



Portland Poynts

The Chronicle of the Atlantic Highlands Historical Society

November-December 2021 27 Prospect Circle, P. O. Box 108, Atlantic Highlands, NJ 07716-0108 ♦ www.AHhistory.org

BOO! It's Scary Time at the Strauss Mansion Museum

By Greg Caggiano

The 21-room Victorian-era Strauss Mansion is a fascinating place to visit any time of the year, with its beautiful architecture, period displays and local historical artifacts. But each October, the Mansion takes on a different ambiance with its documented haunted history.



For the sixth consecutive year, the Atlantic Highlands Historical Society presented a showing of the first horror movie ever made, the silent film *Nosferatu*. To comply with COVID protocols, the film was again shown on a large screen in the Mansion's spacious rear yard with social distancing by the audience. Cody McCorry and his musicians again accompanied the silent film with McCorry's original musical composition to a sell-out crowd. At the first showing, the band and received a standing ovation,

The weather forecast for the second night was 100% rain, so the Society made the decision to move the presentation indoors at the Mansion. Ticket holders were informed via an eblast that was being done and that masking would be required. For anyone uncomfortable with the masking requirement, refunds would be made. It was anticipated there would be a number of cancellations. Surprisingly, EVERYONE CAME! In fact, it was necessary to open all the windows and seat some of the audience outside on the porch, looking in to view the film. Final count was 115 attendees over the two nights.


Next year is *Nosferatu's* 100th anniversary and a special event is being planned. Details will be posted on the Society's website, AHhistory.org, as they are developed.


Do vampires celebrate birthdays??? Or is it their "making" days they remember???



(Continued on next page)


GHOST TOURS AT THE 1893 HAUNTED STRAUSS MANSION



PRESENTED BY 

- ✦ Immersive paranormal investigation tour.
- ✦ See paranormal footages captured at the Mansion.
- ✦ Local psychic interprets what spirits have to say.
- ✦ Observe a Wine Glass Seance.
- ✦ Bring a flashlight/camera. You may capture your own evidence!

Space is strictly limited. COVID protocols will be observed. Tour are at 7:00 pm, 8:30 pm and 10:00 pm on Saturday, October 23rd, and Sunday, October 24th. Tickets are \$25/person and are available for online purchase **ONLY** through the AHHS Gift Shop link @ AHHShistory.org.

NOTE: Ghosts do not abide by human timetables. We cannot guarantee any paranormal encounters...but you never know!

Once again, six Ghost Tours were conducted at the 128-year-old haunted Strauss Mansion on Saturday, October 23rd and Sunday, October 24th. Due to COVID protocols, participation was limited.

While the spirits of the Strauss Mansion have their own agendas and do not always integrate with our ghost tours, the participants enjoyed the tour of the building, viewed paranormal frontages from earlier experiments captured in the building, and observed a Victorian Wine Glass Seance.



 in partnership with **The ATLANTIC** MOVIEHOUSE
87 First Avenue, Atlantic Highlands, NJ

present

"Campy and creepy in equal measures, *House on Haunted Hill* deserves its status as a horror classic."
...Allmovie.com

This special one-time showing of this critically acclaimed horror film at The Atlantic Moviehouse is a fundraiser to support the programs of the Atlantic Highlands Historical Society. Friday, October 29th @ 7:30 pm.

Tickets are \$10 and may be purchased at AHHhistory.org/gift-shop

A last-minute addition to the Strauss Mansion's spooky October schedule was a showing of the classic horror film *House on Haunted Hill* at the Atlantic Moviehouse on First Avenue in Atlantic Highlands on October 29th. (The film was shown in the purportedly haunted screening room.)

House on Haunted Hill is a 1959 American supernatural horror film directed by William Castle and starring Vincent Price and Carol Ohmart. Price plays an eccentric millionaire who, along with his wife, has invited five people to the house for a "haunted house" party.

Whoever manages to satay in the house for the night will earn \$10,000. As the night progresses, the guests are trapped within the house with an assortment of terrors.

In its original theatrical release, certain theaters were equipped with a promotional gimmick called "Emergo." Exhibitors rigged an elaborate pulley system near the theater screen which allowed a plastic skeleton to be flown over the audience during a corresponding scene late in the film, frightening the viewers. (Several modern repertory cinemas, including Loew's Jersey (Jersey City, New Jersey) Theatre, have hosted revival screenings of the film during which the "Emergo" gimmick has been recreated.)

Several dozen attendees, maintaining COVID protocols, screamed, cheered and laughed at the still-timely lines in the film.

Future joint events are being planned with the Atlantic Moviehouse.

Historical Society Flea Market

Something For Everyone Was Found at the Flea Market

By Bette VanDeventer and Carmen Cramer

In 1980, the Flea Market began as one of our first annual events to raise funds to purchase the Strauss Mansion. It grew and continued successfully for 40 years. We took a one year hiatus due to the COVID pandemic, but the Flea Market returned in 2021.

The 41st Annual Outdoor Flea Market was held at the Atlantic Highlands **ADD PHOTO OF BASKETS** Marina on a bright, sunny, and hot Saturday, September 18th. The 100+ vendors who had something for everyone had a great day. A variety of antiques and collectibles, crafts, new and an array of second-time-around items were sold to the hundreds of attendees.

Thanks to our many volunteers, the Society also had a successful day selling food and refreshments, Society items, our *Treasures d'Or* and our Basket Raffle tickets. A heartfelt *thank you* to all the Board members who worked all day, especially to our hot-dog-and-brat grille-masters Greg and Roy. A special THANK YOU to Regina and Chris Keelen, Society member volunteers who spent the day working at our food table, and to all the other volunteers who helped that day.



Proceeds from this event will be used for educational and outreach programs throughout the year and for the further preservation and restoration of the 1893 Strauss Mansion Museum.



endowment and relies on

To offset the income sponsoring a SUPER for \$20. Tickets can be Sunday open house hours

Help us continue our historical and outreach programs. And you could be a big winner! Drawing is on Wednesday, December 15th.

As is the case with most nonprofit organizations, the statewide shutdown in response to the Covid pandemic significantly reduced our special events income. At the same time, certain ongoing expenses (utilities, insurance, building maintenance) still required payment. The Atlantic Highlands Historical Society does not have an public support through its special events. reduction, the Atlantic Highlands Historical Society is 50/50 raffle. Tickets are \$5 each or a book of five purchased at the Strauss Mansion Museum during and at our special events.

Atlantic Highlands Historical Society
Annual Flea Market



Blast From the Past — Atlantic Highlands Style

By Patty Bickauskas

The Holiday season is almost upon us. Since this will be our last newsletter until Spring, 2022, I thought I would talk about some of the recipes the Atlantic Highlands Journal printed over the years. These include interesting recipes with interesting ingredients.

Try a few at your holiday dinner party. Personally, I don't think I will be serving Timbale of Halibut (1894 recipe). Putting cooked halibut through a sieve does not sound very appetizing. And I'm not sure what a gill of milk is*. I would try Asparagus Casserole (1940 recipe) except I would use fresh asparagus.

To all our readers, have a safe and enjoyable holiday season. We look forward to seeing you in the spring.

As always, if you like reading about the history of Atlantic Highlands through articles from the Journal, go to www.AHhistory.org and click on ARCHIVES to search our digitized versions of the newspaper which ran from the 1890s to the 1960s.

The Thanksgiving Dinner

For those who wish to prepare a Thanksgiving dinner a trifle more elaborate than the old-fashioned turkey and vegetable with mince and pumpkin pie, the following menu is excellent:

Clear soup
Timbale of halibut
Shrimp sauce
Potato balls
Roasted turkey
Oyster sauce
Cranberry jelly
Stuffed peppers
Sweet potato
croquettes
Sausage balls
Lettuce salad
Wafers—Cheese
Charlotte russe
Coffee

To make the timbale of h halibut, a ½ lb of cooked halibut is put through a sieve. A gill

of milk is placed over the fire, into which is stirred a ½ pint of bread crumbs, it being removed as soon as it commences to boil and added to the fish, the whole being thoroughly mixed. To this is added in turn the well beaten whites of three eggs and a teaspoonful of salt, together with a touch of red pepper. It is then put into a fish mold, placed in a pan of hot water and goes into the oven for 20 minutes. The sauce is made from a tablespoonful of butter, a tablespoonful of flour, a gill of milk and ½ pint of shrimp. The butter and flour are mixed for a moment over the fire, the milk and shrimp being stirred in after their removal from the stove.

Asparagus Casserole
¼ Cup butter
1 teaspoon salt
1 No. 2 can green asparagus
¾ cups liquid from can of asparagus
4 hard cooked eggs
½ cup fine dry bread crumbs
¼ cup flour
pepper
1¼ cups tomato juice
1 chopped pimiento
½ cup grated American cheese
Melt four tablespoons of the butter in a saucepan on surface of range. Turn to low heat and add flour, salt and pepper to make a smooth paste. Drain liquid and add tomato juice. Stir into flour and cook on slow heat, stirring until thick. Add pimiento. Put ½ of asparagus, sliced eggs, sauce and cheese in oiled casserole. Repeat and top with bread crumbs. Melt remaining butter and pour over crumbs. Bake thirty-five minutes in 425° F. oven.

*Ed. Note: An antiquated liquid measurement, in the United States a gill is equal to one-half cup/four fluid ounces, while in England a gill (known as an imperial gill) is equal to five fluid ounces.

Back in 1895... the Strauss family would have been reading about...



November 2 ~ First gasoline-powered race held in the United States with six cars in a 52-mile course with a \$2,000 first prize. Only two vehicles finished due to blizzard conditions.

November 5 ~ George B. Seldon granted first U.S. patent for a gasoline-powered automobile.

November 5 ~ Utah authorizes female suffrage.

November 5 ~ Guy Fawkes Day celebrated in Great Britain on the anniversary of the failed Gunpowder Plot to blow up the Houses of Parliament and King James I in 1605.

November 8 ~ Experimenting with electricity at the University of Wuerzburg, Germany, Wilhelm Röntgen discovered X-rays.

November 27 ~ Alfred Nobel set aside his estate to establish the Nobel Prize upon his death.

December 7 ~ Abyssinians defeated Italian army at the Battle of Amba Alagi.

Strauss Mansion T-Shirts

The Atlantic Highlands Historical Society Gift Shop has a supply of newly-designed Strauss Mansion T-shirts in a variety of colors and sizes. Show your support of the Strauss Mansion Museum and Atlantic Highlands by wearing one of our T-shirts. Only \$16 each.

The Gift Shop also has local historical books as well as Strauss Mansion Christmas ornaments, posters and other wonderful gift items.



Proceeds support the outreach and educational programs of the Strauss Mansion Museum.

Visit the Mansion and take a self-guided tour, enjoy the autumn colors and dine at one of our town's many wonderful restaurants.

PORTLAND POYNTS

Electronically published bi-monthly March-November by the Atlantic Highlands Historical Society, 27 Prospect Circle, Atlantic Highlands, NJ 07716. Portland Poynts is the original name of the area that became Atlantic Highlands.

Incorporated in 1974, the Atlantic Highlands Historical Society at the Strauss Mansion Museum is a volunteer-run 501(c)3 tax exempt organization committed to promoting interest in the past and present heritage and history of Atlantic Highlands through a variety of services and programs to the community at large. All donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

The Strauss Mansion Museum is open to the public Sundays, 12:00 - 4:00 pm, April through December. Free admission, \$5 per person suggested donation. Audio self-guided tour available.

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PORTLAND POYNTS

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MEMBERSHIP

Join the Atlantic Highlands Historical Society, a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation. Your membership supports the outreach and educational programs of the Society.

Membership categories:

- ★ \$10 student
- ★ \$25 individual
- ★ \$50 family
- ★ \$100 supporter
- ★ \$200 sustaining
- ★ \$500 benefactor

Join online by clicking on
MEMBERSHIP

then clicking on
CREDIT CARD ORDERS.



The Strauss Mansion Museum is open for Sunday visits, 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm, April - December. Audio self-guided tours of this amazing 21-room "summer cottage" are available. Related books and other items can be purchased in the Visitors Center.

Admissions is free; a \$5 per person donation is suggested to support the Society's programs and outreach.