Lion's Club

BROADSIDE

The Lions Club - West Windsor Newsletter 1954-1968

Summer & Fall 1989

During the years 1954 through 1968, before there was a local newspaper in West Windsor, the Lions Club published a monthly newsletter, which was sent to every resident of the Township. A complete set of these newsletters was given to the Society by Mary and Warren Schenck. Our thanks to them and to the Lions Club for allowing us to reprint the following excerpts. If your appetite is whetted by these excerpts, a complete set is on file at the West Windsor Library.

Vol. 1, No. 1 - November 1954 - The West Windsor Newsletter is a non-profit service of the West Windsor Twp. Lions Club for the purpose of disseminating local news to encourage active interest and participation of WW residents in the Township, its government and its activities.

wnship are reminded that they should obtain a moving permit from H. Herbert Mather, Tax Collector, Dutch Neck. There is no charge for this permit.

The Princeton Post Office has extended mounted route service to Penns Neck residents. House numbers must be assigned to all houses in this area.

The Christmas Teen-Age Dance held Dec. 18 was a tremendous success, with 280 teen-agers in attendance. The next Teen-Age Dance will be a square dance on Jan. 15 at the Dutch Neck School.

The WWT Library Committee announces that the library in the Township Hall is open every Friday from 2 to 4 p.m. Any resident can use the facilities.

The WWT Planning Board was organized only two years ago (1953). Its principal purpose is planning in a systematic way for the orderly growth of our community.

clanning Board tasks for the future include: drawing up a Master Plan outlining the agreed-upon philosophy and guiding factors for

development and land uses in the years ahead; preparing a Land-Use Map to serve as a guide in future zoning and planning; reviewing and revising present Zoning Ordinance with reference to gradually expanding plans and ideas for future community development.

This would include study of provisions relative to the use of designated areas for residential, business, commercial and industrial purposes to achieve a balanced economy.

March 1955 - Residents of Princeton Junction have joined together in subscribing to a stock issue in the present water company to provide capital to drill a new well and make other needed improvements. The well is to be drilled on the property of the Pennsylvania Railroad near the Princeton Jct. station.

May 1955 - The Board of Education has approved plans of the proposed new addition to the West Windsor Elementary School (Dutch Neck). Approval was also given to modernize and enlarge the cafeteria and other facilities at the Penns Neck School.

The new Princeton Junction well was drilled to 312 feet and will add 20 gallons per minute to the present supply. Until the new well is connected in May, the Water Company plans to continue drawing on the spring at the foot of Scott Avenue.

April 1955 - Freak Twister hits Township. A heavy wind and rain storm did considerable damage in parts of the Township March 22.

WINDSOR NEWSLETTER

VOL. 1 NO. 1

WEST WINDSOR TOWNSHIP, N. J.

NOVEMBER 1954

Bohrens warehouse, Conover & Emmons were damaged. A number of trees were uprooted.

September 1955 - After weeks of damaging drought, the Township felt the effects of the remains of the two hurricanes (Connie and Diane) in August. Many residents suffered damages from the deluge of Aug. 12 and 13 when local streams flooded over their banks and nearby roads.

October 1955 - The Mercer County Bookmobile is now making two stops in the Township: on alternate Wednesdays the Bookmobile is scheduled to be at Wilder and Washington Rds. in Penns Neck from 2:30 to 3 p.m. and at Mill and Clarksville Roads, Grover Mill from 3:05 to 3:25 p.m.

A contract has been let for the placing of two 4,000 lumen overhead lights at the dangerous intersection of Alexander Road and Route 1.

November 1955 - The Township Committee points out that the two constables, Frank Chamberlin and Matt Mathes do not constitute a police force. They are given police powers to serve summonses for infractions of Township ordinances, traffic violations, etc. The State Police carry on the normal police work in the Township.

Nature Note: Mail carriers serving rural routes in the Township request boxholders to please check their boxes and evict any wasps which may have set up housekeeping.

December 1956 - A serious effort is being made to bring Little League Baseball to WWT. So far this effort has produced: a field made available by Conover & Emmons, just north of the Alexander St. railroad overpass; special rough seed donated by Conover & Emmons; grading and seeding by WWT Road Crew; back stop materials donated by the PRR, also cinders for parking areas. A group of interested fathers plan to apply to the National Little League for a charter.

January 1957 - Purchase of an additional school site for WWT will be voted on February 13, 1957. Site includes about 20 acres fronting the Clarksville Rd., lying between the Hightstown and North Post Roads, and adjoining the south end of Scott and

Berrien Avenues. Present action involves only purchase of land, The Board of Education has no plans for constructing a school building at this time.

August 1958 - The Sheep Wash is dangerously polluted and unfit for swimming. Report by Health Officer after tests showed very high bacterial count.

October 1958 - The WWT Zoning Board announced that building permits are now necessary for any construction in the Township. This new ruling now includes farmers.

February 1959 - Ground was broken in January for a new \$800,000 wing behind the main building at the RCA David Sarnoff Research Center on Route 1 at Penns Neck. The building will house the Advanced Military systems, a new high-level scientific and technical division of RCA. AMS was created to develop new and advanced weapon systems and concepts.

American Cyanamid plans to begin construction of a \$7 million structure on the Clarksville tract to provide laboratory facilities.

August 1961 - WWT will establish a full time office in the Township Hall in Dutch Neck beginning August 1st. Mrs. Mary L. Mathes will coordinate activities of Zoning, Planning and Building Departments, and handle inquiries.

September 1961 - The Zoning Adjustment Board recommended that a variance be granted to Techne Ltd., to alter, convert and use the Penns Neck Community Club for a research laboratory with offices and space for warehousing, assembling and distributing scientific instruments.

Princeton Recreation Center, Inc. received permission to erect 20 additional bowling lanes and an ice skating rink on their premises on Brunswick Pike.

October 1961 - A group of West Windsor homeowners has organized the Citizens Committee for the Optimum Location of Route 95. They hope to learn the planned location and schedule of construction of Route 95 in WWT.



The Committee questions the need for Route 95 in the Township and opposes the location of the ute closer than 2000 yards to the south and east the PRR tracks. The presently proposed alignment passes through some of the most densely populated areas of WWT.

November 1961 - The Lions have joined forces with residents adjacent to Grovers Mill Pond to drain the pond, remove silt and debris, and render chemical treatment of the water so it can remain in a clean, attractive condition. Neither group could have undertaken this project alone. As a result of their cooperation, the Township will benefit from this attractive area.

December 1961 - The WW Township Committee proposed a new ordinance concerning shelters from nuclear fallout radiation and adopting a code of rules and regulations on building them. Such shelters are subject to taxation at the present time.

September 1962 - Volunteers requested to form a First Aid Ambulance Service for WWT.

The West Windsor Director of Civil Defense nounces that the siren located on the Town Hall Dutch Neck will be sounded at Noon each Saturday to familiarize the public with its sound and inform them of the time.

March 1963 - Craft Cleaners of Cranbury Rd. announce the completion of a circular bulletin board in front of their premises. All township organizations are invited to use it for the display of posters and notices.

October 1963 - A questionnaire was included with the newsletter asking about present and future use of the Mercer County Library's services in West Windsor. These services included: Main branch in Ewing and a branch in Lawrence Township shopping center.

Book mobile service at 6 stops weekly. A library "station" at Township Hall in Dutch Neck stocked with about 300 books and open Fridays from 2-4 a.m. staffed by volunteers. About 700 books on loan to school libraries in WWT.

pril 1964 - Mayor Malcolm Roszel has formed a mmittee to coordinate township's observance of the New Jersey Tercentenary. A Community Day Celebration to be held September 19 at the Maurice Hawk School. Local historical notes will appear in the WW newsletter. Possibly, there will

be marking of historical sites in WWT and publication of a map and tour of these places.

June 1965 - The Cranbury Migrant School will open in July. The school needs children's clothing for ages 1 to 15; linens and toys. Contributions may be dropped off at the home of Georgia Lee Johnson, RN.

December 1965 - WWT Board of Education is studying the feasibility of inaugurating an Adult Education Program. If sufficient interest, modest program in spring 1966.(Questionnaire followed asking about types of courses and availability of instructors).

February 1966 - Many residents are aware of the confusion which exists by reason of having eleven different postal addresses. The Planning Board believes this myriad of postal addresses has an adverse effect on the future development of the Township. The Board recommends that an effort be made to consolidate as many of these addresses as possible with a "West Windsor" address.

November 1966 - The West Windsor Branch of the Mercer County Library will open November 16th. The library will open 1-5 p.m., Monday through Friday; 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., Tuesday and Thursday evenings; and Saturday 9 a.m. to Noon.

November 1967 - WWT Planning Board will consider two major subdivisions: a 64 lot development (Benford) and a 22 lot subdivision next to Benford on North Post Road. (Princeton Ivy).

ADVERTISEMENTS FROM THE LIONS CLUB NEWSLETTER

The two center pages of this newsletter reproduce the ads carried in the very first issue, November 1954. As a matter of interest, we tracked each business down and have indicated whether the company is still around and/or its new owners/name.

-Shirlee Bleacher, Al Carson, Bernt Midland, Mary Schenck.



DANSER BROTHERS BUTLER'S ATLANTIC SERVICE ALLEN & STULTS CO. Floor Coverings & Appliance B Goodyear Tire & Battery ServiceOB INSURANCE 111 MAIN ST., HIGHTSTOWN HIGHTSTOWN, N. J. PENNS NECK CIRCLE PR. 1-9774 HI 8-0110 PHONE HI 8-0151 DINER MONED TO JOHA BY GARY AMERICAN CYANAMID COMPANY DECKER'S DAIRY, INC. THE BEST IN DAIRY PRODUCTS Food and Service at Their Best FINE CHEMICALS DIVISION Air Conditioned TINDALL Now: AGRICULTHRAL CENTER HIGHTSTOWN, N. J. EXCEPT SUNDAY OPEN 24 HOURS V. N. DESAUTELLE FLORIST APPLIED SCIENCE CORPORATION OF PRINCETON When You Think of a Car FLOWERS - PLANTS Designed for all Occasions Electronic Research & Development - - Think of WASH- RD., PENNS NECK PR 1-1622 BOX 44, PRINCETON PLbo. 3-4141 NOW; LOCATED IN PENNINGTON COLEMAN BUICK CO., INC. O. B. S. L. D. HEALY, Prop. OOB AUTO RADIATOR REPAIR SABP Hours 9 to 6 Tues. thru Sat. Hightstown 8-0900 Harold Sommerville, Prop. A PALMER SQ. E., at NASSAU TAVERN, PRINCETON PRINCETON 1-3039W RD 1. TRENTON NOW: OLDEN AVE., TRENTON DUTCH NECK GENERAL STORE CONOVER & EMMONS, INC. CHARLES P. AVERSANO Fresh Meats, Groceries, General Mdse. Lumber, Hardware, Millwork, Paint FOR FINE MASON WORK DUTCH NECK PLbo 3-2793 PRINCETON JCT. RETIRED PRINCETON JCT. PLbo. 3-2950 - 3-2951 PLbo. 3-2744 VACANT NOW: LUCAR HARDWARE THE FARR HARDWARE CO., ISAAC BARLOW & SON MR COMMERCIAL LISTINGS HARDWARE, HOUSEWARES, PAINTS John Deere Farm Equipment WEST WINDSOR NEWSLETTER 138 NASSAU ST., PRINCETON Bolens Tractors, Mowers, Saws, Etc. REACH THE ENTIRE TOWNSHIP PR 1-0066 - 1-0067 OOB Plbo: 3-2704 - 3-2707 PLAINSBORO, N. J. FIRST NATIONAL BANK ** WHY TRUST LUCK FOR A CONOVER'S OOB OF PRINCETON GOOD BUY? Hightstown Guernsey Dairy The Bank of Friendly Service See The Right Guy GOLDEN GUERNSEY MILK AND CREAM Member Fed. Deposit Insurance Corp. GUY BENSINGER, JR. HIGHTSTOWN, N. J. HI 8-0269 PRINCETON FOR FORD, MERCURY, LINCOLN RETIREDTO FLORIDA Lincoln-Mercury Sales & Service BOGERT MOTORS, INC. BUICK SALES and SERVICE OOB CONOVER MOTOR CO. Selected Used Cars Hudson Sales and Service 28 CHAMBERS ST., PRINCETON 368 NASSAU ST. Princeton 1-3109 STATE ROAD 206, PRINCETON PR. 1-2645 NOW: Nassau-Conover, Route 206 HIRAM A. COOK & SON OOB GROVERS MILL CO., INC. ** **BOHREN'S MOVING & STORAGE** Plumbing & Heating — Water Supplies FEED. SEED HARDWARE Local & Long Distance Moving Paints & Hardware PRINCETON JCT. Piho 3-2938R2 PRin. 1-0782 DUTCH NECK PRINCETON JCT. NOW: LAWN TRACTOR SLS. & SERV. ALEXANDER RD. MAURICE H. HAGEMA JAMES H. COOPER BOICE LUMBER & FUEL CO REALTOR - INSURANCE N. J. CERTIFIED TREE EXPERT

Certificate No. 29

WASHINGTON ROAD

Princeton 1-1473

231 ROGERS AVE., HIGHTSTOWN

HI 8-0439

HI 8-1439

BUILDING MATERIALS - COAL

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Princeton 1-3000

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Better Lawns Quicker

TRENTON, RD 2

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PRINCETON

PR 1-21

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Body & Fender Work, Painting

Welding, Auto Glass

NOW: LARRY'S SUNOCO, ROUTE 1

HARRISON ST. at U. S. No. 1

PRin 1-4983

January 1968 - WWT residents to vote on sale of Princeton Jct. Water Co. to Elizabethtown Water Company, which will install water mains.

March 1968 - After three years of effort by WWT officials and citizens for a central post office, all requests were rejected in a terse note from the Rural Appointments Division, Washington, D.C.: "After studying information furnished, we have concluded that consolidation of postal service in the township under one central post office is not advisable." Big Brother has decided what is best for us!

April 1968 - Newly established Police Department is now operating on a 24-hour basis. Police, fire, ambulance or any other emergency may be reported to the Police Department by calling 799-1222.

July 1968 - First step toward a high school for WWT was taken when the Board of Education named 50 residents to an Advisory Committee.

December 1968 - Planning Board meeting reviewed plans for an Acme Market on the Courtney tract at the intersection of the Hightstown and Alexander Roads. The addition of other tenant shops would eventually turn the entire lot into a shopping center.

Editor's Notes - The amazing thing about these excerpts to me is how many of these news paragraphs still apply today. We still have the multi-post office situation. The Acme remains our only food market. The siren is still tested at Noon on Saturdays, but now in Princeton Junction.

Hope these excerpts will bring some letters from long-time residents, expanding on some of these very interesting news items from a West Windsor still very much in its rural stage.

-JOAN PARRY



History of the Lions Club in West Windsor

As part of our series on the Service Organizations of West Windsor, we asked the Lions Club to prepare a short history. Louis Rieger, Sr., Past President, prepared the following article.

During the fall of 1952, the idea of organizing a Lions Club within the Township of West Windsor gathered imagination and enthusiasm in the minds of several civic-minded men. James C. Sandilos, Superintendent of Schools, and Chester Page, a resident of Penns Neck, both having served many years in Lionism.

One of the primary objectives was the attainment of greater unification of the several areas of the Township for the common benefit of all. Enthusiasm ran high among the men assembled informally in the Superintendent's office following a PTA meeting. These men contacted others they believed possessed a zeal for community service.

After several organizational meetings, 44 Charter Members launched Lionism in WWT. The presentation of the charter from Lions International, granted December 3, 1952, was celebrated at a Charter Night dinner dance at the Princeton Junction Firehouse. Official ceremonies were conducted by representatives of Lions International and a new Lions Club, sponsored by the Princeton and Hightstown Lions Clubs, was born.

In October 1954 the Club began publishing West Windsor Newsletter monthly as a nonprofit service. The newsletter was published until December 1968 when a local newspaper began publication and the need for the Lions newsletter ceased.

Among the many other projects addressed by the Club have been: (1) A Wheel Chair Service, which has expanded to include various hospital type equipment such as crutches, canes, etc.; (2) An Easter Egg Hunt which has become an annual event; (3) Sponsorship of Little League Baseball; (4) Sight Conservation Activities - eye screening, glasses for needy persons; (5) Contributions to Jamesburg Home for Boys; (6) Contributions to Delaware Valley Eye Bank; (7) Encouraged a doctor (Dr. P.C. Tan) to open an office in the Township c1954. (8) Project in 1961 to "reclaim" Grover's Mill Pond; (9) Manpower assistance to the Princeton Hospital Fete; (10) Built picnic tables

laces and constructed a pavilion for Van Nest (11) Civic Affairs, Scholarship Awards, etc. Many of these projects continue to date.

Funds for these services were derived from various fund-raising projects including cake sales, Christmas tree sales, auctions, house-to-house broom sales. Today our fundraising activities include Race for Vision, an Art Auction and Fruit Cake sales.

Meeting Places - Initially, the Lions Club held its dinner meetings twice monthly at the Nassau Inn. During this period we were fortunate in having among our guest speakers Governor Richard Hughes, Malcolm Forbes and Lowell Thomas Jr. Later we met at the Old Hights Inn, Jack Fowler's, Rossi's and the Treadway Motel on Route 1. We presently meet at the American Legion Hall and the West Windsor Fire Company in Dutch Neck.

All monies derived from our fund-raising activities are spent on community betterment projects. Monies spent on Club membership activities are derived from dues and assessments from ibers to cover administrative expenses and

International assessments.

The members of the West Windsor Lions Club are grateful for everyone's support, making it possible for our organization to carry forth its Lions projects and for us to fulfill our motto, "We Serve."

---LOUIS RIEGER, SR.

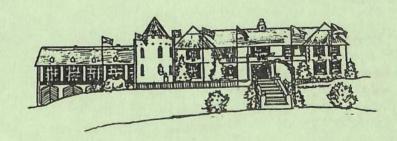
Holiday House Tour

Both Saturday, December 9 and Sunday, December 10 will be devoted to our Holiday House Tour of Tamarack Hall ("the castle") on Bear Brook Road in Princeton Junction. The house will be open to the public from 1-4 p.m. both days.

As in past years, self-guided tours of the 26 rooms will feature Christmas trees and holiday decorations. Collections of antiques, dolls and toys, musical instruments, chemical and scientific equipment, paperweights, hats and farm equipment will be on view. An expanded train layout and village will fill most of the Annex, along with a Gift Shop, featuring West Windsor historic items.

Free refreshments will be served. Tickets, available at the door, are \$5 Adults; \$3 Members, Senior Citizens and Students.

Mark your calendar and join us Saturday, December 9 and/or Sunday December 10.



Join Us Today!

Historical Society of West Windsor P.O. Box 38

Princeton Junction, NJ 08550 Attention: Kay Reed, Treasurer

Please check the appropriate box:

- ☐ FAMILY MEMBERSHIP—\$12. per year
- ☐ SINGLE MEMBERSHIP—\$8. per year
- O FULL-TIME STUDENT MEMBERSHIP—\$5. per year
- SENIOR CITIZEN MEMBERSHIP—\$5. per year
 - SENIOR CITIZEN MEMBERSHIP/80 Years Plus-Free Lifetime Membership
- ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP (One Vote/One Representative)—\$25 per year

NAME (INC		MEMBERSHIP)

MAILING ADDRESS

TELEPHONE NUMBER

Amount Enclosed

Joint Historical Society Meeting

In March, the Historical Society of West Windsor met with 16 other historical organizations from the area to discuss how we could assist one another with our mutual concerns. The meeting began with a short history and problem summary by each group. This portion of the meeting was taped by John Bowker and is available for interested persons.

We then opened the meeting to discussion. The groups agreed to form a loose federation, to meet twice a year, share publications and fund-raising event information, contact one another when information or assistance was needed, and in general, be there for one another.

Thanks, Ruth!

You have probably noticed a change in this issue of Broadside. This is due, unfortunately, to the resignation of founder Ruth Strohl Palmer as editor and designer of our newsletter. We thank you, Ruth, for eight beautiful issues and wish you, Ken and little Kyle all the best!

Gifts to the Society



- "An Ordinance concerning Buildings and Construction in the Township of West Windsor" - September 22, 1939 donated by Lorraine Kapp.
- "Annual Report of the Board of Education and Superintendent of Public Instruction of New Jersey" - 1895 given by Dorothy Tindall.
- Little League Yearbooks and notes from John Bowker.
- Scrapbook of newspaper articles on West Windsor collected by Elsie Wildermuth, donated by Norma Ashbock.
- Scrapbook of articles collected by Frank Rogers, donated by Jeanette Flickinger.

Thank you for keeping us in mind for material of use in future newsletters and exhibits.

Broadside is a publication of the Historical Society of West Windsor.

Contributors to this issue: Shirlee Bleacher, Al Carson, Kelley Dwyer, Bernt Midland, Joan Parry, Kiki Parry, Louis Rieger, Sr., Mary Schenck.

The Historical Society of West Windsor P.O. Box 38, Princeton Junction, NJ 08550

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