



STRATFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Built 1723

NEWSLETTER

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May 1967

Next meeting: Friday, May 26, 8:00 P.M. at the METHODIST Church Hall
(Note the new meeting place)

Program: Professor Howard T. Oedel, "Two Colonial Governor's Palaces"

We're switching the meeting place to the Methodist Church. Fewer stairs to climb and a nearby parking lot. Our speaker, Doctor Oedel of Cheshire, is Associate Professor of American History at Southern Connecticut State College, and specializes in American Colonial History. He has collected and dealt in antiques for twenty years, and has made a hobby of photographing colonial capitols and their buildings. His comparison of the governor's palaces at New Bern, N.C., and Williamsburg will be illustrated by colored slides.

There is lots of activity at Judson House this spring. Mr. Booth had 125 visitors in March and 84 up to April 24. Starting in June, he will be assisted by paid hostesses. (Send a friend to Judson House.) The shingles are purchased and the re-roofing is about to start. Eighteenth century venetian blinds which were stored in the attic - and which are nearly identical to those at Mount Vernon - will be hung in the dining room to reduce the bright sunlight. A series of beautiful lithographs, mostly nautical, will be displayed in flip-racks in the museum. The old garage behind Sammis House and the hedge between the yards will be removed, and one broad lawn will be created. Mr. Slater and his History and Research Committee are preparing a descriptive list of historical sites in town for the State Historical Commission. Flyers and posters are already being printed for our Flea Market on August 12.

A few more statistics. There were over one hundred and twenty persons at our "Show and Tell" meeting in March. The three year pledges made by our members for the purchase of Sammis House are 100% paid up, in two years--a record many churches would envy. The next State Historical meeting is at Deep River on July 29, and any member may attend.

The Society thanks***

In the job we've all undertaken to preserve and display our town's history, many of our members have put in long hours on hard jobs, of which the general membership may not always be aware. Flea markets, acquisitions and display, house maintenance, yard cleanup, research projects, and hostessing tasks do not run themselves; someone has contributed a lot of thought, time, and effort to each of these. So our gratitude will not go unnoticed, I intend to recognize these workers in following newsletters.

One of these workers, who is no longer with us, was Mr. F. Stanley Sellick, who served as our librarian for a number of years. In 1960, Mr. Sellick turned a pile of some 800 books into a library. He classified, catalogued, and filed these books and papers; then, with the aid of Mr. Johnson and Mr. Beardsley, he designed bookcases and cupboards for them. He mended old books and placed them in orderly rows in the bookcases, and added new books from time to time. We are in his debt for the creation of our library.

Coming Events:

- May 26 METHODIST CHURCH, our next meeting.
- July 29 Deep River, next state meeting.
- July ? Dinner meeting at Booth Park.
- August 12 Flea Market (Save this date).

We'll see you at these affairs.

Lewis G. Knapp,
President