who then sent two bullets crashing into his brain and fell, dying near his wife's body. The woman was desperately wounded, but there is hope of her recovery. The tragedy was the outcome of an unhappy marriage and Mrs. Schaeffer's refusal to live with her husband. The would-be murderer was carried to the office of Dr. Gauntt, across the street. The physician pronounced his wounds fatal and had him taken to his home on St. Mary Street, where he died within an hour. He was about 40 years old and was formerly employed at the McNeal Iron Foundry. He was prominent in a number of secret societies and was at one time an active member of the First Presbyterian Church.

**February 20, 1897**

**Mt. Holly.** In turning around the fountain into Mill Street on Saturday, Gus Lukens met with an upset, but the horse behaved beautifully and made no effort to run away . . . School children have for some time past been defacing the fronts of houses and parts of the first ward by making obscene objects and writing scurrilous language with a

pigment that is hard to erase... Two able bodied tramps were run in on Monday by Detective C. H. Perrine, of Pemberton, on suspicion that one of them was concerned in the murder of a man at Auburn, New York. Both men walked along cheerfully to the office of Justice Clevenger, where they were informed of the nature of the charge against them, which did not seem to alarm them in the least. "I'll have to send you up for 30 days", said the 'squire, "until we have a chance to hear from the New York authorities." "You couldn't suit us better, 'squire," replied one of the hoboes, "and you needn't be afraid of us trying to break jail, either. We've been hunting a warm place to sleep and two meals a day without having to chase them down. This is a regular matinee for us", with which remark they sauntered uptown with the officer.

**Riverside.** In Riverside, articles of incorporation have been filed in the County Clerk's office by the Riverside Athletic Association and Turngemeinde, the incorporators of which include T. Zurbrugg.

**Burlington.** For fast driving on Saturday afternoon, William Brotherton, one of the hackmen, was arrested and fined \$10. Brotherton had a pretty good jag of bug juice aboard, and came very near to wrecking several wagons.

**Moorestown.** The orthodox branch of the Society of Friends held a meeting Friday night to consider the project of erecting a new meeting house. The present building, erected in 1829, proves too small to accommodate the steady increase of membership. This is rather an interesting fact for the reason that this is probably the only place in the United States where the Friends are on the increase. At the meeting a committee was appointed to secure the funds for the erection of the new building and to engage an architect to draft plans. The Friends of Moorestown date back to 1700, when a lot was deeded to them. The deed is recorded in a secretary's office at Burlington. The meetinghouse that was then standing was a small log structure. In 1720 it was burned down. It was soon rebuilt of stone, and answered the purpose of worshipers for 80 years. In 1802 a large brick meetinghouse, which now stands on the eastern part of the lot, was erected. In 1829 a split occurred in the society. The Hicksite branch retained the old building and the orthodox erected a frame structure on the west side of the lot. It is this building they now propose to tear down and make room for a much larger structure.

**Pemberton.** The officers of the law have been unusually active after dark going around with dark lanterns and flashing searchlights in the eyes of some of our businessmen who have to be out at night. Last Tuesday night they saw two suspicious looking strangers in town, and while watching them, saw a suspicious light in the outhouse over by the old shoe factory. They approached the place stealthily and found a young man engaged in reading a love letter.

**Marlton.** When the town is incorporated, which will probably be within a year, Clayton Brick will be elected mayor beyond all doubt. He has had an idea of getting in politics for some time, and as county offices will be scarce in Evesham for some time to come, he has decided to take the first thing that comes along.

**February 27, 1897.**

**Mt. Holly.** Emil Krug, the Hainesport butcher, expects in a few weeks to sail for Rio De Janeiro, Brazil, with the necessary machinery to start a bologna factory for a syndicate of capitalists who have been endeavoring to secure him for some time back... A large number of people of Mt. Holly, both young and old, are now sick with the mumps.

**Rancocas.** When nearly all the wells in town were dry and everybody was carting water, there was a general feeling of uneasiness among the townspeople, as all realized that in the event of a fire breaking out the chances would be that the greater part of the town would be destroyed. The result was a strong sentiment in favor of securing a system of water works. Since then, however, the springs have filled up again and that the project seems to have been abandoned. It is a pity that a few of our enterprising citizens do not get together and push the plan to completion.

**Juliustown.** A Mt. Holly shoemaker arrived here on Friday and opened up business in the vacant shop on Jumping Row. He remained until Monday when he became of the business outlook and moved back to the county seat where they have hot and cold water in the house and people do not get homesick.

**Tabernacle.** At a sewing party given here recently the ladies had so much to say that it was finally decided to dispense with the sewing until they had finished ripping everyone in town up the back . . . A stray copy of an old edition of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" landed in town a few days ago, and it was surprising to learn how few persons in this vicinity had read the book, which is now going the rounds . . . With the idea of securing better wages, many of our young men will leave here in the Spring, but some are not likely to remain away long, as one charming damsel says her fellow is bound to be home on Saturday nights . . . The smokehouse of Peter Yates came very near being destroyed by fire a day or two ago. The flames were discovered by Mr. Yates' wife, who worked single-handed until she had succeeded in extinguishing the flames. The building was filled with hams and bacon at the time.

**March 6, 1897**

**Mt. Holly.** A large crowd assembled in the court room on Saturday morning with the expectation of hearing the sentences imposed on three Mt. Holly burglars, Harvey Thomas, Bert Donnelly and William Clevenger. The relatives of the defendants were present in the court room, and there was a tearful time when they pleaded guilty to the charge. Lawyer Matlack made an eloquent appeal to the Court for clemency. He said the goods were stolen on February 8. All have grown up in Mt. Holly, but as they had no employment they got into bad company, and this led to their downfall. All were brought up in the right way, sent to school and given a chance to make men of themselves, but instead of that they brought sorrow and distress on their parents. They are sorry for their misdeeds and are determined to lead better lives. If they are to be reformed now is the time, and the Court should endeavor, if it can see its way clear, to make their sentence as light as possible. Prosecutor Budd in reply said it was not often that he stood before the Court in a case similar to this. The defendants had been brought up under good influences, and there was consequently less excuse for them. But as they have saved the county the expense of a trial by pleading guilty, they are entitled to some consideration. Their punishment should not be vindictive, as they are not hardened criminals and there is yet a chance for them to reform. It was merely a case of reckless bravado, the result of dime novel reading, as the goods taken were of small value and of no benefit to them. Judge Gaskill said he would not pass sentence on them until next Saturday.

**Burlington.** Ms. Ida Schaffer, the Burlington woman who was shot by her suicidal husband several weeks ago, is still in a precarious condition, and, it is feared, an operation for the removal of part of her jaw bone will have to be resorted to.

**March 13, 1897**

**Mt. Holly.** There was a large crowd in the court room on Saturday to hear the sentences passed on the youthful burglars. Judge Gaskill had a very unpleasant duty to perform, but said he could not allow his sympathies to interfere with his plain duty in the matter. He thereupon sentenced Harvey Thomas and William Clevenger each to 18 months in state prison. Albert Donnelly was sentenced to 1 year in state prison.

**March 20, 1897**

**Mt. Holly.** It begins to look now as if the Burlington and Bristol Bridge is to be an assured fact. Articles of incorporation were filed in the County Clerk's office on Thursday by the Burlington and Bristol Bridge Company, who will build a toll and draw bridge. The capital stock is \$150,000, and the shares are \$50 each. The incorporators, each of whom hold ten shares, are Dr. Pugh, Andrew McNeal, George Anthony, Herbert Wells and Henry Haines. It is thought that there will be some Pennsylvania railroad company's capital in the scheme.

**Moorestown.** A robbery was committed at the residence of James Huston on Oak Avenue, about three o'clock last Friday morning. Nine dollars in money was carried with some articles of clothing. The thieves were undoubtedly of the most inexperienced type imaginable, having taken time to devour a bowl of peas, a quantity of fried oysters and some oranges which were in the cellar. There were, in all probability, two concerned, as the pair of spoons in each dish indicated, or perhaps there was but a single individual, who ate with two spoons to save time. Detective Burr is on the track and if the guilty ones be found, it will indeed go hard on them.