

HISTORIC BURLINGTON COUNTY PRISON MUSEUM ASSOCIATION

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PAUL MUSGROVE
CAROLE MELMAN
GARY F. WOODEND, ESQUIRE

November 21, 2000

Dear Members and Other Friends:

What a year this has been for the old Jail! We started things off with a bang in April with 600 attending our April Fools Night at the Old Jail, continued with our opening party in June with almost 200 in attendance, and most recently had another huge success with the Mount Holly House of Horrors, again with approximately 600 in attendance. It took a lot of people to pull it off, but we did it. Enclosed is a thank you for those who helped. The list does not include everybody, and I apologize to those whom I inadvertently neglected to mention.

We also had tours on the fourth Saturday and fourth Sunday of each month from April through October. We averaged between 100 and 150 tourists per weekend.

Although the PMA has no activities planned until after the New Year, the Jail will continue to be the location of some fun events in the next few months.

The Mt. Holly Historical Society will sponsor Candlelight Tours of Mount Holly on Saturday, December 9. The Jail will be open from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. If anyone is interested in serving as a host or tour guide for this event, please call Joyce Goldsmith at the Parks Department (609-265-5858).

The Rotary Club of Mt. Holly is sponsoring First Night, a fun, safe, alcohol-free affordable family New Year's Eve celebration at six venues in Mt. Holly. The evening kicks off at 7 p.m. with a sculpture exhibit at the Jail. The exhibit will remain on display throughout the month of January, with the Jail being open to the public each Saturday, with 30-minute lectures by featured sculptors at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. The First Night

Committee is seeking volunteers for First Night and the following Saturdays to answer basic questions about the history of the Jail. If you are interested, again, call Joyce Goldsmith.

I received a call recently from Charles Farner, whose father, Ben, was the warden in the 1930s. Charlie and his parents and siblings lived in the warden's house attached to the Jail. I am going to try to put together a meeting in February or March and invite Charlie, along with John Coverly, whose grandfather was the night warden, and Ken Gilbert and Stan Fayer, who were a guards, to take us on a tour and tell us about their experiences. Look for more information about this after the New Year.

Have a safe and happy holiday season.

Cordially yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Janet", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

JANET L. SOZIO

THANK YOU !!!!

The PMA gratefully acknowledges the time and effort given by the following of our members and friends to make the Mt. Holly House of Horrors the tremendous success that it was.

First and foremost, we thank DAVID CRANMER, who designed the entire event. As if that weren't enough, he purchased and set up all the props, purchased most of the costumes and make-up, and applied our make-up. He brought along about 15 of his friends, including VIC and TANYA, who acted out the parts of the fiendish Holly Family.

A special thanks also goes to PAUL MUSGROVE. Paul designed our banner and other advertising, designed and painted the backdrop against which he took photos of guests, and, on top of everything else, acted out the part of Dr. Holly, the mad (human) headhunter, with great exuberance.

Paul also designed our tee-shirts and along with CAROLE MELMAN had them produced. The shirts are white with our prison logo on the front. They are available in L, XL and 2X and we are selling them for \$8. If you want to buy one, call me at 265-0202.

We also thank tour guides Marybeth Baron, Dan Barto (also coffin supplier), Ashley Cole, Karen Cawthon, Susan Dargay, Dean Sozio, Anne Edmonds, Richard Tallini and Paul Hemler.

Thank you also to safety consultant Pete Cawthon and our waterman vampire, Ray Holshue.

Thank you galore for actors Ryan Sharkey, Drew Sozio and Nathan Cawthon (zombies), Natalie Freeman and Dena Sozio (baby doll sisters), Alicia Cawthon (birthday victim) and Joyce Goldsmith (medical victim) and Tai Bozarth (fortune teller).

Thanks to Mt. Holly chiropractor Dr. Gene Wentzel, who loaned us a human spine for our soup.

Keeping order in the Exercise Yard and out front were the Mt. Holly Police, Paul Hagan, Jeff Kirschner (who along with Dave Cranmer singlehandedly cleaned up the whole place the next day), Ivan Raymond, Dave Kimball and Dan Kimball. Thanks, guys.

A big thank you to our doorkeepers and ticket takers, Warren Jones, Gary Woodend and Tom Price. With 600 to 700 in attendance, you can bet it got hectic at their post!

The yard workers also had their hands full all night serving cider and spice cookies, selling tee-shirts and taking photos. Thank you to Jeanette Sozio, Flo Gomez, Vicky Raymond, Donna Sharkey, Mischa Kimball and Don Sozio and Delsea Sozio.