

◇ South River Historical & Preservation News ◇

Number 6

September 1998

Meeting

September 23

"Indians of
Lenapehoking"

Wednesday
at 7:00 p.m.
SR Library
Appleby Ave.

Refreshments

Officers

Pres.: Robert C. Rafano
Vice Pres.: M. Anastasio
Secretary: Ann Rafano
Treasurer: Paul Goepfert
Past Pres.: Earl Wenger

Executive Board

Class of '98
Iris Schmitt
Anne Sivess
Rose Mary Freese
Kenneth Roginski

Class of '99
Irene Baga
Candice Lewandoski
Dolores Roginski
Edward Roginski

Class of '00
Ray Bruhn
Joann Goepfert
Doris Miller
Donna Rafano

Standing Committee:
Artifacts: Corrine Cebala

Honorary Trustees:

Harold Armstrong
Helen Armstrong

President's Report by Robert C. Rafano

Great news! The restoration and rehabilitation of the Old School Baptist Church is on again.

Four bidders were qualified by the New Jersey Historic Bond Trust. Our architect also bid on this restoration and renovation project. Of the four qualified bidders, two submitted bids. The bid amounts were for a reasonable amount. The L.G. II Company of Cedar Grove was the successful bidder at \$359,500.

This exceeds the available funds that the Borough has for this project. However, at the Borough Council Meeting on September 10, the process was started to increase the bonding ordinance to have sufficient funds to meet the matching grant from the State of New Jersey to com-

plete the construction. If things go well, it seems we might see construction started before November of this year.

On another note, I would like to thank the South River Board of Education for loaning us various artifacts from the school which have been closed. Although the list was not extensive, there were items of importance, and for that we thank them very much.

The Society, through the good efforts of some of our members, was able to purchase various storage, display cabinets, and office furniture. Once we are in the Old School Baptist Church, we will be able to use this furniture to operate the museum.

To those who helped, thank you!!!

1999 Calendars

What happened to 1998?

Doris Miller, Chairperson of the Calendar Committee, along with Woodis Booraem, Raymond Bruhn, Joann Smith-Goepfert, Emily Miller, Iris Schmitt, Anne Sivess, and Earl Wenger created a memorable calendar for the last year of the century. If you are a "PEOPLE" person, you will enjoy this calendar.

The calendar includes:

- *The Council Chambers of the Borough Hall - 1927
- *The Martha Washington K.U.V. - 1904
- *Knights of Columbus - 1940
- *Sts. Peter & Paul Russian Orthodox Church - 1905
- *The Nonpareil Club - circa 1912
- *The Silver Star Club
- *Jack's Ranch Championship Team - 1931
- *St. Mary's Bowling League - circa 1960
- *Lincoln School Band - circa 1951
- *St. Stephen's Church Basketball - 1952
- *Union Baptist Church Choir - 1967
- *Television presented to Lincoln School children - 1951.

Calendars are available at the businesses listed on the last page of the newsletter.

Acquisitions by Earl Wenger

It was a very busy summer for the Society. With the closing of the Willett and Middle Schools, the Board of Education loaned some artifacts to the Society. In addition, the Society purchased items from the Board of Education.

The items are being stored until the renovations are completed on the Old School Baptist Church.

Some of the items on loan from the South River Board of Education are:

- *Old maps of the Middle School
- *An old classroom clock from the Middle School
- *Six-shelf glass door cabinets with Civil War books from Willett School
- *Section of a slate blackboard from Willett School
- *A Timeline of South River History from Camp-

bell School

- *Photos of Washington Class Trips
- *Pedestals with busts of famous people

Items which were purchased by the Society for storage of artifacts and office furniture were:

- *Metal cabinets
- *Teacher's desk and chair
- *Book cases
- *Overhead projector
- *Tables
- *Conference table and chairs
- *A set of dishes and 3 punch bowls
- *Folding chairs

In addition, a most important source of artifacts come from the membership. We are very grateful for the following donations:

The Zarka Family donated scrapbooks of South River's World War II Veterans and scrapbooks of Lincoln School.

Irene Buga donated a shoe repair stand, coffee grinder, two antique toasters, cast iron waffle and iron and a wire carpet beater.

Ruth Mrozek Ferguson donated the financial records of Jack's Ranch Baseball Team.

W o o d i s

Booraem donated a newspaper article from the "Spokesman" about the history of South River.

If you come across something at home which reminds

you of some "moment in time about South River", think about the Society. The item can become a part of the permanent collection.

...a most important source of artifacts is from the members.

We are very grateful for the donations...

Meeting - Wednesday, September 23

Please join us on Wednesday for our fall meeting. You are welcome! Bring a friend!

This month, Mark Nonestied from the Middlesex Cultural and Heritage Commission will give a slide presentation

on "The Indians of Lenapehoking". Though the presentation is New Jersey oriented, he has information to include local sites. He will bring artifacts and items which were crafted by Lenape descendants.

We hope you can attend the meeting. You will be home by 9:00 p.m.. We will have refreshments for you and time to share in some friendly conversation.

**See you on
Wednesday, the 24th.**

Membership

There are many ways to be a member of an organization. One can attend meetings to enjoy the program presentations, work on committees to organize collections, write letters for the organization, send out mailings to the membership,

move furniture, write newsletters, talk to people who may be interested in donating artifacts to the Society, donate artifacts to the Society, work as an officer or trustee,

indulge in our delicious refreshments, or just enjoy finding out more about the history of South River and the rest of the world.

Whatever you are in-

terested in doing, please let us know. If we didn't include something which interests you, let us know what you would like to do. *We have a place for you.*

Here are the new members of the organization:

- John Ambroggi
- Thomas Bara
- Karen Bara
- Henrietta Brasno
- Freda Chen
- JoAnn Devlin
- Barbara Lindsay
- James Mackiewicz
- Julia Melvin
- Paul Migut
- Karyn Migut
- Gertrude O'Brien
- Karen Satterthwaite
- Joseph Servon
- Steve Senko
- Sandra Zajac

If you know someone who would like to join the organization, please give them this membership form.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

**Dues per year: \$5.00 adults
\$1.00 students**

NAME:

ADDRESS:

TELEPHONE:

() _____
Please send your check payable to the S.R. Historical & Preservation Society, Inc. to:
Woodis & Warren Booraem
208 Main Street
South River, NJ 08882

Membership and Information:
Woodis Booraem 257-0365

***There is a place
for
"you"
in the
South River
Historical &
Preservation
Society***

1918 Influenza Epidemic

In 1918, the Influenza Epidemic did not miss South River. Victims of the flu had to be buried quickly. There is a mass grave of the victims located in Washington Cemetery.

A family who lost a

brother in the epidemic contacted the Society to find out more information about the grave site.

Paul Goepfert, our Treasurer, is interested in helping research the information.

If you have any infor-

mation about the epidemic, know anything about the burials, know anyone who remembers the epidemic, please contact Paul Goepfert at 257-2357.

Any help will be greatly appreciated.

South River Historical & Preservation Society, Inc.
Box 545
South River, New Jersey 08882

Meeting

Wednesday, September 23 at 7:00 p.m., South River Library

South River Memorabilia

CALENDARS

**275TH
ANNIVERSARY
BOOKS**

**HOLIDAY
ORNAMENTS**

You may purchase
a **1999 CALENDAR**
at the following
places:

- >Tax Office
- >Police Station
- >Clerk's Office
- >Office on
Aging
- >Main Street
Florist
- >Main Street
Pharmacy
- >Main Street
Barber
- > Rafano & Wood
Law Office

**The Calendars
are \$5.00.**

If you are interested in
collecting other mem-
orabilia, you may pur-
chase:

**275th Anniversary
Book - \$15.00
Holiday Ornaments -
\$6.00**

To purchase the book
or ornament, please
contact Earl Wenger
at 257-0280.