



STRATFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Built 1723

NEWS LETTER

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Next Meeting

Christ Church Hall 8:00 P.M.

Friday, January 29, 1965

Program: Historic Cars

Second Vice President

Richard Slater will give a talk illustrated with slides of automobiles of yesteryear. Did you ever wear a duster or help change cord tires, or scorch your finger on the thermometer that sat on top of the radiator cap? If so, you will have lots of reminising.



Dick has had the pleasure of resurrecting some old cars of his own and will welcome questions from the audience. Feel free to bring a friend who may be interested in this promising program.

Fund Raising to acquire the Sammis property - Harold Lovell, ever optimistic chairman of the Property Committee has received at the date of this letter close to \$13,000 in gifts and pledges toward the goal of \$20,000. This is most gratifying -- but there is still a long way to go. Members who have not replied to the request for contributions are urged to respond. (If the societies untimely letter is still comingled with the stack of Christmas Greeting cards please dig it out and reflect upon its message in the quiet dawn of this new year.)

Follow up letters have been sent to industry, for the committees approach has been entirely by mail. A number of our members and two non-members typed over 100 individual letters in mid-December, a time of year when family demands are at a peak.

We were warned that it would be a hard pull. Fortunately our chairman is confident the goal will be reached.

Elimination of Powder Post Beetles - The Executive Board at its last meeting considered the recommendation of a committee headed by Lewis G. Knapp which had made a study of the problem of controlling the powder post beetle at Judson House. The Board resolved to retail the services of Bruce Termix Company. The treatment will involve spraying and impregnation of toxicants into sills, plates, beams, girders etc. Infested furniture will be placed in a fumigation vault. The entire house will be closed for several days during the intensive treatment process. Fred Booth will have the problem of deciding which invitations to refuse while on his forced vacation.

While the powder post beetle proceeds at a snails pace in its perforating work, quite unlike the ravages of termites, its infestation does over a period of years make worthless wooden objects of historical value that cannot be replaced. The cure will cost over \$300. but the problem has been squarely faced and a solution found.

This action by the Board should allay the fears of some members that the Societies effort to acquire the Sammis property might lead to temporary neglect of Judson House, the Museum and their priceless treasures.

Stratford Heritage - It may seem presumptive to include from time to time in a news letter a tid bit of historical fact pertaining to Stratford that may already be known to many members. Our Stratford heritage is so rich and praiseworthy I feel its story bears repeating. Did you know by chance that in 1646, but a few years after the founding of Stratford, the assembled town meeting voted to have each family contribute yearly a peck of corn for the needy students of Harvard. Against such a background many years later it is not surprising to find Samuel Johnson, resident of Stratford as one of the founders and indeed the first president of what today is known as Columbia University. It is not surprising that Stratford would welcome the American Shakespeare Festival Theatre and Academy or that serious thought is currently being given to establishing a school of higher learning within the Town.



Hildreth T. Winton  
President

