

South River Historical & Preservation News

Number 1

South River, New Jersey 08882

September 1996

War Memorial Building Renovation Gets Underway

Work on the renovation of the War Memorial Building or the Old School Baptist Church got underway the week of June 3rd. The initial work consisted of an archeological investigation of the foundation by a number of probes and the digging of test pits. This was necessary as the Borough was required by the terms of the grant approval to determine the absence or presence of cultural materials in areas to be disturbed or excavated.

In a preliminary report, Edward Rutsch, S.O. P.A. (Society of Professional Archeologists) who led the investigation, said no cultural resources of potential significance were found.

Concurrently, investigations to document the timber trusses and to evaluate the condition of the Frazee Memorial in the cemetery located behind the building were conducted.

1997 CALENDARS READY

With the advent of three schools (Campbell, Willett and the Middle School) closing by the Fall of 1997, when completion of a new K through 8 school is expected, the 1997 calendar will be dedicated to the schools of South River. This will be the Society's seventh consecutive year calendar. The six previous issues featured pictures of manufacturing plants, businesses, streets, churches and residences, all turn of the century vintage. Many of the photos came from what is known as the Armstrong Collection. Others came from private sources so recognized and credited in the calendars.

Buy a 1997 calendar to see a photo of a building downtown which was the public school from 1838 to 1885 and to learn which store now occupies the lot where the school was located.

275 Anniversary Book Publication for September

It's bigger and better than we ever imagined!

The 275th Anniversary Book has gone to press and will be on sale by mid September. Orders will be accepted at the Society's display at South River's Heritage Day, September 7th.

Included in the book will be:

The activities of the Anniversary year include the Mayor's proclamation, the tree planting, the tour of the houses of worship, the garden tour, and the parade.

Other features include an adaption of Paul Schack's "History of South River" commemorating the 250th Anniversary, 1970, with revision of paragraphs pertaining to its founding by Earl Wenger, a complete history of schools, both public and private, histories of each of the 16 churches, and an up to date listing of businesses, and fraternal and social organizations.

Of additional interest will be sections about the street names, and South River accomplishments. **The most exciting part will be the many pictures of South River remembered. The many photos will enhance the memorabilia value of the book.**

Publication of the book was scheduled after the anniversary so as to include photos of events during the year.

Special mention is made here to the **advertisers** and the **sponsors** which will be listed, as they helped to support this project financially.

**HERITAGE DAY
SEPTEMBER 7
12 - 5 P.M.
MONTGOMERY ST.**

ACQUISITIONS

Alexander Boshko and his wife, Olga, have given the Society a needle threading machine, a scale, and a pattern which were used in his father's embroidery shop.

The shop consisted of a single embroidery machine located behind his residence on Clark Street. The machine was 22 feet long and stitched 22 dozen items at a time.

The needle threading machine is in good working order and will make an excellent artifact representing the embroidery industry which thrived in South River during the first half of this century. The largest such manufacturer was Hermann Aukmann Company. After a series of labor disputes, a major strike and murders, the company ceased production and moved from South River.

Many of its machines were purchased by local residences creating numerous smaller shops. In his "History of South River", Jessie Selover names such shops.

The scale is calibrated in ounces and has a capacity of 64 ounces. It was used to check the weight of individual cones of cotton thread as purchased.

A pattern, which is similar to Donald Duck, measures 10" X 20" with stitches designated by length. Using a planograph, the operator maneuvered the pattern, thereby, creating the

embroidered design making 22 dozen stitches at a time.

The industry in South River began to fade after World War II due to competition created by the introduction of newer machines with greater productivity and lower manufacturing cost.

Mr. Emiel R. Vanloove, a South River resident, describes himself as a baker in a pastry shop who loves and writes poetry. His writings include 40 poems to date. At our June 26th meeting, he presented the Society with a copy of his poem "Tales of My Beloved America" which was mounted in a handsome oak frame, and individually framed prints of George and Martha Washington.

Mr. Vanloove read the poem at the meeting which truly made the presentation memorable.

South River items are for sale at the office of Rafano and Wood, 129 Main Street and at the Main Street Florest.

Holiday Ornament - \$ 6.00

Calendar - \$ 5.00 (Starting Sept. 7)

Plaque - \$10.00

Book Orders - (Starting Sept. 7)

South River Historical
and Preservation Society, Inc.
129 Main Street
South Rver, New Jersey 08882

Next Society Meeting
Sept. 25, 1996 - 7:00 PM
at South River Public Library
The public is invited.
