

CANAL TOWN, U.S.A.

CANASTOTA CANAL TOWN CORPORATION — 130 EAST CENTER STREET, CANASTOTA, N. Y. 13032

January 15, 1968

Dear Booster:

"Might just as well dig a complete canal - same way if you're going to get married. You might just as well marry a pretty girl as an ugly one, especially if you're going to be home much." *

Now, as in the early 1800's, this philosophy fits. Our young Canal Town Corporation might just as well build a complete Canal Town, especially for those of us from Central New York, if we expect to be home much.

Your Canastota Canal Town Corporation directors have devoted much of their first year looking for that "pretty girl". Let's look at 1968.

March 26, 1968: First Annual Meeting. Election of first Board of Directors, adoption of by-laws.

April 17, 1968: Directors approve \$2,000 expenditure to engage Pederson, Hueber, Hares and Glavin, professional architects and engineers of Syracuse to make a survey and to prepare a Master Plan for Canal Town, USA.

May 8, 1968: Flea Market proposed to be held on Canal Street as a fund raiser.

June 12, 1968: Conference held about Canal Town, USA Master Plan between Board members and Pederson Hueber, Hares and Glavin which launched our corporation toward an organized outline for progressive action.

July 10, 1968: Central New York State Park officials, members of Pederson, Hueber, Hares and Glavin and Canal Town Directors conferred on Master Plan. Park Commission officials expressed great interest and hope in Canal Town, USA and its relationship to the proposed Visitors Information Center to be located in Canastota for the Erie Canal State Park.

July 13, 1968: Very successful Flea Market held. Canal Town Corporation realized about \$700. More important, Canal Street, the old towpath of the Erie, was the center of activity and attention so essential to the progress of Canal Town.

August 15, 1968: Special meeting. Board of Directors met with local government and civic representatives to have the Canal Town concept included in any future village planning. Master Plan met with approval of Mayor Deppoliti, Village Board, Planning Board and civic leaders. Fullest cooperation was promised.

October 1, 1968: Second Annual Membership Meeting. Directors were elected. Guest speaker was Hon. Donald Mawhinney, Jr., Chairman of the Governor's Erie Canal State Park Study Committee. Our Corporation was commended for its enthusiasm and activity in what promises to be a successful venture.

*Dr. Marvin A Rapp, Canal Water and Whiskey

CANASTOTA, NEW YORK

October 9, 1968: Last meeting of fiscal year. Reports included: instituting Master Plan, Finance Committee activities, land acquisition along Canal Street, Erie Canal Museum, Canal Beautification. The 12 members of the Board for the next fiscal year: Farrell Miller, Gene Pavone, Charlotte Nicotri, Wheeler Milmo, John Fatane, Rose Farfaglia, Robert Hall, Jane Fudesco, Thomas Anderson, Vincent Albanese, Carlton Bigelow and Allee Wood. Former Senator Wheeler Milmo succeeds Farrell Miller as president.

The 2nd year Board of Directors must face a number of problems. For example, a Museum can be established only after acquiring a building; then the building must be reconditioned; antiques must be collected; detailed research must be undertaken, etc.

There is the problem of money. Your Directors are exploring avenues for raising funds. The dues structure as per attached sheet will hopefully provide some working capital. Our Finance Committee is looking into the possibility of foundation grants as well as possible state and federal aid. The Board hopes to establish annual activities along Canal Street as fund raisers as well as to promote public participation.

Promotion of the "Canal Town, USA" concept needs a special push this year, particularly at this time when the corner stone, the Master Plan, can be built upon.

Inclusion of Canastota in the New York State Historic Trust is one of the prime endeavors for this year. If accomplished, Canastota will be listed as one of New York State's historic sites worth preserving. Another project which we are working on this year is to obtain legislative action on an amendment to the Conservation Law to permit granting of state aid for acquisition of municipal park tracts smaller than 25 acres, which is now the minimum.

You, and we, are looking at the steps directly ahead of us. We would do well to set our sights on the future. With each step we should remember that we are getting closer to the completion of our ambitious challenge. We have big dreams and high hopes. Thoughts pass through our minds of Cooperstown, of Upper Canada Village, of Sturbridge Village, of Williamsburg. We think of history, of education, of authentic restoration of an era, of area improvement and improved business.

The Erie Canal State Park is steadily working its way toward reality. As the State Park grows, so should Canal Town, USA; and you who have helped during this first important year will share in the credit of this worthy establishment.

One step! We have taken one step. Please continue to join with us in this second year of progress. Enclosed with this letter is a statement of dues for 1969, to which your early response will be much appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Farrell Miller
Farrell Miller

1968 President, Canastota Canal Town Corp.

Wheeler Milmo
Wheeler Milmo

1969 President, Canastota Canal Town Corp.