



November 1971  
 STRATFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Built 1723

Newsletter

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The next meeting will be at 8:00 P.M. at the Methodist Church on Friday, November 19th. The speaker will be John Kochiss, who will talk on the Oyster Industry on Long Island Sound. Mr. Kochiss is now with the Mystic Seaport and has done much research on the old ways of the sea.

At this meeting we will accept bids on some old pieces of money left us by Fred Booth, our former curator. Listed are the pieces on which bids will be accepted:

1	\$1.00 gold piece dated 1853
1	\$1.00 paper certificate dated 1896 Series D
1	\$1.00 paper certificate dated 1917 Series C
1	\$5.00 paper certificate dated 1899 Series B
1	10 Pesos Mexican certificate dated 1914 Series D
5	U.S. Dollar silver certificates.

Forms will be available for bidding prior to the meeting. Bids will be accepted at the conclusion of the business meeting, with the award to be made after the speaker concludes. The same rules will hold as bids on the Currier and Ives prints. The right is reserved to reject any or all bids. The Acquisition Committee is in charge of the sale. Funds received will be added to Mr. Booth's generous bequest for the restoration of the Museum.

There has been a start on our new display and work room in the basement of the Museum. It has been painted - both walls and ceiling. We do want to thank Messers Fowler, Dimenno, Schlosser, Smith, David, Larson, Blake, Dustin, Judson and Charlesworth who did the work. The Mrs. Dustin, Fowler, Smith, Judson and Cole provided lunch - and kept the party working. It took two Saturday's to do the work.

The Finance Committee has had a hard look at the Budget, which will be read. Our income is projected to be Dues \$2000, Investment income \$2050; Home visitations \$1,000; Flea Market \$2000, Gifts \$100 and Special Gifts \$350 for a total of \$7500. This looks fine until we look at our expenses.

Expenses of the House are estimated at Utilities \$1300; Salaries \$1800; Taxes and Insurance \$800; Mortgage payment \$1000; Mortgage Interest \$225 and the Security System \$400 or \$5525.

Committee chairmen have asked for, and been granted, Acquisitions \$500; Hospitality \$100; Library \$175; Printing \$700; Program \$400; Education \$50; History \$20; Publicity \$100; League Delegates \$50; for a total of \$2095.

In addition we have repairs \$400; Building and Grounds \$350; Misc. \$100 and Special Gifts \$350 for a total of \$1200.

This totals Expense of \$8820, Income \$7500, or another built in deficit of \$1320. While we do not like to see a red figure appear, the expenses have been cut to the bone. We have been very low on our income expected. For the last two years we have had more, especially from the Flea Market. Dues are going down as we have members leave us. We do need all the new members you can get - please help us by asking your friends to join and help us. Any questions you have on the expenses will be answered at the meeting. Adoption of the budget will come at the December Executive Board Meeting.

There was an attempt to break into the House last week. Someone tried to kick open the front door - and left scars on the woodwork where it will be necessary to repair. The door held, and no one got in. The door (or a window) has to be opened to set off the alarm in the Police Station, so we are safe once more.

We also have lost two pieces of china, apparently taken by visitors. While we do love to show the House (and are grateful for the admission fee) a problem occurs when several groups arrive at different times. Mrs. Mussler and Mr. Robbins each are occupied with their portions of the tour, and things do disappear when they aren't looking. More help is needed by members or friends in showing the house, or being at the door to greet new visitors and hold them until they can be escorted thru. Of course, we sadly need a replacement for Mr. Booth. If any of you know of anyone that would be interested, please let me know.

The street is now in. We think the Oak tree will be saved, but fear the large dogwoods are gone. The lawn is regraded to the curb, making a gradual slope. It will be messy this winter, but grass will grow in the Spring and it will look fine again. The old sidewalk is no more.

We will close for the winter November 21st. It has been a long season, and we again wish to thank Mr. Robbins for his Wednesday showings, and Mrs. Mussler and Mr. Robbins for the Saturday and Sunday showings. Their long hours of work are appreciated.

Mrs. Nettleton, our corresponding secretary for 27 years, has left Stratford for her new home in New Hampshire. She wishes to extend to all of you her thanks for those long years of help that you gave her. She will be sorely missed.

Velmore B. Spamer,  
President

