



UNION COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Great Turn-out for Dr. Boright's Program

The Union County Historical Society was pleased to host Dr. Walter E. Boright for a program entitled "Union County's Reign of Terror" on Sunday, October 2nd at the Cranford Community Center. The auditorium comfortably seated about 80 guests that afternoon.

The presentation centered on a Union County man, Robert Zarinsky, who became known as one of the most notorious killers in the State of New Jersey.

Zarinsky had a troubled childhood and young adulthood, committing crimes involving animal abuse, burglary and grave desecration. These crimes escalated in violence and included arson, rape, murder and cop killing. He is known to have killed 7 young girls between the ages of 13 and 18 and is suspected of having killed more.

His rampage began in the 1950s and continued into the 1970s. He was eventually convicted of murder and imprisoned for life where he later died of natural causes.

During the presentation, Dr. Boright surprised us by introducing two people that had direct contact with the killer. One was an actual survivor of an attempted abduction, the other a police officer at the jail where the killer was imprisoned during his trial.

We thank Dr. Boright for his amazing research into this fascinating story. UCHS is always ready to welcome Dr. Boright and his informative presentations.



Dr. Walter Boright, second from right, is congratulated on his presentation by Society President Joanne Rajoppi, Mark Wills, on the left and retired Sheriff Officer Gerald Marko, at right. Mr. Wills and Mr. Marko were "surprise" guests who had first hand knowledge of Robert Zarinsky, the subject of Dr. Boright's talk.

UCHS Officers Elected

UCHS slate of officers, Trustees and Bylaw revisions were voted on before the presentation. Elected for the 2023-24, 2024-25 term are:

- President- Joanne Rajoppi
- 1st Vice President- Charles Shallcross
- 2nd Vice President- John Prescott
- Recording Secretary- Aimee Fernandez
- Computer (Data) Secretary- Barbara Sokol
- Treasurer- Lauren Socha

- Trustees:
- Linda Daubner
- Richard Esperon
- Aimee Fernandez
- Alice Holzapfel
- Bob Kluge



Remember to save the date for our annual Holiday Party December 11th

We plan to welcome The Cover Girls who will sing patriotic songs for our entertainment. Refreshments will follow.

**Thoughts About the Last 100
Years by Bill Frolich
Continued**

There is definitely a Santa Claus. That has been confirmed several years ago by an editorial in a famous newspaper. His ability to visit every house on Christmas Eve by means of his flying sled and reindeer was reported by Clement Clarke Moore in his poem about "A visit From St. Nicholas". While there are no actual photographs of this kindly old gentleman, there are countless drawings of him, all with remarkable similarity. His mailing address at the North Pole has been accepted by the United States Postal Service and letters so addressed are not returned to the sender as "undeliverable".

Radar networks have reported contacts with his airborne travels overhead on Christmas Eve. With such evidence there can be no doubt that he exists.

Still, to a small child there may be disturbing thoughts about Santa Claus. How can he and his over-stuffed pack come down a chimney that is no more than a foot square?



That he has actually done so can be proven by the sooty footprints sometimes found on the hearthstone on Christmas morning, and that the milk and cookies left for him have disappeared.

The answer must be, "magic" and indeed, there must be magic involved, for now standing near the fire-place is a beautifully decorated evergreen tree, almost touching the ceiling. Beneath it are colorfully wrapped presents for all of the members of the family. None of this was there the night before when bedtime came, so it must be magic.

Even more amazing to a young child is that this sort of magic took place in all of his friends' homes as well as in his. A visit next door can result in a comparison of new toys to play with, and new clothes to wear. Fortunately, most of this activity has not come as a complete surprise to our young child.

For weeks, and even months, a trip to almost any store has revealed red and green decorations in place where they can easily be seen near the check-out counters. Here and there may be cardboard cut-outs of Santa Claus with a smiling face showing through his flowing white beard. As the days pass and Christmas Day approaches, Santa himself may be found in the store, greeting customers with a hearty "Ho, ho, ho".

However, this presence brings more troubling thoughts to the young child. What is Santa Claus doing here in a store when he is supposed to be up at his workshop at the North Pole, making all of those toys he is expected to distribute? The answer that this person is just one of his helpers is not acceptable, for if he is a helper, why is he not up north helping. Too often these questions have no answers, and a distraction must be found by the person to whom the questions were addressed.

One useful distraction may be a visit to the toy department of a large store. Here we used to find huge set-ups of electric trains



which were the delight of all spectators, as they watched freight trains and passenger trains whiz around the tracks and disappear inside of tunnels.

To most of us, the traditions of Christmas that we grew up with have not changed very much, but the toys we asked for in our letters to Santa Claus have now become antique, and prized a much by collectors as we prized them as playthings long ago.



OVER THE BACK FENCE



Listen carefully for the
"Ho, ho, ho"
and

...to all a good
night!

