

SAND LAKE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

FACTS AND ARTIFACTS

April 1975

"In the month of October, about the year 1800, quite a young man made his appearance in the town of Sand Lake, with his clothes tied up in a cotton handkerchief and his boots hung on his arm. His first inquiry was for a school. The lad, though young, had the appearance of manliness, honesty, energy, and perseverance. He was soon informed that the employment he sought for might be obtained at a certain place on the mountain. With light and buoyant step he soon reached the place indicated, where his manly appearance secured him employment for the winter. He "chopped wood" evenings and mornings to pay for his board. He gave his name as William L. Marcy, a schoolmaster just beginning life. From this humble occupation he became surrogate of the county, Supreme Court justice, State senator, United States Senator, Secretary of War and Secretary of State of the United States, and Governor of the State of New York."

Above in an excerpt from Nathaniel Sylvester's History of Rensselaer County, 1880.

REPRINT

The paragraph above concerning one of the prominent persons of our early community is but a small portion of the section in Sylvester's concerning the Town of Sand Lake. The total portion concerning our town has been reprinted with text, maps and photographs. Copies with cover are available for \$1.00 each. They may be obtained at meetings or by contacting Don Edmans, Schumann Road, 674-3304; Paul Nash, Hillcrest Circle, 674-5084; Madolyn Carpenter, Hilltop Road, 674-3147, Shirley Rescott, Route 150 next to St. Henry's, 674-5737; or George "Bob" Dunworth, Burden Lake, 674-5919.

APRIL MEETING

An infamous character in our history was Jack "Legs" Diamond. He is the subject of the book Legs to be published next month by author William Kennedy of Averill Park. He is also the subject of our meeting April 14th at 8:00 P.M. at the Church of the Covenant.

Mr. Kennedy will talk about "Legs" as well as other local outlaws who include Dutch Schultz, "Mad Dog" Cole, and "Fats" McCarthy. He will also discuss the psychology of the outlaw as a folk hero. The book Legs has been chosen as the alternate selection for the Book of the Month Club.

MAY CHARTER MEETING

Our Charter has been submitted to the State for approval. To meet Charter requirements, our Trustees have been increased to five in number. Bob Lilly and Doug Kelley are the newly elected Trustees. We welcome their wise counsel.

The Trustees have acted as our Nominating Committee and submit the following nominees for election at the May meeting:

President - Robert Harris
Vice-President - Joan Fuess
Corresponding Secretary -
Recording Secretary - Glenn Snyder
Treasurer - Shirley Rescott
Custodian - George "Bob" Dunworth

MAY CHARTER MEETING (continued)

Trustees (tenure of office)

Louis Leitgeb (3)
Bob Lilly (3)
Bernadette Bresnahan (2)
Gertrude "Judy" Rowe (2)
Doug Kelley (1)

Nominations will be entertained from the floor. Standing Committee chairmen are appointed by the president. We congratulate the new officers and say "many thanks" to those who have served faithfully during this, our first year.

BICENTENNIAL NEWS

- April 5-9 Freedom Train, Albany
- April 12 2 P.M. Sand Lake Baptist Church
Ceremony celebrating 170th Anniversary of the construction of the church building, oldest in Sand Lake.
- April 18 8 P.M. An Evening with Our Nation's Founders, first in a series to be held at Averill Park High School. Narration and drama concerning the midnight ride of Paul Revere and a film concerning the events of the American Revolution in New York State. Bill Edwardson of radio station WQBK will be narrator.
- April 27 Approximate date of the beginning of the Historic Mural project. The Advanced Art Class under the direction of Mr. Robert Kelly will be painting a mural on the west side of Miller's Super Market.

Watch for Bicentennial Bits being published weekly in the Sand Lake Advertiser and Greenbush News.

Chairing the Bicentennial Costume project are Pilar Gemeinhardt and Shirley Ketchum. They are interested in seamstresses to participate in making the costumes for exhibits, parades and dramas. Please contact them if you are available.

ORAL HISTORY

The Oral History is an attempt to record the history of our town from 1880 to present. Much of this information is gathered from the Old Timers in our community. It is an interesting and fun project and we invite your help with it. A meeting will be held April 30th at 7:30 P.M. at the home of Joan Fuess, Schumann Road, Sand Lake. Several authorities on our history will be invited to assist us in determining what events to cover and who would be the resource.

EXHIBIT

May 12th the Rensselaer County Historical Society will exhibit private collections of historical art work from 1890 on. Watch the paper for news of a tour of the exhibit.

MEMBERSHIP

Your membership in the Sand Lake Historical Society needs to be renewed as of May. Please complete the application form and mail it with your remittance of \$3.00 to: Sand Lake Historical Society, Box 492, West Sand Lake, New York 12196. Make checks payable to Sand Lake Historical Society.