



THE CHRONICLE QUARTERLY

Volume 3 No. 4 December 1984

Published By The
Weston Historical Society

THE EDITOR'S EDGE

SUCCESS—BUT

This issue completes our third year of publishing the Chronicle. We are pleased that so many have told us how much they enjoy reading each issue. We have as much enjoyment in writing and editing each issue although we admit, at times, we push the panic button as the printing deadline approaches and we need more copy or don't have everything ready to go. The Chronicle is published by the Weston Historical Society and is sent to members who are currently in good standing. We do send one issue to all Weston households in the hope that it will interest non-members to join the WHS.

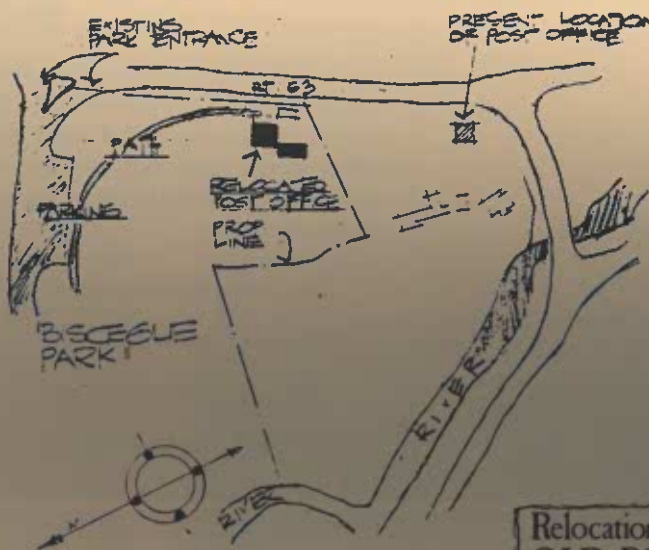
We would like to have suggestions for improving the Chronicle and most of all, we welcome articles for our publication even if only a few sentences on a historical item about Weston.

The Editor has an advantage (and edge) because he can include what he would like in each issue; however, the Chronicle is published to be of interest to you and your comments and articles are needed to make it better.

Dr. Joseph Prigmore of New Haven will preach at the Norfield Congregational Church on Sunday at the eleven o'clock service.

POST OFFICE PROGRESS

At the Town meeting in October, the Selectmen's office was given approval to accept the old post office from Mr. Lloyd Scribner. Money collected from previous attempts to restore the post office building and a private donation will provide funds to physically move the building on to town property where the old barn now sits. The building will be placed on a new foundation in the spring. The accompanying map shows the old location and the new one. The old building, built in the 1780's, as a small cabin, was added on to, became a store and then a post office and store in 1818. It remained a store and post office until 1910.



Site Plan
SCALE 3/4" = 100'

Relocation & Renovation of the
OLD POST OFFICE
BY THE
Weston Historical Society
NOVEMBER 6, 1984
DRAWN BY JONATHAN WAGNER
WESTON, CONN.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

We wish all a wonderful holiday season and a happy and healthful new year.

PICTURE QUIZ

Can You Name This?



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

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

LAST ISSUE'S QUIZ

The picture in the last quiz was of a wooden toy made in the Weston Toy Factory. This toy factory is the subject for the issue's Historical Notebook. The old factory has been empty for over 45 years.

No one sent in an answer.

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ANNUAL MEETING HELD

The annual meeting of the Society was held on October 24 at the Norfield Parish hall. A very interesting talk was given by Mr. Mark Harper on the Indians who lived in Weston in years past. He showed many artifacts collected by Bob and Lulu Harper and their two sons, Bob Jr. and Mark. We hope to be able to bring some of this history to you in the Chronicle in the future.

The following persons were nominated and elected to the Trustees for a three year term:

Mr. Hal Logan
Mr. Joe Spetly
Mr. Gene O'Hare
Mrs. Marie Golden
Mrs. Sylvia Bowles

Mr. Lou Bregy was elected president of the Society for the coming year.

HAVE YOU JOINED YET?

Or do you have a friend who should belong?

Here is a convenient WHS membership application for you to use. We provide interesting meetings, a quarterly newsletter, and an Historical homestead with an interesting museum.

We need your support to help us make the Weston Historical Society an organization for all Westonites.

MEMBERSHIP FORM

The Weston Historical Society is concerned with the preservation of Weston's past, and also with its present since what happens today will be part of the history of tomorrow. Currently over 300 Weston families are members. Membership is open to all, and each classification includes husband and wife. Volunteers are welcome to assist the various committees in carrying out the objectives of the Society. All contributions are *tax deductible*.

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Membership (to age 18) | \$1.00 per year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Membership | \$10.00 per year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Membership | \$25.00 per year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Contributing Membership | \$100 per year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership | \$250.00 per year |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Citizen | \$5.00 per year |

Name _____

Address _____

Town, Zip _____

Please make checks payable to: Weston Historical Society and mail to:

Weston Historical Society
Violet Greenwood
158 Georgetown Road
Weston, CT 06883

FIFTY YEARS AGO

B.P. MERWIN IS RENOMINATED FOR WESTON SELECTMAN

Burton P. Merwin, present selectman of Weston, was re-nominated to head the town officials at the Republican caucus held last evening at the Weston Town Hall. Joseph Bulkley acted as moderator and John L. Breitwieser was appointed clerk of the meeting. Over one hundred persons were in attendance.

David Wahlquis was nominated as second selectman and the remainder of the ticket is as follows:

Assessor for three years—Edward Budd

Assessor for two years to take place of Herbert Nowack, who resigned—George Sherwood.

Board of relief—FW. T. Amis, Elmer Zimmerli

Auditor—Raymond T. Fitch

Grand Jurors—David Coley, Henry LaMotte, John T. Fox, and Clarence Smith.

Tax Collector—John L. Breitwieser

Constables—Chester Brown, Truman Canfield, George Wessels, and Levi Squires.

Registrar of Voters—Frank C. Fitch

Town School Committee—John L. Breitwieser

WESTPORT DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE TO ALARM WAS ALL IN VAIN

The Westport fire department responded to an alarm sent from Weston on Saturday afternoon, but by the time they had located the house they found the fire, which proved to be an incinerator, had been extinguished. Residents of the town are reminded that the Weston volunteer department will gladly respond promptly to calls of that type and that they are now equipped to handle such situations. The Westport alarm should not be sent in unless a house or other building is on fire.

In case of brush fires, or other fires of that type, residents are asked to call Rolland Gifford, 6184, Dewitt Moore, 6298, or James Coley, 6923. Members of the Weston volunteer department have already done very good work on several occasions and the support of them by residents is earnestly recommended.

WHAT'S NEW IN THE MUSEUM

We recently received this picture of the Treadwell house. Unfortunately, we do not know which Treadwell house it is or where it is if it is still around. Can somebody help?



OUR RECIPE CORNER

This recipe is not old as far as we know, but it does go back at least 15 years. It is the pancake recipe for pancakes used by Boy Scout Troop 7 for their pancake breakfast every fall for parents.

PANCAKES

1 cup flour
2 tablespoons sugar
1½ tablespoons baking powder
½ teaspoon salt
2 tablespoons vegetable oil
1 egg
1 cup milk

NEXT ISSUE

Around the Coley Homestead
Post office update
The sixth cross highway
What's new in the museum
The Editor's Edge

WESTON'S HISTORICAL NOTEBOOK

THE WESTON TOY FACTORY



THE WESTON TOY FACTORY BUILDING

The Weston Toy Co., Inc.

SUCCESSOR TO
B. P. MERWIN WOOD TURNING WORKS

Manufacturers of

Toys, Novelties, Games and Specialties

FACTORY AT
ASPETUCK

TELEPHONE 284-2
TRUMBULL DIVISION

P. O. Westport, Conn., _____ 192 _____

The wooden toy which was the subject for the picture quiz in the last issue was one of the many small toys and games made from wood by Burton Merwin in his Weston toy factory.

The toy factory building at Aspetuck corners in the northeast corner of Weston had been a wood turning works operated by Mr. Merwin's father who moved here from Greenfield Hill area of Fairfield in the late 1800's. As the need for axe and plow handles in this area became much reduced because of the foundries closing (Bradley's axe factory closed in 1910.) Mr. Merwin changed the products produced from handles to toys and the Weston toy factory was born. He put new siding on the building and replaced the water wheel power with a one lung gasoline engine. The water wheel had been on the closest edge of the dam and used a long shaft to transfer the water power to the turning lathe, saws and sander in the factory. The small gate house presently at the edge of the dam is a fairly new addition to the site.

Patented Nov. 15, 1932

1,887,856

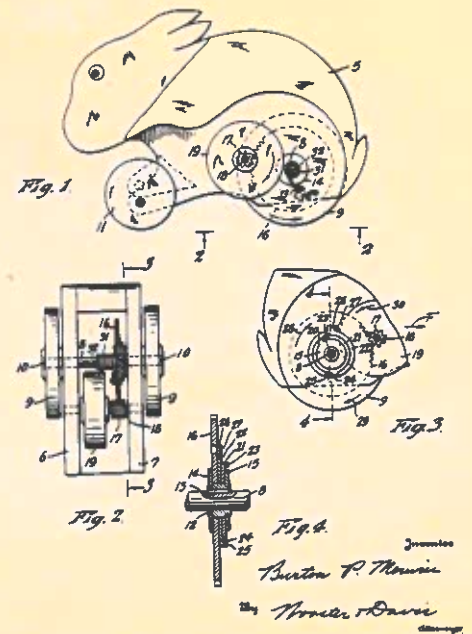
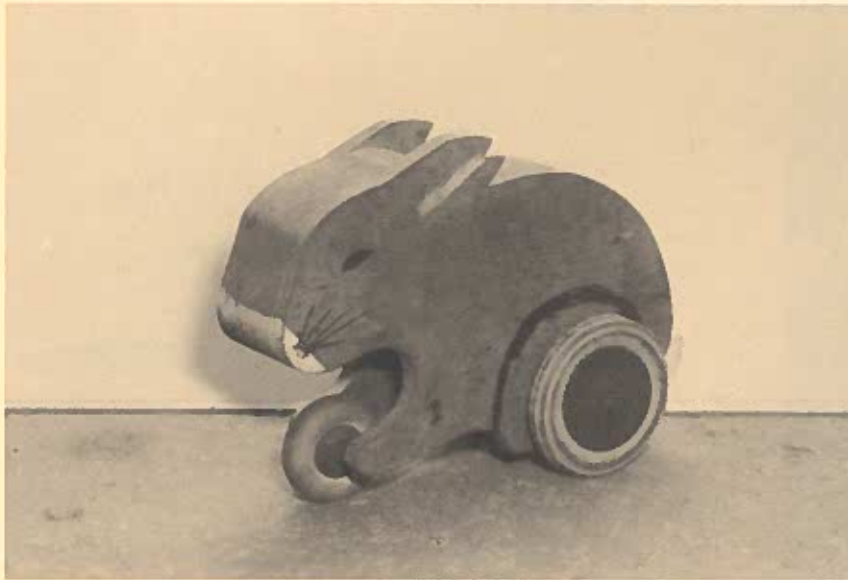
UNITED STATES PATENT OFFICE

BURTON P. MERWIN, OF WESTON, CONNECTICUT, ASSIGNOR OF ONE-HALF TO THE WESTON TOY COMPANY, INCORPORATED, OF WESTON, CONNECTICUT, A CORPORATION OF CONNECTICUT

MECHANICAL MOVEMENT FOR TOYS

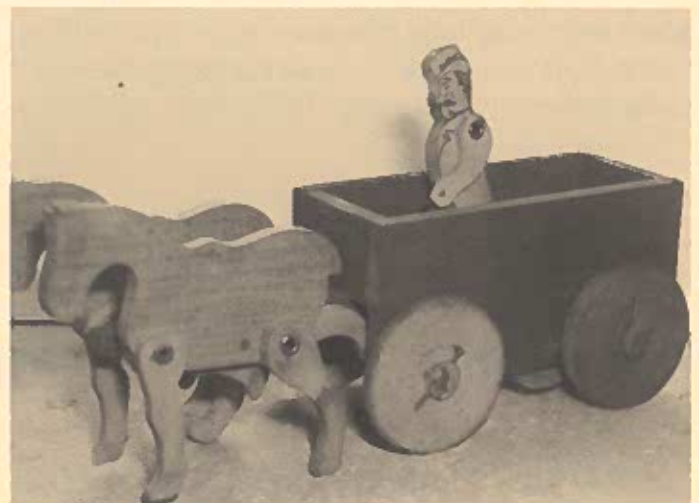
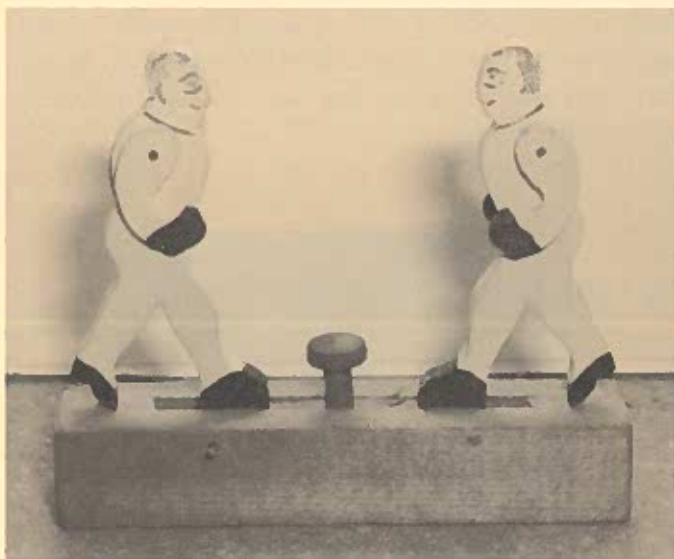


Mr. Merwin served as constable in Weston for a number of years and also as Selectman, becoming First Selectman on two occasions: in the mid-teens and again in the mid 30's. He sold the building and property in 1935 and retired to Redding.



The toys shown in the pictures were given to us by Mr. Merwin's son-in-law. The patent received by Mr. Merwin for the mechanical movement for toys was incorporated into the rabbit and the horse and wagon. The principle of the mechanical movement is a fly wheel that, when spun rapidly, would propel the toy's wheels for several feet along a flat surface. This was probably the first improvement in mechanical toys until the Eveready battery came on the scene. These toys are displayed in our Barn Museum.

The old toy factory building is privately owned.



In addition to the wood turning works and toy factory, the Merwins operated a cider mill, a small store for some essential items such as tobacco, flour, sugar, etc. that the local residents might need but do not want to go all the way to Westport or Danbury to get. He also operated as an unofficial post office, where the postman would drop off mail for nearby residents which they would pick up when they came to the store or passed it on the way to other places.

THE

CHRONICLE

QUARTERLY

A PUBLICATION OF THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
FOUNDED IN 1961

December 1984

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