



THE

CHRONICLE

QUARTERLY

Vol. 5

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Weston Historical Society

THE EDITOR'S EDGE

200 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

A 200th anniversary celebration would be hollow if we did not reflect on what had gone on over all or part of the previous 200 years. To not do so would be like an amnesia victim starting a new day. Someone once said that "You can't know where you are going if you don't know where you have been". In other words, experience helps prepare you for the future! Part of our job as the Weston Historical Society is to help explain Weston's past to those who would chart it's future. Lets hope they look back occasionally before they barnstorm Weston into the 21st century.

If your plans do not include being an active participant in the Bicentennial Celebration, we hope you will be an interested observer. Have a Happy Celebration — all year!!

Herb Day—Editor

GETTING READY FOR WESTON'S 200TH BIRTHDAY — 1987

If you have been reading the Weston Forum you have been informed as to what the Bicentennial Committee under Mark Harper is scheduling for next year. A lot of activity focusing on the 200th Birthday. The colorful 1987 Calendar is already a fact and is selling fast. Your Society will participate next year in several ways:

1. Opening and maintaining the Old Post Office and General Store.
2. Keeping the Coley Homestead and Barn Museum open on a regular schedule (To be announced).
3. A cookbook, which will contain recipes from Weston residents. If you have a favorite that you would share, please send it to Mrs. Nadine Tichy.

4. Four expanded issues of The Chronicle, which will include articles on:

Weston's beginning

The Long Lots

The Norfield Parish

Who the first residents were

The rivers

The farms

The woods

Weston becomes incorporated

Maps of Weston

Homes

Businesses

People

Fun and games

The next 100 years — what will Weston be like?

The best way to learn about Weston's history is to be a member of the Weston Historical Society and receive The Chronicle. If you are not a member or know someone who should be a member, pick up an application form at the Weston Library or contact any of the trustees.

DOCENTS NEEDED

A docent is identified by Webster as a teacher or lecturer. Now it usually refers to guides in museums and historical locations. The Weston Historical Society is looking for several men and women (including high school students) who would like to serve as docents at the Coley Homestead and the Old Post Office. The time involved would be about four hours a day for two or three days a month. We will teach you all you have to know. If you are interested, please contact any one of the trustees listed in this Chronicle by January 15.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!
MAY YOUR HOLIDAY SEASON BE THE
BEST EVER AND THE NEW YEAR BRING YOU
HAPPINESS AND GOOD HEALTH.**

PICTURE QUIZ

CAN YOU NAME THIS?



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

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

The item in the last issue of The Chronicle was identified by only one reader, Ed Mack, of Georgetown. It is a rug hooker, for feeding yarn through a burlap backing. Ed identified it as a "Walker Rug-hook"; however, the make given on the one in the picture is Susan Burr, Molly Associates, Torrington, CT. Maybe Walker refers to the type of rughooker.

Thanks, Ed.

NEXT ISSUE

WESTON'S BEGINNING
THE LONG LOTS
WHO THE FIRST SETTLERS WERE
CURRENT EVENTS
50 YEARS AGO
THE NORFIELD PARISH

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WHAT'S NEW IN THE MUSEUM!

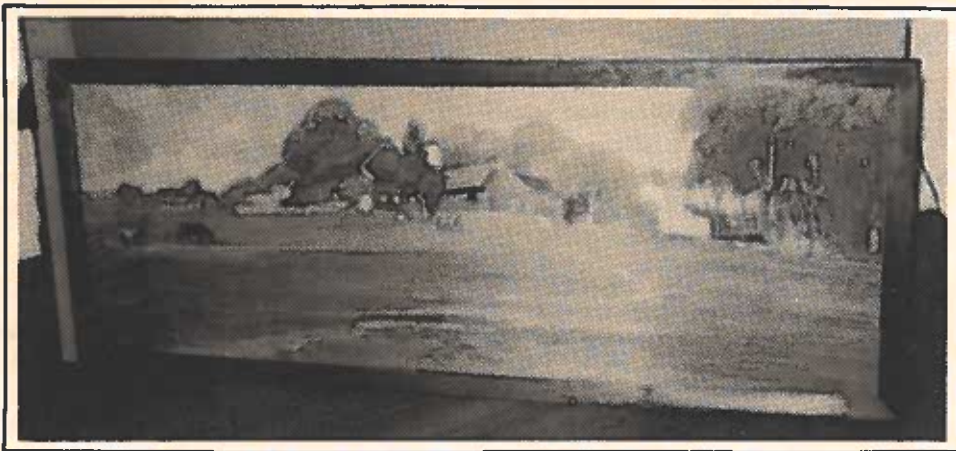
Our newest acquisition is an oil painting of the John Orr Young Home and Farm Buildings of Norfield Road. This painting is by Remington Schuyler and was done about 1931.

Mr. Young was the co-founder of Young & Rubicam Advertising. This house is across the road from the Norfield Church. We understand that there were about 380 acres associated with this farm.

This house was owned (and probably built) by Sam Rowland. He lived in it in 1867, according to the Beers Atlas Map.

The artist was born in Buffalo, New York and reared in Missouri. He lived in Westport for a time. He was predominantly a muralist and illustrator. His hobby was the Boy Scouts.

The painting was given to the Society by Mr. Raymond Butler Young, son of John Orr Young. It was given through the efforts of Mrs. Warren J. Lundy and Mrs. Mila Grieb. Mr. Raymond Young sent a letter about life on the farm, which we have copied below.



To The Weston Historical Society
Weston, Conn.

July 19, 1983

Please accept my donation of the oil painting of the John Orr Young estate as viewed from the pasture below the barn.

In my father's scheme of things the barn was almost as important as the main house. It housed four or five horses and two or three cows. The horses roamed 380 acres of pasture, woods and hay fields. The cows munched on clover and home-grown corn. The barn also housed my sister's pet pig, Hamlet. As an Iowa country boy, my dad relished everything about farming in Connecticut even though the principal crop he raised was rocks for stone walls. We also raised ducks, guinea hens and a flock of chickens, which put me in business at the age of eight. I was the only kid in the county with a chauffeur-driven egg route.

Actual operation of the estate was in the hands of a former German cavalry corporal named Wilhelm, along with his wife, Emma and his son, Karl. The gardener's name was Angelo; he didn't speak a word of English, but evidently talked the right language to trees, bushes, hedges and vegetables. We got shared great sandwiches with my brother and me which left us smelling of garlic for days.

The main house was served by a succession of couples: English, Irish, German, Lithuanian, Finnish, etc. All of them shared an intense dislike of country living. To add another international note to our lifestyle, we leased the meadow below the main house to a former White Russian cavalry officer who ran a riding school there. It was a good deal for him: he got a steeplechase course, a riding ring and a small stable. We got free lessons and lamb skewered on a sword at glorious Cossack barbeques. My brother and I also learned how to skewer straw dummies with a Russian cavalry lance.

The period I write of spanned the decade of the 1930's. It was an interesting place to grow up in, and I'm happy to share it with you.

Sincerely,

Raymond Butler Young,

Son of John Orr Young, co-founder
of Young & Rubicam Advertising

ANNUAL MEETING WELL ATTENDED

The Annual Meeting of your Society was held on November 6, at the Norfield Parish Hall. An interesting program on appraising antiques was presented by Kevin McLellan and Patrick Padula. A number of those attending brought one or more heirlooms in for an appraisal.

A new Board of Trustees was elected to serve through 1987. The new Trustees are:

Sylvia Bowles	226-4622	Gene O'Hare	227-5040
Lou Bregy	226-5773	Marylou Perry	227-5579
Herb Day	227-6130	Gary Samuelson	544-8156
Marie Golden	227-1391	Dan Sanders	226-0477
Linda Guidera	227-7607	Peggy Sanford	227-0100
*Nancy Hoe	227-6462	Joe Spetly	226-0925
Ruth Lockwood	227-2343	Nadine Tichy	226-5759
*Linda Martin	226-6256		

*First Year as Trustee

The Officers for the next year are:

President — Herb Day
Vice President — Sylvia Bowles
Recording Secretary — Lou Bregy
Corresponding Secretary — Peggy Sanford
Treasurer — Dan Sanders

COLEY HOUSE RENOVATION

The renovation of the downstairs rooms will get underway after New Years. Several trustees are working with the Young Women's Club. The Women's Club is taking this project on as a bicentennial project. They will remove wallpaper, paint where necessary, and repaper and paint.

The trustees have decided to pick a time in the history of the house to be representative not only how the house had been furnished, but the general type of furnishing of the period. This time has been identified as the mid-1800's. Wallpaper patterns popular in the 1800's will be used. Hopefully, we will be able to show some results in the next issue of The Chronicle.

POST OFFICE UPDATE

The post office has been given a first cleaning out to remove all the paper, plaster and raccoon droppings. Final cleaning to remove dust and cobwebs from the walls and ceilings will come on warm days during winter and early spring. We will be adding the porch, duplicating the original one as close as possible.

A Life Scout in Troop 788, Scott Tuttle will be constructing a path from Biseglie Park Parking Lot to the post office, so people will not have to walk along Newtown Turnpike. The renovation of the post office and country store and the barn will take over \$20,000. We hope residents will come forth and be counted as a contributor when the Post Office Renovation Committee asks for monetary help. This request will be presented to you soon. The target date for the official opening of the post office is May 16, 1987.

50 (OR MORE) YEARS AGO

Even though we have no factual information on the Banks Tavern and exactly what services they provided, some of them must have been similar to those listed by Ephraim Knapp for his Bridgeport Hotel, as advertised in the Connecticut Courier for August 10, 1814.

BRIDGEPORT HOTEL

The subscriber feels pleasure in informing the public, more particularly those who travel the great thoroughfare between the southern and eastern states, that his house, beautifully situated in the pleasant and flourishing Borough of Bridgeport, fronting on the Harbour, and a few rods south of the Extensive Bridge over the same, has received additional improvements, which renders it more commodious and comfortable for the weary traveler, who may be assured of always finding a plentiful and well served table of the richest viands, fruits, and dainties which the season or market can afford. As this house is large and commodious, the lodging rooms will be found peculiarly airy and convenient, and furnished with new and elegant bedding and furniture for the accommodation of families and single gentlemen and ladies. His cellar and bar will constantly be stored with a choice collection of wines, spirits and cordials for the comfort and refreshment of all travelers and visitors who may favor him with their company, while his stables shall be well attended by careful and experienced ostlers. In short, no exertion shall be wanting to render the Bridgeport Hotel deserving a continuance and increase of that public patronage, which it has hitherto received. Eight or ten boarders may be accommodated as above. Passengers may be supplied with seats in the stages east and west, every day (Sundays excepted) at eight o'clock in the morning, and four in the afternoon, by applying to the subscriber.

Ephraim Knapp

Bridgeport, June 1

NEW PUBLICATIONS JUST FROM THE PRESS — AND FOR SALE AT THE BRIDGEPORT BOOKSTORE

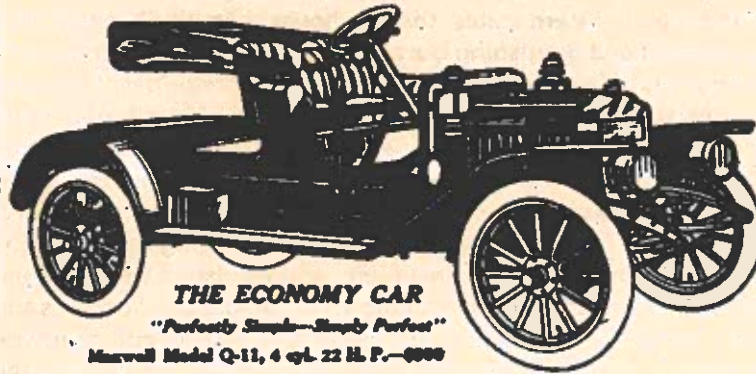
A new edition of Mutty's English Reader, the best book in use for the First Class, in common schools. Also, a Pamphlet, being remarks on the question, "Is it lawful to marry the sister of a deceased wife?" by the Rev. Jonathan Bartlet, which concludes in the affirmative. Price 6 pence.

The First Real Cost-Test Ever Made

Automobile vs. Horse

"Maxwell" per passenger mile— $1\frac{8}{10}$ cents
 Horse and Buggy, passenger mile— $2\frac{1}{2}$ cents

Horse and Buggy EXPENSES CONTINUE	
When not in use	
Distance Traveled, 197 miles	
COST	
Hay	1.20
Oats	4.30
Straw	.70
Shoeing	.80
Grease	.8912
Depreciation	1.30
	<u>10.00</u>
Cost two passengers per mile	.05
Cost one passenger per mile	.025
Daily average distance, 7.9-10 miles	
To operate the Horse and Buggy the cost is based on hay at 1c. a pound, oats averaging 25c. a 4-quart feeding, purchased en route; straw at \$1.50 cwt., 100 lbs. per mo.; shoeing, \$2.50 a month; grease, 12c. a pound; depreciation, horse, buggy and harness, costing \$375.00, .017 a mile, average 33 miles a day. Stabling not included.	



Automobile EXPENSES STOP	
When not in use	
Model Q-11 Maxwell	
Distance Traveled, 487 miles	
COST	
Gasoline	5.80
Oil	.40
Grease	.13
Depreciation, car	3.80
Depreciation, Tires	8.85
	<u>18.98</u>
Cost two passengers per mile	.039
Cost one passenger per mile	.020
Daily average distance, 7.9-10 miles	
To operate the Automobile the cost is based on gasoline purchased at 16, 18 and 20c. per gallon, and oil at 65c. a gallon, purchased en route; grease at 12c. a pound; car depreciation, .008 per mile; tire depreciation, .015 per mile. Garage not included.	

P E A R L

THE

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QUARTERLY

A PUBLICATION OF THE WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY
FOUNDED IN 1961

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