

VICTORIAN GARDEN COMPLETE

The final phase of the Victorian garden has been completed, bringing this six-year project to fruition. The area surrounding the Annex Building has been transformed through its several-year evolution from construction site to a lush garden, its theme in keeping with the areas completed earlier.

Thanks to a major contribution from Society member Sarah Davol Test, the area to the north of the Annex Building, along Maple Street at the northeast corner of High Street, has been designed and planted in memory of her sister, the late Miss Fidelia Durfee Davol. During her lifetime, Miss Davol was an active member of the Fall River Historical Society, serving for many years as a Director as well as holding the office of Secretary.

The garden features a long, meandering walkway paved in bluestone with a cobblestone border; connecting the area from the gazebo garden to the main entrance of the Annex Building, this walk unifies the entire space. It is bordered along one side with a mass planting of nearly 100 multi-colored perennial daylilies in several varieties, the colors ranging from white and pale pink to more vibrant shades of salmon and crimson. The striking colors combined with the bold, spikey green foliage will create an attractive display that will be in continuous bloom from early to mid-summer. This walkway planting is very much in keeping with the Victorian theme of using masses of color in bedding plants and is sure to be an eye-catcher when in full bloom. Planted along the elaborate wood fence, which is original to the former Easton residence, now the Annex Building, are four Sombreuil roses, a climbing tea variety dating from 1850. Originating in France, this rose, considered by many to be one of the most classically beautiful of all time, features large, creamy-white blooms that open flat to reveal their many petaled and quartered centers. Strongly fragrant, this variety is a repeat bloomer and climbs from ten to fourteen feet. When mature, the plants will engulf the fence in masses of glorious bloom, its pale flowers the perfect backdrop to the vibrant display of daylilies. The garden is further ornamented with two nineteenth-century cast-iron urns, one in a classical form and another in a more exuberant style, as well as a seating area, featuring a table and a pair of diminutive chairs which are cast in the same material. The foundation plantings consist of a bed of blue hydrangea, a nineteenth-century New England favorite.

The fence, which runs along the Maple Street side of the prop-

erty, originally ran across the front as well, as evidenced in several period photographs in the museum collection. It was removed in the middle of the last century due to disrepair, a hedge planted in its place, and has now been reconstructed, thanks once again to the extreme generosity of Mrs. Test. Using the existing fence and photographs as a guide, our master carpenter Joe Valley worked his magic, the results evident to any passerby. The value of this fence is two-fold: not only does it recreate the original appearance of the property in the 1870's, it also provides continuity, enclosing the gardens in a secure manner.

The area to the south of the building, encompassing the space from the terrace to High Street, has also been completed, a gift of the late David A. Brayton, Jr., a long-time Society Director and benefactor.

This garden features a sizable lawn and can be accessed by ascending a flight of stairs from the terrace, or by a walkway from the Davol memorial garden. The south side of the lawn is edged with a serpentine-shaped border of cobblestones, behind which, nestled among a variety of plantings, are four ornamental medallions. Carved by Fall River stonemason Thomas Richard Kessell between 1875-1880, the medallions were originally mounted on the old Post Office building on Bedford Street. They were acquired by the Society for \$200 when the building was razed in 1931, and spent many years in storage. Carved in deep relief, the medallions each have a different design: a U.S. mail train; a ship; a horse and rider with the date, "1776"; and a plow with fruits of the harvest. On the opposing side, to the north, will be foundation plantings of blue hydrangea, in keeping with the rest of the property. A bluestone-paved seating area, furnished with a cast-iron settee, pair of chairs and table en suite, and an additional table, is conveniently located beneath a large shade tree, providing a lovely spot for relaxation. The garden is further ornamented with a beautiful set of putti representing the four seasons, made in cast stone during the first half of the last century. Raised on high bases of the same material, they lend an air of stately elegance to an already grand area. Various perennials, evergreen shrubs and a cast-iron lamppost with copper lantern, matching those used throughout the garden, complete the area. In keeping with the Four Season garden ornaments, the roses featured here are Quatre Saisons, an ancient Damask rose of unknown origins. Having the distinction of being the oldest repeat-flowering European rose, it features graceful double-ruffled, rich pink blooms that are blessed



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blooms that are blessed with a fabulous wine fragrance and grey-green foliage.

The completion of this project has resulted in a beautiful area ideally suited to myriad outdoor activities, several of which are in the planning stages. The garden should also prove a very good source of much-needed income, generated through rental fees for private functions. There have been a number of inquiries from several individuals planning events, with the first wedding to be held on the grounds on the 4th of July.

Thanks to the generosity of many donors, the Society's vision to create a lush garden reminiscent of those that once graced many of Fall River's grand old homes has been accomplished. It is to these donors that three cheers are in order: one for their generosity, one for their vision, and one for their sincere interest in the work of the Fall River Historical Society - Bravo!

FALL RIVER SEAL PRESERVED

A phenomenal piece of artwork was recently donated to the Historical Society, by the talented individual whose hands created the piece. The artist is Society member and volunteer Sister Gertrude Gaudette; the work, a representation carved in wood of Fall River's city seal. What better gift for a Historical Society to receive commemorating its city's bicentennial year than this?



Fall River City Seal as carved by Sister Gertrude Gaudette.

A wood carver for over sixty years, Sister Gert has produced many magnificent pieces of work and this latest stands as testament to her fine talents. Measuring 16 3/4" in diameter, the seal is carved in basswood, from the linden tree, and depicts the illustration which was taken from the original woodcut. Steamers and schooners sit in the bay before a waterfront thick with the factories that made Fall River the leading textile center it was. The city's motto, emblazoned across the sky on a banner, proudly reiterates the words which, back in 1843, were spoken by Fall River's forefathers so bravely as they viewed the devastation of the fire that destroyed their city, their home: "We'll Try."

The outside band of the circle is a decorative border which provides two significant dates that relate to Fall River, that of its founding (1803) and its incorporation (1854).

Sister Gert's carving is fine in its detail; one can almost sense the rippling of the waters of the Taunton River so meticulously rendered by her expert hands. This particular work stands apart from any that was previously done by the artist because, always ready to experiment, she utilized a burning needle for the first time. In this way, the black lines from the original one-dimensional print could be captured; the use of stain afterwards darkens some areas, providing contrast.

The rendering of this item of Fall River history in such a fine piece of craftsmanship is something that the Historical Society is pleased to add to its collection. Many thanks go to Sister Gert for the hours she devoted to its creation, and for her decision that it should make its home at the Historical Society.

POSTCARDS PROVIDE A LOOK BACK

A major collection of over 1,500 postcards, compiled by collector Al Lees of Westport, Massachusetts, was recently donated to the Historical Society. The contribution was made at the suggestion of Society Vice President John B. Cummings, Jr., who felt that the museum's archive would be the best place to preserve the cards for the enjoyment of future generations.

The Fall River postcards represent about one-fifth of Mr. Lees' total collection, some of which he has already dispersed to the



This German postcard depicts an interesting view of South Main Street of yesteryear.

appropriate institutions. They are in beautiful condition and are comprised of views of Fall River from 1900 to as late as the 1950's, and fortunately contain many

images not previously held in the Historical Society's collection. The cards provide us with excellent documentation as to what the city looked like during the first half of the twentieth century and, in some cases, preserve forever a Fall River that has been lost to time.

The postcard itself came into being in the latest years of the nineteenth century, and some magnificent examples are here present. Spending time with this fantastic collection of them is like a virtual walk down "memory lane" for some, and beyond it for others, a sort of pictorial time-travel. The photographic cards, many hand-tinted in soft colors, beautifully represent days gone by. Others provide a light-hearted look at the humor of days past, as is the case with one novelty card bearing an illustration of a wooden-shoed Dutch boy standing beside an applied felt pennant upon which the words "Fall River" are printed, its caption reading: "I'm nutty about Fall River und dis iss no chestnut yet."

Many of the cards are unused and in near mint condition, but some bear messages and postmarks which, from the perspective of social history, give a fascinating glimpse into the past. The hobby of exchanging postcards by mail, much as one would letters to a pen pal, is evident here, as many bear greetings stating that "this is the view from my window" or "thank you for the lovely view you sent me of your city." Often, assignments were made via the post; in the days before telephones and answering machines, when there were two daily mail deliveries, this inexpensive missive was often used to make plans for the day. Throughout the collection, messages, mostly in English but occasionally in French, tell of shopping at the 5-and-10-cent stores, clambakes, and family gatherings. Some bear sentiments intended only for the recipient, as in the case of Miss Idella Rogers, who received a postcard inscribed simply: "You Know. John."

Another type of card included in the collection is the trade card. Often produced by such leading lithographers as L. Prang and Currier & Ives, they were extremely collectible in the latter part of the nineteenth century. Usually featuring an attractive illustration, or a comic one, they were imprinted with a merchant's name and address and presented to customers who did business at that establishment. As an incentive to attract repeat business, the cards were often produced in series, with six or eight related illustrations; in order to complete the set, the customer would have to return week after week. As they

were often discarded after a time, extant copies of many of these are difficult to find. The trade cards preserved by Mr. Lees are a great asset to the Historical Society's collection.

In today's throw-away society, so often things of an ephemeral nature, like trade or postcards, are discarded. Their preservation by collectors is invaluable; it is through their efforts that these "snapshots" of the past are available to future generations. The thoughtfulness on the part of individuals like Mr. Lees, whose awareness that his collection's greatest benefit is its historical importance, greatly helps organizations like the Historical Society to best accomplish their mission. Our many thanks go to this gentleman for his part in helping us preserve the history of Fall River and its people.

WEB SITE CONSTRUCTION COMPLETE

The Fall River Historical Society's newly-designed web-site, www.lizzieborden.org, is now operational. Constructed by Tom Henrique of Bay Media Production as a result of arrangements made by Society Vice President and Marketing Committee Chair John B. Cummings, Jr., it provides a comprehensive look at the many facts of the Society's operation. Attractively illustrated with color images as well as vintage photographs from the archive, the site provides on-line visitors with information on the organization, the museum and its exhibits, including the Borden collection, and the Victorian garden; a section devoted to Society news provides an archive of past newsletters for reference.

Visitors on the web can also peruse offerings from the Historical Society Museum Shop, displayed for easy shopping on-line. Selections here include items on Fall River history and Lizzie Borden, with virtually everything in print or on video about the infamous case available for purchase. The museum shop on-line accepts MasterCard, Visa and American Express, and visitors can "check out" once they finish shopping through PayPal, an easy-to-use credit card payment service.

Not to be neglected, the Historical Society archive and membership services are also represented on the web-site. On-line visitors from anywhere in the world can access the Society's Research Request Form and submit questions regarding family genealogy or Fall River history. These requests are processed on a first-come first-served basis for an hourly fee; they can either be sent with payment via U.S. Mail, or submitted and paid for on-line. Memberships to the Historical Society are also available in the same manner.

The "Contact Us" button on the Main Menu of the Society's new site has already proven to be very popular. Visitors here have the opportunity to send in brief questions regarding history, Historical Society events, archive evidence or just related comments. Daily, e-mails are received, evidence that many are taking advantage of the Historical Society's new on-line location.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY FEATURE A SUCCESS

Readers of the new periodical from Hathaway Publishing Co., the FALL RIVER SPIRIT, may have noticed the Historical Society's presence on a regular basis. This is thanks to Rick Snizek, editor of the newspaper which, to date, has produced over twenty issues. When it was in the developmental stages, Rick inquired as to whether the Society would be interested in

making a regular contribution to the paper as he felt that, due to the human interest slant that was intended, the history of Fall River would be appealing to its readership. Arrangements were made to provide written and pictorial materials gleaned from the Society's vast archive for inclusion in the publication on a weekly basis.

The response to the column, which usually occupies nearly a page in the large format paper, has been extremely positive. Topics covered have ranged from the Fall River Line to the Borden case, with each feature illustrated with photographs or materials from the Society's collection. Articles with a human interest slant have been exceptionally popular, one example being that of the Lavallee family, whose story was unveiled through research as a result of a photograph found in a Salvation Army Thrift Shop. A particularly touching result occurred after a photograph of a child, taken by the accomplished Fall River photographer A.M. Estrella, was run, accompanying an article on children. One reader contacted the Historical Society requesting information on the child pictured and, as a result, was reunited with family she had been out of touch with since the 1930's.

Many calls have been received at the Society as a result of the column in the SPIRIT, with people offering positive comments, or inquiring as to how they can obtain further information on the topics covered. It would seem that Rick Snizek's impulse in seeing the Historical Society included was not without foundation; many of the people of Fall River possess a tremendous interest in the history of the city where they make their home. What better way to keep them informed about their heritage than using resources available right in their own back yard?

Society News

Bicentennial Lectures an Unqualified Success

Anyone attending the lecture series last July through September was made aware of one thing: there certainly is a great interest in the history of Fall River. The series was sponsored by the Sarah S. Brayton Fund Committee of the First Congregational Church, in association with Rev. Dr. Robert Lawrence. From the very first talk, the Fellowship Hall at the First Congregational Church was filled with listeners who sat fascinated as each speaker provided various facts and insights about the city, its people and its wealth of history. Attendance grew with each successive week until it seemed that the First Congregational's supply of chairs would be exhausted. Among the speakers sharing their insights and research were: Mary Blewett, Brenda Bouchard, Ed Dunbaugh, Joseph Feitelberg, Dr. David Greer, Robert Kitchen, Bill Masterton, James Perreira and Philip T. Silvia, Jr., Ph.D. Because of the tremendous response, the possibility of an autumn lecture series is being considered.

Important Film Archive Preserved

The Historical Society is extremely grateful to the Earle P. Charlton Charitable Fund for grant money awarded, to be used for the restoration and preservation of hours of fragile 16mm motion pictures. The film reels were given to the Historical Society by Earle P. Charlton, Jr. following the death of his aunt, Ruth Virginia (Charlton) Mitchell Masson. The footage documents the lives of members of that family, and their contemporaries, over a series of decades, some dating to as early as the nineteen-twenties. Transferred to digital video tape, the film has been preserved in two formats, one which will allow for

easy reference should certain segments need to be located quickly for research purposes. The film medium is a vulnerable one and the nature of the celluloid is one which is apt to get brittle and crack with age. The Society is extremely grateful to the Charlton Charitable Fund for helping to preserve this important material.

Historical Society Clamboil A Smashing Success

The clamboil organized as a benefit for the Society by Kathy Carey, Chair of the Fundraising Committee, was very well received and much enjoyed by all those present. Held on Saturday evening, September 13, 2003, at the newly-renovated Seekonk Rod and Gun Club, the delicious boil, hailed by some as "the best I ever tasted," featured all the usual favorites, deliciously prepared. The "all you can eat" meal was served by a great staff of volunteers who spent the evening "hoofing it," seeing to it that the request of every diner was fulfilled in as quick a manner as possible.

A popular feature of the evening was the raffle, three of which were held for the following prizes: a "fifty-fifty" cash prize; a 7 1/2 pound live lobster (who was very active); and a "your choice" raffle, the winner receiving his or her choice of a number of items donated for the occasion.

The success of the event was due, in large part, to its informality, the casually dressed diners "digging in" and enjoying the shared camaraderie possible only in such a relaxed atmosphere. This was no event for those offended by plastic plates, paper napkins or a wide variety of "bring your own" bottles. Eating with your hands was approved, and at times even necessary (since a way to shuck clams with a knife and fork has yet to be invented). For this reason, wet-naps were amply furnished.

The Second Annual Clamboil, scheduled for September 18, 2004, is sure to be a sell-out, so don't hesitate - purchase your tickets as soon as available for a guaranteed good time.

Below the Hill on Screen and Video

On October 30, 2003, the Historical Society presented a 40th anniversary screening of the L.T. Film Production *BELOW THE HILL*. From the time the first advertisement ran for the event, the interest level soared, until finally, the 700 seats in the auditorium at Bristol Community College where the film was to be shown were sold out in barely over a week. Besides general admission for the film, there was a V.I.P. reception held, which over 200 attended, having the opportunity to meet some of the "stars" who traveled from all parts of the country to share in the event. A warm reunion for many who had not seen each other since the film was made in 1963, the reception and screening made for a wonderful night. This event was sponsored in part by Fall River Five Cents Savings Bank.

Tame by today's standards, this "scandalous" motion picture has also been transferred to home video. The VHS tape, complete with the original poster artwork on the jacket, is available at the Historical Society Museum Shop.

Holiday Open House Has Unsurpassed Attendance

The busiest, most successful holiday season ever was celebrated this past November and December at the Historical Society. Along with the usual annual group functions, such as the holiday receptions for the Chamber of Commerce members and the Fall River School Department educators and administrators, the Society also conducted a variety of other well-attended events, such as the jewelry show featuring the exceptional design of Bonnie Buck and Tiffany Peay. The numbers visiting

the house to view the decorations and exhibits were greater than ever, and many purchased, as keepsakes, copies of the *VICTORIAN HOMES* magazine in which the Society was featured.

Easton Tea Room and Emporium

An added feature at the Historical Society this past holiday season was the immensely popular Easton Tea Room. The first floor of the Alexander Dorrance Easton House was miraculously transformed into a quaint, out-of-the-way space where visitors could escape the hectic rush of the season and enjoy a soothing respite. Eight varieties of tea were offered to customers, including spiced blends, herbal and traditional teas, as well as the Society's own special hot chocolate recipe. A search was made for unique pastries that would satisfy even the most discerning palate, which they obviously did. The delicate, handmade and hand-decorated petit fours, the rich Scottish shortbread made using only Amish butter, and the Historical Society's own almond macaroons, made exclusively for us by New Boston Bakery, were all enjoyed by the hundreds who stopped in over the holidays. Because of the extraordinary success of this new addition, the Society is planning to continue with special events and teas in the coming year.

First Victorian Street Festival

Rock Street was closed for several blocks on Sunday, December 14, for the first of what may very well be an annual affair: the Victorian Holiday Festival. This step back into the past, sponsored by the Fall River Bicentennial Committee, was widely attended and offered a variety of features to please everyone. Different venues along the way provided everything from music to dance, and even a Civil War fashion show. The decorations and atmosphere at the Historical Society museum were enhanced by the luscious strains of a harp, filling the rooms with festive music played by the expert hands of Judith Mitchell; upstairs in the "Boat Room," storyteller Marilyn Murphy Mearden entertained one and all with various ethnic holiday tales, including a festive piece from the Society's own archive, "Mrs. Santa Claus asserts Herself." The area of Rock Street in front of the Historical Society was home to a special petting zoo, complete with llama and donkeys, and even camel rides. Complimentary ethnic foods were distributed from one vendor to help everyone keep warm on the brisk December afternoon, while hot chocolate and tea "to go" were popular favorites at the Easton Tea Room. Plans are currently being considered for the coming year, based on the success of this first venture.

School Program Continues

The Historical Society's fifth-grade school program is now beginning the second half of its sixth year. The interest in local history and heritage, and the opportunity to glimpse life in the past, is nowhere more evident than when one talks with one of these classes when they visit the museum. This past year, due to budgetary restraints on the part of the school department, it was necessary that assistance be sought to underwrite the cost of admissions to the museum. Special thanks go to Lafayette Federal Savings Bank for their grant in the amount of \$2000, which allows this successful and popular program to continue.

CURRENT QUESTION

- Q.** Where was Kirby's Lane?
- A.** Kirby's Stable stood on lower Rock Street, on the site presently occupied by the Archer Building. A small street running from Granite Street to Court Square was called Kirby's Lane.

FROM THE ARCHIVE

The Historical Society's archive has new hours, effective in the Spring of 2004. The library will be open on Thursdays and Fridays, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon, and from 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., by appointment. The change in hours is due to the availability of individuals to monitor the archive and assist researchers.

ON MISS BORDEN

The Historical Society was recently contacted by Morningstar Entertainment of Burbank, California, which plans to produce a one-hour documentary for broadcast on the Discovery Channel. Along with interviewing various individuals conversant with the case, the crew will speak with a detective and a forensic expert in an attempt to "solve" the one-hundred-and-two-year-old crime. It is expected to be broadcast later this year.

From The President

Dear Gentle Members,

Spring is supposed to be here by now, but if you live in the northeast, you KNOW it's not! Temperatures the past few days have been freezing, even though the daffs and jonquils have started pushing up through the ground. The current weather is much more reminiscent of the 2003 holiday season, which was a banner one for your Historical Society.

Thanks to Michael and Dennis, as well as Anna and Nancy and many, many hours from volunteers, the Easton House Tea Room and Emporium was a huge success. People raved about it, and came in droves. Also successful was the Bicentennial Committee of Fall River's Victorian Christmas celebration, held on December 14. Five blocks of Rock Street were closed off, and carolers, a petting zoo, and numerous programs at the First Congregational Church, The Luzo-American Church, Church of the Ascension and Kuss Middle School made for a wonderful afternoon of old-fashioned fun. Many, many thanks to all our volunteers who helped decorate the 40 (yes, FORTY) trees on Rock Street on Saturday and then came back on Sunday to help. Lorraine Olson of Heavenly Heather Florist, our neighbor and member of the Society, was also a key figure in helping Cathy Kitchen and myself make this a much-talked-about event! Thanks to all!

The events of the season not only provided welcome income to the Society but also gave great exposure to the Society. We were in the paper numerous times, and many, many people came to visit us. The plan, when we started the garden project, was always to create not only a beautiful space but also an income-producing area. Now that the tea room is available, we can offer indoor space for functions complete with a kitchen, as well as outdoor space. Income is a must if your Society is to continue going forward into the future.

While the completed projects will provide income, we still have only a small trust from which some of our revenue comes. Historically, the Society was founded by the generosity of the people of Fall River. The building was donated by David A. Brayton, the trust was established with gifts from other Fall River families and individuals, and large sections of our collections have come from other generous folks. We need that tradition of generosity to continue, and would be happy to talk to you about

charitable remainder trusts, outright giving programs, or any of several other options available to us. It was the generosity of those from the past that enabled the Society to reach its current position, and the generosity of those living now will insure it continues into the future.

*Elizabeth Wells Denning
President*

**SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL OF THE VOLUNTEERS WHO HELPED WITH THE BELOW THE HILL SCREENING, CLAMBOIL, HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE AND EASTON TEA ROOM. THEY, THROUGH THEIR EFFORTS, HAVE PROVEN THE OLD ADAGE:
"MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK!"**

Nancy Arruda; Timothy Belt; Shirley Bergeron; Deborah Allard-Bernardi; Denise Braum; Joanne Breault; Rosemary Cameron; Kathy Carey; Maureen Correiro; John B. Cummings, Jr.; John W. Cummings; Janice E.G. Curry; Raymond DeMello; Jeannette Denning; Mary DeWaele; Dan Dupuis; Anne Fayan; Angie Gastall; Sr. Gertrude Gaudette; Cindy Harrington; Marcella Hayden; Rosemary Hopkins; Barbara Irla; Bob Kitchen; Cathy Kitchen; Paul Levesque; Joan MacDonald; Karen MacDonald; Marilyn Martins; Victoria Mathisen; Connie Mendes; Courtney Mitchell; Judith Mitchell; David Oliveira; Judy Perrault; Polly Phenix; David Roseberry; Marilyn Sousa; Anne Rockett-Sperling; Merideth Taylor; Pat Taylor; Fern White; Frank Wilhelm and Patricia Wood.

**JEZAK'S HEALTH AND FITNESS OFFERS
NEW MEMBER BENEFIT**

The Historical Society is pleased to announce a new benefit for members, courtesy of Jezak's Health and Fitness, located at 360 Airport Road in Fall River, Massachusetts, adjacent to the Best Western hotel.

For Historical Society members presenting their membership card at time of enrollment, Jezak's is offering 20% off any regular membership price, with a full year costing only \$224. Other discounted rates are: 6 months (\$128), 3 months (\$96) and a one-month membership (perfect as a trial) for only \$40.

For members who have their fees paid by Electronic Funds Transfer, the discounted rate is only \$80 down (instead of \$100), with \$15 charged monthly, and the first 2 months free!

With health and fitness an important factor in everyone's life, and summer just around the corner, what better time to do yourself a favor. And at what better prices?

Thanks to Greg and Melissa Homol for extending this offer to our membership!

Many thanks to the FALL RIVER HERALD NEWS for the tremendous amount of help they provided in promoting the BELOW THE HILL fundraiser through articles, special features and advertising. Special thanks to Lisa Herren, Deborah Allard-Bernardi, Kathleen Durand and Natalie Tavares for all of your efforts, which helped to make the event the best ticket in town.

Thanks to the HERALD NEWS, too, for the excellent support they provided throughout the holiday season, which certainly contributed to the large attendance numbers at the Easton Tea Room and Holiday Open House.

Special thanks to **FALL RIVER FIVE CENTS SAVINGS BANK**, for their generous assistance in sponsoring the fundraiser of the 40th Anniversary screening of **BELOW THE HILL**. The support they provided was a tremendous help to the Historical Society. Thanks, too, to Christina Melo for her part in organizing the event.

The Historical Society would like to extend special thanks to Society member **Judith Mitchell** for generously donating her time and talents as a harpist during the holidays. The soothing tones of her music as it filtered through the air enhanced the spirit of the season for one and all! Many thanks, Judy!

SPECIAL THANKS TO:

- ◆ The **Woman's Club of Fall River**, for kindly loaning chairs and tables to the Historical Society for use in the Easton Tea Room. With this additional seating, the capacity of customers that could be served was doubled. Many thanks!
- ◆ **Duro Finishing**, for donating fifty yards of green fabric, perfect for making into tablecloths for use in the tea room.
- ◆ Society member and volunteer **David Roseberry**, for exercising his talents in stitchery, making twelve tablecloths in record time for use in the tea room.
- ◆ **Jim Souza of New Boston Bakery**, for quickly responding to orders for almond macaroons throughout the holiday season, even with short notice. The steady supply surely kept our tea room customers satisfied. Thanks, Jim!

VINTAGE JEWELRY SOUGHT

"Vintage" costume jewelry has become very trendy and several pieces, given to the society for re-sale in the museum shop, have been selling well. Have you an old jewelry box (or boxes) lying around filled with costume pieces from the 1940's-1980's that you have no idea what to do with? You will never wear them again, will you? So why not let the Historical Society take them off your hands - you will be glad to be rid of them and Anna will be delighted to add them to the jewelry selection in the Museum Shop.

So, poke through your drawers and closets and sort through your baubles - and call Anna with the cast-offs! And remember - your donated pieces of unwanted costume jewelry can generate funds for your museum.

Call Anna at 508-679-1071 ext. 103 (if not there please leave a message). We would be happy to pick up any pieces or feel free to drop them off during regular museum hours.

Thank you!

PICTURES FROM THE PAST



The lucky bride and groom at the mock wedding pose with a bridesmaid for this snapshot, circa 1930. The ceremony was held by a group of Fall River friends in the Tuttle Street area.



Posing for this snapshot is a wedding party enjoying themselves at a "mock wedding" held in the Tuttle Street area in Fall River's south end, circa 1930.

COMING EVENTS

Annual Members' Meeting
Wednesday, May 26, 2004, at 7 p.m.
to be held at Bay View.
Speaker to be announced.

2nd Annual Clamboil
Saturday, September 18, 2004
Seekonk Rod and Gun Club
Seekonk, Massachusetts

MUSEUM SHOP HOURS

Monday through Friday
9:00 am to 4:30 pm
Additional Weekend Hours from
November 23 to December 29, 2002
1:00 pm to 5:00 pm



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