



Capt. David Judson House c. 1750
Catharine B. Mitchell Museum

Stratford Historical Society UPDATE

VOLUME XXI, ISSUE 3

JANUARY 2017

MARK THE DATES:

- January's General Membership Meeting: January 27th at 7:00 pm at Christ Church
- Historical Society Governing Board Meeting: Monday, February 27th at 1:00pm
- March's General Membership Meeting: March 31st at 7:00 pm

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January's General Membership Meeting

January 27th, 7:00 pm, Christ Episcopal Church, 2000 Main Street

Jay Miscencik will present his program "Re-visit Bridgeport's Palace and Majestic Theatres". Jay will include the history of the theatres as well as photographs of both venues.

Jay will bring a book of Palace and Majestic photos and will display some framed photos. Questions and answers from the audience as well as any stories are welcome.

Jay, a commercial/fine art photographer, is currently working with Geralene Valentine on two



Jay Miscencik

All meetings are free and open to the general public. Please bring a friend! Donations gratefully accepted.

documentary style cultural heritage projects in Bridgeport, CT . . . both grew out of personal projects they worked on years ago.

"Poli's Palace & Majestic Theatre Memories" project will bring to life two magnificent dormant theatres that are on the National Register of Historic Places. The project will share the architectural and social history of the two theatres. And people will share their memories of times spent at the Palace and Majestic theatres on Bridgeport's Main Street.

Welcome to our Business Members

Exact Printing & Graphics
Colonial Square Art Shop
Robert Dains, CPA, CFP

exactprinting@snet.net
colsquartshop@sbcglobal.net

203-377-6571
203-375-3764
203-383-4411

JM Home Improvement Group
Law Offices of Kurt Ahlberg
Oronoque Apothecary LLC, Bethel
Joel F. Pleban
Pickle Barrel Deli & Catering
Scott Insurance

cgld.kmalaw@gmail.com

joel@joelplebancpa.com

bscott@scottinsuranc.com

203-556-8632
203-377-1311
973-885-2793
203-375-1040
203-380-0338
203-375-5847

Main St. property sold to H.C. Lovell Co.

New Owner Contemplates Erecting Three Story Business Block
(Special to *The Bridgeport Evening Farmer*.)

Stratford, Jan. 26 (1917)—An important real estate transaction was consummated yesterday when the plumbing firm of Harold C. Lovell & Co. purchased from the Russell estate a tract in Main street, 122 feet in length and 75 to 160 feet in depth. The property embraces land and business occupied by the Atlan-

tic & Pacific Tea Co., Philip Shank, the shoemaker, Lewis Polley, barber, and Harold C. Lovell & Co., plumbing.

The property extends from the Stratford fire engine company to the post office on Main street.

Although the deeds have not been filed at the town clerk's office it is said that the purchase price was in the neighborhood of \$20,000. Mr. Lovell said today that it is his intention to erect a three story concrete building to be used entirely for his plumbing business.



H. C. Lovell Hardware store ca. 1917

New Pootatuck Club House 1916



Pootatuck Yacht Club House ca 1904

The Pootatuck Yacht Club House (shown at the left) was built in 1887. This building was located across the foot of Broad Street from the current Outrigger's Restaurant. The club house served the needs of the yacht club until 1917.

The yacht club members met in a special meeting on November 11, 1915 to vote on purchasing property (the Lewis

property) just north of the building shown at the left on Housatonic Avenue. A sum of \$3,000 was determined to be the amount required to construct the new yacht club.

The members in charge of constructing the new yacht club house were F. R. Townroe, chairman, Frank S. Converse, and James Halpin.

The following brief an-

nouncement appeared in the December 29th, 1916 *Bridgeport Evening Farmer*.

"The opening of the new club house of the Pootatuck Yacht club, Housatonic avenue, will be held on New Year's Day. Luncheon will be served at 6 o'clock. Dancing furnished by a local orchestra will be held in the evening."

Sikorsky S-60 Restoration



Historic S-60 being restored.

After having rebuilt major portions of this pioneering helicopter's internal structural bracing, which had been destroyed in the crash which took place during a test flight, the CASC S-60 Team has now begun installing the new re-

placement aluminum "skin" to the fuselage. Once complete, Connecticut Air & Space Center's restored S-60, the only such aircraft in the world, will be one of the most historically important exhibits on display inside the historic Curtiss

Hangar at Igor Sikorsky Memorial Airport. The S-60 is being restored, with the vital help of generous tax-deductible contributions by individual and government supporters, by volunteers at the Center.

Stratford Bird History



Wood ducks were the beneficiary of the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Program which allowed wildlife agencies to establish nest box programs.

Wood duck drake

Stratford is well-known for its school of decoy carvers. Much less is generally known about the bird populations that made Stratford a decoy carving center.

The year 2016 marks 100 since the Migratory Bird Treaty was put into effect in America. Most bird populations in Stratford had been decimated by indiscriminate, unregulated hunting through the late 19th century. It's interesting to look back on the trends in Stratford's bird populations.

caused populations of many duck species to decrease dramatically. In 1907, a law was passed in Connecticut prohibiting the shooting of ducks during peak migration and the breeding season.

Shorebirds

1926 Report: "Shore birds, such as greater and lesser yellowlegs, Wilson snipe and several plovers, appear to be on the decrease ...The sandy grounds in many instances have been turned into shore resorts and the places in this state for hunting shore birds are gradually decreasing...It would be no great sacrifice if all the shore birds were afforded a closed season in this state."

Egrets and Herons

Egrets get their name from the French word *aigrette*, which means ornamental plume. Grown during the breeding season, these showy plumes almost led to these species' demise and thus sparked one of the most significant grassroots conservation initiatives in United States history. The initiatives resulted in landmark bird protection laws, the beginnings of the National Wildlife Refuge system, and the formation of the National Audubon Society.

Read more of this historical report from Connecticut's DEEP Wildlife Division published last Fall at <http://birds.stratfordhistoricalsociety.info>.



By 1926, it was recognized that shorebirds were declining due to widespread habitat loss and degradation, and would benefit from a closed hunting season. Many of these species, including the lesser yellowlegs are still recovering today.

Lesser yellowlegs

Ducks

During the 1800s, coastal and wetland habitat degradation, as well as overharvesting of ducks during migration,

Dateline Stratford December 1951 - January 1952

Sunday Herald
December 2, 1951
Melodrama Will Be Staged By Stratford High Seniors

Will the mail train run tonight? This is becoming a popular question, arousing much curiosity through the halls of Stratford High School these days.

It is Senior Play time and the population at S H S once more awaits this annual event that creates enjoyment for all.

The question creating all the excitement is really part of the title for this year's production, "**Love Rides the Rails or Will the Mail Train Run Tonight?**"

All talented seniors have stepped forth to take part in this play which will stir up as much enjoyment for them behind the scenes as it will for its interested audience.

...Our hero, Truman Pendennis, is played by Senior Class President Jim North.

Sunday Herald
December 9, 1951
Avco Seeks 7,000 Payroll At Any Price

Still heading for a 7,000 payroll in a short labor market, Avco negotiators sit down tomorrow with union representatives ready to negotiate any sort of a contract that might bring them tool makers, and machinists.

That the company, with its tremendous jet engine contracts, intends to carry out its original schedule for the old Chance Vought plant in Stratford was confirmed by Vice-Pres. S. W. Withington.

He told The Herald substantial production will get under way in March and should reach a peak by next Fall.

Sunday Herald
December 16, 1951
Stratford Conflagration Causes \$25,000 Damage

Damage estimated at \$25,000 was caused yesterday, when fire gutted the Walter Kane sign Co., at 45 Seymour St., Stratford.

Firemen, who battled the blaze for more than two and a half hours said the flames were ignited by a discarded cigarette.

The extent of damage to the building was estimated at \$15,000, while the stock was valued at \$10,000.

Sunday Herald
December 23, 1951
Stratford to Get 550 of 1,000 Defense Homes

Stratford will get more than half of the 1,000 homes to be erected in this area for defense workers, according to the allocations made this week by the Federal Housing Administration in Hartford.

The contractors plan to erect 550 homes there with 300 more in Bridgeport and 150 in Milford. They may be bought or rented only by families which came to Bridgeport after Dec. 19, 1950, and the heads of these families must work in certain specified plants.

Sunday Herald
December 30, 1951
Old Days

Florence Bortnick, secretary to the town manager, to keep thinking about the old days five years ago when Stratford was just a small town and not the mushrooming big town it is today.

Sunday Herald
January 6, 1952
TAXPAYERS TO EXPLODE AT HEARINGS ON BUDGET

Spirited reaction to the impending rise by four or five mills to the already heavy tax rate in Stratford is expected at the budget hearings Jan. 15.

The irate taxpayers aren't blaming any individuals for the big hike but they'll be out en masse to point out ways they believe the costs can be cut.

Cut Corners

Actually the realization that to live in Stratford will cost as much and more than it does in Fairfield is going to hurt the town industry and home owner.

Sunday Herald
January 13, 1952
Stratford Rips Prep by 73-66

Stratford High's varsity cagers posted their seventh win of the season last night in the North Paraders gymnasium before 750 spectators, downing Fairfield Prep by a 73 to 66 count. Coach Ray Needham's charges led all the way in gaining the triumph.

The North Paraders, sparked by a 23-point barrage tossed by forward Bill Hocanson, jumped out in front in the first quarter to take a 24 to 13 edge.



Mrs. Sammis, SHS Curator, turns 90. Photo from the *Sunday Herald* December 9th, 1951.



Agnes Jankowski, Marge Kopnicki, and Mary Primm of the Raybestos Revue. Photo from *The Stratford News* December 14, 1951

Now Showing December 1951 - January 1952

December 2nd	Here Comes the Groom	Bing Crosby, Jane Wyman
December 9th	Starlift	Doris Day, Gordon MacRae, Virginia Mayo
December 16th	Place in the Sun	Montgomery Clift, Elizabeth Taylor, Shelly Winters
December 23rd	Close to My Heart	Gene Tierney, Ray Milland
December 30th	Rhubarb	Ray Milland, Jan Sterling
January 6th	The Red Badge of Courage	Audie Murphy, Bill Mauldin
January 13th	Two Tickets to Broadway	Tony Martin, Janet Leigh, Gloria DeHaven
January 20th	Distant Drums	Gary Cooper
January 27th	Detective Story	Kirk Douglas, Horace McMahon, William Bendix



Rex B. DeLacour



REX DE LACOUR

Rex DeLacour as a soldier in Texas. Photo from the *Sunday Herald* January 3, 1916.

In the early through the mid-1900's, few figures loom larger in Stratford's history than does Reginald Beardsley DeLacour.

"Rex" was born in Kansas in 1886 and moved with his family to Stratford while he was still a boy. Rex was the son of Margaret "Starr" Beardsley who founded a successful oyster company in Stratford and was a direct descendant of the founding Beardsley family.

Rex enlisted in the cavalry in 1915 and saw active duty during World War I. He was wounded in action in 1918 in France.

Rex served Stratford locally and was active in Connecticut state politics. Rex was a leader in Stratford's 300th anniversary celebration and was contemporaries with Governor Raymond Baldwin and Senator Charles "Shang" Wheeler.

If there was a social or community event in Stratford, Rex could be numbered as a partic-

ipant and, often, as an organizer. Rex's club affiliations included Army Legion of Valor, member of the Sons of the American Revolution, Connecticut Society of Colonial Wars, and The Huguenot Society. He was a member of the First Congregational Church of Stratford. He was Vice President of the Bridgeport Real Estate Board and director and secretary of the Union Cemetery association.

Rex also participated in the investigation of the Hartford Circus Fire in 1946.

On December 3rd, 1916, Rex was home on military leave from duty in Texas and was interviewed by a reporter for the *Sunday Herald*. The following is an excerpt from that interview.

"Fresh from five months' duty as a soldier on the Mexican border, R. B. DeLacour, of King street, Stratford, is enjoying two weeks of what passes for luxuri-

ous idleness in contrast to the routine of camp life....

Asked for a typical day's schedule of camp life, Mr. DeLacour recited it off as if he had been familiar with it as long as he has with his multiplication tables. This is how it ran: 4:50, Reveille; 5:00, Assembly (roll call); 5:30, Mess call, breakfast lasting until 6:00; 6:30, First call for drill; 6:45, Boots and saddles call; 7:00, Leave camp mounted to drill until 11:30; 11:30 to 12:00, grooming and feeding horses; 12:30, Dinner, then followed a rest hour; 2:30, Saddle up and drill until 5:00; 5:30 to 6:00, Supper; 6:15, Evening parade, line up, lower colors, sing "Star Spangled Banner;" 6:30, Guard Mount; 7:00 to 8:00, Non-commissioned officer's school with instructions in drill formations, etc.; 8:00 to 9:00 free; 9:00, Tattoo; 9:15, Called to quarters; 9:30, Taps."

Judge Peck Cleans House

Charles H. Peck was born in 1859 and was a lifelong resident of Stratford. His forebears were some of the original settlers of Stratford. Charles was also related to Stiles Judson who, in his own right, was a popular local and state politician.

Charles Peck served for over 20 years as a Probate and Trial judge in Stratford. Up until 1914, Charles was so popular in Stratford that in 1912 the Democrats united with the Republicans to re-elect Charles as Judge of Probate.

In 1914, Stiles Judson, acting as States Attorney, brought charges against Charles for defrauding a client and breaching the client's trust. Charles had charged this client \$700 to act as her attorney in a probate case in which he was

acting as Judge of Probate. Charles was found guilty and, subsequently, disbarred.

Apparently, Charles never reconciled with Stiles Judson as Stiles died later in the year 1914. Smarting from his "rough handling" at the hands of his relative, Stiles, Charles formed his own subgroup within the town's Republican Party. In 1916, Charles ran his own slate of candidates for local office running himself for three different offices on this slate. All Charles' nominees were soundly defeated in the general election of 1916. When the town learned of Charles' defeat, a large celebration and parade erupted. The following appeared in the November 8th, 1916 *Bridgeport Evening Farmer*.

"The result was announced

shortly after 8 o'clock, and immediately a great shout of victory went up. The Good Government club of Stratford, which was largely instrumental in eliminating Peck, had worked hard and when victory was assured, a celebration ensued.

...The Stratford Drum corps preceded the parade that formed and torchlights were procured. The parade proceeded to Peck's house where three cheers were given for Welles. Thence it went to the Judson Memorial fountain, where honor was done the memory of Stiles Judson. Welles' home was the next stop and a cheer was given there."

Charles was so enraged by the outcome of the election that he purged his office of all books, paintings, and furnishings leaving nothing but an empty office for his successor. He vowed never to run again.



Charles H. Peck ca. 1900.

The King's White Pine Act



White pines at Roosevelt Forest

White pines and New England have a long, interesting, and, at times, troubled history. White pine

was never overly abundant in Connecticut, or in New England in general. Hardwoods dominated Connecticut's forests and largely created conditions unfavorable to white pine sprouting and growth.

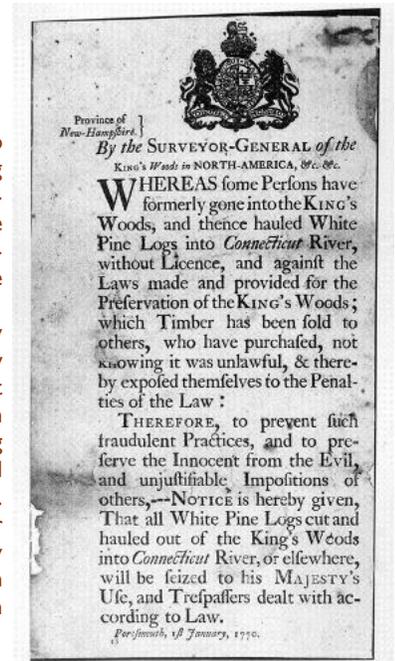
Early in New England's history, the British crown discovered the benefits of white pine which made the wood well-suited for ship building. White pine is resistant to rot, soft and easy to carve, and can reach 250 feet in height.

The British Crown instituted the first White Pine Act in Massachusetts in 1691 prohibiting the harvesting of white pine over 24 inches in diameter. The act was extended to all of New England in

1711.

We often think about the Stamp Act and the Sugar Act as justifying the unrest that led to the American Revolution. However, the White Pine Act was just as controversial and troubling to the shipbuilders of Connecticut.

The White Pine Act was largely observed in the breach. New Englanders resisted the act through violence and through "windfalls" where one tree being felled was allowed to take several other white pines down with it. Trees knocked down by winds, or by tree falls, could be taken by New Englanders and so the term "windfall" entered the American vernacular.



Wanted . . .

A few good people to help the Society grow. We are excited to be planning a variety of events at the Society this coming year.

If you have the time and inclination to get involved with our plans, call the society office at 203-378-0630.

- Cookie baker
- Costume keeper
- Docent
- Gardener
- Grant writer
- Graphic artist
- Heavy lifter
- Photographer
- Retired policeman
- Sign maker
- Violinist or fiddler



Docent presents at Baldwin Center

Ray Vermette, Society docent, will present a talk on Stratford Heroes at the Baldwin Center on Thursday, February 16, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. Ray has a keen interest

in early Stratford history and especially in the lives of its famous people.

Ray's first presentation will be about the life of David Wooster,

his family background, his fame in the Revolutionary War and his death at the battle of Ridgefield.

We hope as many members of the Stratford Historical Society as possible will attend.



David Wooster

A Call for Docents

Docents are at the core of the school tours that the Stratford Historical Society provides for the third and fifth graders in town. Docents are those dedicated people who love children and history. They are people with time and a willingness to share their talents with others.

If you are one of these people

please contact the Stratford Historical Society (203) 378-6842 to enroll for the Docent Training Program held one morning a week for six weeks in February and March from 9:00 to 11:00 beginning the week of February 20 to prepare for the Fifth Grade Revolutionary War tour in May, and one morning for two weeks in September for the Strat-

ford Colonial Life tour for third graders in October.

Teaching children about their local history in an authentic eighteenth century setting enhances their appreciation for the town in which they live and gives them a sense of where their roots are.

We look forward to hearing from you soon.



Docents assisting Historical Camp participants

Tax bills for 1817

DR. GRAY SHOT.

"We understand that a Mr. Sharp, of Stratford, while in a fit of insanity, or something else, discharged a pistol at Dr. Gray of that place while in professional attendance upon him at his residence. Sharp also attempted to discharge the weapon at the servant girl, when she rushed upon him and wrenched the pistol from his hand. Good pluck that, for one of the gentle sex."

The Bridgeport Evening Farmer

January 22, 1867

Bridgeport Evening Farmer
December 18, 1816

DIVORCE.

"Whereas, Lucy Olds, of Stratford, in the County of Fairfield, brought her petition to the Superior Court, holden at Fairfield, within and for the County of Fairfield, on Tuesday, Dec. 18, against her husband, Daniel Olds, praying for a bill of divorce from him on account of his wilful desertion from her, for more than three years; and that the said Daniel Olds, having absconded out of the state, to parts unknown, said petition was, by said court, continued to the Superior Court, to be holden at Danbury; at the September term, so as to give notice of the pendency of said petition. These are therefore to notify the said Daniel Olds to appear before said September term of the Superior Court and show reason if any he hath why the prayer of said petition should not be granted. Dated at Fairfield, Dec. 18,

DAVID BURR, Clerk."

From the January 5th, 1817, *Bridgeport Evening Farmer*, we find the tax assessments for tax year 1817. We thought you'd appreciate comparing these tax rates of 200 years ago to your current tax bill. While there is no exact science, the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis indicates that \$1 in 1817 would be worth approximately \$15 today.

Barlow, David	1 acre and 6 rods and buildings	\$3.74
Burritt, Nathan	4 acres	\$1.73
Booth, Nancy	3 acres	\$1.07
Burritt, Josiah	1/3 acre	25 cents
Barlow, David	1-2 acres lying in Beach's field so-called	16 cents
Somers, Aaron	3 acres at Beach field and Short Beach	12 cents
Thompson, Abijah	65 acres and buildings	\$7.49
Turk, Tannake	40 rods and buildings	\$1.67
Whittimore, Samuel	1 house	83 cents
Winton, James	57¼ acres and buildings	\$12.28
Wheeler, Joseph	4½ acres and buildings	\$1.47
Peter, Job, heirs	2 12-100 acres	42 cents

Dateline Stratford Dec 1916-Jan 1917

Bridgeport Evening Farmer December 2, 1916 Ponderous Cable Is Laid In Housatonic By Telephone Company

A 2,000 foot cable is being laid across the Housatonic river from Stratford to Devon by the Southern New England Telephone Co., as a part of their new underground system between New York and Boston. Two of the Toole & Sunderlin Co.'s lighters and the tug Isis were working today on the laying of the cable, which is two and one-half inches in diameter and weighs two and one-half tons. It is composed of 800 strands of wire.

Bridgeport Evening Farmer December 2, 1916 (Special to The Farmer.)

Stratford, Dec 11.—Work on the placing of the forty new electric lights ordered by the board of finance at a meeting held a few months ago started today under the supervision of First Selectman. James Lally. The lights are being furnished by the United Illuminating Co.

of Bridgeport. Two new lights to replace the ones now in use will be installed at Hard's corner and at Barnum avenue and Main street. Ten of the lights will be located in the Lordship Park section.

Bridgeport Evening Farmer December 15, 1916 POLLUTION NOW SERIOUS ASSERTS SHELL-FISH BOARD Chairman Says Oysters In This Vicinity Are Hardly Fit for Food.

..."Something will have to be done I in the near future," he said, "to prevent the poisonous wastes of the munition factories from contaminating our harbors..."

"This state has some 200 miles of shellfish grounds capable of bringing in about \$8,000,000 annually and which, at the present time, are practically barren because of the pollution evil..."

"It is the ambition of the Commission to eliminate the evil of pollution as much as possible during the coming

season. At the present time oysters grown in the vicinity of the New Haven and Bridgeport harbors are hardly fit for food. In some cases it would be absolutely dangerous to eat them. They have to be transplanted and this is a waste of time and money for the oyster farmers..."

Bridgeport Evening Farmer January 12, 1917 URGE BUILDING NEW DRAW OVER THE HOUSATONIC

(Special to The Farmer.)

Stratford, Jan. 12.—At the meeting of the Legislature, Tuesday, Representative Ivan Morehouse will introduce a bill asking for a new bridge over the Housatonic river between Milford and Stratford. Both Fairfield and New Haven counties have been desirous of this proposed improvement for the last six years. State highway Commissioner Charles J. Bennett in his biennial report to Governor Marcus Holcomb recommended that a bridge be built to replace the present structure.

Donald Sammis is promoted

Sunday Herald
December 9, 1951

Donald S. Sammis of Stratford and L. E. Lentz of New Canaan, vice-presidents of the Underwood Corp., have been given new and more important duties, Philip D. Wagoner, Underwood chairman, announced yesterday.

Sammis has been put in charge of all factory manufacturing units, including current engineering carried on at the factories. These units include the three accounting and adding machine plants in Bridgeport; the typewriter factory in Hartford and plants in New Hartford, Burlington, N. J., and Southbridge, Mass.

New duties assigned to Lentz to include the direction of all research, experimental and development engineering for the company. This will include comprehensive studies of electronic applications to Underwood products as well as the expansion of the Underwood line of business machines.

Sammis joined Underwood in 1935 and was works manager in Bridgeport until sent to Hartford as vice-president in 1947. In 1950 he was transferred to the engineering and manufacturing department at the New York executive offices.

He is a mechanical engineering graduate of the Sheffield Scientific School at Yale. He served in the Army Engineer Corps in World

War I. In 1932 he was made town manager of Stratford, filling that position until he joined Underwood.

He belongs to the Reserve Officers Assn., the Society of American Military Engineers, the Yale Engineering Assn., and the Housatonic Boat Club, of which he is commodore.

Lentz was vice president of the Elliott-Fisher Co. when it was consolidated with Underwood in 1928. He has been vice-president of Underwood since 1931, with offices in New York.

He is a member of the Woodway Country Club, the Hartford Club and the Algonquin Club in Bridgeport.



Donald Sammis former Town Manager.

Raybestos Celebrates 50th Anniversary

Sunday Herald
Sunday, Jan. 20, 1952
By William S. Simpson

The Raybestos Division of Raybestos-Manhattan, Inc. in Stratford has just concluded a week long series of Golden Anniversary sales conferences in Bridgeport and Chicago, and from the enthusiasm and optimism of these sales representatives I believe it is safe to predict a big year for our company, particularly in the replacement sales field.

The decline in new car production will be more than offset by service business to keep the present cars rolling and Raybestos

plans to increase its leadership in this field in 1952 with an aggressive sales program,

This year marks the 50th anniversary of our company and the record shows that our concern, whose growth is so typical of Connecticut industry, has paid a dividend to stockholders each year and has consistently increased its personnel.

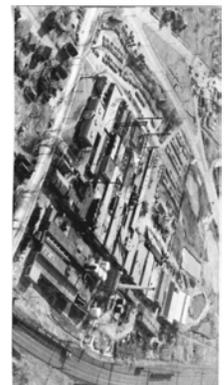
The policy of human relations practiced by Raybestos stems back to its very inception and comes from the progressive thinking of Sumner Simpson.

The expansion of our sintered metal equipment last year should

produce increased business in this field, and other new Raybestos products such as our unique roller skate wheels should continue to grow in 1952.

The prospect of heavier taxes, both national and local, are principal factors that darken the horizon as this high cost makes it difficult to buy new equipment and continue plant expansion.

Management will be faced with the responsibility of eliminating all costly excesses that have crept in during these high sales years in order to meet this tax increase.



Aerial view of Raybestos plant 1955

Temperance in Stratford 1867

The Bridgeport Evening Farmer
January 6, 1867
TEMPERANCE IN STRATFORD

By invitation we visited the Temperance hall in this place Thursday evening to witness the public installation of the following officers for the ensuing three months: Phlo W. Beers, VV. P.; L. J. Beardsley, W. A.; Lucius L. Wilcoxson, R. 8.;

Mrs. Wallace Williams, F. S.; C. B. Curtis, treasurer; Wallace Williams, Chaplain; Miss Ann Turner, Conn.; Frank Smith, assistant Conn.; Miss Marion Lewis, I, S. Davie Cos, O. 8. After the installation speeches were made by the Rev. Mr. Littlewood of the M. E. church, Mr. Hubbell of Bridgeport and others. During the evening Mrs. Roberts of Bridgeport discoursed some vocal

music in her usual grand style. Although the first time in our life in a temperance circle (nevertheless a temperance man) we do not hesitate to say that their cause is a good one and deserves the support of our young men and women. Total abstinence is our aim.—(A Visitor.)



Elijah Marshall Tavern at Hard's Corner ca. 1899



People's Savings Bank c. 1919 on the corner of State and Main Bridgeport

Bridgeport Evening Farmer
January 17, 1867

FREAKS OF STORM

"The indications of the snow storm were very plain here all day yesterday. In the evening the moon was surrounded by a large circle, and seemed to be wading slowly through mountains of snow. Not a star was visible; not a leaf stirred; not a goose stirred. And so things continued until after the dead hour of midnight. Then it snowed and blowed. Heigh Ho, nothing lifcfe it this season.

It commencing snowing some hours before it began here apd at 9 o'clock the ground was covered to nearly a depth of two feet. In some of the railroad cuts and gorges, the tracks were covered to a depth of nearly six or eight feet. Such a body of snow has not fallen in this section of the country for many years."



Judge Charles H. Peck
ca 1910

People's Savings Bank Opens 1867

The Bridgeport Evening Farmer

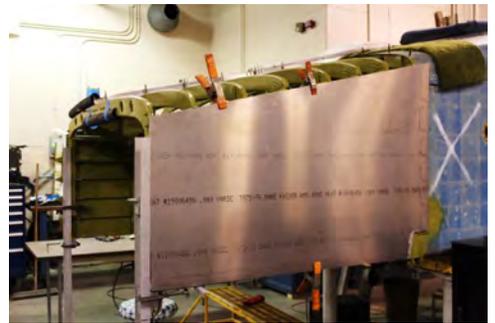
January 12, 1867

PEOPLE'S SAVINGS BANK OPENS.

At No. 11 State street, the People's Savings bank opens on Monday. Mr. Gill, the cashier, is a man, "who knows what trees make shingles,"—as those who

call upon him very soon learn. A penny saved is two pence earned is a Franklin maxim, and Gill can prove it to a fraction.

CT Air & Space Center Christmas Party



Remembering Judge Charles Peck

Bridgeport Evening Farmer
December 15, 1923

ILLNESS FATAL TO ACTIVE POLITICAL LEADER

STRATFORD, Dec. 14.—(Special to the Telegram.)—Judge Charles H. Peck, of Linden avenue, active in Stratford politics for more than 30 years, died at his home at 3 o'clock this afternoon following an illness of several months dura-

tion... Judge Peck for many years

was a power in Republican political circles in Stratford. He was for many years a member of the Republican Town committee, represented the town for several terms in the state Legislature; was trial justice in the Town court in the days when David L. Rhoades was grand juror and the late Charles Stagg was deputy sheriff, and for many terms served as judge of the Probate court in the town.

Had Large Following.

Old residents of the town vividly recall incidents of the thrilling political fights participated in by Judge Peck and the late State's Attorney Stiles Judson. Judge Peck met reverses in the political arena, but invariably maintained a large following and up to within three years of his death was rated as one of the foremost political powers in the town.

A little something to chew on...

Our library of books available for purchase is varied and, in many cases, unique to Stratford. In 1989, as part of Stratford's 375th Anniversary celebration, Vivienne Knapp, and a group of volunteers, assembled a cookbook filled with historical recipes and anecdotes from Stratford's past. The cookbook was entitled "**Paradise Enow ... Treasures from Yesterday's Kitchens.**"

In our forthcoming newsletters, we'll publish selected recipes from the cookbook. You may purchase this cookbook, and other interesting and unusual publications, from the Stratford Historical Society. A complete listing of Society publications available for purchase may be found on our website at

www.stratfordhistoricalsociety.org/publications.html.

You may read the original **Bridgeport Telegram** newspaper article written in 1989 about our historic cookbook at <http://cookbook.stratfordhistoricalsociety.info>.

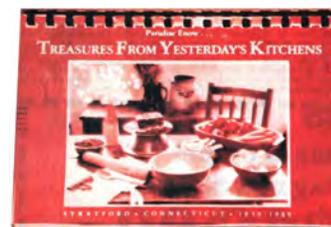
The following is a recipe selected from our historic cookbook reprinted here for your enjoyment.

Myra Smith's Soft Molasses Cake

2/3 cup shortening
1/4 cup sugar
1 egg
1 cup Porto Rico molasses
2 1/2 cup flour, a little more or

less
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 large teaspoon soda
1 cup warm water
1 teaspoon strong vinegar
Dissolve soda in a little of the warm water and add last of all. Bake in a shallow pan.

Tester's note: "Cream 2/3 cup margarine, add sugar, egg and molasses. Beat well. Sift flour (I used exactly 2 1/2 cups) and salt together. Dissolve soda in 1/4 cup of water. Mix vinegar with the rest of the water and add to creamed mixture alternately with dry ingredients. Add dissolved soda. Bake in an 8-inch pan at 350 degrees for about 20 minutes. Excellent molasses flavor."



Carol Lovell and Vivienne Knapp preparing a recipe in May 1989

To view past editions of our **UPDATE** newsletter, and/or to view current as well as historical photo slide shows and videos, visit www.stratfordhistoricalsociety.info.

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The best we can do about the past is to keep the memories alive!

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