



THE HOURGLASS

Elephant Story

Vol. XII

Willington, Connecticut November 1983

No. 2

NOVEMBER PROGRAM - APPRAISAL OF OLD THINGS YOU HAVE ALWAYS WONDERED ABOUT, and PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST WINNERS.

Ronald and Penny Dionne of Glass Factory School Road will be available to help you identify that strange object in you attic you've always wondered about, or to tell you how old something might be, or perhaps how much it is worth. The Dionnes have been in the antique business for a number of years and are also members of the Society.

The contest winners will also be present to tell about their pictures, how they took them and why. The photographs entered in the oldest picture contest will be on display.

Time: 7:30 p.m. Date: November 18,
Place: Center School 1983

ST. JUDE'S BAZAAR

The Bazaar will be held Thursday, November 17 and 18 from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the St. Jude's Center. The Society will have a table with some new things to sell. Be sure and notice the new Woodcut designed calender produced

at Old Sturbridge Village which will be selling for \$2.00 (where can you beat that?) and our new decorative tiles with the Willington Town Hall pictured. The tiles were designed by Marion Doran who has done the sketches for our notepaper.

Our new "History of Willington" will make a nice Christmas gift this year and our Chronology of Willington as well as John Merrick's Recollections are also available. The latter two books are nearly sold out.

We will need volunteers to work at our table on both dates and we would like some handmade articles to sell along with our usual items.

PHOTOGRAPHY CONEST WINNERS

Five Willington youngsters demonstrated their creativity with camera and film by winning the Society's photography contest.

The five, Jennifer Locke, Rt. 32, first place, blue ribbon and \$10.00; Jennifer Piatek, Clint Eldredge Road, second place, red ribbon and \$5.00; Tracy Laurinitis, Old S. Willington Road, third place, white ribbon and \$3.00;

PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST WINNERS (continued)

Jeff Passardi, Potter School Road, Honorable Mention and Certificate plus \$10.00 for the oldest photo; and Chauncy Roschbach, St. Moritz Circle, Honorable Mention and Certificate were chosen from among 13 entrants. Categories for the contest were nature, pets domesticated animals, buildings, people and historic. Additionally the Society awarded a prize for the oldest photograph.

Jennifer Locke's prize winning black and white photo was entitled "Soft" and pictured three camouflaged T shirt clad boys arms extended to touch a baby chick.

Jennifer Piatek's color photo "Don't Look Now" featured a young girl hanging by her knees from a swing, the family Irish Setter lounging placidly beneath.

Tracy Laurinitis' entry "Solitary" was a color photo of a single sun-drenched golden rod surrounded by green vegetation.

Jeff Passardi's honorable mention color photo, entitled "The Last Ride", pictured a vintage horse-drawn hearse.

Chauncy Roschbach's color photo of the family pet catching up on sleep in the home library was entitled "Reading Makes me Sleepy" and earned the young photographer an honorable mention.

The "Oldest Picture" contest was won by Jeff Passardi with a picture dated 1909. Twenty-five pictures were submitted, the next oldest being 1910 up to about 1912.

The most intriguing old picture, submitted by Jennifer Locke, was of 12 horses pulling a trailer in W. Willington. We think it might have been pulling the parts for the mausoleum which was erected for the Hall family at the Willington Hill Cemetary prior to 1912. Come and see it on the 18th and let us know what you think it is.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

At the September meeting held at Center School, members accepted the report of the nominating committee for the offices of President and Treasurer. Elizabeth Robertson and Frances Daley

were voted in unanimously for another two-year term.

SOCIETY'S GOALS

The Executive Committee at its last meeting, decided that owning a museum other than the small area we now have in the Town Clerk's office will not be possible unless we inherit a large sum of money to support such an endeavor.

We plan to have exhibits of our holdings in the library on special occasions or perhaps in the Town Hall a few times a year such as at Memorial Day and Flea Market day.

One goal will be to make a concerted effort to buy or collect Willington artifacts such as buttons, thread, glass and any other articles made in Willington.

We welcome your ideas and suggestions as well as your contributions to Willington's collections.

WILLINGTON' ELEPHANT STORY - BELIEVE IT OR NOT!

Bob Moore of Detroit, Michigan called Eleanor DuPilka after one of his elephants came up with a Willington Flask while they were getting a drink in the North Branch of the Clinton River. He didn't tell her about the elephants but he wondered how old the flask might be and whether they were rare -- Eleanor said "Call Isabel Weigold". He called and described the Flask as having an Eagle on one side with the word Liberty over it and the words Willington Glass Co., W. Willington, Conn. on the reverse. He said it was in perfect condition and wondered how old it might be. The flasks were blown into a wooden mold (now on display at Sturbridge Village) in the mid 1800's. The Glass Co. went out of business shortly after the Civil War.

After a lot of laughing, Isabel asked Bob how he happened to have elephants and he said he raised them as a hobby. The elephants are 1 year old now and will not be fully grown until they are 18 years old. He also

WILLINGTON'S ELEPHANT STORY (continued)

owns a Supper Club in Detroit and a marina. He is taking the flask to the Bottle Society there and will decide what he wants to do with it and let us know.

SEQUEL TO THE ELEPHANT STORY

Mrs. Ann Turkington of Willimantic called after seeing the article in the Willimantic Chronicle and said she had a flask just like the one described and would like to give it to the Society. The flask was given to her by a friend, who collected glassware, from Lancaster, Pa. He bought it from "A little old man" on Rt. 44 in W. Willington back in the 40's.

The Society, thanks to the the elephants and Mrs. Turkington's generosity, now has its first piece of Willington glass.

GIFTS AND BEQUESTS

Postcards of scenes of South Willington given by Mrs. Beatrice Cady - dated 1911-1912.

Photographs of Thread Company employees, and Glass Factory School children given by Mrs. Mary Svejek.

Photographs of many scenes of Willington by Margaret and Clarke Ruby.

FOURTH OF JULY ADDRESS (Part IV)
(Given by Seth Eaton near the Glass Factory Schoolhouse in 1874.

John Merrick, the settler, during a long life stood foremost among his townsmen. He was deacon of the church, captain of the train band, town clerk a number of years and justice of the peace. His descendants have also seemed inclined to high ecclesiastical, military and civil offices - or rather perhaps, the offices have inclined to them.

On the other side of Maj. Wolcott's road (now Rt. 74) and opposite John Merrick's land, in the earliest times lived John Farley. Any of us can tell where the old Farley house stood. Mr. Farley also held various town offices, and on occasion of raising the meeting house in 1734 the town showed its confidence.

in him by appointing him a committee to provide rum and sweetening suitable for the raising, and John Merrick was appointed to furnish the beer, and what was left after the raising was to go to the minister.

Among the early settlers of this town the most prominent by virtue of his office and his learning was the Rev. Daniel Fuller. He was ordained at the house of John Merrick, Sept. 11, 1728 and continued in the work of the ministry here until his death, which occurred Dec. 6, 1758. His descendants, of whom there are many now living in this town, say that his ancestors immigrated to these shores in the Mayflower, but there are some chances of mistake when we have to rely upon tradition.

The farm where we now are was set apart to be given to the first minister who should settle in Willington. But Mr. Fuller doubtless preferred to live nearer the center, and so he sold this place and bought where George Sparrow now lives (the house behind West's Service Center on Rt. 74). His salary at first was fifty pounds, with ten pounds more for his wood.

In 1756 they gave him 608 pounds, but old tenor money had by that time become almost worthless, and I presume, Mr. Fuller didn't consider the amount a sufficient pay for his services. At any rate there was a difficulty brewing about that time between the town and minister, whom they had before held in very high regard.....

I would like to say a few words in relation to the schools. This seminary was established in 1766. Its location was described to be "at the parting of the roads, from Maj. Wolcott's road and the road that leads to Stephen Merrick's". (Fisher Hill Road). At that time the town was first divided into school districts and though there have been many changes, the districts are now substantially as they were first formed. There were nine in all, and this was, as now, the eighth. It was about time to improve the school facilities for the town

FOURTH OF JULY ADDRESS (continued)

voted to perfix the places for the schoolhouses. For a very few years previous to this schools had been kept in the four quarters of the town. The instruction was confined probably to the three R's. Spelling was not included in the curriculum, if we may judge by the manuscripts which have come down to us.

I have before referred to the first meeting house. It stood south of the meeting house which was taken down last year. Though it was less than 80 years since the first house was demolished, there are traditions which put it still further north than the new church edifice. But the records point to the precise location.

By deed of Nov. 21, 1733, Ezckial Stone, John Fowler and Susanna Fowler heirs of John Stone, one of the original proprietors; granted the burying ground near the Center to the Rev. Daniel Fuller and the rest of the inhabitants of the town of Willington. It is an almost universally received tradition that Mr. Fuller gave the ground to the town, but his farm was wholly south of Wolcott's road. There are a great many other matters of interest relating to the history of this town, some of which I may know and many more which I would like to know.

The history of the churches for instance, might well form a large chapter but I shall have to pass it for the present. Besides, most of you have read the full historical notes of the Congregational church as published by Dea. Southwick and the Rev. Mr. Colton, largely taken from a short "History of Willington," written by Charles T. Preston, Esq. formerly of this town, when he was 18 years of age, and the other existing churches have been so recently founded that many of you are well versed in the facts concerning them.

It is, however, time that all prove-able facts relating to our town's history should be gathered together and put in a convenient and accessible form. I have, as you see, entered but a little way into the subject, but enough,

perhaps to show you how vast is the room for further research. (End of series).

(Editor's note - One hundred years later the History has finally been written, thus fulfilling Seth Eaton's hopes).

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

17 November -- St. Judes Bazaar, St. Jude Center, Old Farms Road 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

18 November -- St. Judes Bazaar, St. Jude Center Old Farms Road 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.

18 November -- Historical Society Meeting - Center School

Appraisal of those old articles you always wondered about. By The Dionnes

Also - Photography Contest winners and display of old photographs.

16 March -- Visiting speaker from an area town. (to be announced)

18 May -- Old-Fashioned Musical