



THE
CHRONICLE
QUARTERLY

Volume 3

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Published By The
Weston Historical Society

THE
PRESIDENT'S
CORNER

**THE LEAVES THAT TURN
IN THE FALL**

There are probably more trees along Lyons Plains Rd. now than there were in all of Weston in 1875. Clean fields covered most of the town as the early settlers had to cut down trees to clear their land and to use for fuel and lumber. The old pictures we have of Weston attest to this.

Nowadays all Weston becomes a blaze of color in October as the leaves turn to their yellow and red hues. From trees that sprouted and grew in old pastures and abandoned onion fields. It happened once—the cleared fields—and it could happen again. Can't you see a young boy in the next century say to his grandfather; "Tell me again how beautiful it was in Weston when all the land was covered with trees and the leaves turned to fire in the fall."

This is my last column as President of the Weston Historical Society.

**THE COLEY HOMESTEAD
AND
BARN MUSEUM**

STOP

The Weston Historical Society has been stopped once again in its efforts to use the Coley property as a home for the Society. This time it is a builder from Trumbull who is building houses behind the Coley property. He has presented an injunction to the ZBA to prevent them from issuing the variances they approved. This latest action could delay final approval for several months. We hope to have approval from the P&Z this month. Maybe we will have an unexpected Christmas present.

ANNUAL MEETING

The last issue of the Chronicle listed the annual meeting date as October 17. This date has been changed to October 24, at the Norfield Church Parish Hall. A notice will be sent out at a later date.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

A Nominating Committee has been appointed by your President to nominate five Trustees for the next three years. These nominations will be presented to the membership at the annual meeting. The members of the nominating committee are Ralph Greenwood, Doris Rickerich, and Margie Schneider.

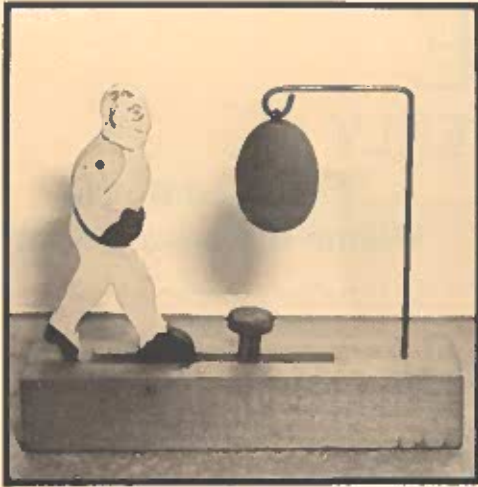
QUILT SHOW

Because of the unsettled legal situation surrounding the Coley Homestead property, we have reluctantly postponed the quilt show. The response to our request for quilts was overwhelming. We hope you understand and will be willing to bring your quilts when we have the show next year.

OPEN HOUSE AT BARN—SEPTEMBER 30

PICTURE QUIZ

Can You Name This?



If you can name the item in the picture, send your name and answer to the Editor:

The Chronicle
P.O. Box 1092
Weston, CT 06883

LAST ISSUE'S QUIZ

The items in the June picture Quiz were worn grindstones from the Bradley axe factory. These stones were imported from Europe and were 5-7 feet in diameter. A simple calculation indicates that over 95% of the stone was used in various grinding operations. The 5% remaining were often used as part of stone fences.

The correct answer was sent in by Joe Spety and Scott Hill.

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WESTON'S HISTORICAL NOTEBOOK

THE OLD BELLS OF WESTON

One room schools and churches in Weston had at least one thing in common—they all had a bell—to call children to school and worshipers to church service.

To bring you (some) history of these bells was a gleam in our eye last spring; however, we have not been able to fill our our story as planned. Therefore we hope you will bear with us as we touch lightly on the subject for now until we can dig out some more information.

The bells used in the schools were all about the same size and shape. The main difference has been the method of attaching to a support. The bell used at the Middle School (presently on top of the Norfield Church Parish Hall) is supported with a frame that rests on a platform under the bell—see picture. The bell is rung by means of a rope run around a wheel. The rope was pulled from inside the school. This bell was cast by the BELL FOUNDRY Co., Cincinnati, Ohio.

The bell which Mr. John Lemone gave to the WHS and the other bell we have in the museum both are reported to have been used at the Goodhill School. These bells are slightly smaller than the Middle School Bell and are designed to be bolted to the top of a post outside of the school. The bell just acquired does not have the name of the foundry, but the other Goodhill bell was cast by the Lakeside Co., Chicago, Ill. While we do not know when these bells were purchased, the fact that they were cast in the midwest is an indication that they are late 19th century. Earlier bells would probably have been cast along the east coast.



**School bell from Middle School
Made by Bell Foundry, Cincinnati**



**Norfield Church Bell. Made by
James P. Pallaire, New York.**

We have not been able to locate any of the other school bells. If anyone has knowledge of their whereabouts or more information on the bells mentioned above, we would be happy to hear from you.

The Norfield Church bell is much larger as it probably should have been since it had to be heard a greater distance. This bell has a wooden wheel that has the bell rope wrapped around. This wheel keeps the rope from wearing out too quickly and helps in pulling the bell to a strong ringing position.

This church bell was made by James P. Pallaire, New York. The support for this bell is similar to that used for the Liberty bell in Philadelphia. While the church was built in 1830, the bell could be older, however, we have not determined this to be true.

As mentioned above, there are sure to be more facts available regarding the bells of Weston. We have not researched the bell at Emanuel Church nor at St. Francis Church. Your Editor is interested in any information anyone has on these bells of Weston. Please send to Box 1092, Weston, CT 06883.

FIFTY YEARS AGO

FARMERS FEAR FOR CROPS IF DROUGHT DOESN'T END SOON

Serious losses to farmers are feared if the drought continues much longer. Already gardens throughout Weston show the effects of the continued dryness, and farmers state that crops will be a total loss if rain does not come soon. Wells around the town are very low and the Saugatuck river, which overflowed its banks in the spring, is now nothing more than a stream.

Several farmers have reported that there will be no second crop of hay this year, and most of the standing crop is withered and dried up by the hot spell. An unseasonal frost in June is also reported as having damaged the hay crop, as well as the potato crop.

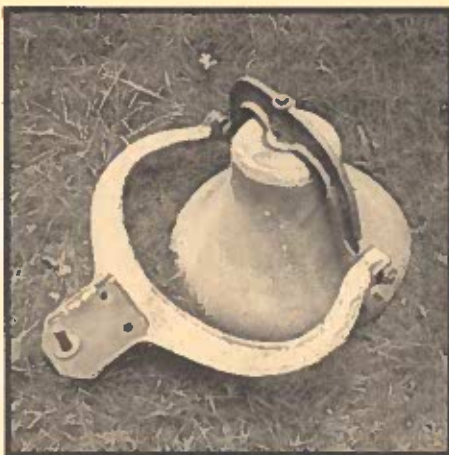
The brief storm last Sunday acted only as a temporary reviver to the parched countryside. The grape crop will probably be the poorest in years, as the half-ripe fruit is already withering and dropping from the vines.

HUGE BLACKSNAKE INVADES WOMAN'S BEDROOM

Mrs. Ray Strang of Davis Hill road entered her room about dusk Thursday evening and leaned over to pick up what she thought was a garment that had fallen to the floor. Surprised at finding the supposed garment was a large black snake, Mrs. Strang called her faithful dog to her rescue. He made way with the reptile in no time. Black snakes are harmless, but finding them in one's bedroom is not pleasant.

NEXT ISSUE

The Coley Homestead
Wooden Wonders
President's Corner
Picture Quiz
50 years ago
Historical Notebook
What's new in the Museum



School bell from the Goodhill School manufactured by the Lakeside Co.



Goodhill School Bell

WHAT'S NEW IN THE MUSEUM

This is a new column in the Chronicle which will bring you information about the new items acquired by your Society. The newest item to be donated to the barn museum is an old school bell, reportedly to have been used at the Goodhill School. This bell was donated by Mr. John Lemone, owner of Lemones Independent Refuse Service. No, John did not find it in the dump. It was given to John by Mrs. Keaster, who lived on Norfield Rd.



Mr. John Lemone presented the Goodhill School Bell to Mrs. Lu Harper, curator of the Barn Museum.

A CHRISTMAS GIFT

Actually, we offer two. The first is a copy of the history of Weston; Weston, the forging of a Connecticut Town, available for \$13.50 at the library or from the Society by mail, for \$14.50. We also offer a membership in the Weston Historical Society for as little as \$10.00 for a family membership.

THE

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