

MAY 1980 – NEWSLETTER

DEAR HALLMARK MEMBERS: With this Newsletter, the Heritage Building Foundation of the Hallmark Society kicks off the JACKSON HOUSE APPEAL. Enclosed with this Newsletter is an APPEAL brochure which explains further details of financing and project goals. Please remember that the trustees of the Foundation are starting with this (relatively!) easily managed house as the flagship project for a revolving fund - primarily self-supporting which will be able to save and preserve other heritage buildings in Greater Victoria in an economically sound fashion. Please support the JACKSON HOUSE APPEAL. Your tax-deductible donation is needed now.

Sincerely,

STUART STARK

President

UPDATE:

After some delays in obtaining necessary permits (electrical; sewage: drainage;) the foundation contract will be proceeding shortly - still on the interim goodwill of the B.C. Heritage Trust.

So everyone can see the Jackson House in its (very) BEFORE state, there will be an Open House on Sunday, June 22nd, from 10:00 A.M. until 5:00 P.M. There will be a display of architectural plans for the new suites in the basement as well as drawings of restoration plans. You'll be able to see the lilac tree moved from the old site along with the house!, as well as slides of the move and perhaps a short movie on heritage preservation. Information from the Society's library will also be available for viewing. Come and see the Jackson House on June 22nd on Parry Street - just off Michigan in James Bay.

GOOD NEWS

The Hallmark Society has received approval for three summer students from the Federal Summer Youth Employment Program. The students will be supervised by Peter Walton of our Society and they will be working on organizing a Heritage Resource Library of both Historical and Technical Information, as well as preparing our 1976 inventory for complete publication. The students will be working in the Jackson House from about June 1st until the beginning of September during regular office hours, so please drop in and use the library information at those times.

DANGER TO YOUR HOUSE

Speaking of Library Information, we have just received two separate publications listing hazards of vinyl or aluminum siding to wooden houses. The substitute siding, when applied on older homes, often promotes rot by trapping moisture and hiding insect damage until major damage has been done. These pamphlets will be available for viewing (with many others!) at the Open House on June 22nd.

A CAPITAL LOSS

As you read this Newsletter, the Capitol Theatre is being demolished. Though it was missed from the City's listings of heritage buildings, provincial legislation still doesn't allow the designation of historic interiors though this legislation is presently being looked into. Basically another case of demolition by neglect, Famous Players had maintained the Theatre so badly that many of its best features were lost or, over the years, covered with new materials. The stairs in the lobby were marble covered with carpet; stained glass light fixtures covered with suspended ceilings; a complete ornate passageway sealed off to the public. The three original chandeliers were removed in the early 60's; the pipe organ in 1968. Hidden behind the cornices in both the foyer dome and main dome was a continuous strip light fixture (not turned on since the early 1950's) which indirectly illuminated all of the delicate plaster-work - faces, garlands, musical notes and instruments - on the ceilings. And how would you expect a building to look that

hadn't been painted since 1942? For all that, the Capitol was solid and deserved a better fate. Bits of decoration have been saved but nothing will equal the experience that could have resulted in attending a show at the restored Capitol as part of a new theatre complex. Now, gone forever. This is the last regular Newsletter of the 1979-80 season as the Society winds down for the summer. There will be further notices sent regarding summer activities - the Victorian tours and picnics, for example - (anyone able to help with the Picnic - proceeds to Jackson House - preparing food, packing hampers, etc., please phone Angele Segger at 384-3694). There will be no further general meetings until our Annual General Meeting in September, but the executive will continue to meet on the following dates: June 9th and 23rd, July 21st, August 18th. Please phone Stuart to check on time and place (386-0215) - open to all members as usual. As reported in our last Newsletter, we are still soliciting donations of quality antiques for an upcoming antique auction to raise funds for the Jackson House Appeal. Leona Brice can be phoned to pick up items (598-3580). Tax deductible receipts will be given on final proceeds from the auction. The project allows a different (non-cash) form of donation.

A REGAL TOUR

As a very special event, a tour of Government House has been arranged - strictly limited to 50 people (arrive early). It will take place at 7:00 o'clock on Thursday evening, June 19th, 1980. A rare opportunity to see the interior of the 1957 building which replaced the 1902 Maclure/Rattenbury design.

TO ALL MEMBERS

Many of us have borrowed items from the Hallmark Library while we have been temporarily homeless. To prepare to move into our new (old) home, please return all magazines, clippings and other information. Phone Stuart (386-0215).

PORT TOWNSEND BUS TOUR Arrangements are well in hand for this May 31-June 1 weekend tour of historic Port Townsend. For those taking part in the tour, please note the following:

- please be at "Coho" Terminal, 430 Belleville, at 9:15 a.m. (before sailing time of 10:30 for Immigration).
- two yellow school buses with Hallmark Society sign will be in holding area at 9:00 a.m.
- remember Passport or I.D. for Immigration-Customs.
- bring American money for your convenience.
- Bring minimal amount of baggage.
- be prepared for admission of 50¢ to \$1.50 at 3 or 5 of the Port Townsend houses.
- do not plan on relaxing or sleeping on buses - these are school buses, not executive limousines.
- will arrive in Victoria at 7:15 p.m., Saturday, June 1st.