

BROADSIDE

SPRING 1997

WEST WINDSOR NEIGHBORHOODS: COLONIAL PARK (PART II)

Colonial Park story continued from Part I, Fall 1996 Broadside.

Dr. Jennifer Macleod

In August 1958, John Macleod, my then husband, saw an ad in a local newspaper for Princeton Colonial Park.

From Dr. Macleod's Diary: August 16, 1958 - We went to see a new housing development called Colonial Park in West Windsor Township. We went away to think about it. The more we thought about it and inquired, the more pleased we were.

August 19, 1958 - We chose and signed up for a lot. The house is 1760 sq. ft., three bedrooms, 1½ baths and an enormous recreation room. Large enough for ping pong. A split level, but the best we've seen. In fact we haven't seen a house we like nearly as much for the price which was \$17,690.

The amazing thing was that they had no-down-payment GI mortgages at 5¼%. John had been in the army in World War II so he qualified. I still live in the house at 4 Canoe Brook Drive with my second husband, Dr. Robert Marchisotto.

a beautiful 125 x 200 world of your own!

wordly Princeton . . .

Princeton is considered by many people to be the finest residential area in New Jersey ... and for that matter, one of the finest anywhere. It is enriched by the cultural traditions of Princeton University. It has the attention of scholars and travelers throughout the world.

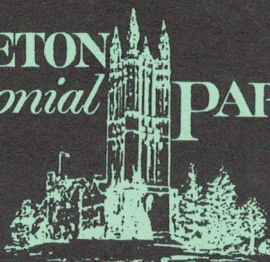
Yet, for all its fame, Princeton has maintained a demeanor of small town refinement. Gracious homes, wide streets, uncrowded living. You enjoy a full life in this beautiful community. And you have every local and commuting convenience.

The modern Princeton Shopping Center, public schools and houses of worship are only minutes away ...

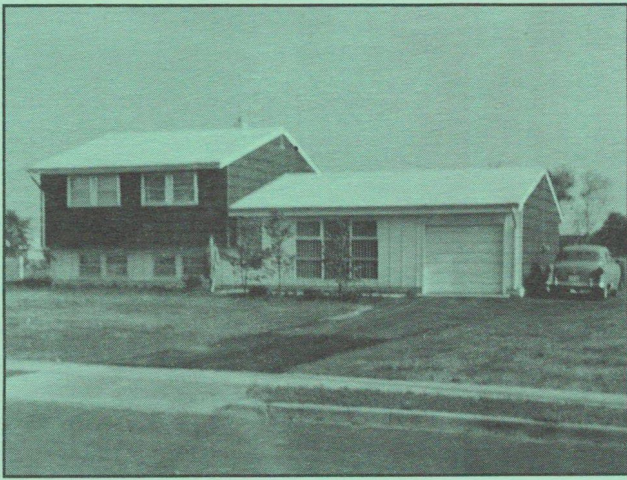


PRINCETON
Colonial **PARK**

PENN-LYLE ROAD,
PRINCETON (JUNCTION),
NEW JERSEY



Princeton Colonial Park "second group" brochure, courtesy of Frank and Genevieve Stiefel.

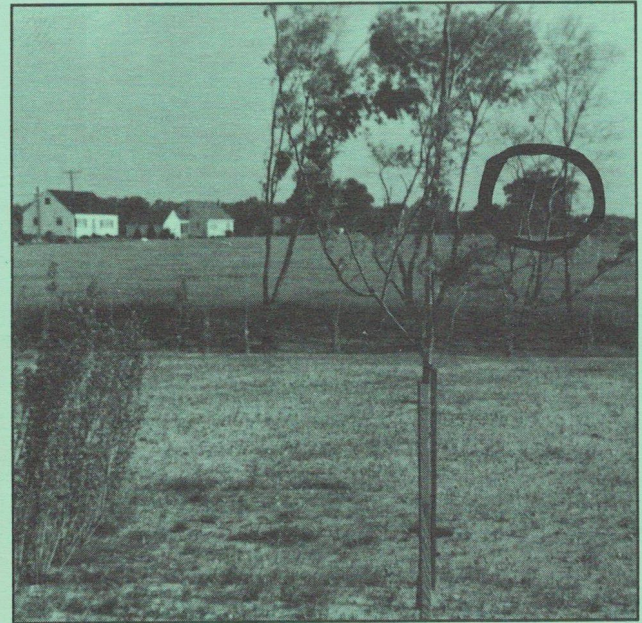
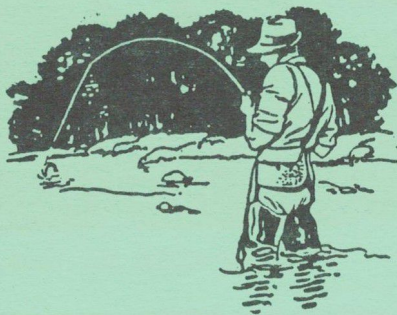


Split Level — 4 Canoe Brook Drive, Spring 1960. All photos on this page are courtesy of Dr. Jennifer Macleod.

Our house was supposed to be ready in February 1959, but it wasn't ready until November, with delays announced just a few weeks at a time — really nightmarish. We were living in a motel, then a borrowed house, my parent's home in Red Bank, etc.

We moved in November 20, 1959. Got our C of O about a month later as I recall. Unfortunately, we did not take pictures while they were building, but here are a couple of pictures taken in spring 1960. The trees are all very small. John Obal of Obal Garden Market did the landscaping: shrubs, locust and dogwood trees in front, plus trees and shrubs around the back. You can see how bare it was.

Our backyard looked toward the Coward Farm. The backyard had been wooded with the stream meandering through the lot. It was a thick hedgerow. Gorgeous. Then the township required the builder, unknown to us, to move the stream to the property line so the beautiful stream became a horrible ditch. We lost almost every tree. The houses next to us didn't lose as much. Their hedgerow was wider. We were so upset we almost cancelled the contract. Everything was mud, mud, mud!



Above: rear views of 4 Canoe Brook Drive, February 1960., showing walnut tree and Coward Farm.

This picture is interesting from a historical point of view: It looks over what is now the high school. See that tree? That is the old black walnut tree. When they built the school, they had to take this beautiful tree down: It was located just about in the middle of where the football field is now. They cut it up and used it in the woodworking shop! (The Guzy Family has two black walnut trees on their property, which are the offsprings of the Coward Farm black walnut.)

The "topsoil" on Canoe Brook land was brought in ... piles of fill. Terrible. Clay with stones. After we moved in, there was a seven year drought. Everything turned brown every summer. Nothing grew well.

PRINCETON-COLONIAL PARK WATER CO., Penn-Lyle Road, Princeton Junction, N. J.

Meter Reading

1/3/61	089060	00	Past Due	
10/1/60	065380	00	Current Charge	
		00		
		00	Total	\$11.50

Consumption, ~~Excl.~~ Gals. 023680

Bills are due on presentation. January 1, 1961

No. of meter 16748351
 Name Mr. Frank J. Stiefel
 Address 44 Nassau Place, Princeton

METER READING	CONSUMPTION IN GALLONS	CHARGES AND PAYMENTS		BALANCE
		DEBIT	CREDIT	
1-6-61 566190				
3-16-61 587780	21,590	13.25		13.25
BALANCE FORWARD				

Make Checks Payable to:
 WEST WINDSOR TOWNSHIP
 WATER DEPARTMENT
 and Mail to:
 COLLECTOR WATER RENTS
 Township Hall, Dutch Neck, N.J.

OFFICE HOURS:
 MON. - FRI.
 9:00 - 4:00

PLEASE PAY LAST AMOUNT IN THIS COLUMN ↑

ELIZABETHTOWN WATER COMPANY
 One Elizabethtown Plaza, Elizabeth, N.J. 07207
 "One hundred years of Service"
 RETURN REQUESTED
 PAYMENT DUE ON PRESENTATION
 RATES FURNISHED ON REQUEST

196 SERVICE AT

FROM TO	RATE	READING	100 CU. FT. USED	AMOUNT	DESC
3/25		4865			
6/25		5116	33	14.88	

10 0860 ACCOUNT NUMBER

\$ 14.88 AMOUNT DUE

Various companies supplied water to Colonial Park. Bills courtesy of Gen and Frank Stiefel.

Frances and Charles Raleigh

Two items which have not been mentioned: Water was supplied by a community well located off Quaker Road. There was a water tower behind and to the southwest of what is now 13 Quaker Road. The Elizabethtown Water Company still owns that plot of land and an easement to have access to the pump in a shed still located there.

The water was very high in iron and gave problems to some of the former city dwellers who forgot their high school chemistry and insisted on using chlorine bleach in their washing machines. We were all happy when town water was added by Elizabethtown Water Company.

Gen Stiefel recalls: "According to my old bills, Princeton Colonial Park Water Co. was in operation until the end of 1963 when West Windsor Township Water Department took over. Elizabethtown took over in March 1968."



"Tea pot" style water tower such as one formerly in Colonial Park. Drawing courtesy of Cranbury Historical and Preservation Society.

Colonial Park did not have a Homeowners' Association as such, but many of the residents were members of a group called the West Windsor Taxpayers Association. Getting Mr. Ziff to respond more promptly to homeowners' complaints was one of their missions.

Thanks to an excellent township engineer named Charles Robert Jones, that West Windsor shared with Hopewell at the time, good roads were built, storm drains worked and sidewalks were built.

All in all, it was a very congenial group at the time. One of our fond memories is of the annual block party held every Labor Day on Nassau Place. The party was in the form of a square dance, adds Gen Stiefel. Since nearly everyone attended, there were no complaints about the loud music and dancing late at night.



13 Canoe Brook Drive in 1960 — Colonial style with roof line reversed from model. Photo courtesy of Charles and Frances Raleigh.

Jody Kendall

Dave and I were impressed with the spirit of this community when we moved to West Windsor in June 1970. Everyone in our neighborhood was involved in some worthwhile project and thereby involving others. For instance, within a month of moving in, I was working on the Recreation Committee and PTA. Dave was on the Industrial Development Committee.

On our block we enjoyed the many endeavors of the Bowkers from Little League to radio stations and reenacting the "War of the Worlds" radio broadcast. Within a block of our house during the seventies we had: Steve Guzy, Township Committee, Fran Guzy, Recreation Committee, John Bowker, Recreation Committee, Gen Stiefel, School Board, Frank Stiefel, Planning Board, Carl Fogelin, Board of Health. Three people (all nurses) riding with Twin "W" First Aid Squad, two League of Women Voter members and two West Windsor Lions Club members. There was much awareness and letter writing of the "To the Editor" variety.



Genevieve and Frank Stiefel

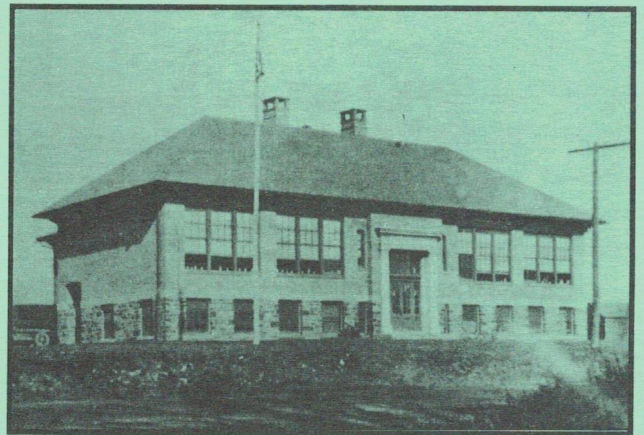
Frank and I and our three children (Frank, Jr., Jeanne and Joann) moved into Colonial Park on July 23, 1960. I was pregnant with our fourth child. Virginia was born on August 23, 1960. I believe she was the first baby born in Colonial Park. Christine was born April 23, 1965.

We had moved from the Bronx (New York City) to Dayton, N.J. in the 1950s. Frank started a new job with Carter Wallace in New Brunswick. When they

decided to build a new plant in Cranbury, we started looking around the area for a house that we could afford. We saw the model homes on Penn-Lyle Road and eventually decided that Colonial Park would be a good place for our family that we could afford. Our house was not built when it was supposed to be. We moved in July 23, 1960 and closed on August 15, 1960.

The summer we moved into our house was a dry, hot one. The top soil was pushed to the back of the yard. It felt as though we were living in the desert. The farm behind our house was planted with tomatoes. Migrant workers were picking them. For a number of years, the summers were hot and dry. Our new lawn, bushes and trees did not do very well.

Frank, Jr. and Jeanne started school in September 1960 at the Penns Neck School. Frank was in First Grade and Jeanne in Kindergarten. Joann went two years later to Kindergarten and part of First Grade when Maurice Hawk School opened. The Penns Neck School was a wonderful and special place.

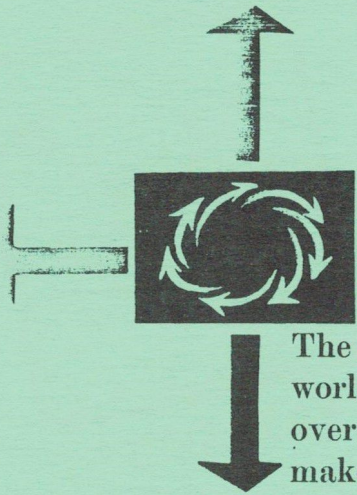


The Penns Neck School, newly completed in 1917.

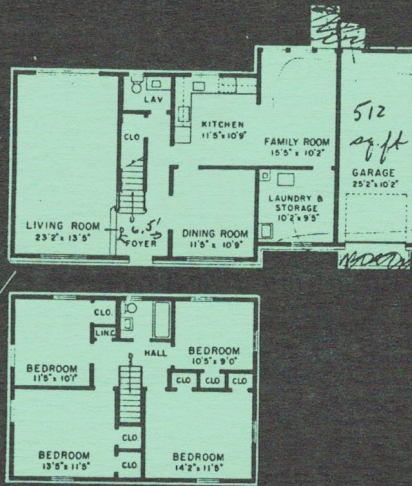
The second group of model homes was on Colonial Avenue and Quaker Road. Our house is the same as the two-story one. The houses were changed slightly. The downstairs in the two-story house was extended and a crawl space was added. (See floor plans on opposite page.)

Colonial Avenue was a dead-end. It wasn't extended until building started on Windsor Drive behind our house. I could look out my kitchen window and see the cars on Mill Road before that farm was developed (Princeton Ivy Estates).

SPACE IN FRONT! SPACE AT THE SIDES!
SPACE IN BACK! SPACE INSIDE!



The spacious world over 1/2-acre makes for you!

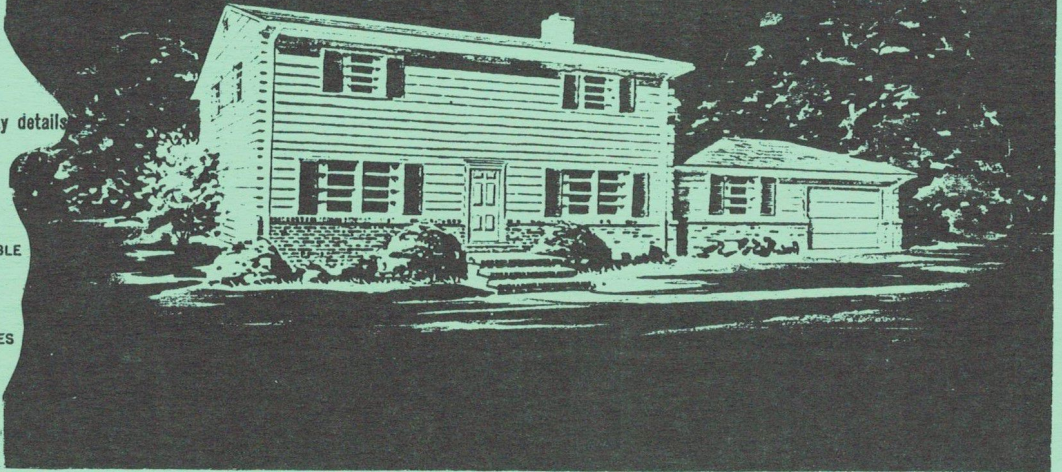


The Washington 2-Story Colonial

Four cross-ventilated bedrooms
 • 23'2" x 13'5" sunken living room • Large entrance foyer and center hall • Eat-in kitchen with built-in appliances
 • Family room adjoins kitchen • Separate dining room • Separate laundry room
 • 25-foot garage • Cedar shakes exterior • Full bath upstairs, half bath downstairs • Seven closets on second floor alone • Minimum 125 x 200 lots landscaped all around

A Quality Home is the sum total of a great many quality details

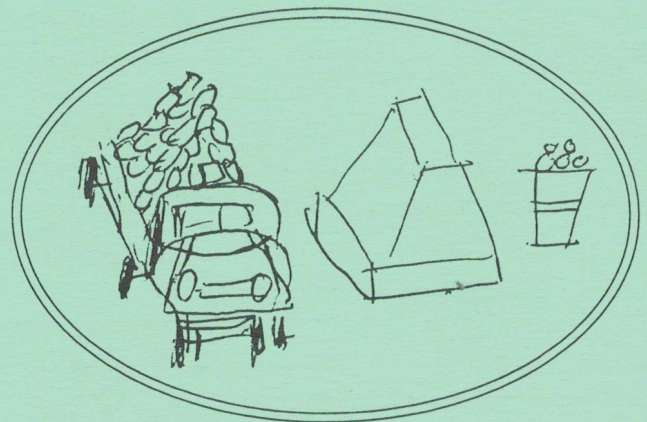
- CERAMIC TILE BATHROOMS
- OAK HARDWOOD FLOORS
- DOUBLE HUNG WOOD WINDOWS
- 100 AMP. ELECTRICAL SERVICE
- GENERAL ELECTRIC GAS FIRED HOT AIR HEATING. ADAPTABLE FOR YEAR-ROUND AIR CONDITIONING
- ALL WOODEN CEDAR SHAKES
- STREETS, CURBS AND SIDEWALKS
- COMPLETE LANDSCAPING INCLUDING 6 SHRUBS AND 3 TREES
- ALL UTILITIES IN AND PAID FOR



In response to Part I on Colonial Park, we received additional information and anecdotes from two long-time West Windsor residents:

Pat Tindall

Here are some additional comments from Pat Tindall to page 5 of the spring 1996 Broadside on Colonial Park: In his later years, Mr. Coward rented his land to my husband, Gordon ("Mike") Tindall, who contracted with Campbell Soup Company in Camden to grow tomatoes for them. Mike grew and hauled sensational truckloads of tomatoes. He balanced tomato-filled basket upon basket into an 8-10 foot high stack on the truck. They were tipped into the center one upon the other (see illustration). It was uncanny how those baskets got to Camden without spilling each early morning following tomato picking by migrant labor housed on our home farm.



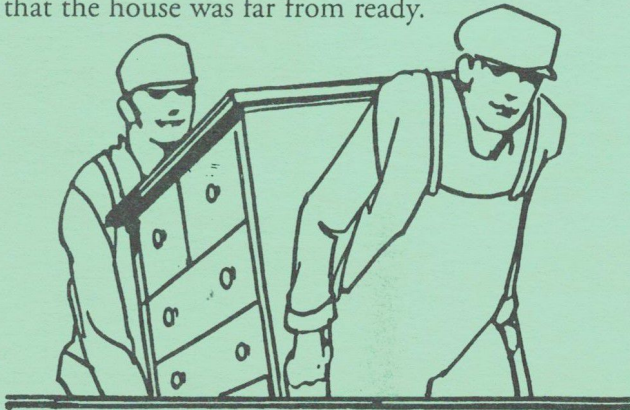
Sketch by Pat Tindall showing loaded tomato truck.

The neighbors along Penn Lyle and Canoe Brook enjoyed farm fresh tomatoes and even truckers helped themselves to numerous baskets of free produce. Our final solution? Mike Tindall advised all that they might help themselves to the first two rows only!

Joanne Linda Waxman

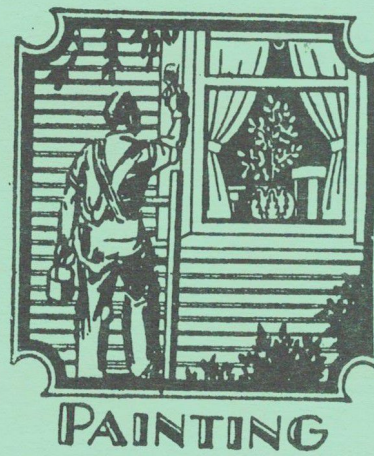
I wanted to share with you the long letter from my family archives about my parents' move to Colonial Park in 1961. My parents, Jack and Isabel Frank, owned for more than 10 years the house at 3 Colonial Avenue, at the corner of Colonial and Quaker. The house was built by Hilton Realty, which George Sands was, I believe, president or owner of. The construction manager at that point was Ronnie Farris (? not certain of the last name).

A lot of people had problems moving into those houses and finding them incomplete. My parents had the unique experience of arriving from New York with two moving vans full of furniture to find that the house was far from ready.



There were a lot of wonderful stories of what people went through when the whole idea of a planned development was pretty new. For example: New neighbors who lived across the street from one another were sitting out in front of one of their houses talking. One man looked across the street at the other one's house and said, "I think your roof is sagging." They walked around and looked a little more and agreed it did appear that the roof was sagging. They checked the crawl space under that house.

What they found was that the builders had put in the **forms** for pouring the piers that the houses rested on, but somehow the **concrete** had never been poured! Therefore, the entire two-story house was resting on the wood forms for pouring the concrete. Naturally the house was starting to sag. The family moved out of the house into a motel while the house was jacked up and the piers were poured. To the best of my knowledge that house is still there, so I guess they did an all right job of pouring the concrete just a little out of order.



PAINTING



WALLPAPER

Isabel Frank's Letter

Monday was to be "Plants and Animals to Jersey" day. After leaving the animals at Princeton Animal Hospital we drove to the real estate office. Ronnie said things were moving along and that the house would be livable by Thursday. Drove out to the house which looked far from finished.

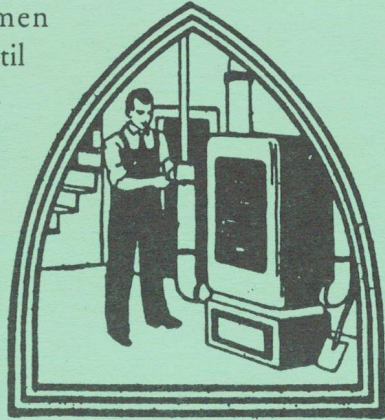
Wednesday - Movers due at 7 a.m., had to make an inventory of every box and item to be moved. Two trucks and three movers loaded vans and they left by 7:30 p.m.

Thursday - When I arrived at the house, my heart dropped out of my shoes. No floors were in, the painters weren't done - things were very little further than Monday. The vans arrived and the ridiculousness of the situation began to be apparent. Called Ronnie and asked why he had not stopped us from moving. He said, "I didn't want to disappoint you." Painters arrived and agreed to work all night if the heat was turned on. Heat could not be turned on because the paint fumes would affect the furnace, and so on it went.

Vans unloaded furniture to garage and attic. Rains became heavy. Van started to sink into the mud as it was emptied. Neighbor offered his assistance to get the van out providing planks, shovels and gravel. Appliance delivery truck arrived. Driver helped unload the van but decided to hold off the delivery for a few days. A florists' truck delivered a beautiful floral arrangement. I broke into gales of laughter.

We accepted our neighbor's offer of the use of his bathroom and started across the muddy street walking on planks. I stepped off the second plank into an ankle deep hole. My shoe got stuck at the bottom of the hole. By the time we crossed the street we were hysterical. I washed my shoes in the tub and we all had tea and drinks.

Tuesday - Floor men couldn't lay tile until heat in the house. Heating men came to get it working. Floor finished in afternoon. Carpenter put up the chair rail and framing in dining room so wall-paper could go up. Not enough molding. We had to order it ourselves since developer no longer dealt with that lumber yard.



HEATING

Wednesday - Paper hanger working, formica installed in kitchen, doors varnished. Hired movers to put furniture in correct rooms. Dimensions of rooms different from plans so furniture did not fit.

Saturday - Mr. Sands inspected the house with me tagging along and complaining. He said he was sure everything would be ready by Monday, December 4th.

The Franks moved into their house in December 1961 and lived there for ten years.



Many thanks to the many residents and original owners of Colonial Park houses for their comments, anecdotes and cooperation. We hope that any other Colonial Park residents not yet heard from will also share their stories and photographs. Phone Joan Parry at 452-8598. 🏡MSWW

Bicentennial Reception at Schenck House - February 23, 1997



L-R: Anne Borella, Luci DiPolvere, Kay Reed, Maureen Lucido and Mayor Cllr. Adrienne Sheldon of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead. Photo: Barbara Evans.

The weather was warm and sunny; the house, full to bursting; the food, delicious and abundant. There were fires glowing in the fireplaces and oil lamps lit. The newly painted parlor, with the Victorian tea party in place on some of the furniture donated by American Cyanamid. Historical Society and Bicentennial Committee members dressed in colonial and Victorian attire. All these made the Bicentennial reception at the Schenck House a great success.

Mayor Councillor Adrienne Sheldon of the Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead charmed us all in her red robes and chain of office. Councillor Rudi Sheldon impressed us with his sonnet about the relationship between our countries. Chief Executive David Lunn delighted us with his humor and "Rumpole" wig (*con't next page*).



L-R: David Lunn, Chief Executive, Windsor and Maidenhead, WW Mayor Tom Frascella, Mayor Cllr. Adrienne Sheldon, Luci and Ed DiPolvere. Photo: Barbara Evans.


Mayor Tom Frascella spoke about the importance of history and exchanged gifts with Mayor Sheldon. State Senator Dick LaRossa read a Proclamation by the State Legislature of 1997. John Kroll, Bicentennial Com-

mittee chair, gave us a preview of events for the rest of the year.

Frank Updike read excerpts from the 1797 Act of the State Legislature which split Windsor into East and West Windsor.

Mary Schenck told us about the Schenck House and what it was like to live in it. Pat Tindall was acknowledged for her original watercolors of West Windsor landmarks used in the Bicentennial calendar. Joan Parry introduced everyone and ended the program with a request for assistance to the restoration project.

A good time was had by all. Such a spectacular event wouldn't have been possible without the help

of so many willing people. Thank you one and all. 



Mary Schenck, HS of WW founder, talks about what it was like to live in the Schenck House. Photo: Barbara Evans.



Frank Updike reads proclamation. In foreground Councillor Rudi Sheldon and Mayor Cllr. Adrienne Sheldon. Photo: Barbara Evans.

BROADSIDE IS THE PUBLICATION OF THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF WEST WINDSOR. DESIGN AND LAYOUT BY CHRISTIANA PARRY. PRINTING BY TRAINING HOUSE, INC.

*the Historical Society
of West Windsor*

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