

# The Medford Recall

October 1967

Issue I



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## MEETINGS

The September picnic-meeting was held at Friendship Farm, attendance was good, the weather was fine and everyone seemed to be well fed. After the picnic a short meeting was held; the summer events were reviewed and various committee reports were presented. The House Tour Committee are planning a Candelight Tour on December 9th, with a group of varied and interesting houses to be shown. After the meeting the members toured the Farm house in order to check some of the items uncovered in redecoration and reconstruction.

The October meeting will be held on the first Tuesday of the month at the Community House, there will be a lecture on Old Cape May by Watson Buck followed by slides of Cape May. Discussion of the winter programs and other important items, all members are urged to come for this our first formal meeting of the season.

## GOINGS ON

Mr. & Mrs. Albert Andrews made a tour of Vinterhur, the du Pont estate in Maryland and were very impressed with the extensive restoration and magnificence of the furnishings.

Mr. & Mrs. Leslie Hess were antique hunting in the Southern tier of New York state, late this summer. They returned with many blanket chests, wash stands and towel racks which they will have for resale.

Mr. & Mrs. Ed Penberthy visited Winston Salem, N.C., and in the section known as "Old Salem", they saw several stoves of interesting size and shape which had been made here in New Jersey at the Taunton Furnace. Ed is making up a lecture from this tour and plans to show with the lecture, the slides that they took.

They also visited Sarasota, Fla., and saw the home of John Ringling, which is a fascinating product of the Flapper Era.

Ed also represented the Medford Historical Society, on September 21st, speaking to the Burlington County Republican Womens Group on "Williamsbur, Its Houses and Gardens."

Mr. & Mrs. Bob Harrison stayed at the Tomlinson house on Keuka Lake, N.Y. This home was the former Wegner mansion. Bob did two sketches of the house for the Tomlinsons. They expect to return to that area later this fall when the grapes are ripe. They also went antique hunting while they were there and were also fortunate enough to see the "Festival of Lights," which is an old Indian custom. At exactly 9 o'clock everyone who lives on the lake front lights a taper about 1½ feet high. The distance around the lake is about 60 miles and they said that this was a beautiful sight.

Sally and Bob also want us to know that, Bob's brother, Harry and his wife Doris are now shering Friendship Farm with them.

Friendship Farm will also be the scene for refreshments at the end of the tour of Homes, which is scheduled for December 9th.

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Atkinson went to New England this summer. Their first stop was at Saunderstown, Rhode Island, where they visited the home of Gilbert Stuart, which was a snuff mill during Stuart's lifetime. His father ran the mill. From there to Newport, where they stopped at "The Breakers," the Vanderbilt home. The funds from this tour are used to restore the homes of the point area. Next, on to Plymouth, Mass., the Mayflower II and Plymouth Plantation, a restoration of a village of the middle 1600's, including an Indian village. Then to the Shelbourne Museum at Shelbourne, Vt., where they saw some new additions to the museum, one of which was an interesting, hand carved, Circus parade, scaled larger than Lionel Standard, which runs for over 400 feet. On the way home they came through Deerfield, Mass. and visited one home there.

Mrs. C.W. LeVan

#### "FASHION FLASH!"

Bustles are now considered necessary to produce the bouffant effect now in vogue. When these elaborate draperies were revived, it was hoped the dress material would be sufficient without a support; but when the short skirt is worn, the overdress seems incongruous if too many breadths are put in. The present styles are not objectionable; it is only their exaggeration that is to be dreaded.

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## SALEM OAK REVISITED

Late this summer we revisited the town of Salem, New Jersey to see once more and admire that famous old white oak in the Friends burying ground hard by the library. We had taken folks from out of state to see some of the beauties of South Jersey and showed them the grand circle from Cape May to Salem with some of the many historical high spots. On approaching this grand old tree I was surprised to see emerging from the ground on all sides of the trunk the fungus fruiting bodies of the highly edible mushroom, Polyporus sulphureus. Having just emerged above ground and still fresh, the only time when any mushroom is fit to eat, we gathered enough for a feast later that evening. But what saddened me was the knowledge of what this fortuous dinner meant in the life of the tree. The fungus in question is a butt end root-rotting organism attacking several species of hardwood. Its appearance at this time means that the fungus has been established for some time and only now with the recent rains aiding its growth has initiated the fruiting bodies, its final life effort whereby countless spores can be produced and spread far and wide. To my thinking this tree is doomed and that in the not far distant future. I wrote next day to the Salem Historical Society suggesting they contact the very best authorities on tree care for any recent chemotherapeutic treatment known to control such a disease. We wonder whether anything strong enough to kill the fungus would leave the tree unharmed. A really strong storm with gale winds, could bring this proud old tree low in spite of the many well placed braces and good care given through the years. So-- if you are down that way in the coming months why not look in and see how things are with this old timer, the likes of which will never be seen again by future generations.

Mr. L.J. McConnell

## SPRING AND SUMMER ACTIVITIES

This was a wet and cold summer but somehow the Program Committee managed to fit the springtime and summertime activities in between the rain drops. We had good weather on each of the events.

The springtime tour to Salem, New Jersey was conducted in bright sunshine on a clear, cool day and this delightfully planned by our hosts.

We were fortunate on the Cape May trip inasmuch as the weather was again delightful and better than twenty-three people attended this field trip. For those who happened to be in the museum at Cape May Court House at the same time Watson Buck was there you were treated with a dissertation on the early days of Cape May. This was a surprise narration and added interest to the museum visit.

Our host at the Lobster House in Cape May had the luncheon table set up in an area overlooking the water, it put an exciting finishing touch to an excellent luncheon. The visit to the cafe or board the schooner was a treat and it

was simply amazing how cozy and comfortable the old schooner became after the conversion.

To the garden lovers of our society the "Whispering Spruce Farm" on Route 9 offered a great deal of inspiration. As for me, all I could think of was the amount of woods to pull.

As always on tours of this type, time runs out, and we simply could not take in all of the twenty-three places on display. We just managed to get the tenth place in, five minutes before the closing hour.

Saturday, September 9th, we gathered on the lawn of our congenial host and hostess, Mr. & Mrs. Robert L. Harrison, Jr. where the grills were hot, cold soda and hot coffee were on hand and we were favored with acceptable weather as the rains held off for the duration of our official day.

It is always a great pleasure to visit the "Friendship Farm". Most of us never cease to wonder how the Harrisons find the time to do all the things they have done in restoring this 1720 house. The latest discovery in this restoration work leads the Harrisons to believe they have found the original one-room structure built by the Haines family shortly after their arrival on the ship Kent in 1682. The last I heard, the Harrison family plan to leave exposed at least a part of the original wall and a part of the original framing. As it stands now it certainly adds a good deal of romance to the atmosphere of the room.

The field trips are always interesting and exciting and we thank Doris Oakes, Art Mathis, Mrs. LeVan, Mrs. MacGlaughlin and all others who assisted in the planning and execution of the field trips.

**Ed Penberthy**

#### WELCOME

We would like to extend a warm welcome to the following new members of our society.

Mrs. Mary A. Single - Medford

Mrs. Clifford Budd - Medford

Mrs. Fred Keene - Medford Lakes

Mr. & Mrs. Wm. Norris II - Medford Lakes

Mrs. W.C. O'Malley - Medford

Mrs. Charlotte Helveno - Medford Lakes

Mrs. Fred Keene - Medford Lakes

Mr. Davis H. Forsythe - Medford