

# THISTLE



Vol. V, No. 1

September, 1980

FROM THE PRESIDENT - This edition of the Thistle is being issued early in order to inform the membership of a Planning Board meeting they may wish to attend. As the result of a recommendation by the Historical Society last May that the Township Master Plan be amended to include the Wyoming and Short Hills Park Historic Districts and selected historic sites, the Planning Board will hold a public hearing on the matter on Wednesday evening, September 17th at Town Hall. As Society members may know, the two districts were placed on the State Register of Historic Places in the spring and are being considered for the National Register.

September and October will be busy months for the Society. The booklet about Short Hills Park will be issued in mid-September, and in October we will have a general meeting and our annual walking tour.

We hope you will participate in these activities, and we welcome your suggestions for future programs.

Elizabeth Howe  
President

## AUTUMN MEETING

October 15, 1980 - 8 pm

"19th Century Architecture: To Grandfather's House We Go" is to be the topic of Mr. Harry Devlin's talk at the autumn meeting of the Society at 8 pm on Wednesday, October 15 at the Millburn Public Library. Mr. Devlin is an engaging lecturer and the noted author of several books on architecture, the latest of which is about Newport, R.I. Among the aspects of Mr. Devlin's talk which will interest Society members are his color pictures showing the vibrant hues used to paint houses in Victorian days.

NEW MEMBERS - We would like to welcome to the Society those who have joined since the last edition of the Thistle:

John H. Bailey, Jr. 24 Winding Way, S.H.	376-4825
Dr. and Mrs. Bruce J. Brener (Ellen) 336 Long Hill Drive, S.H.	467-3893
Dr. and Mrs. Morton Farber (Rosalie) 71 Taylor Road, S.H.	467-1551
Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Foester 74 Meadowbrook Road, S.H.	467-9637
Ellen Goldstein 94 Knollwood Road, S.H.	
Mr. and Mrs. Warren McC. Hansen (Elsie) 40 Knollwood Road, S.H.	376-6072
Mrs. Barbara Johnson 22 Hilltop Road, S.H.	467-0924
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas P. Kelly (Kathleen) 81 Linden Street, Millburn	376-3841
Mrs. Ann J. Klingenstein 15 E. Beechcroft Road, S.H.	379-6838
Mrs. Kathleen Miller 39 Woodcrest Avenue, S.H.	376-6152
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth W. Oringer (Cecile) 73 Falmouth Street, S.H.	379-4032
Mr and Mrs. Jay S. Pulaski (Maria Jose) 88 Linden Street, Millburn	379-4732
Mr. and Mrs. Fredric Roth (Sandy) 61 Hemlock Road, S.H.	379-5880
Bernadette Stockinger 32 Hobart Avenue, S.H.	467-3644
Peter Tilp 31 Nottingham Road, S.H.	376-2995
Mr. and Mrs. Wyllis P. Wencil (Lois) 19 Parkview Drive, Millburn	467-3923

WALKING TOUR - Save Sunday afternoon, October 19, for the Society's fifth annual architectural walking tour. Architectural historian Sandy Brown will again be our tour guide as we amble through the area of town featured in the Society's new booklet on Short Hills Park. What more pleasant way is there to learn about the significant older homes in our neighborhoods? Details of time and meeting place for the walking tour will be forthcoming in The Item.

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GARDEN SLIDES - The Society has recently received a set of slides which show early views of private gardens in the Township. A gift of the Short Hills Garden Club, the slides were compiled by landscape architect, Mrs. John Poinier, who is a member of the Club, and they are accompanied by her descriptive outline. The Society is happy to accept this valuable addition to its archives and plans to make the slides available for showing in the community.

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CRIME AND PUNISHMENT - While reviewing some of the Society's oral history tapes, Jenks Schacter came across this story of a difficult neighbor:

"When we first moved here," said the raconteur, "there was a woman who lived in our area whose husband was an important employee of the telephone company and he had been sent to Europe. This was during the first World War. Perhaps due to the strain of worry about her husband - or whatever - the woman had difficulties with the neighbors and became known as a common scold. A case against her was brought to court and she was convicted as a common scold. The old penalty for this misdemeanor was the ducking stool and it was still a law on the the N.J. books. But then her husband returned from Europe and he induced the neighbors to relent, so the conviction was overturned. I believe that after that the law was removed from the books and we no longer have a ducking stool penalty in N.J."

That's good news for the sharp-tongued among us! Whether it be a remnant of colonial justice, a rumor of scandal or a reminder of halcyon days, oral histories taken from the town's old timers are filled with interesting information about people and places in the Millburn-Short Hills of the past.

NEW PUBLICATION - "Sticks, Shingles and Stones," a 40 page booklet about Stewart Hartshorn's Short Hills, is scheduled for release by the Society on Saturday, September 20.

The booklet explores the history and architecture of the earliest section of Short Hills which Stewart Hartshorn began to develop in 1878. It opens with a piece written by Van Reintjes on Stewart Hartshorn and his dream of an "ideal community." Celeste Penney is the author of an essay which places the beginnings of Short Hills in historical context and offers glimpses of life in Hartshorn's village in the late 1880's and early 1890's.

The largest part of the booklet is devoted to the architecture of Short Hills Park. It is written by Barbara Cole Smith and illustrated with photographs by Robert Reichert. Each major architectural style represented in the Short Hills of Hartshorn's day is described in text and captions and its derivation from earlier British and American architectural styles explained.

Ann Klemme was editor in chief of the publication. Others contributing to the effort were Joan Mebane, Owen Lampe, Steven Bauer and Sandy Brown. Layout is by Benway, Maxwell and Smith, publishers, in Chatham.

EXHIBITION - Historical Society members, residents of the homes in the Short Hills Park Historic District and volunteers who helped with the Architectural and Historical Survey of Millburn Township will attend a preview and exhibition to celebrate the publication of "Sticks, Shingles and Stones," the second in a series of booklets being issued by the Society. The event will take place on Friday evening, September 19 at Petan Art Gallery, 545 Millburn Avenue from 7:30 to 9:30.

The exhibition will feature enlarged photographs by New York photographer Robert Reichert of about 45 Short Hills houses. Retained by the Society to do the architectural photography for the booklet, Reichert served an internship at the International Center for Photography in New York which later held a one man show of his suburban landscapes. One of his photos was chosen by the Light Gallery as their contribution to the Channel 13 art auction.

Also on view will be three line drawings executed by Steven Bauer for the booklet. Mr. Bauer, graphic artist and architectural historian, is associated with David Gibson, the Society's consultant for the Survey. The artists will be present at the exhibit and arrangements may be made for the purchase of any of the works.

Following Friday night's preview, the exhibition will be open to the public beginning on Saturday, September 20.

SCHOLARS TAKE NOTE - Two hundred years ago this month, the New Jersey Journal published the following notice:

"A boarding school will be opened on Monday, the 24th of April. Gentlemen and ladies choosing to send their children may have them taught reading and needlework by Fanny Bryant late of New York. For particulars, inquire at her house where Col. Dayton formerly lived in Elizabethtown."

And the Millburn Budget which came off the press on September 15, 1886 reported that:

"Principal Clark of Washington School has decided that strict order shall prevail in the school during the coming season so that passers-by will not be shouted at from the classrooms in the future as they have been in the past."

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Copies of "STICKS, SHINGLES AND STONES" will be available for sale for \$4.50 at the Petan Gallery on the evening of the exhibition. At that time the Society's spring publication, "BEGINNINGS, 1700-1800" will also be on sale for \$3.50. After September 19, the booklets may be purchased at the following locations: The Gifted Hand, The Golden Pineapple, Irma's Bag, Millburn Camera, Schait and Son, Station Stop, and the Millburn Public Library. To purchase the booklets by mail, use the order blank below.

Please send me:

\_\_\_\_\_ copies of "Sticks, Shingles and Stones" @ \$5.00 each ppd.

\_\_\_\_\_ copies of "Beginnings, 1700-1800" @ \$4.00 each ppd.

I enclose check or money order payable to Millburn-Short Hills Historical Society, Inc. in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please return order form to:

Millburn-Short Hills Historical Society  
Box 243  
Short Hills, N.J. 07078

## CALENDAR

- Sept. 17 - Planning Board public hearing on Township Master Plan at Town Hall.
- Sept. 19 - Historical Society preview party and exhibition to celebrate publication of "Sticks, Shingles and Stones." 7:30 to 9:30 pm. Petan Gallery, 545 Millburn Avenue.
- Oct. 8-12 - National Trust for Historic Preservation 1980 Annual Meeting and Preservation Conference, New York City.
- Oct. 15 - Historical Society membership meeting. Speaker: Mr. Harry Devlin on "19th Century Architecture: To Grandfather's House We Go." 8:00 pm. Millburn Public Library
- Oct. 19 - Historical Society architectural walking tour.

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