

THE CUPHEAG CORNER

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3

MAY 2019



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

MARK THE DATES:

- May's General Membership Meeting: Sunday, May 19th at 2:00 pm at the Stratford Library
- Open House Day, Saturday, June 8th, noon, Judson House
- Governing Board Meeting, Monday, June 24th, 1pm
- Governing Board Meeting, Monday, August 26th, 1pm

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- Cupheag Crier Podcasts 2
- Phone Out at LH Todd 2
- SHS Summer Camps 2
- Dateline Stratford April-May 1954 3
- Tragedy Strikes Twice 4
- "New" Washington Bridge 4
- Roughs from Bridgeport 5
- Still a Dry Town 5
- First Horse Car Riders 5
- Books of Note 5

MAY'S GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Sunday, May 19th, 2:00 pm, Stratford Library Lovell Room, 2203 Main Street

Stratford Historical Society Presents:

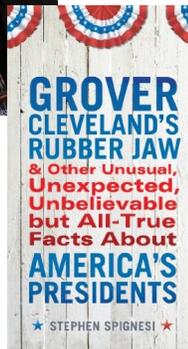
Grover Cleveland's Rubber Jaw

Stephen Spignesi is a *New York Times* bestselling author who writes about historical biography, popular culture, television, film, American and world history, and contemporary fiction. He is also a university professor, novelist, poet, screenwriter, and musician.

Spignesi — christened "the world's leading authority on Stephen King" by *Entertainment Weekly* magazine — has worked with Stephen King, Turner Entertainment, the Margaret Mitchell Estate, Ron Howard, Andy Griffith, the Smithsonian Institution, George Washington's Mount Vernon, Viacom, and other personalities and entities on a wide range of projects. Spignesi has also contributed essays, chapters, articles, and introductions to a wide range of books.



Photo (above) from Stephen Spignesi's Facebook page and text from Stephen's website.



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

Spignesi's more than 60 books have been translated into several languages and he has also written for *Harper's*, *Cinefantastique*, *Saturday Review*, *TV Guide*, *Mystery Scene*, *Gauntlet*, and *Midnight Graffiti* magazines; as well as the *New York Times*, the *New York Daily News*, the *New York Post*, the *New Haven Register*, the French literary journal *Ténébres* and the Italian online literary journal, *Horror.It*.

In addition to writing, Spignesi also lectures on a variety of popular culture and historical subjects and is a Practitioner in Residence at the University of New Haven and Adjunct Professor at Gateway Community College in Connecticut. He is the founder and Editor-in-Chief of the small press publishing company, The Stephen John Press.

Spignesi lives in New Haven, Connecticut with his grey cat,

Also at our May meeting we will be awarding our \$1,000 scholarship to our scholarship recipient.

OF SPECIAL NOTE...

Flora's silhouette has left the National Portrait Gallery in Washington, DC, and has been installed, along with the rest of the "**Black Out**" exhibit, in the **Mississippi Museum of Art** in Jackson, Mississippi. Flora's silhouette will be on display in Mississippi through August 25th. The silhouette will then be moved, and installed in the Birmingham Museum of Art in Birmingham, Alabama. Flora's silhouette will be on display in Alabama from September 28th through January 12th, 2020. Following the Alabama showing, Flora's silhouette will be returned, in its restored condition, to the Stratford Historical Society.

2019 Meetings Calendar

Sunday	May	19th	2PM
Open House Day	June	8th	Noon
Sunday	September	29th	2PM
Sunday	November	24th	2PM

Welcome New Business Members

- Colonial Art Shop, 2420 Main Street, Stratford, CT 06615
- Daugherty Insurance, 2428 Main Street, Stratford, CT 06615

June 8th Festivities Designed to Build Awareness of State's Cultural and Tourism Assets Among Residents

The Stratford Historical Society plans to participate in the 15th Annual **Connecticut Open House Day**, a unified celebration of the state's fascinating world of art, history, and tourism, on June 8, 2019. During this one day event, the Society, along with more than 200 other organizations and attractions throughout the state, will open its doors and offer special incentives, free admissions, tours, refreshments from early Stratford recipes, and colonial children's games, and walking tours of the town green.

CUPHEAG CRIER PODCASTS



Harry Flood dressed as the town crier, October 1951.

Podcasts are defined as “digital audio files made available on the Internet for downloading to a computer or mobile device, typically available as a series, new installments of which can be received by subscribers automatically”. While podcasting has been around over 30 years, it did not catch on with the general public until Apple invented the iPod in 2004. Since then, podcasting’s popularity has exploded.

As we reviewed all of the many wonderful audio record-

ings we have in the Historical Society’s archives, it occurred to us that these informative and entertaining recordings may never be generally available to the public unless we found a way to make them more widely available.

Thus, our podcast, “*The Cupheag Crier*,” was born and launched. You may listen to the podcasts we’ve already uploaded at crier.stratfordhistoricalsociety.info. We hope to upload a new episode every week for the

next several weeks.

To date, we’ve uploaded an informative history of Putney and Oronoque by Frederic Booth, and a very entertaining Stratford history by Harold C. Lovell. Mr. Lovell’s remarks are particularly situated for our present time as he passed from our midst in March of 1969. Mr. Lovell’s sense of a humor is a delight. We’ll soon upload Lew Knapp’s Six Sea Captains presentation.



LH Todd Company, c 1917, was the forerunner of HC Lovell Hardware.

PHONE REMOVED FROM L.H. TODD CO.

Bridgeport Evening Post
April 4, 1894
STRATFORD.

Stratford at the time of writing is without telephone communications caused by the removal of the instrument from the handsome store of L. H. Todd & Co., which was formerly the pay station here in town for the Southern New England Telephone company. In an interview with one of

the firm of L.H. Todd & Co., concerning the removal, your correspondent was informed that the Telephone company terms were of such an exorbitant nature that he did not see why by keeping it in their store where he derived any remuneration in any manner for the accommodation. The terms of the company were as follows: To be guaranteed a

yearly sum of nine-ty-two dollars, to charge fifteen cents a message, and all sums realized over and above the guaranteed was to be turned over to the company. As Todd & Co. were not willing to accept such terms the instrument was taken out Monday and the company was notified to remove wires running across private premises in the vicinity.

SHS SUMMER CAMPS

CAMP 1

The Stratford Historical Society is accepting registrations for our annual **STEP BACK IN TIME** history camp scheduled July 8 through 12. The camp will run from 9:00 to 12:30 on the grounds of the Captain David Judson House, 967 Academy Hill Road. The camp is appropriate for elementary (grades 4 and up), middle school, and high school students. Groups are arranged according to age.

The week long camp will offer hands-on activities each day, and will explore life in the 1700's. Related hands-on activities include weaving, candle making, churning butter, writing with quills, as well as other crafts related to family life.

Graduation exercises will take place on the final day of camp. Campers will conduct tours of Judson House, in period costumes from our costume department, for family

members and friends. This will be followed by a picnic on our grounds for all that attend.

Campers will become members of the Junior Historical Society and can participate in activities throughout the year.

The fee is \$150 per child and one adult society membership of \$20 membership fee only applies for non-members. The membership is good for one year and includes six newsletters a year, guest speakers, and free admission to Judson House tours during June to the end of October when the house is open to the public on Sunday.

CAMP 2

Camp #2 for 5th grade through high school is called **EXPLORING HISTORICAL TOPICS**. Offered July 22-26, the cost is \$150 and one \$20 family membership to the society. This membership fee applies to non

-members and is good for one year with the same benefits as above. Time: 9:00-12:00.

TOPICS FOR Camp 2 include:

1. Native Americans in Connecticut.
2. Slavery and the Underground Railroad.
3. Revolutionary War Spies.
4. Salem Witch Trials.
5. WALKING TOUR OF THE HISTORIC DISTRICT: we will go on a walking tour to see many buildings and sites that go back to the founding of the town of Stratford in 1639. Campers will hear tales and legends about the town.

Each day there will be related hands-on projects to go along with the theme for the day. Space is limited in both camps and fills up quickly. You can print a registration form from our website www.stratfordhistoricalsociety.org and send it in, or stop by the office and pick one up.



DATELINE STRATFORD APRIL-MAY 1954

The Hartford Courant
April 2, 1954
Retirement Announced By Peterson

State Sen. Oscar Peterson of Stratford, who as Republican President Pro Tem of the Senate is third in line for Governor, is retiring from the Senate after three terms. ...Peterson is one of the most popular members of the General Assembly, well-liked by members from both parties. He also has served three terms in the House.

The Hartford Courant
April 8, 1954
E&F Construction Co. Gets Sikorsky Contract

BRIDGEPORT, April 7 (AP) The E. and F. Construction Company of Bridgeport has been awarded the general contract for the construction of the new 700,000 square foot Sikorsky Aircraft Plant in Stratford it was announced today. Work will start Monday and the plant is expected to be completed in mid-1955. The brick and steel plant will be devoted to the manufacture of twin-engine transport helicopters. Although no cost figure was included in the contract announcement, the original estimate of the complete cost was \$17,500,000.

Sunday Herald
April 11, 1954
Langner Sure No Legal Woe for Theater

Lawrence Langner, head of the group seeking to establish a Shakespearean theater and academy in Boothe Memorial Park, Stratford, asserted last night that "top legal authorities" have discovered no real snags in the plan. He said that these authorities, whom he declined to identify further, have "carefully studied the law" and concluded that the Park belongs to the Town of Stratford, which has the power to license the

property to the American Shakespearean Festival Academy and Theater.

Sunday Herald
April 25, 1954
Stratford Legal Fees Tops In U. S.; 7 years: \$100,000

Stratford's town attorneys have collected \$100,000 in fees for part-time legal advice during the last seven years, it was revealed yesterday. Its average yearly payments to town attorneys for that period were the highest in the nation for towns and cities in Stratford's population bracket, according to the latest available figures in the Municipal Yearbook.

Sunday Herald
May 16, 1954
Venables Asks Full Listing On Hoyt Fees

Stratford Councilman Joseph Venables revealed yesterday that the Town Council has requested former Town Atty. Hugh Hoyt to submit a detailed breakdown of legal fees during his term of office. The request followed submission of a report on legal fees for 12 years prepared by Finance Dir. Allen B. Vermilya, which showed the town's legal expenses skyrocketed from \$3,000 a year to \$38,000. ...The councilman said he is primarily interested in the last Hoyt bill of \$32,000.

Sunday Herald
May 23, 1954
Library Club Buys Books To Fill School Shelves

For the first time since its founding, the Stratford High School Library Club has undertaken a Citizenship education Project, the purchasing of library by the members of the club. Proposed by Mrs. Nowlan, the

club adviser, the idea was suggested by a laboratory practice card put out by the Teachers College of Columbia University.

Sunday Herald
May 23, 1954
New Stratford Super Sure to Be 'Outsider'

The starting field of 40 has dwindled to four in the race for superintendent of Stratford schools, The Herald learned yesterday. The Board of Education has visited the communities of two of the candidates and will visit the other two within a week. ...The appointee will replace Dr. Charles E. Chaffee, who will assume a superintendent of schools position in Bethlehem, Pa., about Aug. 1.

Sunday Herald
May 30, 1954
Stratford

PAL DRUM CORPS has a busy schedule tomorrow. First, the corps will march in the Bridgeport Memorial Day Parade, starting at 10 A. M., then the Drum Corps dinner with the American Legion Corps, and finally the Memorial Day parade in Stratford. **ATTY. WILLIAM SMYTH** will be grand marshal for tomorrow's Memorial Day parade. He's assistant prosecutor. The paraders start at 2 P. M. from Paradise Green.

Sunday Herald
May 30, 1954
Oronoque, Other Rural Post Offices Axed

...The third class Post Offices at Oronoque and Clintonville and the second class office at West Cheshire closed during the past year. ...The Connecticut offices are among 1,300 small Post Offices throughout the nation which have been closed by the Post Office...



Sterling House Fund-O-Rama Officials Dr. Herman Shuchat, Mrs. J. Leon Simons, and Mary Hardy, **Sunday Herald**, April 4, 1954.



Sterling House dancers L-to-R, Peggy Barnish, Paula Lakatos, Sarah Dustin, Ruth Broman, and Jeanne De Roucher. **Sunday Herald**, April 11, 1954.



Ruth Pavlucik crowns statue of the Blessed Mother. **Sunday Herald**, May 23, 1954.

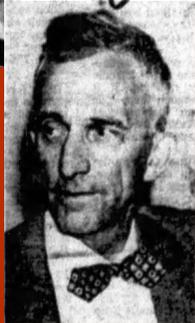
NOW SHOWING APRIL-MAY 1954



Stratford Theater c 1946

April 4th	The Boy From Oklahoma	Will Rogers, Jr, Nancy Olson, Lon Chaney
April 11th	Naked Jungle	Eleanor Parker, Charlton Heston
April 18th	Act of Love	Kirk Douglas, Dany Robin
April 25th	Top Banana	Phil Silvers, Rose Marie
May 2nd	Riding Shotgun	Randolph Scott, Wayne Morris
May 9th	Casanova's Big Night	Bob Hope, Joan Fontaine, Basil Rathbone
May 16th	The Command	Guy Madison, Joan Weldon
May 23rd	Yankee Pasha	Jeff Chandler, Rhonda Fleming, Lee J. Cobb
May 30th	Elephant Walk	Elizabeth Taylor, Dana Andrews

TRAGEDY STRIKES TWICE



Donald Spear left, J. Harry Spear right. Photos from *The Hartford Courant*, May 30, 1954



USS Bennington following the explosion. Helicopters are on the deck airlifting the injured. Photo from the AP.

The USS Bennington was near Quonset Point, Rhode Island the morning of May 26, 1954 when a terrific explosion occurred which killed 104 officers and sailors, and seriously injured 139 more. Experiencing that tragedy would have been sufficient for any 22 year old for a lifetime, however, there was more tragedy yet to befall young Donald Spear.

The Hartford Courant May 27, 1954 **Young Sailor Describes Ship Blast**

STRATFORD May 26 AP — "It was horrible, a sight I'll never forget if I live to be 100!"

Airman Donald Beardsley Spear, 22-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Harry Spear, of Stratford, a survivor of the explosion and fire aboard the aircraft carrier Bennington off Quonset, R.I. today, was telling his experiences to his family tonight.

Assigned to Ship Sunday

The youthful sailor, assigned to the Bennington only last Sunday and making his first voyage on the craft, said he had just finished breakfast and was on the hanger deck unsecuring his aircraft for a scheduled flight when the first explosion occurred.

First news of his safety came to his wife Sally, and his parents when he called his home here at 7 p.m. and said, "I'm okay. How about coming and getting me? I'll

meet you in New London."

His father, town building inspector here, drove to New London and the pair returned here late tonight.

Terrific Blast Forward

"I saw the smoke come rolling up forward," Spear related. "Suddenly there was a second terrific blast which seemed to pick the ship right up in the air and then settle it back in the water. The smoke was heavy now, and I could see that the elevator used for bringing planes to the flight deck was buckled and out of use.

"General quarters had sounded, and I started for my station but the men from below were already starting to bring out the injured, and even some who were dead. It was terrible. I helped where I could, and then with two or three others started for below decks to get out those we could. When we got down two or three decks the smoke was thick and we could hardly see. The bulkheads and the deck were covered with blood."

Sunday Herald May 30, 1954

Bennington Sailor's Father Dies in Crash

A Stratford survivor of the Aircraft Carrier Bennington tragedy is fatherless today, and his mother is in serious condition at Milford Hospital following a trailer truck-auto collision on the Post Rd. in Milford yesterday.

En route home with his parents

from Quonset, R. I. after surviving the Bennington tragedy which took the lives of 97 (this was a premature causality number) of his comrades, Donald Spear escaped serious injury.

The accident occurred on the Post Road near Meadow St.

But his father, Stratford Building Insp. James H. Spear, 55, was killed instantly and his mother, Mrs. Lydia Spear, 52, was rushed to Milford Hospital in a severe state of shock.

The accident was the most serious reported by area police as motorists jammed the highways as the Memorial Day week-end began.

...Milford Police Sgt. John Hubbell said the Spear fatality occurred when his Westbound car collided almost head-on with the Eastbound truck operated by Rene LaCroix, 25, Lawrence, Mass.

...Police said he (LaCroix) would be arrested on a technical charge of operating a motor vehicle so as to cause loss of life as soon as he is released from the hospital.

...The elder Spear was appointed Stratford building inspector a year ago to succeed A. Bruce Schow. Spear attained the highest rank in the Civil Service examination

Prior to taking the municipal post, Spear for many years was construction superintendent for the firm of Edward Moss & Sons, of Bridgeport.

NEW WASHINGTON BRIDGE

Bridgeport Evening Post April 2, 1894

WHERE THE PRAISE IS DUE

The Handsome New Washington Bridge Thronged.

A large crowd of visitors in teams and on foot visits the new and handsome Washington bridge, which crosses the Housatonic river between Milford and Stratford, yesterday.

The structure, which, cost \$88,550, was conditionally accepted Saturday by New Haven and Fairfield county boards. C. W. Dean, of the firm of Dean & Westbrook, bridge builders formally presented the structure to the county representatives on

Saturday.

...Senator Houlihan, with other officials, was the first to cross, however. After the officials, C.W. Beardsley of Milford drove rapidly across from the Milford side. Mr. Beardsley [sic] is particularly proud of the bridge. In 1889 he represented his town in the legislature and with the late Hon. D. M. Read worked diligently for an appropriation for the new bridge as did attorney Edwin F. Hall of Stratford. R. H. Boyd of Milford had the honor of being the first person to cross from the Stratford side of the bridge. These two names will be handed down in history among the residents of the town of Milford. Mrs. Plump,

wife of the draw tender of the bridge was the first woman to cross. In half an hour a hundred teams had crossed, the structure.

The new bridge is 620 feet long with two spans of 215 feet each with a draw of 200 feet. The piers are 28 feet under the water. The only fault that could possibly be seen was that it is not sufficiently wide.

The commissioners of both counties deserve much praise for the work they have performed in reference to the new bridge. When the approaches are completed it will indeed be a handsome monument to the present officials...



4th Washington Bridge 1894
— 1921

ROUGHS FROM BRIDGEPORT

Bridgeport Daily Standard
May 24, 1869

STRATFORD

This town is rather unfortunate in being next neighbor to the town of Milford. On Sunday afternoon a large gang of rougls drove from

Bridgeport to the River, crossed the railroad bridge on foot, and went to the camp-ground for the purpose of meeting a like gang from New Haven and enjoying that highly interesting pastime—a cock-fight. Cock-fighting at best is a contemptibly wicked and

degraded business but when it takes place on the Sabbath and draws a hundred or more of the scum of the earth together it passes all limit of endurance and the firm hand of the law should be laid heavily upon the actors in the scene.

The Hartford Courant
May 27, 1844
The Connecticut Historical Society
...The collection of manuscripts embrace many valuable and interesting documents, such as...—Some of the original Manuscripts and historical papers of the late venerable and distinguished Wm. Samuel Johnson of Stratford.

STILL A DRY TOWN

Bridgeport Evening Post
May 3, 1894

STILL A DRY TOWN

THE SUPERIOR COURT TO-DAY DECIDES AGAINST JOHN M'MANUS.

McManus is knocked out again and Stratford still remains a dry town.

Judge Thayer to-day handed down a decision granted the motion to quash the mandamus proceedings brought by John McManus to compel the county commissioners to grant

him a license.

After McManus was beaten in his appeal to the superior court, as allowed under the new law, he at first intended to appeal. But this was subsequently withdrawn and mandamus proceedings were instituted before Judge Thayer to compel the county commissioners to grant McManus a license. Attorneys Klein and Hall representing the county commissioners and the Stratford citizens' committee, moved to quash; first, on the ground that McManus had a

remedy at law if he believed he was wrongfully kept from having a license, and, second, that the commissioners could not be forced to grant a license as the records in the town clerk's office in Stratford showed that the town voted no license at the last election.

Both sides have made a vigorous fight on this question, the county commissioners having been made factors hereto by force of circumstances. The real defendants are the citizens' committee to Stratford headed by the Rev. Joel Ives. Stoddard, Bishop & Shelton appealed for the plaintiff.

FIRST HORSE CAR RIDERS

Bridgeport Evening Post
May 4, 1894

STRATFORD

The most memorable advent into Stratford was the horse cars and the first passenger was Jerome J. Burritt. On that eventful morning he stepped on opposite the Episcopal

church and the next two were his father, John Burritt and Mr. Skaats. They got in corner Main street and Stratford avenue.

The Newtown Bee

April 6, 1894

STRATFORD

TO EXTEND THE STREET RAIL-

WAY LINES.

Surveyors have been laying out liens for the extension of the horse car tracks to Paradise Green. It's barely possible that the work may be done this summer and, by fall, up town residents will enjoy the privilege of travel by electric cars.



Avon Park to Paradise Green Trolley c 1894.

BOOKS OF NOTE

If, like me, you have a passion for "all things Connecticut" and you have a curiosity to match with pronounced interest, you may benefit from reading one, or more, of the three books displayed to the right. There is a "Stratford angle" to each of them.

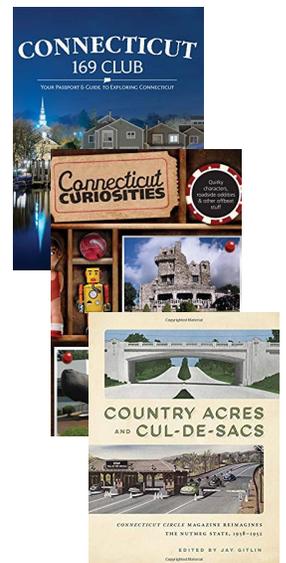
While I enjoyed reading all three books, the **Connecticut 169 Club** is the "most fun." The book is more or less an adult scavenger hunt setting the stage for, and rewarding you for, visiting each of Connecticut's 169 towns. Should you complete your documented visit to all 169 Connecticut towns, you're rewarded with a "Leatherman" award. The number of those participating in this odyssey is growing, and I've found myself visiting towns where I'm hav-

ing my book signed by a town resident, business, or attraction where one or more other Connecticut residents is doing the same. An instant comradery is created with both the attraction being visited and the other Connecticut residents participating in this adventure.

Connecticut Curiosities is, perhaps, the most disappointing of the three books as it is badly in need of an update. Stratford "curiosities" included in the book are the Trash Museum (no longer in existence) and Boothe Park. What about Shakespeare Theatre, the Helicopter Museum, the Air & Space Museum, and/or the Judson House? Also, the authors talk about white squirrels in Shelton, monk parakeets in Fairfield and Milford, and

the golden rooster in Newtown used for target practice by the British. Stratford was known for white squirrels long before Shelton was, and monk parakeets have certainly been in Stratford as long as they've been in Milford. Many of the suggested websites are outdated. However, the book's a fun read nonetheless.

Country Acres and Cul-de-Sacs is a tour de force of Connecticut's past (the 1940s and 1950s). The book contains excerpts from the no longer published **Connecticut Circle** magazine. There are excerpts about Stratford's 300th anniversary, Sikorsky aircraft, and the Merritt Parkway. The book would be a delightful coffee table book were it hardbound.



INITIAL POLIO INJECTIONS GIVEN TO TOWN CHILDREN

The Stratford News
May 6, 1954

Second Polio Inoculation Scheduled for Schools

The second step in the national polio inoculation program will be undertaken this Tuesday when second graders throughout the town's schools will receive their second shots of the polio vaccine.

Dr. Chester E. Haberlin and Dr. George Buda, physicians in charge for the Town Health Department, reported that of 768 children eligible for the shots, 556 of them received the vaccine this past Tuesday. This is approximately 74 percent of the total number.

Dr. Alexander J. Tutles, co-coordinator for the State Health Department for this area, was at Center School observing the polio tests. Dr. Nathan H. Friedman and Dr. Saul A. Thomases gave the vaccine to more than 60 Center School students and blood tests were given to ten students.

The second polio vaccine shot will be administered throughout all the schools starting promptly at 9 a.m. All those students who received the first shot will be given the second one. In cases of absences, the inoculation will be given at a later date. The third and last test shot will be given in the schools on June 8...

Sunday Herald
April 18, 1954

11,000 Second Graders Get Big Chance to Lick Polio

Between now and Summer vacation time, more than 11,000 children in the second grades of the county's public, parochial and private schools will receive the trial vaccine that may mean long-lasting protection against paralytic polio.

It has already been given to thousands in Pittsburgh and is triple tested for safety before it is used.

Continuing teamwork between thousands of men and women promises that V-Day for the youngster participating in the trials will be only slightly different from their routine school days...



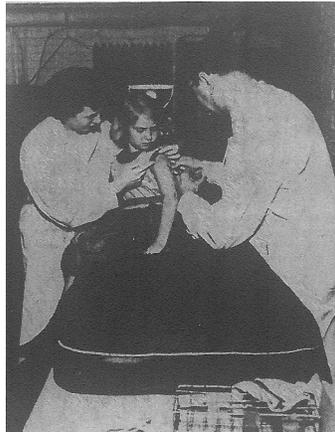
A LOLLYPOP is presented to second-grader Ingrid Cawthra after she had completed her test by school principal, Mrs. Francis Russell. The scenes at Center School were similar to others throughout Stratford this week.



DR. ALEXANDER J. TUTLES, co-coordinator of the State Health Dept., observes as Dr. Friedman give Ellen Graves her blood test. Worker Carol Halpin (center), one of the many volunteers, also lends a hand in the test.



MRS JAMES SANDERS presents Donald Elliott, a second-grader at Center school, a polio inoculation record card in preparation for his polio injection. He was among 60 Center students to participate.



DR. NATHAN FRIEDMAN administers the polio injection to Dorothy Ann Cybul during the Center school tests.

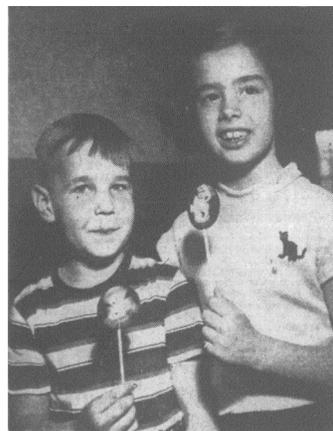


"IT JUST TICKLES!" Dr. Chester E. Haberlin, Stratford health officer, who'll supervise administration of the vaccine in that town next month, demonstrates on little Eileen Richardson and receives assurance from her that it doesn't hurt at all.

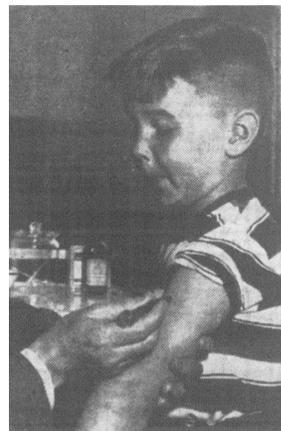


PIONEER VACCINE VOLUNTEERS. First two school children in Stratford enrolling in Vaccine Validity trials are John Jaekle, 8, and Eileen Richardson, 8, of Wilcoxson School, who present request forms (signed by their parents) to Stratford Supt. of Schools Charles E. Chafee and teacher Mrs. Theresa Walsh.

Looking on is Mrs. Wanda McPadden, head of Stratford's Mothers March on Polio.



The two proud VV pioneers are seen licking lollipops, the kids' reward for taking part in the trial.



Young Mr. Jaekle expects the worst. But all he gets is a ticklish sensation.

PARADISE LAWN AD

This ad appeared in the May 25, 1919 *Bridgeport Sunday Herald*

**Stratford's
Growth
Phenomenal**

**POPULATION TREBLED
IN FIVE YEARS**

**IS FAST BECOMING AN IN-
DUSTRIAL CENTER**

The atmosphere is exhilarating—the surroundings ideally built up with new and modern homes.

**30
HOUSES**

Contracted for and under construction, 6,000 feet of electric extension, 4,000 feet of water main placed on the property in the last month.

These and a host of natural attributes combine to make Paradise Lawn lots the buy of the year either for investment or speculation.

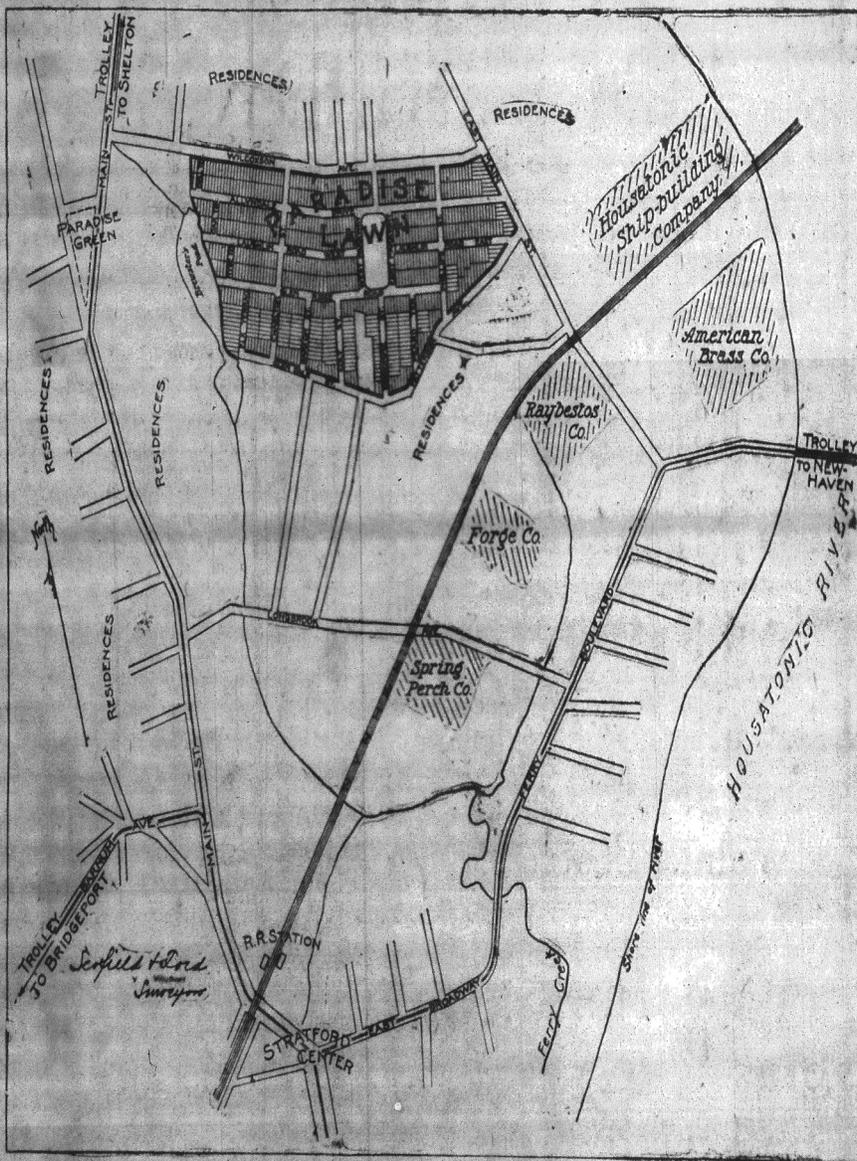
**COME OUT AND SEE FOR
YOURSELF**

Title

GUARANTEED BY THE
BRIDGEPORT LAND AND
TITLE COMPANY

PARADISE LAWN

Take Paradise Green car to end of line—walk one block East. Take Milford or New Haven car to Ferry Boulevard and East Main Street (Stratford)—walk one block north.



Here is
**Your Big
Opportunity**

The advice of America's most
successful men is

"BUY REAL ESTATE"

But buy where growth is inevitable.

Fortunes will be made in the next few years by wise investors in Stratford property. You can't go wrong in Stratford at present prices. But for quick profit, we recommend

Paradise Lawn

THE REASONS

FIRST—Because, Lots can be bought now at "Before War" Prices—But an advance is inevitable.

SECOND—Because, Paradise Lawn is but a stone's throw from all the new and gigantic industries recently located in Stratford.

THIRD—Because, it is easily reached from either of the Stratford Street car lines—(6 cents fare).

FOURTH—It is also quite accessible from all the East Side Bridgeport Industries and is right on the natural line of growth and development both for Stratford and for Bridgeport.

**DON'T TAKE MY WORD
MAKE ME PROVE IT**

PARADISE LAWN
OFFICE
ON PROPERTY
TEL.

STRATFORD 288-2

HOMES BUILT ON EASY TERMS

HARRY A. BURNES

TELEPHONE STRATFORD 411

AERODROME PARK

This ad appeared in the May 29, 1919 *The Bridgeport Evening Farmer*

The Bridgeport Evening Farmer
 May 29, 1919
**AERODROME PARK
 TO BE PLACE OF
 HOMES**

Homes to be bought at installment rates one-third lower than average rents in Bridgeport is a new departure in the real estate business announced today by William F. Sheehan, the real estate dealer of No. 164 Golden Hill Street. Mr. Sheehan's announcement that the famous Aerodrome Park in Stratford was to be cut up into building lots was everywhere greeted with the greatest interest, mingled somewhat with regrets that the park was not to be used as an air landing station for the air mail of the postal deprment [sic].

The lots at Aerodrome Park are 100 feet by 50 feet in dimensions and restrictions are not so stringent but that chickens may be kept and gardens cultivated. Bungalows range in price from \$300 to \$1,265. A workman may buy a lot and bungalow for one-half of the cost of a single lot in the city proper.

There are 17 differetn [sic] styles of bungalows being planned. Aerodrome Park is one block from the Stratford avenue car line and within easy walking distance of 25 of the largest factories in the city. A three day sale will be announced in the advertising columns Thursday.

THE TIMES: MAY 29, 1919

The Rent-Payer's "Kingdom Come" Is Here! It's Goodbye Landlord Now!

BEAUTIFUL & MODERN 5 ROOM BUNGALOW AND BUILDING LOT \$1025
Small Payment Down—\$2.50 a Week

50x100 FOOT

Positively the Greatest Combined Offer Ever Made In Bridgeport! Why Live In the Woods When You Can Just As Well Live In the Built-Up East End?

Don't Lose a Minute! Hop On the First **3 Day Sale 3** Borrow From the Ice Man—If You Have To
Stratford Avenue Car That Comes Along! This Offer Is Too Good to Pass Up!

MEMORIAL DAY---SATURDAY & SUNDAY

250 Bungalows LOCATED ON 250 Lots 50x100 ft for 250 Families!

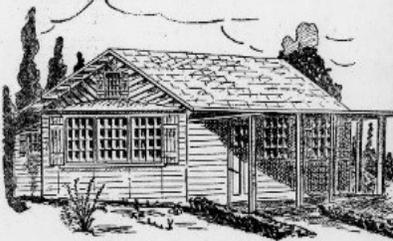
This Bungalow \$575

To meet the steadily growing demand for inexpensive homes, which are attractive in appearance, durable in construction, we offer this beautiful 5 room bungalow. One good sized living room, three bedrooms, kitchen and porch make up the plans of this one story home.

WE OFFER 17 OTHER STYLES OF BUNGALOWS STARTING AT \$300 AND RUNNING IN PRICE UP TO \$1265!

Get away from the crowded dwelling, with its poor ventilation, poor lighting, poor housing conditions. Get into the home of your own.

THESE HOMES WILL BE SITUATED ONE BLOCK FROM THE STRATFORD AVENUE TROLLEY LINE. TWENTY-FIVE OF THE LARGEST FACTORIES IN BRIDGEPORT ARE WITHIN EASY WALKING DISTANCE FROM PROPERTY.



We Place on Sale Starting Memorial Day \$2.50
a limited number of city building lots—each 50x100 Ft. First payment—if you only desire lot—\$50! The rest you can pay on easy weekly terms of \$2.50, until paid. No interest or taxes for one year. No extras or Red Tape.

AERODROME PARK
"In The Heart Of The Built-up East End"

This property was considered as a housing community by the Government recently. It was taken because plans were formulated to make property an aviation base. The land was ideal for such a proposition. It is smooth and as level as a table. A three story brick schoolhouse is on the property. Churches, stores and all conveniences are nearby. Sewerage, gas, electricity, water, etc., are at hand.

Just as much an ideal investment for the manufacturer or tradesman who desires to keep his skilled help in Bridgeport by supplying perfect housing conditions as it is for the workman, who appreciates his pay envelope and wants to live in Bridgeport.

These lots are positively limited. First come first served. Sensible restrictions. However, to foster homebuilding and home owning, we will allow any purchaser privilege of living in temporary building he may erect until completion of house.

NEAR PROPOSED PORT OF BRIDGEPORT

Be On Hand Early Memorial Day--Salesman to Take Care of You!

AERODROME PARK HOMES CO.

ANDERSON AGENCY
Fiscal Agents

Phone Bar. 6978 306 Fairfield Ave

WILLIAM F. SHEEHAN
Sales Director

Phone Bar. 2380 142 Golden Hill St.

STRATFORD VNA GIVES HALF CENTURY OF SERVICE

Bridgeport Sunday Post
May 11, 1969

In September, 1919, Miss Beatrice Olson was furnished with a trolley car pass to fulfill her duties as Stratford's first public health nurse. In her first three weeks on the job, she reported making 160 calls, receiving \$9.

"Stratford is extremely fortunate in having a nurse of Miss Olson's ability," said Rutherford H. Hunter, town manager, in the 199 annual

report, "and for the good she has done among the sick as well as in a preventative work she deserves great credit."

That was half a century ago. In 1968, four full time Stratford visiting nurses and two public health nurses from the town, used for cars to make about 9,000 visits, and collected a total of \$38,700.

For her trolley car pass, Miss Olson could thank the Public Health Nursing activities committee of the

Stratford chapter of the American Red Cross, of which the Stratford Nurse association, inc., of 1969 is a direct descendant.

In 1920, the committee joined the Connecticut Organization for Public Health Nursing and members donated "gruel and broth" to distressed families during the flu epidemic. Miss Olsen served as the school nurse, and stopped riding trolleys; the Red Cross made available to her "motor car."

The association with the Red Cross ended in 1944, when the Stratford Public Health Nursing association came into being, with Mrs. Henry Wilcoxson as chairman.

Miss Helen Gorman took over the position of head nurse (with one assistant) in 1927 at a yearly salary of \$1,900. That was reduced by 10 per cent in the Depression year of 1932, when a list of unemployed worker's wives who might want to work was kept...



EXCESS TEARS, NOT POUNDS—Mrs. Patricia Dana's smile couldn't cheer up this young man on the scale. He wouldn't stop howling, even though a diet wasn't mentioned by anyone at the medical well-child clinic held at the Stratford Housing authority building, 98 Gregory circle.



IN THE BEGINNING—Mrs. Harold Wilcoxson, a resident of Hillside hospital, is the only surviving charter member of the Stratford VNA. She served as its president from 1924 to 1945.



HOME VISITATION—Mrs. Elizabeth Cole, center, assist an arthritic patient. The average patient under VNA care is visited five times. No one is refused needed care due to inability to pay.



WAITING PATIENTLY—Mothers bring their children to the medical well-child conferences for free physical examinations an immunizations. Last year 458 children were examined at 38-sessions. Two VNA volunteers assisted the visiting nurse and doctor at this conference at the Stratford Housing Authority building..



"THIS WON'T HURT A BIT?"—Visiting nurse Mrs. Dorothy Biebel proves that experience counts as she prepares to give an injection. Last fall, physicians referred 1,500 people to the nurses for flu shots.

"NEW ENGLAND'S FINEST -" WINER'S SET FOR OPENING

The Stratford News April 22, 1954

Friday will mark the grand opening of one of the outstanding automobile centers in all of New England, and one of the Bridgeport area's showplaces—the unveiling of Winer Motors showroom and Service center, 1393 Barnum Avenue.

The great two-day event at Winer Motors will culminate a three-year building project that has incorporated every modern advance in construction, design and equipment.

On Friday and Saturday the public will get its first look at an automobile center which, in Greater Bridgeport, is unparalleled in its beauty and its 100 percent efficiency.

Every feature of the showroom and service center was conceived by the firm's two top executives on the basis of the knowledge they have gained in many years of serving the motoring public.

...The Service Center, to the west and south of the showroom measures 70 by 112 feet. It incorporates every modern advance in auto maintenance facilities.

The Center includes 20 bays, 9 lifts—making it possible for Winer Motors' skilled staff of specialists to work with complete efficiency—a complete body shop and a complete radio shop.

Sunday Herald April 18, 1954

Wonderful Time for All At Winer's Grand Opening

It will be a circus, county fair and carnival all rolled into one when Winer Motors holds its gala grand opening Friday and Saturday.

From 12 noon to 9 P. M. on both days there will be guided tours, music, entertainment and plenty of laughs.

The laughs will be provided by four clowns—Bridgeport's beloved Trixie, who'll also stage magic shows—Pop Lilly, Bobo and Lulubelle.

There'll be barrage balloons and other bright, festive decorations. For the kiddies there will be lollipops, chewing gum and soda; for the adults, plenty of coffee and doughnuts.



FRIDAY AND SATURDAY marks the grand opening of the new Winer Motors showroom and service center at 1393 Barnum Avenue. The public is invited to attend the gala opening of one of New England's outstanding automobile centers.



THE NEW WINER Motors showrooms is one of the most modern ever built. It measures 60 by 60 feet, with all four sides, from top to bottom, of convex inverted angle plate glass, 5,000 feet in all.



NIGHT VIEW - Contrast of darkness and light brings out full beauty of Winer Motors showroom, completely glass-enclosed with every modern appointment. Roomy, air-conditioned interior has terrazzo floor in varied shades of pink.



CITATION WINNERS - Proudly holding plaques and certificates signifying that they're A-1 in auto maintenance are members of Winer Motors Service Center, L-R: First row, Andrew Carrano, Elliott Anderson, William Hopkins, Louis Mazzoni, 17 Peace St, Stratford, Emmett Sykes, Louis Thompson. Standing: Gabriel Cammarro, Joseph Kwolek, Theodore Krush, 62 Baird Ct, Stratford, William Allard, George Smith, George Prow, 98 Airway Dr, Stratford, and Thomas Dunigan.



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE boss Raymond J. O'Connor extends his official "best of luck" greetings to president Sam Winer upon the opening of the new auto center.



Maurice Kaye, right, used car sales manager, and Rocco Garamella, general sales manager.

WINER'S GRAND OPENING

FRI. & SAT. APRIL 23rd & 24th
12 NOON 'TIL 9 P. M.

Come Meet The Clowns!
Bring The Family!

- FREE HALLOWEEN
- LOLLIPOPS
- ICEBERG GEM
- BOBO POP
- COFFEE & DOUGHNUTS
- GAMES, GLOWNS, MUSIC, MAGIC ACTS

SPECIAL MODELS ON DISPLAY
Direct From The Super Parade of Stars - New York

★ **CHRYSLERS-PLYMOUTHS ON DISPLAY**
Over 30 Body Style And Color Combinations

★ **See New England's Newest and Most Modern Showroom and Service Center**

WINER MOTORS
Direct Factory Dealer - Serving Ft. Green, Stratford, Stratford, Fairfield Ave
FINER WITH WINER
1393 BARNUM AVENUE STRATFORD

TOWN FAIR GALA OPENING

The Stratford News
April 29, 1954

Shopping Center Offers Everything from Tools to Neck Ties

The new look in family buying will make its appearance this weekend with the grand opening of the Stratford Town Fair Incorporated at 1785 Stratford Avenue. The store, which has been labeled the "family shopping center," and where every item from garage tools to neck ties can be purchased, officially opens its doors Friday from 2 to 11 p.m. The store will also be open on Satur-

days from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Under the supervision of Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Milwe, the gigantic shopping center offers many top quality products at below retail cost. This can be done because sellers of the merchandise are independent merchants who operate throughout New England and New York and do not have to pay overhead and so-called "middle-man" fees.

All the goods sold at the center, however, will undergo the inspection of the operating group and a 15-day money back guarantee has been established.

Future plans for the shopping center call for a new addition which will carry as its selling products a complete grocery and meats department. Fruits and vegetables are also scheduled to be sold in various booths. Auction booths will also be prevalent throughout the fair.

Mrs. Milwe has reported that more than one merchant will sell the same product, thus offering the potential customer his choice of the product. "The fair is being set up mainly for people to enjoy their shopping and give them a chance to buy top-quality merchandise within the reach of their pocketbooks," she said. Extra parking space has been provided for and the opening ceremonies will include special amusement games and refreshments for the kiddies.

Some of the items that will be available at the Town Fair are: furniture, electrical appliances, men's—women's - children's furnishings, toys, sporting goods, jewelry, and piece goods...

...A luncheonette will be located within the fair and will carry a complete line of refreshments. Future plans call for the installation of a chicken barbecue and apizza stand.

The constant fair atmosphere will include a public address system that will further add to the modern setup of a county fair as well as aid stray shoppers and the younger set.

Mr. and Mrs. Milwe are related to Jack Milwe, who is president of the Pinebrook, N.J. town fair shopping center. The New Jersey store recently had a record crowd of 25,000 shoppers in one day.



TOWN FAIR will make its grand opening Friday and Saturday with amusements and other events planned. The shopping center, first of its kind in this area, sells everything from household tools to neck ties.



TOWN FAIR will make its grand opening Friday and Saturday with amusements and other events planned. The shopping center, first of its kind in this area, sells everything from household tools to neck ties.



ONE OF THE officials of the FAIR is Mrs. Sidney Milwe who reports that "the fair will give the buyer top quality merchandise below retail prices."

MORE CENTS FOR YOUR DOLLAR!

*** COME ***
TO THE GALA OPENING!

STRATFORD TOWN FAIR
ROUTE 1, CORNER HUNTSFORD ROAD, STRATFORD, CONN.

FRIDAY, APRIL 30th
2 p.m. to 11 p.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 1st
10 a.m. to 11 p.m.

ANTIQUES!
AUCTIONS!
FARMER'S MARKET!
FREE RIDES
in ICE CREAM
FOR KIDDIES

FREE PARKING FOR 3,500 CARS!

*** SAVE ***

two shops having days every week for clothing - lingerie - jewelry - shoes - gifts - home furnishings - housewares - all appliances - toys - sporting goods - tools and hardware - antiques - paints - produce - dairy products - labeled goods

- * 1st QUALITY SHEETS
Cotton and Lin. Pique's
washed percale, full size, 100% 1.75
- * Maxwell House COFFEE
dry or percolator grind in vacuum
tin, 1 lb. per container 93c
- * Cotton HOUSEDRESSES
available week after week
12 to 20, 30 to 40 sizes, 2 for 1.69
- * Women's FAIRLE COATS
extra rayon acetate in black or navy
B to 18, size 8-30, 00 \$12.

* Many More Unconditional Specials!
MONEY BACK GUARANTEE ON EVERYTHING!

STRATFORD HIGH SCHOOL PROM 1944

The Hartford Courant
 April 1, 1944
Schools Pledge
\$1,000,000 For Corsair Planes

More than \$1,000,000 have been pledged by Connecticut school children in a campaign to sponsor Corsair fighter planes through Series E Bond investments, Mrs. Raymond E. Baldwin, Connecticut War Finance Committee Schools-at-War chairman, made known Friday.

Enough War Bond pledges to cover the naming of 20 Corsairs have now been made in approximately 50 Connecticut Schools-at-War, Mrs. Baldwin said. She was heard over Station WICC in Bridgeport in a special Corsair Campaign broadcast.

Appearing with Mrs. Baldwin were Lyman Bullard, chief test pilot at the Chance-Vought Division of the United Aircraft Corporation in Stratford; John Japp, president of the student government at Stratford High School who originated the idea of buying Corsairs through Connecticut schools' War Savings; and the Stratford High School A Cappella Choir, under the direction of Miss Kereta Briggs.

Mr. Bullard, the first man to fly a Corsair, assured Connecticut boys and girls that "every Corsair fighter plane sent into the air with War Bonds will take apart plenty of Japanese planes, ships and installations." He referred to the campaign as a plan that will "bring words of praise from every one of our fighting men who hears about it."

"Over here we can only say what happens when a Corsair climbs upstairs and gets above a Zero," the test pilot said, "but our enemies know what happens, because they've seen it time and again."



DID YOU SAY DANCE? . . . Claire Keenan and Fred Kaeser are a cute Stratford pair at the Ritz.



TAP DANCER ELINOR COOKE is back in her own high school crowd, although she is a top performer in the War council talent unit. The gentleman is Ronald Kavanaugh.



TONI IS THE WORD for Stratford High school prom at the Ritz. Here is lovely Toni Arnold one of the school's beauties with her escort George Vano. Her gown is quite a change from the uniform she wears as volunteer in the hospital corps headed by Dr. Estella Strayer.



HER GRADUATION RING, in case you think Rhoda Schott is flashing one of those sparklers. She shows the gift at Stratford prom to Les Turner, while George Vano peeks.

Photos above from the May 21, 1944 *Sunday Herald*.



FAST-MOVING DANCE CHORUSES and song numbers are highlights at the Saturday night opening performance of the Chance Vought Varieties, a musical revue featuring over 300 performers. Shown above is soloist Ethel Brown. The show will have a run of two more performances this afternoon and evening.

Photo from the May 21, 1944 *Sunday Herald*.

DATELINE STRATFORD APRIL-MAY 1969

The Hartford Courant
March 20, 1969

Harold Lovell Dies; Founded Festival Theater

STRATFORD (AP) - A founder of the American Shakespeare Festival Theater in Stratford, Harold C. Lovell Sr., died Wednesday at the age of 83.

Born in Stratford, he lived here all his life.

He was a founder and former president of the Stratford Trust Co., which has since been taken over by Bridgeport City Trust Co.

Lovell was also a founder and director of the Shakespeare theater here, which attracts thousands of tourists every summer.

From 1903 to 1921, he served as town clerk and later became chairman of the Board of Education.

He was a founder and president of the H. C. Lovell Hardware Co. in the center of Stratford and as late as Tuesday was there at work.

The Bridgeport Post
April 15, 1969

STRATFORD OK'S HARBOR MARKER

The Stratford Town Council last night gave its support to the erection of a historical marker which will be placed at Mack's harbor, the landing place of the first Stratford settlers, now called South avenue, Stratford.

Lewis G. Knapp, a member of the board of directors of the Stratford Historical society, in a letter to the council, said the Connecticut Historical commission will provide a marker if townspeople can agree to its location and if the town enters into an agreement with the state concerning details of the erection and maintenance of the marker.

Mr. Knapp also asked the council to consider changing the name of the street to Mack's harbor road or Sandy Hollow road for historic reasons.

The marker will be seen by patrons of the American Shakespeare Festival theater and passersby if it is placed on the north side of the harbor, adjacent to the town road, Mr. Knapp said.

W. Howard Wilcoxson, former Stratford Town Clerk, and author of "The History of Stratford," published on Stratford's 300th anniversary in 1939, has prepared a text proposed for the marker, which reads: "Mack's Harbor, traditional landing place of Stratford's first settlers in the spring of 1639, under the leadership of the Rev. Adam Blakeman. To the right, stood the first meeting house and burial place, and across the harbor was built the first tide mill, in this, the village of Cupheag, in 1643, renamed Stratford after Stratford-upon-Avon in England."

William J. Morris, director of the Connecticut Historical commission,

said markers are usually subject to their own research and editing...

The Stratford News
April 24, 1969

Short Beach rec complex proposed

Preliminary plans for a multi-faceted recreation park at Short Beach were presented to the Waterfront Authority Monday. The plans are the first phase of a projected master plan for the redevelopment of Stratford's waterfront areas.

...The blue prints submitted by Warde illustrated plans for an 18-hole, par three golf course from the projected center to the north side of the park. In the middle of the course would be a marine basin.

...Other buildings would include locker facilities, community rooms, a small theater, and facilities for an ice-skating rink and a performing arts plaza.

The eastern end is also planned for picnic areas, a small boat marina, and recreational facilities for the elderly including a complex of small court games such as shuffleboard.

The Bridgeport Post
April 27, 1969

Society Offers New Volume of Town History

STRATFORD—Due to a great amount of interest, the Stratford Historical society is now taking orders for the reprinting of a new volume of the "History of Stratford," written by W. Howard Wilcoxson.

Mrs. Lewis G. Knapp, of the Historical society, said that over 200 copies of the book have already been ordered.

Mr. Wilcoxson has been engaged in updating the history of the town from 1939, where the original history left off, to the present.

The Historical society will soon establish a date of publication for the complete volume, expected sometime next fall, including the updated supplement.

Sheets have been placed at the main Stratford library and the City Clerk's office at the Town Hall, Main street, for convenience in ordering the volume.

The Bridgeport Post
April 29, 1969

TOWN HALL BREAK PROBED IN STRATFORD

Thieves who broke into Stratford Town Hall during the night ransacked desks in the corridor it was reported to Stratford police today at 6:25 a.m.

Custodians who discovered the break said entry was gained through a pried window on the west side of the building.

A Finance department desk, in a partitioned hall office was ransacked and another desk and locked cabinet at the Town Hall switchboard were also disturbed, police said.

Nothing was reported missing in the break, which was attributed to juveniles, police said.

The Bridgeport Post
May 9, 1969

Stratford Votes Signing Of Junior High Contract

Stratford Town Manager Richard E. Blake was last night authorized to execute a contract for \$5,636,000 with P. Francini and company, of Derby, for the basic construction of the Harry B. Flood junior high school, to be built on Chapel street.

The authorization was made at a special meeting of the Stratford Town Council in Town hall.

The council, by a nine to two vote, approved construction of the school, to begin as soon as the contract is signed.

The Bridgeport Post
May 13, 1969

Police Building Approved

Construction of the new Police Court building on Longbrook avenue at a total cost of \$1,650,000 was approved unanimously.

Councilman Dritenbas pointed out that the \$1.5 million allocation was exceeded by only \$30,000 since a larger generator, lift pumps for sewerage, and a nine inch reinforced concrete slab for the first floor made up \$120,000 of the \$150,000 by which the allocation was exceeded. The nine inch slab will protect a proposed Civil Defense type command post in the event of natural or man-made holocausts.

The Bridgeport Post
May 17, 1969

Ranger at Roosevelt Forest on Full-Time Summer Duty

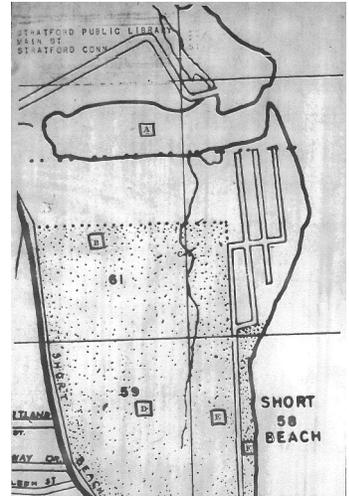
With the onset of warm weather, Donald [sic] Blakly [sic], forest ranger, has assumed full-time duties in Roosevelt forest, according to Edward Yeomans assistant parks superintendent.

Previously the ranger was on duty on a part-time basis.

Extensive use is being made of the forest area, Mr. Yeomans reported, adding that more than 175 people used the picnic areas last month. Also, more than 100 members of the Stratford Junior Youth Conservation club used the nature museum. Club members recently completed a project in which 500 pine seedlings were planted in the forest...



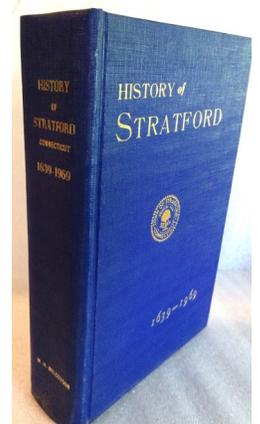
Mack's Harbor marker on stone from Roosevelt Forest c 1990.



The park projected for the Short Beach area by the Waterfront Authority includes an 18-hole, par 3 golf course on either side of the marine basin... **The Stratford News**, April 24, 1969.



Artist rendering of new Police-Court building, **The Stratford News**, May 1, 1969.



UNFORTUNATE STERLING HOUSE CONTROVERSY

The Stratford News
April 3, 1969

Pearson assault on St'ling Hse called libelous, irresponsible; Mary Hardy refutes all charges

Mrs. Mary Hardy, Executive Secretary of Sterling House Community Center, has denied the charge of State Representative Marilyn Pearson (R128th) that Sterling House was dictating to the Town through the legislature for the appropriation of funds.

Mrs. Pearson's accusation appeared last week in another publication. According to Mrs. Hardy, the assemblywoman was apparently referring to Bill 1284 which reads: "The Town of Stratford is authorized to make appropriations to help defray the operating expenses of Sterling House Community Center."

It was reported that Mrs. Pearson had said this was an attempt by Sterling House to get Stratford Town funds "through the back door." It was further reported that she said that the legislation was never considered by the Stratford Town Council and does not have its formal vote of approval.

"I must explain first," said Mrs. Hardy, "that the bill first submitted by Senator Gunther was incorrect and that it has since been changed to indicate that the money in question was for an appropriation for our Building Fund to enable us to start building a much needed addition to the Center. It was not for our operating expenses."

According to Mrs. Hardy, it was necessary to get state approval for the Town Council to appropriate funds because Sterling House was originally left in trust to the Town, and has a Board of its own. The recommendation of the Town Attorney was, according

to Sterling House records, to get approval from the Legislature.

Council Discussed Matter

"It is quite untrue that the Town Council never considered this measure," added Mrs. Hardy. "It was discussed at a Council budget session."

According to Mrs. Hardy, the legislation provides only that the Town Council have the permission of the State to provide appropriations for the Sterling House Building Fund should the Council decide to make such appropriations.

"We had requested an additional \$175,000 in our budget for the Building Fund," she said. It was reported that Mrs. Pearson had charged that passage of the Building Fund amendment "would cost the taxpayers hundreds of thousands of Dollars without the knowledge of the taxpayers."

According to Mrs. Hardy, the amended bill was subjected to a public hearing last week in Hartford and Mrs. Pearson appeared to speak against its passage. "She was the only person in Hartford to oppose it," she said.

Irregular Practices

It was further report in the article that Mrs. Pearson had charged Sterling House with engaging in "irregular practices" in keeping its records and that, when she questioned the practices several years ago as President of the Children's Theater, the group was asked to leave Sterling House.

"That is a downright lie," said Mrs. Hardy. "The books of Sterling House had nothing to do with the Sterling Park Board of Trustees decision to remove Mrs. Pearson and the Children's Theater. In fact, she never did ask to see the Sterling House books. If she had, we would have been pleased to show them to her."

Mrs. Hardy also explained that irregular practices at Sterling House would be impossible anyhow. "We must file quarterly reports with the Bureau of Internal Revenue in Hartford and with the United Fund," she stated. "An accounting firm keeps record of our books monthly and it is impossible to juggle them."

Mrs. Hardy further noted that Mrs. Pearson's former position as treasurer of the Sterling House Council had nothing to do with the books of the Community Center. She referred to the Council Charter which reads:

"The Treasurer shall give semi-annual and annual reports as drawn up by the bookkeeper or accountant of the House. He shall be a member of the Ways and Means Committee, and shall be treasurer of any special fund raising project which shall be under the sponsorship of the Council."

Libelous Statement

"It's an irresponsible and libelous statement made by Mrs. Pearson that this was the reason she was asked to leave Sterling House," said Mrs. Hardy. "She seems to be trying to hide the truth."

Mrs. Hardy explained that many good reputations had been damaged when the Children's Theater was at Sterling House under the direction of Mrs. Pearson and her husband, Edward.

"This involved the whole group," she said.

"Children were taking sides and Sterling House received many complaints."

"The Board of Trustees decided," she continued, "that the group under the Pearsons was violating the policies of Sterling House and was damaging the good will and trust the Center had cultivated."



Marilyn Pearson



Mary Hardy



STRATFORD POLICE CHIEF

William B. Nichols and Mrs. Nichols photographed with their children as they celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary. Left to right are, Flora, Charles, Bill, Jr., Chief and Mrs. Nichols. Another son, Edward, not shown is in the navy. Photo from the Sunday Herald, May 28, 1944. Chief Nichols was appointed Police Chief in 1919.

The Stratford News, April 17, 1969.

YOUR NEIGHBOR'S OPINION

THE QUESTION: Do you think Stratford derives any value out of Shakespeare Theatre?

RICHARD MILLER



Angela Ramirez, Housewife: I think so. It's good for the town.



Catherine Fagnani, Housewife: It's better for the students to see Shakespeare than just read it.



Harold Penque, Foreman: It's a great experience for the students.



Mrs. Peanamsdci, Housewife: It adds culture to the town.



Mr. Porcelli, Taylor: It brings in more money.



Douglas Tippet, Technician: It brings in more people from out of town.

The Stratford News, May 8, 1969.



A Kiss

In a scene from the American Shakespeare Festival Theatre's production of HENRY V, directed by Michael Kahn, King Henry, played by Len Cariou, woos Katharine, the Princess of France, played by Roberta Maxwell. Costume design is by Jeanne Button.

The Stratford News, May 1, 1969.

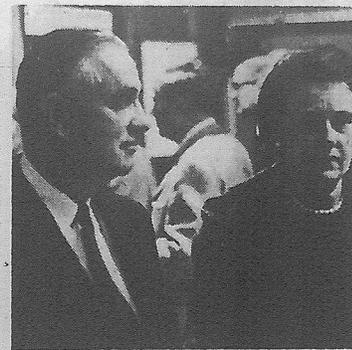
Stfd. night at Shakespeare Theater



Mr. and Mrs. Garry Jacopian



Mr. and Mrs. Chris Parrs



Mr. and Mrs. Harold C. Lovell, Jr.



Mr. H. Richard Brew



Ann Robison, chairman



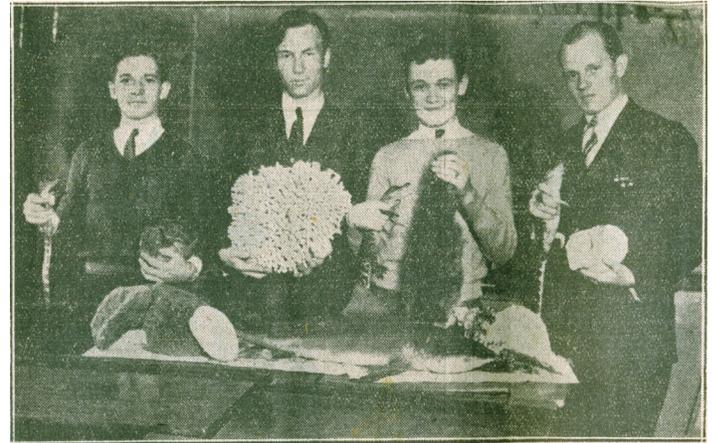
Mr. and Mrs. Hap Phoenix

ANNAMAE ANDREWS' SCRAPBOOKS

Annamae Andrews graduated from Stratford High in 1937. From 1932 until 1945, Annamae kept scrapbooks of newspaper articles she found important or interesting. Here are

two more newspaper newspaper photos from Annamae's scrapbooks.

Bell Boys' Chorus Sings Tonight, May 17, 1934. ... a gay show to be given in Stratford to-



Post-Telegram photo—Mathewson

Photographed on their return to Stratford following a 1450 mile trip into the heart of the Florida Everglades, members of the Stratford high school Biology club and their instructor are shown with the spoils of their biological expedition.

They are, left to right: Edward Conner, hold-

ing an alligator and cocconut shells; B. Burton Cook, instructor, with a piece of coral; Robert Bundock, holding an alligator and the skin of a coon, and Paul Lips, with another alligator and a huge shell. A 35-pound shark rests on the table with several other species of southern waters. Richard Ochser, was also a member of the party.

night and Friday of this week at Masonic Temple under the auspices of the Putney Parent Teachers' Association. More than 150 are to take part. L-to-R, Gertrude Simpson, Ann Shepard, Alice Byman, Elsie Stangel, Frances O'Brien, Vera Lindquist, Rita Whalen, and Caroline McMaugh.

Stratford High Biology Club, April 10, 1934. Photographed on their return to Stratford following a 1450 mile trip into the heart of the Florida Everglades. L-to-R, Edward Conner, B. Burton Cook (instructor), Robert Bundock, and Paul Lips.



Post-Telegram photo—Roberts

"The Bell Boys" chorus from "The World's All Right" a gay show to be given in Stratford tonight and Friday of this week at Masonic Temple under auspices of the Putney Parent Teachers' Associa-

tion. More than 150 are to take part. In this singing and dancing number are: (left to right) Gertrude Simpson, Ann Shepard, Alice Byman, Elsie Stangel, Frances O'Brien, Vera Lindquist, Rita Whalen and Caroline McMaugh.



Stratford Historical Society

967 Academy Hill Rd
P.O. Box 382
Stratford, CT 06615

Phone: (203) 378-0630

Fax: (203) 378-2562

E-mail: Judsonhousestfd@aol.com

newsletters@stratfordhistoricalsociety.info

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

www.stratfordhistoricalsociety.org