



## STRATFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER  
November 7, 1973



The next meeting of the Society will be on Friday evening, November 16th, at the Methodist Church Hall, when Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Hart will present a program on "Connecticut Indian Resources and Crafts" through talks, slides and demonstrations. Representatives of our Society who saw this program at the Connecticut League of Historical Societies meeting in Bristol last March recommend it highly. Mr. Hart is the director of the Eliot Pratt Educational Center in New Milford and Mrs. Hart is consultant-teacher of Indian studies there and also teaches basket making at the Brookfield Crafts Center.

Because of this program's special nature, the Executive Board has voted that children of members be invited to accompany their parents on this occasion. Fifth grade teachers have also received a special invitation.

The "Closed to April 1st" sign has been placed in a front window of Judson House after a successful and interesting visitation season. Two school groups (Bunnell High School American studies classes and fourth graders from Great Neck school) and a group of 22 Cub Scouts from Birdseye School visited us in October, and, with 50 adult visitors and 17 other children, the month was a busy one. The Society is very grateful indeed to Mrs. Virginia Mussler, Chairman of Hostesses, who coordinated the visitation program throughout the season. In anticipation of the need for a larger staff of trained guides as of next April when we plan that the Museum will be open to visitors as well as the House, Mr. Fowler, Education Chairman, has been conducting a series of weekly training sessions for potential guides, or docents, a term which emphasizes their instructional function. These volunteer trainees are: Mrs. Selma Dobkin, Mrs. Eleanor Winkle, Mrs. Elizabeth Bailey, Mrs. Doris Carson, Mrs. Mary Jane Smith, Mrs. Judith Kurmay, Mrs. Sally Martin, Mrs. Laura Anderson, Mrs. Barbara Olsen, Mrs. Mary Salerno, and Mrs. Catherine Lawrence.

By the time you receive this newsletter, you should already have received the mailed materials which launch our 1973-1976 Membership-Fund Raising Project. As a 1972-73 member, you have already received your dues notice for the current year. (Incidentally, Mrs. Andrews, Membership Chairman, is pleased at the quick response this year in membership renewals.) The new brochure, with the Judson House door sketched on the cover by our skillful artist-in-residence, Mr. Larson, states well the case for the need for additional funds. It is recognized that some members have already contributed generously; we already have \$1025 toward the \$50,000 goal. It goes without saying that contributions from the present membership, over and above current dues, will help greatly, as will your moral support of the drive as you communicate with others in the community.

Under the direction of Mr. Stanley Johnson, the Museum furnace has been repaired. The closing in of the furnace in the House with fire resistant materials, as required by the Fire Department, along with the installation of an electrical entry of greater amperage than the present 60, and the strengthening of floor joists under the front hall (above the furnace) make a major project under the chairmanship of Mr. Wardman. This work is still in the planning stage.

The Executive Board, in a meeting Oct. 29th, adopted a budget of \$9750 recommended by the finance committee.

We acknowledge with gratitude the gift from the New England Electric Company of electrical equipment installed by Mr. Robert Abercrombie as a volunteer member contribution.

The Society extends its sympathy to the family of Mrs. Stanley Meachen, a loyal Society member recently deceased.

The Accessions Committee is working each Tuesday with the inventory, cataloging, and storage of portraits, prints, and etchings a major current project.

Mr. Tindall, program chairman, announces that our member, Mr. Michael Aurelia, will speak on "A History of the Stratford Shoreline" at the January meeting. Mr. Aurelia is Director of Wetlands and Water Protection for the Connecticut Conservation Association.

Elden H. Dustin,  
President

REMEMBER: NEXT MEETING is this coming Friday, November 16th,  
8:00 P.M., Methodist Church Hall. Topic - INDIANS!  
Children of members are invited. Refreshments:  
Cider and doughnuts.

I HOPE YOU CAN PLAN TO ATTEND