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Mayor Hague's War on Radicals Is Feature of "Come Home to History" Fair October 9

Frank Hague, mayor of Jersey City from 1917 to 1947--perhaps most widely remembered for his declaration "I am the law"--is the subject of a video by Bob Leach to be shown at "Come Home to History," Saturday, October 9. "*Invasion of the Reds: Mayor Hague's War on Radicals and Free Speech*" will be shown at 3:45 pm. Leach, founder of the Jersey City Historical Project, will be present to introduce the video and answer questions.

Bob Leach is known as Jersey City's storyteller. Born in 1937, he has steeped himself in Jersey City folklore and in the era of Hague. For the past 35 years he has interviewed "oldtimers" for the stories that convey the feel of a place sometimes missed by academic historians. The results are published in several books, *Frank Hague and the Lucky Horseshoe*, *The Parade of the Shantytown Dead*, and *How Frank Hague Became a Hero*. Many audiences have benefited from his experience as a raconteur. As writer Jonathan Fitzgerald noted in a *Jersey City Independent* feature, "Leach is a genuine storyteller whose narratives are an invaluable treasure that, in a very unique way, preserve an essential brand of local history, the benefits of which will resonate down to future generations."

The Hague video is part of a full day of illustrated talks, workshops, children's activities, and a tour focused on the 350th anniversary of the founding of the Dutch settlement of Bergen, now Jersey City, and other key moments in Hudson County history. More than 30 historic preservation and history-oriented exhibitors will be on hand. Admission is free; discounted parking is available; and refreshments may be purchased at the Culinary Conference Center. See www.hudsoncountynjgenealogy.org/historyfair2010 for more information, a complete schedule, and updates.

"Come Home to History" is sponsored by Hudson County Executive Thomas A. DeGise; Hudson County Board of Chosen Freeholders; Hudson County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs and Tourism; City of Jersey City, Jerramiah T. Healy, Mayor; Jersey City Municipal Council; Jersey City Division of Cultural Affairs; Hudson County Community College; Hudson County History Advocates; and the Jersey City Historical Project.

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