

# THISTLE

A stylized black and white illustration of a thistle with a circular seed head and long, pointed leaves.

Millburn ~  
Short Hills  
Historical Society

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Vol. VII, No. 2

February, 1983

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## GOLD RUSH!

Thursday, February 10, 1983 8:00 p.m.  
Millburn Public Library

Jeanne Watson, author and historian, brings to our winter membership meeting her slide presentation and lecture on the California Gold Rush of the mid-19th century. There were three main trails into the gold fields, one of which Mrs. Watson and her family have hiked and marked every summer for the past fifteen years. She will show us artifacts from wagon trains abandoned on that trail and tell us of some of the New Jerseyans who traversed it.

Mrs. Watson is currently Executive Director of the Morris County Historical Society and Chairman of the New Jersey League of Historical Societies. Her previous residence in California where she was a student and a journalist have uniquely qualified her to tell this exciting tale of a major economic and cultural event in our nation's history. Please come and bring your friends and neighbors.

TIME CAPSULE - In 1930 the Millburn Item advertised a two story house with three bedrooms and two baths for the lordly sum of \$13,200. That same year the price of a Chevrolet roadster, F.O.B. Detroit, was quoted at \$495, a sedan at \$695. Mull over that, all you armchair economists.

I suppose that the blacksmith shops in town would normally be closed by dinner time, but we could see from the porch of the Inn that plenty of horses and carriages were still pulling in to Tichenor's and Lonergan's right there on Millburn Avenue by the brookside. We were glad to think we have lodgings for sure even if they are at King's Hotel on the Maplewood side of town. We noticed a crowd gathering by the bandstand and stayed long enough to hear a little of the music, but Joe thought he should get to bed early. We headed east on Millburn Avenue past the Morris County Traction Co. yards, Dr. English's house and some big estates that belong to families named Whittingham and McCabe. There sure is a nice house at the corner of Wyoming Avenue. Mr. L.C. Whittingham lives there and Joe says he has a race day party on his lawn every year. The height of the lawn and porch are just right for seeing the bicycles as they go by.

I was getting pretty tired by then but at least our route was downhill. And just before we got to King's Hotel where we could rest our feet, we saw a little house that is over 170 years old. It is called the Hessian House because some German mercenaries hid there after the Battle of Springfield way back in the Revolutionary War.

The newspapers say that thousands of people come to Millburn to watch this race and a lot of them must be here already. A fellow came away from the Wyoming Inn at the corner of Myrtle Street just as we walked by, asking if we knew where he could get a bed. We suggested he try our hotel so he took us the rest of the way in his buggy. He'll have to share a room with a stranger but he didn't seem to mind that. Joe and I said "Goodnight" as we both wanted to get plenty of rest before the big day!

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### CALENDAR

- Oct. 7-10 - Victorian Weekend at Cape May. Call 609 884-5404 for further information about the weekend's many varied events.
- Oct. 8 - Symposium: "Discovering New Jersey History through the Built Environment". N.J.State Museum Auditorium, Trenton. 9:15 - 3:45. Phone 609 452-0446 for information.
- Oct. 9 - MSHHS Architectural Walk to "The Suburb Beautiful" led by Sandy Brown. 2:00 p.m. West Road and Windemere Terrace.
- Oct. 16 - 6th annual Art Show at James Street Common Historic District, Newark. 10:00 - 4:00. Phone 482-6400, ext. 312 for information.
- Oct. 23 - MSHHS fall meeting. Bill Ochs and Larry Cole present "Roads to the Isles". Millburn Public Library. 3:30 p.m.



"ARCHITECTURE, ART AND ANTIQUES" is the name of a cable show hosted and produced by Society member Lynne Lerner and broadcast on Channel P.A.2. Turn it on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Mondays at 5:30 p.m. or Tuesdays at 9:00 p.m. Between February 3rd and 15th you will have an opportunity to hear Alistair Duncan, Vice President of Christie's in New York, speak about auctions, and Alice Caulkins, Curator of McCullough Hall will discuss the architecture of this Morristown mansion. Scheduled for the period February 17 to March 3 are architectural historians Sandy Brown and John Grady whose topic will be "The Value of Historic Preservation." Congratulations to Lynne for bringing us these fine programs.

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LAMBERT CASTLE - In pursuit of increased knowledge of New Jersey's past, the Society has planned a field trip similar to the one we made last year to the Dutch Farmhouse in Clifton. Lambert Castle at 5 Valley Road, Paterson is our destination on Thursday, March 24.

This impressive stone structure was built in 1892 by a wealthy industrialist and it has a terrific view of Manhattan skyscrapers and bridges. Five rooms are open to the public where one may view handsome oak panelling, a Tiffany light fixture, a gold leaf ceiling, a collection of 2,000 silver spoons, and more.

We will car pool to Paterson for our 1:00 tour of the Castle. Call Shirley Sarpi at 397-6657 for details about time and place of meeting.

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OLD HOUSE JOURNAL - A subscription to The Old House Journal has been donated to the Society. The gift includes back issues to July 1982. If you've never seen this jaunty purview of crumbling plaster and sagging stairs, come borrow an issue and be entertained and enlightened. The Journal also carries articles on specific houses and styles, sources for period "artifacts" and furniture, book reviews, and a readers' question and answer column. Most valuable, perhaps, is the no nonsense advice on how to maintain, rehabilitate and decorate the older house. Upcoming issues of The Journal will cover the Prairie Style, Bungalows, Colonial and English Revivals and the interiors of early 20th-century houses.

DIRECTORY ADDITIONS - Thanks to Dianne Jozsa for compiling the Society's new directory of members with handsome cover design by Jane Riedel. Additions to the directory are as follows:

- BALL, Mr. & Mrs. George (Molly)  
15 Brooklawn Drive, S.H. 376-3102
- DAY, Mr. & Mrs. Corbin (Dodie)  
49 Adams Avenue, S.H. 467-3916
- FLORIO, Dr. & Mrs. Patrick A. (Elizabeth)  
57 Westview Road, S.H. 376-0406
- GORDON, Mr. & Mrs. Jeremy (Sara Jane)  
7 North Beechcroft Road, S.H. 379-6759
- McGLYNN, Mr. & Mrs. Richard B. (Vicky)  
20 Park Place, S.H. 467-2969
- PATRIZIO, Mrs. Eugene M. (Gloria)  
5 Fenton Drive, S.H. 376-8711
- PHOENIX, Mr. & Mrs. Julius (Anne)  
50 Birch Lane, S.H. 467-2749
- ROSENTHAL, Mr. & Mrs. Charles (Miriam)  
1 Bishops Lane, S.H. 379-6509

We also welcome two new members:

- GEHRINGER, Phyllis  
16 Claremont Drive, S.H. 376-7716
- SCHWARTZ, Joanne  
310 Taylor Road, S.H. 376-5561

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WANTED - ALIVE! - Society members to help index current and old issues of The Item. This work may be done at home or in the Library. Call Bernadette Wagner at 379-1762 to volunteer your services.

## CALENDAR

February - American History Month

Feb. 10 - MSHHS Membership Meeting. Speaker: Jeanne Watson on the "Gold Rush to California." Millburn Public Library, 8:00 pm

Feb. 21 - DAR Meeting at Millburn Public Library, 8:00 pm. Mr. Reed Irvine, founder and chairman of Accuracy in Media, will speak about bias in the media and what we can do about it. A special invitation is extended to MSHHS members.

March 24 - MSHHS trip to Lambert Castle, Paterson

Membership Chairman: Dianne Jozsa 376-4046  
Thistle Editor: Roldah Cameron 376-6518



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