

# Historical Society Gets Cane Used By Hobart

A gold monogrammed cane, carried daily by Vice-President Garret A. Hobart has been presented to the Passaic County Historical Society and a copy of the vice-president's biography to the Paterson Public Library by Harry B. Haines, publisher of the Paterson Evening News. Sunday marked the 118th anniversary of Mr. Hobart's birth.

Book and cane were given to Mr. Haines, because of his deep interest in preserving the American heritage, by Theodore Van Dormolen, 171 N. First St., a chauffeur for nearly forty years for the Hobart family. Van Dormolen and Mr. Haines were brought together through Charles Van Wagner, personal representative of Mr. Haines.

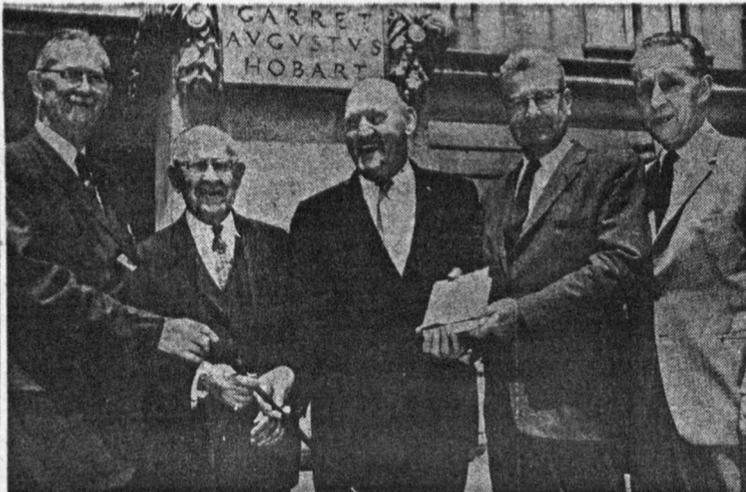
## To Be Displayed

The presentation was made at a brief ceremony held in front of the Hobart statue in City Hall Plaza. Dr. D. Stanton Hammond, president of the Passaic County Historical Society accepted the Vice-President's cane for his society. It will be put on display with the Hobart collection in the Historical Society's museum in Lambert's Castle, Garret Mountain.

According to Dr. Hammond, the handsome walking stick will be a welcome addition to the mementos of this famous man that are held in trust by the Historical Society. He said the museum has few exhibits from the personal life of the Vice-President and his family.

"A man's cane," he said, "is an important part of his attire, an important part of his personality."

The historical society president said it was unfortunate that a man so prominent in the life of the city, was so sparsely represented in the museum's collection. He expressed the hope that other citizens who hold treasured mementos of Hobart or the Ho-



**GOLD MONOGRAMMED** cane and biographical sketch of Garret Augustus Hobart are presented to the Passaic County Historical Society and the Paterson Public Library by Theodore Van Dormolen, veteran retainer of the Hobart family. The presentation was made through Harry B. Haines, publisher of the Paterson Evening News, at a ceremony before the Hobart statue at City Hall Plaza, marking the 118th anniversary of the Vice-President's birth. Left to right are: Dr. D. Stanton Hammond, president of the Passaic County Historical Society; Mr. Haines; Van Dormolen, Leo Etkorn, chief librarian for the city of Paterson and Charles Van Wagner, of the News.

bart family might follow Van Dormolen's example and present them to the Historical Society, that the community might gain from them a new understanding and respect for their heritage.

The biography was accepted by Leo Etkorn, chief librarian of the Paterson library system, who said it will be a welcome addi-

tion to the volumes of New Jersey lore now available.

Van Dormolen, aware of the historic and sentimental value of his gifts to the community said he could think of no one who would appreciate more nor know just how best they might be used than Mr. Haines.

He said he was delighted that

Mr. Haines had chosen the library, and the Historical Society as their permanent repository, for here "they will help future generations remember this city's important past."

## Associated 37 Years

Van Dormolen spoke of the many years he had served the Hobart family, some 37 as per-

sonal chauffeur for Garret A. Hobart Jr. He recalled among his happiest assignments, the daily transporting of the Hobart daughters, Kathy and Elizabeth, to Miss Walker's private school on Fourteenth Ave.

The Hobarts he said were kindly, humble people who treated their domestic staff as members of the family.

He still serves as personal chauffeur to Miss A. Sheehan, overseer of the Hobart estate, whose offices are at 129 Market St.

The biography was penned by Dr. David Magie, the Vice-President's personal pastor and the man who delivered the eulogy on his death.

The volume contains many little publicized insights on the character and personality of the man from Paterson who just missed being President.

Hobart died Nov. 21, 1899. Less than two years later President McKinley died from an assassin's bullet, early in his second term of office. Hobart, had he lived would then have assumed the Presidency.

Felled by heart attack Dr. Magie's book described in detail the Vice-President's valiant fight to regain his health after a heart attack that struck him during the second year of his term in office. He had delivered the closing address in the Senate prior to its adjournment when he was stricken. He appeared to rally, but the gavel he put down he never picked up again.

Successive attacks weakened him still further.

He sought the invigorating breezes of the Atlantic Ocean at Long Branch but continued to go downhill.

He was 57 when the end came, plunging this city and the nation into mourning.

Dr. Magie's book tells of the state funeral, held in the Vice-President's home church, the Church of the Redeemer, on Nov. 25, 1899.

President Mc Kinley himself headed the long procession of

digitaries that included the members of his cabinet, Justices of the Supreme Court and a scintillating array of members of the Senate, the House of Representatives; the Governor of New Jersey and his staff, members of the nobility and the nation's leading citizens who attended his funeral.

Peace of all walks of life paid their respects to the vice president as he lay in state at Carroll Hall, the Hobarts' city home on Carroll and Van Houten Sts. He was laid to rest in the Hobart mausoleum in Cedar Lawn Cemetery.

## Taught School

Hobart began his career as a country school teacher in South Jersey.

Today, the country home he occupied on the Haledon-Wayne Township line is incorporated into the campus of Paterson State College, a state institution dedicated to teaching young people how to become teachers.

His rise to fame was the typical American story of his day. The son of simple parents of mixed English, Dutch and French Huguenot stock, he emerged from college with no means of support and indebted for his education. He cleared his debts with the money he earned from teaching within three months and then turned his attention on to a study of the law.

He joined the Paterson law firm of Socrates Tuttle, and worked as a clerk in the First National Bank for expense money.

The home of Socrates Tuttle, father-in-law of Vice-President Hobart, was on the site of the present News building, 143-145 Ellison Street.

Here the Vice-President prepared for the law under the tutelage of his distinguished mentor. Here he courted the gentle young lady, Miss Jennie Tuttle, who was to become the wife of the nation's 24th vice-president.

A plaque noting the historic significance of the site is affixed to the News Building. It reads:

"On this site stood the residence and office of Socrates Tuttle, a mayor of Paterson and most distinguished citizen.

"Here in this office, Garret A. Hobart, 24th Vice-President of the United States; John W. Griggs, Governor of New Jersey and Attorney General of the United States, and Eugene Stevenson, Vice Chancellor of New Jersey, studied law."

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