

Titillating Tidbit, by Louis Lamoureux
Oil painting on canvas panel, 1991
(After a photograph by Horace Gilmore)



Donated by Hertha Forrai, who rescued it from the dump

Chosen by Johanna Branson
PHA President; art historian

I love the lively social scene Louis depicted, and the amount of mid-20th century detail he included.

Louis Lamoureux (1913-1994) was Town Clerk in Peacham from 1969 until 1981. He was known for being an affable presence in the town, and in his position probably had ample opportunity to hear rumors and gossip.

We don't know who these three women are, but their pose is familiar.

Depictions of gossips were very popular in the mid-twentieth century. Norman Rockwell had an especially famous Saturday Evening Post cover from March 6, 1948, which depicts a chain of 15 pairs of people "spreading the message."

Peacham has long attracted artists, both professional and amateur. Horace and Helen Gilmore held popular classes in their home for many years, and Louis Lamoureux was a student with them. In his painting, the three women are dressed for a party—we would say for church, with their hats and coats, but then we notice the cocktail glasses in their hands. There was a vibrant tradition of both social clubs and cocktail parties in mid-century Peacham, and Gil (Horace Gilmore) probably snapped this photo at some such gathering.

Note: If you can identify the subjects of this painting, please let us know!