



The Stratford Historical Society

NEWS LETTER

January 9, 1978

Next Meeting - Friday, January 27, 1978 - Methodist Church Hall - 8:00 p.m.

The speaker at our January meeting will be Mr. Serge Sikorsky, son of the the Igor Sikorsky, probably the most renowned of all contributors to Stratford's history. Mr. Sikorsky's talk is entitled, "Recollections of a Pioneer," or subtitled - the birth and development of aviation as seen and participated in by Igor Sikorsky. Igor Sikorsky's aviation career, of course, started in the early 1900's in Russia and continued in this country and particularly in Stratford, with major developments in multi-engined airplanes, flying boats and then helicopters. Our speaker has served the Sikorsky Aircraft Division in several management positions and is currently Executive Assistant to the Senior Vice President of Marketing. Please come and share this unique view of an important part of our history. Refreshments will be served.

Sorry about that!

The second page of the November Newsletter was inadvertently not mailed to you, so it is enclosed as a second page 2. Our apologies - perhaps you should read that next and then come back to an update of these topics in subsequent paragraphs of this letter.

Judson House Restoration Projects

The critical stages of restoration of the east and north sides of Judson House are completed. It was found that moisture, powder post beetles and termites had destroyed most of the sills on the east and northeast sides, and to varying degrees, the three posts and the vertical sheathing on the east wall. All of the east sill and a portion on the north sill have been replaced with laminated redwood. Bottoms of the three posts were replaced - the northeast one all the way to the first floor ceiling.

Removal of the "new" oak dining room floor revealed that the old pine boards were not in good condition - half had been replaced - once before therefore, the old floor has been leveled, and new oak (10") boards have been laid over it.

At this point, nothing has been done to the deteriorated vertical planks on the east wall. It appears that termite damage goes well up the wall so any repairs have been deferred at least until the fall of 1978.

The Society is greatly indebted to Jack Wardman, who has planned and supervised the restoration project. In addition to his 40 years of contracting experience, Jack has become a local authority on care of

old houses. He is presently in charge of moving the 18th Century John Brooks Sr. house to the property of the Museum of Art, Science and Industry. Consultants for our project have been Carl Stearns, Technical Advisor to Historic Sites for the State of New York, and Morgan Phillips of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities.

The restoration project has now been partially underwritten by a \$2,000 grant from the Junior League of Greater Bridgeport. Presentations on the project were made to the League by Jack Wardman, Mrs. Todd Lovell and Donald Fowler. On Nov. 29th docents of the Society entertained 30 Provisional members of the Junior League at the Museum for a tour of the House and slides of the restoration work.

A Boost for the Trust Fund

The last Newsletter pointed out the importance of trust funds to the Society. This fund received a major boost in December with receipt of \$5,900 from the estate of Mrs. Roy Sanborn.

Welcome Our New "Staff"

Mrs. William Morrison (Pat) has been appointed to a new position as a part time Executive Secretary for the Society for 1978. Pat will organize student and adult tours, coordinate the docent program and generally assist several standing committees.

Mrs. Fred Wilcoxson (Jean) will take over as head guide when the House and Museum opens on April 1. Mrs. Linda Iannone will assist her on Sundays, and an additional assistant is needed yet for Wednesday and Saturdays. This is a paying position (modestly) and requires attendance at docent training sessions. If you are interested, call me or Don Fowler or Mrs. David Olsen, Chairman of the Education Committee.

Volunteers will also be recruited from the membership to greet visitors at Judson House on those days it is open to the public.

The Antique Show is Coming

Save the dates - May 6 and 7, 1978. Our Antique Show and Sale will be held at the Legion Hall in a format very much like the successful one of the past two years. Mr. Jeffrey Williams is Chairman of the event. It is not too early to set aside items for the Society's table. When that weekend arrives, the baked goods table can also use contributions from as many as possible.

Reminder

The January 27 meeting should be a good one to bring along a neighbor as a potential new member.

David S. Jenney
President