

I Weigold



THE HOURGLASS

HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER ~ WILLINGTON

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No. 1

SEPTEMBER MEETING INVITATION TO SEE BANGKOK

Harriet Marco, program chairperson writes:

Nick and I spent five happy weeks in Thailand last winter and would like to share some of the highlights of this visit with you on September 25, showing our slides and souvenirs.

Our son, Nick, and his wife Kannika live in Bangkok and with their knowledge of the country and language and the friendliness of their extensive family we had a glimpse of the country beyond that of the regular tour group.

We traveled from the city northeast over 100 miles into the jungles, south to the beaches both east and west on the Gulf of Siam and west to the River Kwai crossing the famous bridge by train. It was an interesting trip and we think you will enjoy our pictures and artifacts.

Please join us Thursday, September 25 at 7:30 p.m. in the Music Room at Center School.

A short business meeting will precede the slide show. Isabel Weigold and Nancy Desmarais, members of the nominating committee will submit a slate of officers to be elected.

Terms of office expire for the Vice-Chairman and Secretary. These offices are now held by Ernest Kline and Barbara Shaw respectively.

Additional nominations may be made at the time of the meeting.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Last May I was very excited about the walk that we had planned. The day came and it was perfect for a walk.

Everyone was expecting to see the rocks that had been worn away from the many coaches that had traveled the route. To everyone's horror the rocks were no longer there. They had been blasted away and the entire area was leveled to accomodate a logging operation.

A site that should have been preserved for generations to come had

been lost forever. We should try to prevent this kind of thing in the future. If you know of some place or something that you feel should be preserved please bring it to our attention. We will investigate the value and possibilities of preservation. Time passes so quickly to wait to do these things. Do It Now!

HISTORY OF WILLINGTON COMPLETED

Congratulations to Ron Demers who has taken a jumbled mass of research and turned it into a skillfully written, beautifully organized, illuminating account entitled "The History of Willington, Connecticut -- The Modernization of a Rural Town."

Before the research begun, Dr. Van Dusen, Connecticut historian, was asked if there was a good local history that could be used as a model for Willington's history. He said he knew of none he could recommend. When Willington's book is published that answer may well be different.

Our thanks again to Mr. and Mrs. Clarke Ruby whose generous contribution made the writing of this history possible.

PUBLICATION FUNDS

Volunteers are being sought to serve on a Publication Committee. Ideas for raising money, seeking a publisher and investigating costs of publication are some of the areas needing exploration. Anyone interested should contact any member of the Executive Committee.

Present officers are: Betty Robertson, President; Ernest Kline, Vice President; Barbara Shaw, Secretary; Frances Daley, Treasurer; Isabel Weigold, History Committee, chairperson.

FALL WALKING TOUR

Nick and Harriet Marco will lead a walk to the falls in Daleville on Sunday, September 28 at 1:00 p.m. Rain date will be October 5.

We plan to leave from the Marco home on Eldredge Road. Their home is the fifth house on the right - if you miss the house that sits way back off the road, then your count will be the fourth house.

Cars will be available to transport those walkers who don't wish to walk the entire distance back.

Everyone is welcome. You don't have to be a member of the Society to come.

GIFTS TO THE SOCIETY

Mrs. Mildred Smith of Hartford, formerly of Storrs, gave an intriguing painting done by Emily Rollinson Poucher, sister of Helen Rollinson who lived in Willington for a number of years.

The oil painting is of a little red shop that stood behind the house formerly owned by Paul and Ruth Myhaver and later by Robert and Alice Cassells next to the Federated Church on Route 44.

Sally Merrow, daughter of Doris McBee, presented the society with a number of articles which are valuable additions to the Society's growing collection. Among them were:

1. An engraved spade used in the ground breaking ceremonies for the Clara Hall Elliott Memorial Church at South Willington.
2. An engraved trowel used by Rev. Earl Darrow in laying the corner stone of the church.
3. A scrapbook containing all the spool labels of the Gardiner Hall Jr. Co. thread from 1860 to 1952 -- an invaluable collection.
4. A supplement to "The Press" published April 27, 1910 containing an article on the Hall Thread Co.
5. Misc. pamphlets, dedication programs, newspaper articles, plays, etc.
6. A number of books.
7. Picture of the 8th grade graduation class of 1916, and picture of Center School undated but probably taken in the 1890's.

SOCIETY PROVIDES SERVICE TO THE TOWN CLERK

Isabel Weigold has been assisting the Town Clerk, Eleanor DuPilka in her efforts to preserve and restore the

oldest town records dating back to the 1700's. The Vital Statistic records of 1850-1877 are deteriorating badly, the ink is fading to the extent that some pages are nearly unreadable. Isabel has been indexing the names and arranging them by families, and will be typing the manuscript which can be bound.

Researchers will find the typed record easier to read and there will be less wear and tear on the original, handwritten copy.

Vital records from 1877 up to the 1900's consist of birth, death and marriage certificates of varying sizes which are unsorted in a box. We need volunteers to help in indexing these, pasting them on uniformly sized paper in preparation for binding. If interested contact Isabel Weigold.

VAULT IS DRY AGAIN

A dehumidifier was purchased last spring with the assistance of Jim Bugbee who investigated prices and recommended the proper type and size of appliance to fit our needs.

Our thanks to Jim who volunteered to pick it up and deliver it to the Town Hall.

Thanks also to Nancy Desmarais who has been faithfully removing the tray when it becomes full.

HOMEMADE SOAP FOR SALE

Longer lasting, containing more glycerine, a more efficient cleaner and cheaper at 25 cents a bar, members are urged to try this latest sale item and tell Harriett Marco what you think of it. We'd like to have this as an ongoing project if it seems feasible.

OLD TIME SONG FEST AT CENTER SCHOOL

A standing room only crowd enjoyed the music and songs presented by a variety of people including the Willington Fireflies 4 H Club, Lisa Bugbee, clarinetist; Derek Haskew, also on the clarinet; Cindy Bugbee, Flute; Nancy King and Claudia Rondeau, guitar and vocal; Alexander Duhansky, Alfred Hunyadi, and Alexander Kuchinsky in an Harmonica trio; Georgiana Booth, Betty May, Betsy Staples, Jackie Johnston in a choral

group accompanied by Marlene Carr; Mary Belanger and Judith Marco, vocal guitars; Hilda and Norman Desmarais, William and Carrie Kotrba, Catherine and Richard Peterson, Catherine Vonasek, Louis Zaicek in a Senior Citizens Chorus directed by Catherine Peterson.

A sing along and refreshments followed this fine program.

OLD COMMON ROAD TOUR

All those who participated in the walk along the Old Common Road last May and had the refreshing drink thoughtfully furnished by Mary Kline agreed the walk was good recreation, interesting and informative. Ernest Kline led the walk which was to culminate where the old stage coach left its marks on the rocks along the roadway. The area, unbeknown to him, had been bulldozed and the rocks we were looking for no longer could be found. However, since then we've been told there is another area along that same road where the scratched rocks can be seen.

FLEA MARKET A SUCCESS

The Historical Society took in \$69.00 at the Flea Market on the 6th of September. Old annual reports of the town dating as far back as 1910 were available for sale as well as corks, brass dog tags and old fishing, hunting and angling license buttons. These were found in the attic of the town hall and excited some interest by the passersby.

MANSFIELD HOLDS MUSEUM OPENING

The Mansfield Historical Society's official museum opening on June 1 was a grand success with approximately 250 people viewing the museum exhibits at the new location. Watercolors of George Freeman, miniaturist, were placed on display for the first time since restoration some years ago. The vault facility now permits the display of other valuable Society possessions. The museum is open Thursdays and Sundays from 1 to 4 p.m. throughout the early autumn.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership dues are due and payable during the month of September. Please fill out the attached membership application and return with your check to Mrs. Nancy Desmarais.

Those non-members who would like to continue receiving the Hourglass should so indicate on the membership application and return to Mrs. Desmarais also.

HOURLASS NEEDS HELP

Isabel Weigold has been gathering the news items, writing them up in rough draft and presenting them to Mary Ann Kouyoumjian who edits them and retypes the information in an organized fashion. Mary Ann will not be able to do this any longer but she will advise anyone who would like to take the job on. The newsletter goes out four times a year. After Mary Ann completes her part of the job, it then goes to Elsie Hanks who types up the stencils. She takes them to Nancy Desmarais who runs them off on the mimeograph machine and from there they go to Ernest and Mary Kline who address and mail them. So you see it is a cooperative effort.

WHO WOULD LIKE TO HELP.

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CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS 1980-81

Sept. 25 -- Slide show on Thailand by Harriet Marco, Center School, Music Room at 7:30 p.m.

Sept. 28 -- Walk through the woods to Daleville, Baldwin's brook and the falls, led by Harriet and Nick Marco at 1:00 p.m.

Nov. 20 -- Wood and Its Uses -- Past and Present. Old woodworking tools and how they were used -- a speaker is being sought.

March 19 -- Restoration of Old Dolls by Vivian Carlson of Glass Factory Schoolhouse Road who has a large collection of antique dolls.

May 21 -- Second Annual Song Fest

OUT-OF-TOWN EVENTS OF INTEREST

PLAINVILLE, CONNECTICUT - 10:00 A.M.

Saturday, Sept. 27 -- David Stoddard, noted Connecticut genealogist, will speak on Organizing Historical Collections from a Genealogist's point of view

Terry Harlow will be the afternoon speaker on the art of book-binding and paper marbling. She will discuss conservation problems and different types of books that would be found in Historical Society collections.

Ruth Hummel, president of the Plainville Historical Society, will talk about the Farmington Canal -- then and now.

Anyone interested in attending should contact Isabel Weigold for further details.

WILLIMANTIC

Oct. 15 and 29 -- Two workshops will be held at Eastern Conn. State College on Preservation and Restoration of Historical Records and Books. There is a fee of \$10.00 and the workshop runs from 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. both days.