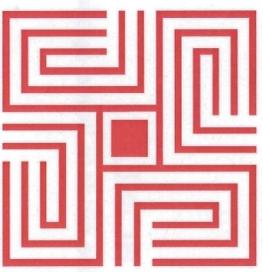


PORTRAITS of a Moment Past — 1930 —

The Village of Croton-on-Hudson An Exhibition



Summer • Autumn
— 2008 —

Presented by the

CROTON-ON-HUDSON
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Piet Boonstra, *President*

Joyce Finnerty, *Village Historian*

Thomas Simone, *Curator*

• Croton-on-Hudson, New York •

PORTRAITS of a Moment Past—1930—

The Village of Croton-on-Hudson is a visual record of our community in a seminal year of change. This exhibition was born out of the discovery in our files of a complete photographic collection of Croton's school children from kindergarten to High School seniors in the 1929-1930 school year. The plates showed each grade and class but without names to go with the faces; in our attempt to identify each individual—an urgent task as the youngest of the students would be eighty-two—the idea for this show slowly germinated. Elder Croton residents were invited to drop by to study the pictures, others were visited in their homes, copies of the photographs were sent to former Crotonites all over the country!

After eighty percent of the students were successfully identified, the files of our archives were searched for material to present an enhanced portrait of life in the community during these times. Our research discovered what a pivotal year it was!

A referendum for 'The Annexation' was held which totally changed the shape of the Village—it quintupled in size—from one square mile to five. House numbers were instituted in the village for the first time. And a WW I Memorial at the corner of Old Post Road & Brook Street, our first to honor those who had served, began construction sponsored by the American Legion.

Croton was enduring the hard grasp of the Great Depression as America suffered through economic, social, and political turbulence. Though jobs and savings might have been lost, our residents prevailed in

spirit and continued to celebrate their lives.

Our restaurants found patrons; Prohibition of the consumption of alcohol as mandated by the Eighteenth Amendment was still enforced creating the underground culture of "The Speakeasy" which remains largely undocumented in our archives.

Everyone could enjoy a round of miniature golf at the brand new course located next to the Van Wyck Gardens Apartments on Grand Street. Compagnie Parento, a perfume and essence factory began its operations on Brook Street.

An era of great ferment and creative energy in the arts and literature found Croton artists influencing the national dialogue; our writers were addressing the issues of a modern world in the midst of profound transformation.

May these fragments and artifacts in the exhibition lend insight into this distinct period of our history as we remember what was and how it helped form what we have become today.

THE CROTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

hopes you enjoy our exhibit. The search continues for the identity of the twenty percent of students who remain unnamed. If you recognize any individual from the classes of 1930 — PLEASE take a moment to write the name in our Society's notebook on the table in front of "The Government in 1930" display. This loose-leaf is arranged by grade, each photograph has the layout of pictures with an accompanying identification sheet. Your participation will help complete the historic record. — **THANK YOU** —

CROTON HISTORY MUSEUM

of the

CROTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Established 1972

• MUSEUM • LIBRARY • ARCHIVES •

Bringing history to life

for the Croton-on-Hudson community through research, collections & exhibitions

Become a part of this history and participate in our important efforts to remember our past and to comprehend our evolution as we grow into the future:

Join today and enjoy our museum, library and unique exhibitions; delight in special openings & benefits.

We gratefully accept donations of relevant historical material in its many forms—photographs, diaries, books & collectables; and deeply appreciate tax-deductible contributions to support our daily operations.



THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING

First Floor Exhibition Space & Offices

1 Van Wyck Street

Croton-on-Hudson, New York 10520

Information 914.271.4574

PORTRAITS

of a Moment Past

— 1930 —



The Village of Croton-on-Hudson



THE WORLD IN 1930

A month by month calendar, a chronicle of the tumultuous year 1930 – illustrating major political, cultural, scientific, and local events



GOVERNMENT IN 1930

A photographic record of our national, state and local officials, the Local Tax levy in 1930 and a brief electoral record of the village



THE CROTON SCHOOLS

A look at the schools and some of the district personnel; special display of Senior Class '30



THE STUDENTS

Portrait gallery of Croton's student body from kindergarten to high school seniors



COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

The Harmon Community Club, The American Legion, Croton Garden Club, The Rotary, The Red Men, the Masons, the Eastern Star, and the Catholic Players



PEOPLE ABOUT TOWN

A sampling of Croton's 1930 celebrities and local residents and a library of some writings



THE ARTS IN CROTON

Leonore Ulric, Sidney Blackmer, Robert Minor, Harold Gray, George Biddle, Helene Jardeau



CHURCHES AND CLERGY

First Church of Christ, Scientist, Asbury Methodist Church, St. Augustine's Episcopal Church, Bethel Chapel, and Holy Name of Mary Roman Catholic Church



EATERIES & THE SPEAKEASY

Croton was home to many Restaurants & Speakeasies in 1930 with a Broadway and Hollywood clientele



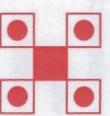
THE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Our four fire companies in the year 1930



LOCAL BUSINESSES

Photographic views – several local businesses and 1930 Croton street scenes



LOCAL NEWS

Some interesting local news that appeared in the columns of the Croton-Cortlandt News and the Croton-Harmon News in 1930



THE ANNEXATION

The most important local news of the year—Harmon, Mt. Airy and Oscawano are all annexed to the village.



POPULAR MUSIC IN 1930

A musical and pictorial look at the songs and singers of the year 1930



AUTOMOBILES

Seven 1930 automobiles you might have seen on village streets



IN THE HOME

A look at the modern home appliances of the day



FASHION OF THE DAY

The wardrobe of a stylish 1930 matron and her daughter



An Exhibition Summer • Autumn

2008

Croton-on-Hudson Historical Society