

Gem of the Mountains

(The Newsletter of the Boonton Historical Society and Museum)

January/February 2003

Volume IV No 1

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George Washington Bridge Designed in Boonton

Othmar Ammann, the famous bridge architect who designed the George Washington, Verrazano-Narrows, Throgs-Neck, Bronx-Whitestone, and Triborough Bridges in New York City lived in Boonton from 1918 to 1958. His house, where he had a working office, was on Rockaway Street. Ammann was the founding partner in the NYC architectural firm of "Ammann & Whitney". He was featured in 2002 in the PBS Series: "American Experience", Great Projects of the 20th Century: Bridging New York. Plans are being made to present a program about Mr. Ammann at our November Annual Membership Meeting and for a possible future exhibition about him. If you have any information or would like to assist us in this endeavor, please contact Edward Marlatt at 973 402-8840 or eamarlatt@att.net.

What Boonton Makes, Makes Boonton

The exhibit about Boontonware and Bakelite opened with much celebration at the Holiday Open House on December 14th. A related program titled: "Boonton Industrialists, Seabury and Scribner" presented by Richard Seabury III, was well received on January 15th at Town Hall. Congratulations to Daniel Keating, curator; Jennifer Coultas; and Kathy Fisher for their hard work. Thanks to all who contributed and loaned items to this wonderful exhibition. It is open through March 15th.

NEW ITEMS OF BOONTONWARE ARE NOW BEING SOLD IN OUR GIFT SHOP.

Boonton was an Irontown

The second edition of this book written by Peter C. Wendt, Jr. was released at the Holiday Open House on December 14th. The book has a new forward written by Peter C. Wendt, IV. A thanks goes to Heather Wendt-Kemp for all her work on the re-release of this book. The Boonton Historical Society and Museum funded the printing of the book. Sale of this book is a fundraiser for the BHS&M.

"BOONTON WAS AN IRONTOWN" IS ON SALE IN OUR GIFT SHOP FOR \$16.

One Hundred Years of the Jersey City Reservoir

Opening on March 22 will be the exhibit "One Hundred Years of the City Reservoir". The Reservoir was opened in 1903 on the site of Old Boonetown, after many years of construction. The exhibit will include photos, text, artifacts, and other archival material. It will run through June 21st. A related program about the history and construction of the Reservoir will be held Monday evening, February 10th at 7:30 PM at the Montville Public Library. This program is co-sponsored with the Montville Historical Society and Museum. If you have information or would like to contribute to this exhibit, please contact Monica Scozzafava at 973 335-2666 or TMScozz@aol.com.

*Historic Trivia: What actress and U S Congresswoman who ran against Richard Nixon in the 1950 California Gubernatorial race, was born in Boonton? She was married to a very famous actor.

Flora and Fauna Painting in the Boonton Area

Opening on June 28th will be the exhibit: "Flora and Fauna Painting in the Boonton Area". This exhibition will feature the paintings of the well-known, local artist Pieter Prall. Pieter will present a program about his work on Wednesday evening, March 19th at 7:30 PM in Town Hall.

Member's Only Sale

**\$2 Off Any Sweatshirt, T-Shirt, Or
Sweater In Stock!**



*Must Present Membership Card To Receive Discount
Sale Ends February 28, 2003*

The Gift Shop

at

The Boonton Museum



**We Now Carry An Assortment Of New
Boontonware in Blue Confetti, Mint,
and White!**



	<u>Board of Trustees 2003</u>		
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Officers 2003: Edward Marlatt, President; Lloyd Charlton, Vice-President;
Jennifer Coultas, Treasurer; Gail Yorkston, Recording Secretary; Claire Hance, Corresponding Secretary

Volunteerism Celebrated

On Saturday, October 19th the volunteers of the Boonton Historical Society and Museum were honored during a luncheon at the Boonton Avenue Grille. Mayor Edward Bolcar was the guest of honor and recognized for his support of the historical society and museum. Remarks were made by Edward Marlatt, president and Herbert Goldenberg, volunteer coordinator. The volunteers recognized were: Andrew Barlak, William Bonanni, Lloyd Charlton, Jennifer Coultas, Judy DeMouthe, Marie DiEduardo, Beverly Doremus-Franz, Ellen Dixon, Evelyn Eckardt, Anthony Garrett, Herbert Goldenberg, Candace Grant, Claire Hance, Pamela Hance, George Hill, Tammie Holloway, Jayme Januszanis, Andrew Korinda, Daniel Keating, Delores Kromka, Eric Kullberg, Sylvia Lewis, Joseph Macasek, Edward Marlatt, Thomas McGuinness, James Monaghan, Mary Powell, Arthur Rabin, Alphonse Scerbo, Anthony Scozzafava, Monica Scozzafava, Susan Sylvia, Susan Thomas, Eric Wallin, Heather Wendt Kemp, Warren Westura, David Yorkston, Gail Yorkston, Catherine Young, Robert Young, and Larry Younghouse.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER, PLEASE CONTACT HERB GOLDENBERG AT 973 257-9776.

* * * * FEATURE * * * *

A POEM ON THE BEAUTIES OF BOONTON**

By Mrs. Newton S. Kitchel

If you go to old Manhattan,
And take a flying train,
And ride at your best for an hour to the west
Through forest and village and plain,
You will reach our little city
With its woodlands green and dim,
And the ancient wall of mountains tall
On the blue horizon's rim.

Come to us in the Autumn
When the shuttle is rainbow dyed;
Not the Hebrew king in his glory
Was arrayed like our mountain side.
O, the golden rod and the aster!
The brooks whence the laugh bath fled!
And the heart stands still, with a throb and a thrill,
To think that Suinnier is dead.

There's a river that sings in the sunlight,
And talks where the pine trees grow,
And ripples and plays through the forest ways
Till it reaches the lake below.
And fair as the Land of Beulah,
In Bunyan's sacred dream,
Is our Boonton view reaching up to the blue.
And sloping down to the stream.

Come when the wild white Winter
Sweeps down with a laugh and a shout,
And in armor of blue and silver
Stand the sentinel hills about.
Come when you will to Boonton
'Twill be twice if you come at all
In every season has beauty reason,
For her sweet, insistent call.

You should reach our little city
In the season of opening leaves,
When Spring with her emerald shuttle,
Her garment of beauty weaves.
There are birds and brooks and blossoms,
And blossoms and brooks and birds,
And a song for a poet could he hut know it
Too precious and sweet for words.

What says the Arabian proverb?
"Hast thou two loaves of bread,
Sell one and buy thee hyacinths
To feed thy soul instead."
And may never the ring of the dollar,
Clanging ever so close to the ear,
E'er deaden the voice that bids us rejoice
In the beauty now held so dear.

(**Printed in "Boonton: Gem of the Mountains" 1903)

BOONTON
by Sara Teasdale***

Places I love come back to me like music,
Hush me and heal me when I am very tired;
I see the oak woods at Saxton's flaming
In a flare of crimson by the frost newly fired;
And I am thirsty for the spring in the valley
As for a kiss ungiven and long desired.
I know a bright world of snowy hills at Boonton,
A blue and white dazzling light on everything one sees,
The ice-covered branches of the hemlocks sparkle
Bending low and tinkling in the sharp thin breeze,
And iridescent crystals fall and crackle on the snow-crust
With the winter sun drawing cold blue shadows from the trees.
Violet now, in veil on veil of evening
The hills across from Cromwell grow dreamy and far;
A wood-thrush is singing soft as a viola
In the heart of the hollow where the dark pools are;
The primrose has opened her pale yellow flowers
And heaven is lighting star after star.
Places I love come back to me like music --
Mid-ocean, midnight, the waves buzz drowsily;
In the ship's deep churning the eerie phosphorescence
Is like the souls of people who were drowned at sea,
And I can hear a man's voice, speaking, hushed, insistent,
At midnight, in mid-ocean, hour on hour to me.

***Sara Teasdale, the well-known American poet spent three summers in Boonton staying at the Puddingstone Inn in the early part of the 20th century.

House Tour

The House Tour will be Saturday, May 17th from 1 to 5 PM. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Gail Yorkston at 973 335-9059 or gyorkston@aol.com.

Cancellation Policy

The Board of Trustees has adopted a cancellation policy for programs due to emergencies or inclement weather. Please call the 973 402-8840 for cancellations or listen to WMTR/WDHA. A sign will also be posted on the front door of the Dr. John Taylor House.

*Answer to Historic Trivia: Helen Gahagan Douglas was born in Boonton in 1900, while her father was supervising the construction of the Jersey City Reservoir. She was married to the actor Melvyn Douglas and was US Congresswoman from California. Richard Nixon termed her the "Pink Lady" during the campaign due to her liberal ideas.

MEMBERSHIP IN THE BOONTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY/MUSEUM: Would you like to join the society/museum?

Membership Fees: ___ Individual \$15. ___ Family \$20. ___ Seniors/Students \$10.
___ Business/Profession \$25. ___ Life \$200. (RENEWABLE EVERY NOVEMBER)

Make check payable to: Boonton Historical Society and Museum
Please mail to: 210 Main Street Boonton, New Jersey 07005 (attn: Ellen Dixon)

Name _____ Telephone _____
Address _____ Zip Code _____