

Vol III Issue 1

**HISTORIC BURLINGTON COUNTY PRISON MUSEUM ASSOCIATION**

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**MEETING: SATURDAY, MAY 22, 2004 AT 10 A.M.  
PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!**

March 29, 2004

Dear PMA Members:

I don't know about you, but I was happy to see the end of our particularly long and wet winter. With the spring comes the time to renew our memberships to the PMA. Enclosed you will find your renewal form. Your continued support of the Jail is, as always, greatly appreciated. Membership bennies include free admission to the Jail and a 10% discount in the gift shop.

A general membership meeting will be held on Saturday, May 22, 2004 at 10 a.m. Our traditional coffee, donuts and danish will be served. Weather permitting, we will enjoy the fare outdoors in the exercise yard.

The meeting will, as always, be brief and informal. Those in attendance will be able to see our new traveling exhibit, which turned out quite well. We will christen it at the Earth Fair, on June 13. Any offers to help me man our booth at the fair will be most welcome. At the meeting, we will discuss having a booth at the Farm Fair in July as well.

We are slowly but surely straightening up our office in the warden's house. Our records and documents, including hundreds of old newspaper articles, are in dire need of organizing. The Jail attendant, Marissa Sassaman, will be undertaking this chore in the coming months. Please call her at 609-265-5476 Wednesday through Sunday if you would like to help her on Wednesdays.

I decided to do something a little different with regard to the newspaper excerpts for this quarter's newsletter by going into our more recent past: 1929. After I completed reviewing that year's articles, I realized that I had not seen anything about the stock market crash. I went back and found just one small reference, which appeared in the October 30 edition. The small blurb noted that "many professional stock market gamblers, after many years of guessing on the right side, came a cropper during the unprecedented collapse(last week)... what the effect will be upon national prosperity is a question that can only be answered in the future..." That was it!

As much fun as I have looking through the old papers, sometimes I get depressed when the articles remind me of old prejudices, many of which still exist to some degree. My grandfather was probably one of the "men of foreign birth imbibing hooch of (his) own manufacture" that New Years' Eve; as if native born Americans did not make as much or more. All African Americans were described as "colored", regardless of why they were mentioned in the paper.

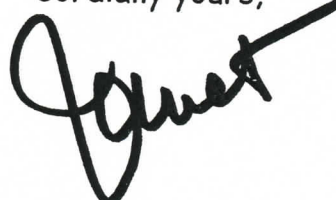
As a divorce lawyer, I took special notice of the man who was held without bail for non-support. One of the gifts he gave his Roebing hussy was a \$38 watch; perhaps he would have gotten bail had the gift been less extravagant!

Finally, I was also taken by the article which discussed what appeared in the paper 50 years prior. People were as interested in their local history in 1929 as much as they are today. What will people 50 years hence think of us, I wonder?

The next newsletter will be sent in the summer, and will include membership cards. I plan to take the Wayback Machine way, way back to retrieve some excerpts from the 1860s.

Hoping to see you at the meeting, I remain,

Cordially yours,

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

JANET L. SOZIO

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## THE NEW JERSEY MIRROR, MOUNT HOLLY

January 2, 1929    So This Is Prohibition! Monday night was New Year's Eve and the people of the United States should have celebrated without a drop to drink. Press dispatches have told us how Federal prohibition agents undertook strict measures to enforce the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment...reading that side of the story, one might remark, innocently enough, that Prohibition, in truth, is successful; is being faithfully enforced. But there are two sides to every story and the other side of the Prohibition question is particularly startling. While several hundred supposedly diligent Prohibition agents were attempting to stem the flood of booze on New Year's Eve, a thousand night clubs, in which highballs were common and frequent, were greeting the new year with riotous disorder; a thousand speakeasies were serving bad liquor to all who had the price; perhaps, a hundred times a thousand men of foreign birth were imbibing hooch of their own manufacture...the time has arrived for persons interested in the enforcement of law to realize that the 18<sup>th</sup> Amendment so far as its enforcement is concerned, narrowly escapes being a joke.

January 9, 1929    New Highway Route. Highway 38, from Crescent Boulevard, Camden, to Easthampton Township, Burlington, is to follow a route south of the present road from Mount Holly to Camden. This is the new road that is authorized by an act of the legislature of 1927.

January 23, 1929    The Surrogate's Office has been removed from the County Clerk's building, back of the courthouse, to the renovated and enlarged former quarters of the Surrogate next to the Elk's Home. Modern furnishings and ample room make the present quarters an ideal office for the surrogate.

January 23, 1929    While his wife and two small children spent Christmas in a cold and foodless home, Raymond Snow, of Riverside, lavished gifts on a Roebeling girl, Mrs. Florence Snow, the man's wife, testified Thursday night when he was arraigned on a non support charge. Justice of the peace Harry McCloskey, remanded Snow to the Burlington County jail without bail.

March 13, 1929    News From Trenton. A high death rate prevailed in New Jersey for the month of January. The figure was the highest for any January since 1919, when the influenza epidemic was raging. Diseases of the respiratory system led in the cause of deaths. A total of 5,716 deaths were reported. Out of 61 persons killed by automobiles, 33 were pedestrians.

March 27, 1929    Petitions for parole that have been filed at the April term of the Court of Pardons, Trenton, include the following Burlington County convicts in state prison: Clifford Danley, sent to state prison for robbery of Halt's jewelry store, Mount Holly. He was sentenced December 22, 1927 for four years and a fine of \$500. Edward Cook, of Burlington, four larcenies of chickens; sentenced January 19, 1928 to serve eight years. Mary Gardowsky, of Trenton, abortion at Roebling; sentenced July 19, 1928, to serve four years.

May 8, 1929    Stylists may predict the return of feminine curves, but Rudy Vallee, director of one of America's leading jazz orchestras, now playing at the Villa Vallee in New York, raises an amused and doubtful eyebrow. "The slim, flat, and, I think, attractive figure of the modern American girl is here to stay unless the fashion professors can chain the youngsters down and keep them from dancing," declared Vallee. "The slim feminine figure of today is due directly to the dance craze. How on earth is the young girl going to develop any very hearty curves when she dances 30 miles in a single evening?"

July 3, 1929    The wedding of Irving P. Atkinson and Miss Emily Tidswell, both of Mount Holly, took place on Saturday night. The bride, who is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Brook Tidswell, was given in marriage by her father. The bride wore a gown of coral georgette with hat to match. Her attendant, Miss Helen L. Friant, was attired in a dress of yellow georgette with matching hat. Both wore corsage bouquets of roses, sweet peas and daisies.

July 17, 1929    A teacher asked her class to write an essay on geese. This paper was turned in by an eight year old miss: "Geese is a low, heavy set bird which is most meat and feathers. His head sits on one end and he sits on the other. He ain't got no between-his-toes and he's got a balloon in his stummick to keep him from sinking. Some geese when they get big has curls on their tails and is called ganders. Ganders don't haff to sit and hatch but just eat an' loaf and go in swimming. If I was a goose I'd rather be a gander".

July 17, 1929    On July 13, 1879, this newspaper reported that the tiniest passenger that ever rode on a trolley car, passed through Mount Holly on Friday - a newly born baby boy weighing 21 ounces. The father, Newlin Johnson, of Burlington, was en route to Atlantic City, via Camden, to take the baby to the seashore to have it placed in an incubator there.

July 17, 1929    James Goodjohn, colored, aged 22, of Burlington, was sent to jail on Saturday to await action of the Grand Jury on a charge of assault and

battery on Mr. and Mrs. William Hammond, also colored. The row started when Goodjohn ate a whole jar of pickles belonging to the Hammonds. ... a war between rival ice men along the river front has ended with an agreement as to prices. Then new price will be 75 cents per hundred, 35 cents for 50 pounds, and 18 cents for 25 pounds. A "war" between the Riverside Ice Company and the Riverton Cold Storage Company resulted in a cutting of prices for several weeks, with the result that the price went as low as 100 pounds for 25 cents...continuing its drive against mosquitoes, members of the Mosquito Control Committee of Edgewater Park and Burlington, are oiling stagnant pools in that section.

October 30, 1929 Having enjoyed a successful hunting trip in Wyoming, George Rendell, of Mount Holly, and Earl Braddock, of Medford, returned to their homes on Thursday. They were accompanied by two other men, the trip taking 22 days. During that time the party bagged five antelope, five elk, four mule deer, two moose and two black bears.

December 25, 1929 Members of the State Board of Health met on Thursday afternoon to conduct a hearing on the application of the Deborah Jewish Consumptive Society for a permit to erect in Browns Mills a \$600,000 sanatorium for the treatment of patients suffering from tuberculosis. The session was held in Browns Mills. In 1912, Dr. Marcus W. Newcomb located in that section of the pines area of South Jersey and not long thereafter started a small sanatorium for treatment of tubercular cases. In 1922 he sold the institution to the Deborah Society, which continued the same work. Applications for admission became so numerous that the Society decided to erect a large institution and made application for a permit therefore, as is required by statute. Objections were made by some of the residents of Browns Mills on the ground that the summer resort should not have such an institution. The applicants were represented at the hearing by former Judge Harold B. Wells; the remonstrants by Senator Clifford R. Powell. The afternoon was spent in taking testimony of witnesses and hearing argument of counsel. The institution, it was revealed, is planned to be nonsectarian and is to care for patients without money to get treatment elsewhere. Decision will be rendered on January 6, 1930.

December 25, 1929 The Woman's Christian Temperance Unions activity in Burlington County includes the prisoners in the county jail at Christmastime. The Prison Welfare Committee, directed by Mrs. Herbert W. Deacon, has contributed one half of the funds necessary to provide Christmas cheer for the prisoners. Mrs. Deacon will assist at Christmas morning service at the jail and will present each with a half pound of candy and an orange.